



NPA *Bulletin*

Volume 53 Number 3 September 2016

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.



**Gudgenby up
close**



**Vale
Peter Ormay**



**Black Mountain
treasures**

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

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Editor's comment

The September *Bulletin* greets you with a series of articles reflecting our conservation concerns in the ACT, this time along the Murrumbidgee corridor in Tuggeranong and Belconnen. The Belconnen development is close to Ginninderra Falls on Ginninderra Creek, which flows into the Murrumbidgee and straddles the NSW–ACT border. Also, the Falls are on private land, giving rise to further complexities. Other articles cover the surprising biodiversity in Black Mountain Nature Reserve so close to Civic, and research into the death of Ribbon Gums along the Monaro Highway to Jindabyne. We have two poems for a meditative touch and are brought up to date with NPA's industrious work parties with NPWS rangers over the border in the Dananbilla–Illunie protected area. You will always learn something from a work party about the surroundings you're working in and get to know fellow members better.

An overseas walking trip in Austria's alpine national parks exposes us to a different landscape and management

system while a day walk reflects an interesting experience close to home. A summary of a trip to the recycling centre gives food for thought. Other offerings or tributes, each valuable in its own way, can be found in this edition, thanks to the contributors and the production team. And of course there are always colour photographs.

NPA ACT's principal focus is on national parks and reserves, not on urban development per se, although increasingly it is encroaching on open spaces and potential reserves. The Conservation Council ACT Region, of which NPA ACT is a member, focuses on urban development and relies on NPA to keep a watching brief on Namadgi National Park. Fire management in Namadgi is raising concerns but isn't dealt with in this edition. Maybe it can be covered soon.

Namadgi has been and always will be one of NPA ACT members' primary concerns.

Lastly, on 15 October 2016, the ACT elections will be held. The natural environment is a very low priority for the

major parties. Increasingly it is referred to in terms of 'climate change', 'ecological footprint' or 'sustainability'. This reduces it to a technicality in many ways and doesn't emphasise endangered species or the complexity of ecosystems. If you are concerned about protecting our natural environment please tell your ACT candidates either by phone, letter or email, or in person if they come door-knocking or are at shopping centres.

As a guide, the Conservation Council is presenting its policies on key focus points pre-election. You can find them on www.conservationcouncil.org.au/biodiversity-conservation-protecting-our-unique-ecological-communities-and-the-bush-capital/ The policies so far relate to the protection and management of biodiversity.

You can use information in conjunction with your own knowledge, observations and experience to make a case to candidates standing for the election.

Judy Kelly

From the committee

In the debate on environmental issues, opponents of conservation often state that there is no scientific evidence that damage is occurring. Climate-change deniers regularly use this line of argument. Likewise, opponents of the control of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) have been quoted as saying there is no evidence of horses damaging that park's fragile ecosystems, and that feral horses can contribute to maintaining ecological values, a position completely contrary to scientific and empirical evidence.

The feral horse lobby has used many emotive images to support its case that horses should remain in KNP. In the face of this misleading campaign, it is pleasing that so many NPA ACT members have raised their objections and argued that control of feral horses must be based on scientific evidence. Well done, all.

A copy of the NPA ACT's submission on the KNP wild horse draft management plan can be found on the association's website.

While feral horse issues have been a considerable concern for the NPA since the publication of the last *Bulletin*, they have not been the committee's sole

focus. Discussions have been held with the ACT's Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment on the need for a 'State of the Parks' report for the ACT and on the NPA's concept for a new national park that would consolidate the management of lowland grassy woodlands in the ACT.

The committee has also convened a working group to facilitate a public forum on bushfire fuel management in the ACT. This forum would be a platform for general consideration of the various scientific views on the most appropriate fuel management practices in the ACT. This is an exciting project that could be a key driver of public opinion. Contact Christine Goonrey if you would like to be involved.

The NPA had an excellent presentation by the Environmental Defenders' Office on the West Belconnen/New South Wales development being managed by the Riverview Group. We have been a long-term supporter of the campaign to protect the Ginninderra Falls region, which will be affected by this development.

As many of you would know, a new edition of our *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* has been reprinted and a new

edition of our tree guide is very close to release. These publications are important means of raising awareness of the values of the ACT's ecosystems, and are a credit to the publications committee.

Finally, the NPA has been working to engage young people's interest in the natural environment. One project has seen the NPA working with the ACT Directorate of Education for the distribution of the *Bilby Ring Trilogy* to ACT public primary schools. These books provide an opportunity to engage schoolchildren in the issues facing Australia's natural environment, with a particular focus on the effects of feral animals. The NPA has continued its work in getting young people out into the natural environment by being involved in the ACT's Nature Play activities. This is where our future generations of conservationists will come from.



Rod Griffiths

Annual General Meeting, 18 August 2016

Meeting report

Immediate Past President Rod Griffiths welcomed about 25 members to the AGM on 18 August 2016.

Rod presented the committee's annual report and noted that NPA ACT continues to be an incredibly active organisation due to the efforts of its members. Committee, subcommittees and working groups, as well as individual members had contributed to a whole list of NPA achievements, and he thanked everyone involved.

Some major activities were: keeping up the campaign for a new national park and an ongoing campaign to ensure the eradication of the threats to Kosciuszko National Park from feral horses. One highlight of the year was celebrating an integrated ACT government conservation agency after years of campaigning; another highlight was having two NPA Art Weeks at Gudgenby Cottage last year. See the committee's full report on page 4.

Treasurer Chris Emery distributed copies of the audited annual financial statements and displayed pie charts on the screen illustrating the components of NPA's income and expenses as well as the assets of the organisation and explained their various components. These pie charts are published on page 5.

The election of the new committee was again ably chaired by Returning Officer Bruce Boreham.

The management committee for 2016–17 is:

Vice-President	Christine Goonrey
Secretary	Sonja Lenz
Treasurer	Chris Emery
Immediate Past President	Rod Griffiths
Committee members	Isobel Crawford Esther Gallant George Heinsohn Kevin McCue Quentin Moran

There was no nomination for the President's position, and the committee will again manage this issue in the year ahead. Chris Emery is now Public Officer of the association.

Rod then entertained the audience with a travelogue about his walks to Frenchmans Cap and the Walls of Jerusalem, showing some magnificent slides of the Tasmanian high country, and musing on the huts and tracks encountered.

The delicious supper provided by the committee and other members as well as Adrienne's traditional AGM gluhwein topped off the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Sonja Lenz.





Annual Report 2015–16

The NPA ACT continues to be an incredibly active organisation due to the efforts of its members.

Since our last AGM, activities that the NPA has been involved in include:

- an ongoing campaign to ameliorate the threat to Kosciuszko National Park from feral horses
- celebrating the creation of an integrated conservation agency for the ACT, a long-standing aim of the NPA ACT
- continuing to campaign for a new national park in the ACT through engagement with politicians and public officials
- dealing with matters affecting Namadgi, from the creation of new walking trails to the potential commercial use of tourist helicopters in the park and the Google Street-viewing of walks
- presenting at the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment's Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations
- undertaking work parties across the ACT and in NSW
- actively championing activities to get a new generation of people interested in the natural environment
- being involved in the Environment Centre's Harvest Festival
- continuing to encourage the use of the TrailRider all-terrain wheelchair
- putting together proposals for a State of the Parks report and a seminar on bushfire management in the ACT
- donating to the ACT's primary schools copies of the *Bilby Ring Trilogy*, to engage students and teachers in a range of environmental matters
- reprinting the second edition of our very popular *Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT* and continuing to develop a new edition of the *Field Guide to the Native Trees of the ACT*. Work is also underway on a guide to our butterflies
- continuing important work at Glenburn through The Friends of Glenburn.

The NPA ACT continues to be an active participant in the wider conservation movement in the ACT, NSW and nationally, through representation on the boards of the Conservation Council, Kosciuszko to Coast, and the National Parks Australia Council. Locally, it has supported the work of the Environmental Defenders' Office, the Ginninderra Falls Association, the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group and the Red Hill Regenerators. And it regularly meets with representatives, at all levels, in Parks, Conservation and Land. During 2015–16, it also met with the ACT Minister for the Environment, the ACT Planning Minister and the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

The NPA ACT has always stressed the need for science to underpin decisions made about park management. It has therefore continued to support scientific research through its Honours scholarship with the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the ANU and is looking for opportunities to engage with the University of Canberra. The third recipient of the scholarship, April Suen, was one of the NPA's general meeting speakers during the year.

Our *Bulletin* continues to be a truly wonderful publication and thanks must go to the various editors over the past year, Phil Gatenby, Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz, and Judy Kelly. As always, the editors have received strong support from Ed Highley (subeditor), Adrienne Nicholson (layout) and Hazel Rath ('Parkwatch'). Members continue to show their support for the *Bulletin* through the breadth of articles, poems and photos submitted and published.

An organisation like the NPA needs good administrative support and thanks must go to the Secretary, Sonja Lenz, for the great work she does in this area. Also, Annette Smith has coordinated our enthusiastic team of office volunteers, which does invaluable work that can often be overlooked: thanks and congratulations to Annette, Debbie

Cameron, Kathy Saw, David Large and Julie May.

Able conveners of our various subcommittees during the year were Mike Smith and Steven Forst (Outings), Kevin McCue (Publications), Graham Scully (Promotion and Engagement), Martin Chalk (Work Parties), David Large (Cultural) and Rod Griffiths (Environment). Our thanks go to them and to all members who contribute to the work of the subcommittees.

The NPA's outings program is particularly popular with members and the records of last year's NPA walks and other events have been analysed by Brian Slee. From Brian's statistics we can see that over the past 3 years there has been slow but constant growth in the numbers of scheduled and completed activities and in the overall number of participants.

The NPA is not all about hard work. During the year we basked in the sunshine at Orroral Tracking Station for our Christmas party, were creative at two NPA Art Weeks at Gudgenby Cottage, and enjoyed the various speakers and topics at our general meetings, as well as the suppers that followed (thanks to Quentin for organising the rosters).

At the 2016 AGM, Mike Smith and David Large will be standing down from the committee. Both have been very active with the NPA and their contributions to the committee will be missed.

Thanks must go to: all the committee members of the past year who have continued to take responsibility for a wide range of tasks and projects; the NPA ACT's speakers and all those members who volunteered during the year to set up the general meetings and to organise the catering for those meetings. Finally, recognition must go to the NPA ACT's office bearers, Vice-President Christine Goonrey, Treasurer Chris Emery, Immediate Past President Rod Griffiths and Secretary Sonja Lenz for their leadership throughout the year.

Treasurer's annual report 2015–16



The audit of NPA ACT's financial statements for the financial year 2015–16 was unqualified.

Our total equity decreased by 3.9 per cent compared with the previous year. Membership subscriptions fell by 4.0 per cent, but donations increased by 38.8 per cent, following a substantial bequest.

Our expenses exceeded our income (not counting the bequest) by \$6,185, due mainly to the ANU Scholarship being paid from our reserves.

Unfortunately, our auditor of more than 10 years, Malcolm Prentice FCPA, is unable to continue in the role. We thank him sincerely for his pro-bono

contribution to our association over all that time.

Chris Emery

See diagrams opposite
Assets
Income
Expenditure.

Vale Peter Ormay, 1938–2016

Peter Ormay first joined NPA in 1979 and rejoined in 2004. He made many contributions to the understanding and protection of our native plants and animals. His photograph in ACT Parks and Conservation uniform is an appropriate reflection of his dedication to his work as a ranger and to his love of nature, which he transferred to his children, Lowie and Danny. When Lowie was in Year 1, he was a ‘bushranger’.

Peter was quiet and unassuming, with many of his achievements not widely known. He was born in Hungary before his family migrated to Australia in 1949. The Ormay family lived at Burrinjuck Dam where Peter enjoyed the outdoors as a child. After leaving school at 15, he trained as a carpenter, earning two of the top state awards on completion of his training. His skills earned him a place at the Wilkes Base in Antarctica in 1963, where he was held in high regard.

John Hyslop, who worked with the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition, tells us that Peter was awarded an Antarctic Medal in 1969 and that Mount Ormay in the Prince Charles Mountains is named after him.

In 1965 and 1967, Peter worked on Macquarie Island, where Danny feels the scientists ‘cemented his love for ecology and the environment’, leading to his starting a Bachelor of Applied Science as a mature-age student at the Canberra College of Advanced Education.

Peter settled in Canberra in Aranda, where he built a house out of wood and clinker bricks, surrounded by native

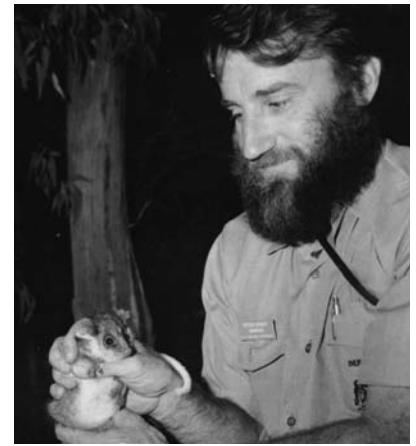
plants. The interior was reminiscent of a mountain cabin with polished timbers. It had a cosy, unique feeling to it, reflecting Peter’s individualism. On the side of one wall stood a bees’ honeycomb behind a sheet of glass, allowing spectators to see the bees going about their business.

Peter was one of the original authors of the NPA’s highly successful *Field Guide to the Trees of the ACT*, first published in 1983. This publication has remained so popular it is now undergoing its third revision.

He also brought his expertise to the Black Mountain Spring Wildflower walk for many years.

As an active member of Friends of Aranda Bushland, Peter contributed significantly with his knowledge and photographs of the bushland plants for the organisation’s booklet, *Our Patch*. He helped with weeding parties, served on FoAB’s committee and was instrumental in pushing for the permanent protection of the frost hollow with its Snow Gums near Glenloch Interchange, now a reserve. Peter also led walks through the Black Mountain and Aranda Bushland to share his knowledge of the eucalypts and other plants.

His friend David Dedenczuk says: ‘From Peter I learnt how to recognise a Blakely’s Red Gum, a Yellow Box and an Apple Box. Peter taught me to pay attention to the juvenile eucalypts ... He helped folks to raise their awareness of the natural world and in so doing has helped to preserve it.’



Peter Ormay. Photo by Hedda Morrison, from the NPA archives.

Peter’s knowledge of eucalypts was consolidated in *A Guide to Eucalypts in the ACT*, a useful field guide pamphlet with diagnostic diagrams published by ACT Parks and Conservation.

Frank Ingwersen, Peter’s work colleague, says that as a ranger Peter took part ‘in wildlife management, surveys, trapping, public education, interpretation, weed control, feral animal control ...’ He also undertook ‘the first survey for the locally extinct Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, in the remote and rocky places of the ACT mountains’.

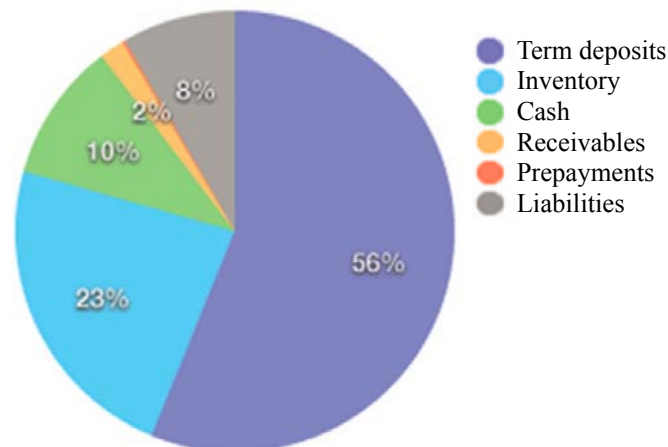
Peter was a dedicated father who took Lowie and Danny camping, imbuing them with a love of the bush with its plants, animals and birds.

NPA ACT extends its deep sympathy to Peter’s family, especially Lowie and Danny, and to Peter’s friends and work colleagues.

Judy Kelly

Treasurer’s Report 2015–16 (continued)

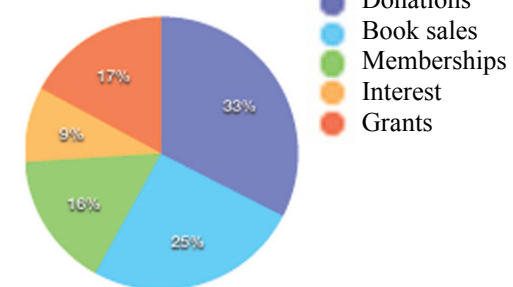
Assets of NPA ACT as at 30 June 2016



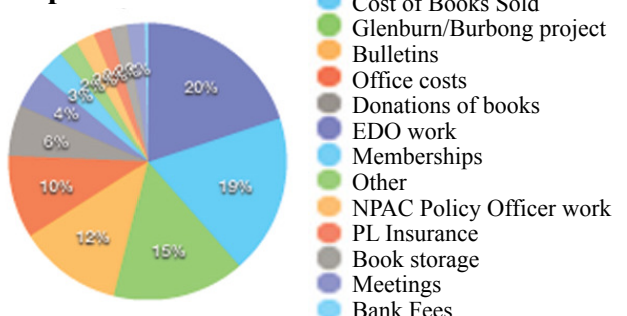
Notes

1. Expenditure on Glenburn is from a Heritage Grant and specific donations.
2. Liabilities include a \$10,000 bequest, enabling us to make a specific purpose research grant in FY17.
3. The excess of expenditure over income is mainly because we paid for the ANU Scholarship from reserves this year.

Income



Expenditure



Chris Emery

Black Mountain: living treasures on our doorstep

Dr Rosemary Purdie, plant ecologist and Honorary Associate at the Australian National Herbarium, gave this opening address at the launch of the Black Mountain Exhibition at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Black Mountain, on 19 February 2016.

Black Mountain is probably taken for granted by many Canberrans today just as the place with the tower on its summit. Visitors often appreciate it most (again for the tower) for its superb views or to navigate their way around Canberra's road system. But Black Mountain is far more than just a viewing platform or a navigation guide.

There is plenty of archaeological evidence that Aboriginal people occupied the Black Mountain area, especially the surrounding plains, for thousands of years prior to white settlers arriving in 1820. Corroborees were reported in the area as late as 1849. Animals and plants on the mountain would have been an important resource, the plants for things like food, fibre, medicine, tools and weapons. Early settlers also used Black Mountain's resources: they cut down the trees for firewood, building construction and fencing; quarried sandstone to build more substantial buildings (like St John's Church in Reid); and grazed their stock on native herbage on the slopes of the mountain. Photos from the late 1800s and early 1900s show the impact of settler activities – many slopes were grassland or open woodland, very different from today's forest vegetation.

The conservation value of Black Mountain has long been recognised. In



1969 the CSIRO published a list of plants in the Black Mountain area. The authors Max Gray and Hugh McKee wrote that Black Mountain's vegetation was 'floristically the richest in the Australian Capital Territory' and that 'The aesthetic, cultural, and recreational value of the natural forest area ... is so obvious that it should not need stressing'. They also commented that Black Mountain's 'scientific and educational value ... make it imperative that as much as possible of what remains of the area should be preserved as a Permanent Native Flora and Fauna Reserve'. That wish was achieved the following year, 1970, when Black Mountain was declared a Nature Reserve.

The biological importance of Black Mountain is far better known today. Gray and McKee recorded 470 plant species growing on the mountain in 1969. That figure has increased by over 200 species to around 680 species today, which only reinforces the area's extraordinary plant richness. Two-thirds of the plant species occur there naturally, and include about 66 species of ground orchid. ACT government botanists report that 57 plant species on Black Mountain are rare in the ACT. The mountain has more rare plant species than any other part of Canberra Nature Park, and is the only location in the Territory where eight of these rare plant species have been recorded.

For me, what epitomises the biological value of Black Mountain is the fact that, in addition to all the plants, within a 1-kilometre radius of the Telstra Tower, the *Atlas of Living Australia* records show that you can also see 11 reptile species, 180 bird species and over 600 insect species! There's no shortage of things to look for, or look at.

There are other ways of appreciating Black Mountain. A description of how the area was perceived in 1976 can be found in a Department of the Capital Territory publication *Nature Guide: Black Mountain Reserve, Ainslie–Majura Reserve*:

Although Canberra's hilltops may seem to rise aloof from the residential and business zones, they form a functional part of the city. Their scenic beauty adds character and atmosphere to the city and gives a visual dimension to Canberra's urban expansion ... The Reserves also offer mental and physical relief by providing people with the

Veronica perfoliata. Photo by Rosemary Purdie.



Goodenia pinnatifida. Photo Rosemary Purdie.

opportunity to relax and enjoy pleasant bushland so close to the living, working heart of the city. They also have a more intimate appeal: the diversity and abundance of plants and animals in their natural habitats create an intriguing and pleasant environment for the nature enthusiast.

While the 'nature enthusiasts' continue to derive that pleasure from Black Mountain today, the area is also a prominent focus for other recreational activities like jogging, rogaining and mountain-bike riding. These multiple uses are not without some tensions that mostly relate to perceived threats to the area.

In 1969 Gray and McKee noted that the Black Mountain vegetation was 'especially vulnerable to clearing for softwood plantations, firewood purposes, rock quarries, and marginal pastoral development'. They predicted that the destruction of the remaining stands of its vegetation would 'accelerate rapidly as increasing areas of pastoral country [were] taken up by the almost explosive rate of urban development' in the ACT. We see the outcome of that urban development in today's threats to the area, which TAMS describes like this:

- predation of the native wildlife from foxes and domestic pets that escape into the reserve
- wildlife being killed by passing cars or disturbed by dogs off leads
- fires burning too frequently or at the wrong time of the year
- illegal removal of rocks and plant material
- spread of environmental weeds from backyards, from illegal dumping of garden waste and through recreational use and maintenance work.

Data from the Friends of Black Mountain [ParkCare Group]* woody weed removal program highlight the extent of this last threat. In just 13 weeding sessions, the Friends have removed almost 4,000 plants of 32 woody weed species from around the

(continued next page)

Black Mountain: living treasures on our doorstep (continued)

periphery of the reserve. Half of the species removed are exotic, the remainder are native Australian ones that have also naturalised in the reserve.

Walter Burley Griffin's plans for Canberra envisaged Black Mountain as 'incidentally perpetuating ... the only remnant of primeval luxuriance on the city site'. We owe a debt to him and to the early scientists and government departments responsible for Canberra, for that 'remnant of primeval luxuriance' still being present today. Its biological values are now more fully understood and recognised, and the need to manage the area to protect its values just as relevant.

This exhibition gives you a wonderful overview of the range of natural and cultural values of Black Mountain. Many people were involved in putting the display together, and I would particularly like to acknowledge Linda Beveridge and Morgyn Phillips for their key roles in making it happen.

I hope that each one of you will learn something new from the exhibition, and continue to treasure, enjoy, and help look after the Black Mountain area. It's with great pleasure then that I declare the exhibition open.

Rosemary Purdie



Left. *Tricoryne elatior*.



Solanum linearifolium.

Photo by Rosemary Purdie.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, accessed November 2015, http://www.environmentcommissioner.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/590812/ocse_history_cnp_april_2011.pdf

* You can contact the group at friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com for more information about this and its other activities. Linda Beveridge is the group's convener.

Sources

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Atlas of Living Australia, list of faunal records using search criteria 'Black Mountain', '1 km radius', at <http://biocache.ala.org.au/explore/your-area>, downloaded January 2015.

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John Williams (1976) *Nature Guide: Black Mountain Reserve, Ainslie-Majura Reserve*. Department of the Capital Territory, AGPS, Canberra.

M. Gray and H.S. McKee (1969) A list of vascular plants occurring on Black Mountain and environs, Canberra, ACT. *Division of Plant Industry Technical Paper* No. 26, CSIRO, Melbourne.

Michael Mulvaney (2014) Rare plant survey of Canberra Nature Park. *Research Report 2*, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra.

R.W. Purdie (2016) Unpublished data to February 2016 on (a) Black Mountain plant occurrence records and (b) woody weeds removed by the Friends of Black Mountain.

Sarah Ryan (2011) *History of Canberra Nature Park*. Report to the ACT

Right. *Isotoma fluviatilis*.

Photos by Rosemary Purdie.



Following the path

dry country
heat shimmers
wind whispers ...
faint croak of ravens
faint smell of smoke

surrender
to the magic
of stringybark
and box-dappled shade
spiralling inwards

mesmerised
following the path
that winds
inwards ... outwards
left foot ... right foot

pilgrims
slow travellers
bonded
by silence
wind song ... bird song

afternoon
deepens ... trees stand
in strength
and clarity
the path goes onwards

finishing
the journey
looking backwards
at the path ...
standing on the threshold

Gerry Jacobson

NPA volunteers work for habitat rehabilitation at Dananbilla

Andrew Moore and Susan Jackson, NPWS Queanbeyan rangers, have worked with 'imagination and foresight' (Max Lawrence, NPA Bulletin, Vol. 50, No. 3, p.7, September 2013) to establish the Dananbilla–Illunie Protected Area Network (PAN), midway between Young, Cowra and Boorowa. NPA ACT's work party program, organised by Martin Chalk, has included the Dananbilla–Illunie project for some years. Ed.

Since 2012 NPA ACT volunteers have had active involvement in ongoing habitat rehabilitation in the Dananbilla–Illunie Protected Area Network reserves situated on the South-west Slopes of NSW. This has been a highly successful collaboration, with funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Volunteer Grants Program enabling implementation of a number of restoration activities. The focus of the works has been in the 1,500 or so hectares of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodlands Endangered Ecological Community within Dananbilla Nature Reserve. This reserve contains the largest area of that community conserved within the NSW reserve system. Eighteen species of threatened fauna have been recorded in the reserve, many associated with the woodland communities.

Restoration of box–gum and box–ironbark communities previously modified for agricultural purposes has many challenges and requires considerable resources to undertake. The volunteers have been instrumental in implementing a number of projects that may otherwise not have happened and certainly would not have happened to the extent or as rapidly as has been the case.

Initially the project involved the removal of fences from a newly acquired addition to Dananbilla NR. To date more than 15 kilometres of fence have been removed, with many additional kilometres having been 'de-barb wired'. The materials recovered, including posts used for tree planting and kangaroo exclosure fencing, have been of considerable value



Wattle planting, future seed trees for Dananbilla NR.

when re-used for other works, some undertaken by the volunteers.

Since 2012 approximately 6,000 eucalypts and 2,000 wattles have been planted in the reserves with the volunteers' contribution being highly significant.

Creation of 'leaky weirs' has benefited threatened bird species.

Other restoration works undertaken by the volunteers in the reserves include the removal of guards from previous plantings, the spreading of mulch hay on erosion areas that have later been seeded to stabilise them, hand-weeding of introduced grasses in areas with sensitive forbs that require protection from herbicide and the thinning of dense cypress, using the cut trees as sediment catchers or, as they are known, 'leaky weirs', on eroded areas. The construction of these leaky weirs on the edges of timbered country has been a recent



project that has seen immediate benefits to a number of threatened bird species that occupy the reserves. Robins, flycatchers and warblers have been observed to use them to extend their foraging zone into the grassy areas.

Kangaroo exclosures have increased habitat opportunities for the other fauna of the reserve.

Another innovative project the volunteers have been involved in is the construction of small kangaroo exclosures using recycled fencing material to create small areas where shrub groves can be established and native grasses can go to seed.

This adds diversity of structure to the ground layer, so increasing habitat opportunities for the other fauna of the reserves. Kangaroo numbers in the reserves have increased since reservation and at current high densities are a threat to the rehabilitation of the ground layer of the woodland.

The volunteers currently stay in accommodation units in a fairly natural setting close to the reserves. They have access to kitchen facilities and a large open fire in the golf clubhouse at the base of the Illunie Range. There are interesting walks and good birdwatching on site.

In spring, the program incorporates a field day focusing on the values of the reserve, with plant identification and birdwatching walks supported by an OEH Threatened Species Officer. The reserve managers also cover the challenges and opportunities involved in the management of the reserves, particularly the grassy woodlands – box systems.

Andrew Moore
NPWS Ranger

Cut weed trash piled to form 'leaky weirs'.

Photos from Andrew Moore.

Rescue program begins for Monaro's dying Ribbon Gums

A long-term project involving scientists, landcare organisations, landowners and Indigenous communities is underway to try to halt and reverse the massive dieback of *Eucalyptus viminalis* in the Cooma–Monaro region.

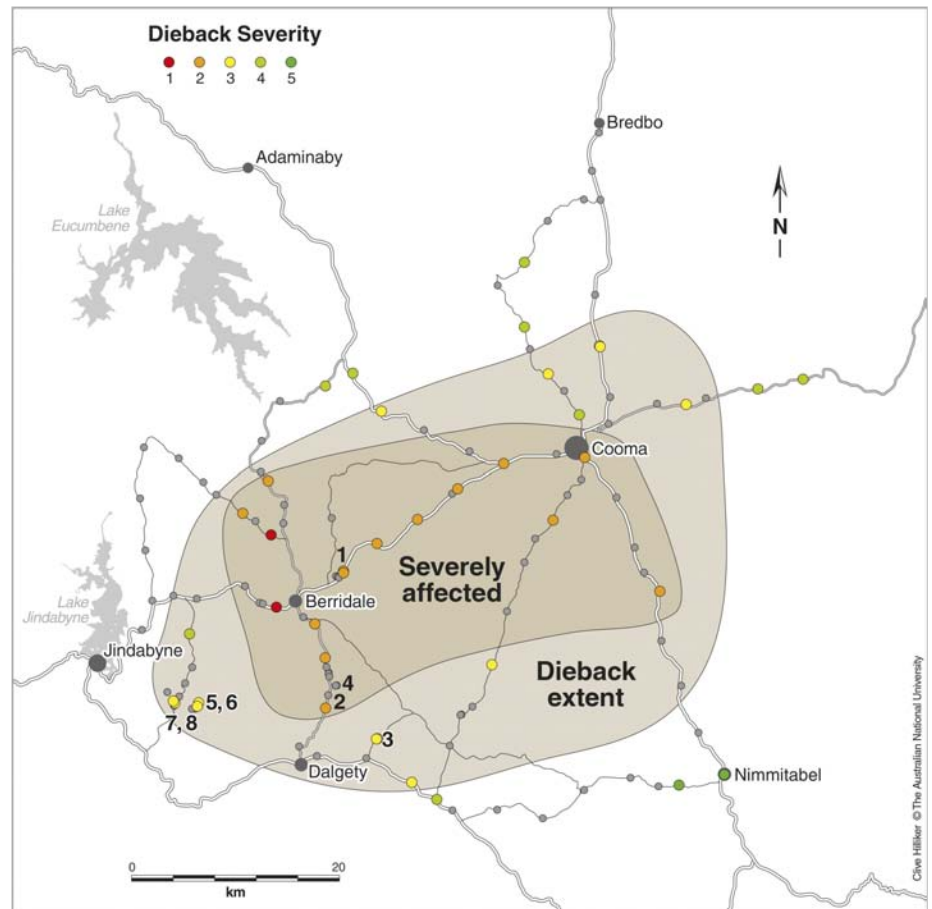
Funded by a grant of nearly \$500,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust's Bush Connect program, the project is being managed by Greening Australia in collaboration with the Upper Snowy Landcare Committee, CSIRO, South East Local Land Services, Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) and local landholders and Indigenous groups.

The extent of the ecological disaster on the Monaro would be evident to anyone who has driven down the Monaro Highway to the Snowy Mountains in recent years. Once the dominant tree of the Monaro, *E. viminalis* – commonly known as Ribbon Gum or Manna Gum – is in danger of disappearing from the landscape.

In a recently published survey, Australian National University researchers Cris Brack and Catherine Ross found the dieback affected an area covering almost 2,000 square km (see map). Within this area, almost every Ribbon Gum was either dead or showing signs of severe stress and dieback. The explanation for the dieback is still unclear. In their paper, published in late 2015, Brack and Ross suggested several possible contributors, from an infestation of the (native) Eucalyptus Weevil (*Gonipterus* sp.), which has been observed in large numbers on the few surviving trees, to the Millennium drought weakening the trees' resistance to insect attack.

But they also suggest the underpinning reasons for the dieback on the Monaro are much more complex. Previous outbreaks of dieback, such as in the New England area of New South Wales during the 1970s and 1980s, were attributed to agricultural practices and understorey clearing that upset the balance of insects and their predators. This resulted in repeated defoliation that eventually exhausted the trees' ability to recover.

In the case of the Monaro, while the ultimate cause of death seems to be an infestation of the Eucalyptus Weevil, dieback has occurred regardless of the trees' local environment. Measures such as fencing-off areas, fencing-out reserves and asking graziers to change



their practices have been equally ineffective, as has the absence or presence of recent fire or pasture improvement.

Although Ross says she has not directly observed dieback in Ribbon Gums outside the area she surveyed, many people have told her they have, and in different species.

Until Brack and Ross's survey, little attention had been paid to dieback in *E. viminalis* on the Monaro.

'This was the first record of the dieback in the literature', Ross said 'and since then there has been a lot of interest, particularly after I wrote a blog about it. But the grant is the really important part, because it shows that government has recognised the problem.'

Greening Australia project manager Nicki Taws outlined a three-pronged approach to the crisis that has been made possible by the NSW Government grant.

'We're still in the first stages of engaging stakeholders and the community, identifying sites and collecting seed', she said.

'We'll be working with CSIRO to establish *E. viminalis* provenance trials in the region. *E. viminalis* has a broad distribution across Australia and occurs

in quite a wide range of climatic environments.

'We'll collect seed from a selection of provenances, ranging from within the dieback zone – the Cooma–Berridale region – to other distant parts of the species' distribution, including South Australia and other parts of New South Wales.

'The rationale is that from across the range of the species there will be some genotypes better-adapted to the warmer, drier climate predicted for the tablelands region', she said.

The second prong will be to work with the Upper Snowy Landcare Committee to establish biodiversity plantings across eight properties in the dieback-affected area to replace some of the woodland habitat which has been lost to the dieback. The plantings will include a range of local tree and shrub species.

The third prong will involve local Indigenous groups in trials of cultural burning techniques in woodland areas and monitoring the response of the vegetation.

'Many landholders are very keen to be involved in the project, particularly those who have been directly impacted

(continued next page)

Rescue program begins for Monaro's dying Ribbon Gums *(continued)*



ANU Honours student and Greening Australia staffer, Catherine Ross. Photo by Tim the Yowie Man.

'The government agencies Office of Environment and Heritage and Local Land Services are also involved either directly or indirectly.

'Part of our project involves raising community awareness, which should not be too hard to do as the main highway to the Snowy Mountains cuts through the heart of the dieback. However, many travellers aren't aware of why the trees have died or that we're now starting to do something about it', she said.

'We're using a range of approaches because dieback is a complex issue and

the underlying causes are not well understood. Even if we do come to understand the primary causes it's unlikely that there will be just one solution.

'Our project is just a small start in trying to understand and address this landscape-scale problem. There will need to be ongoing action for decades to even begin to reverse or replace the loss of trees.'

For further information about this project or to get involved please contact Nicki Taws at Greening Australia in Canberra: 02 6253 3035 or email ntaws@greeningaustralia.org.au

Allan Sharp

by the loss of the trees and the shade, shelter, habitat and amenity that they provide', said Taws.

Gudgenby Valley snapshots

Morning.

Low cloud captures near hills, cocooning them in grey. Light rain crosses the valley, dewes grasses, trees, damps down dirt on the road in.

Kangaroos head down to the grassy flat nibble amongst autumn dry growth and lick moist pelts of their young.

Boulder mosses expand, brightening in colour then seep slow drops down, onto peeling granite layers.



*

Wind arrives, slanting hard rain, pushing the gums about, bringing out wet bark colours. A break in the clouds. We walk among trees and aged rocks following kangaroo tracks, and shelter from cold gusts on the lee of a hill, with 'roos who look askance at our intrusion. Birds catch their breath in amongst tree clumps observing us as we go.

Dark skies and early evenings hint at winter, only days away.

*

A new day brings patchy sunshine and wind, cloud shadows run, painting hills and valley in darks and lights. Air blasts over the saddle, roars up the valley, pushes through trees, bows branches, wet, waxy leaves glint and glitter as they bounce about. Magpies keep to low flight paths and forage on grass, their calls carried off on the wind.

*



Three eagles appear above the near valley, then a fourth seemingly oblivious to the force of the gale, their wing tip feathers curve like sails. They cruise low across this valley and examine us carefully.

One eagle leaves its mate, circling higher and higher and higher. It has morphed from bird to dot, apparently revelling in its ability to freely soar, as only we can in dreams. It pauses, then, suddenly drops in free fall, and disappears, away over the crest into the next valley.

Ailsa Brown

**NPA Gudgenby Art Week
Autumn 2016**



Photos by Ailsa Brown

Community groups mobilise against river corridor development proposal

Local community and environmental groups have mobilised against the ACT Government's proposal to build a new residential subdivision along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor in west Tuggeranong.

The groups are concerned the development could threaten the environmental and heritage values of the river corridor, including the habitat of the endangered Scarlet Robin.

In March, the government announced plans to build a new suburb – likely to be named Thompson after an early soldier settler in the area – on a 190 hectare parcel of land, including nearly 90 hectares of river corridor and nature reserve.

ACT Planning Minister Mick Gentleman said the proposal was in response to strong demand for new property in Tuggeranong, and described the land as some of the best in Canberra, 'along the green swathes of the river corridor with views to the Brindabellas'.

The minister said any development would protect the area's high environmental and heritage values, and the government would consult with stakeholders and local residents. An initial round of consultations has already been held and a second is planned.

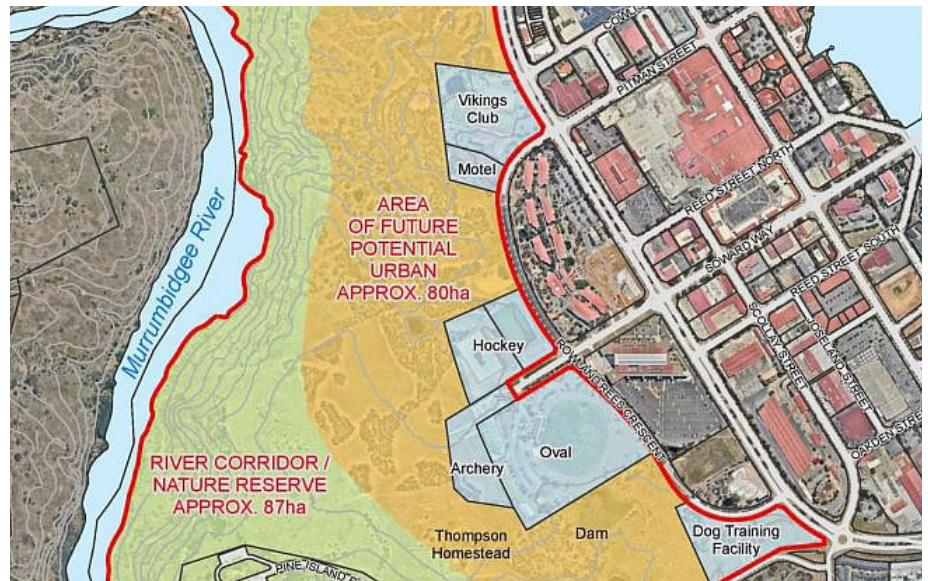
Local environmental activists, led by long-term Tuggeranong resident Matthew Frawley, have responded by setting up the Save the Murrumbidgee River Corridor group and organising a social media campaign on Facebook to raise awareness of the proposal.

The group consists of various community and environmental organisations and residents, including the Conservation Council, Friends of Grasslands, the Canberra Ornithologists Group, local ParkCare groups and the Tuggeranong Archery Club.

'While the government cites urban renewal as one of its core priorities and describes development here as urban renewal, the term has been misappropriated for what is really just urban sprawl', Matthew Frawley said.

'True urban renewal would involve undertaking the key findings of the existing Tuggeranong Town Centre Master Plan, which allows for up to 7,800 new dwellings or 14,000 new residents, all within the existing town centre footprint.'

The Canberra Ornithological Group (COG) says its concerns include the impacts on a major river corridor



Map showing the proposed subdivision. Photo supplied.

system, and its functionality and habitat for birds and other biodiversity. COG says around 130 species of birds have been recorded in the area, including in the adjacent river corridor reserve and on the edges of the town centre – but this could be an underestimate.

Two species – the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot – use feed trees on the edge of the proposed development area and are listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

COG is also concerned about the loss of habitat for the Scarlet Robin, which is regularly recorded in the area, and the group points to an apparent inconsistency in the ACT Government's plans to develop the subdivision while developing an action plan to save the Scarlet Robin from extinction.

In April, the ACT Conservator for Flora and Fauna, Dr Annie Lane, sought community help in developing an action plan, warning that the Scarlet Robin risked extinction in the region in the next 25–50 years unless action was taken now.

Another local community group, Friends of Grasslands (FOG), said part of the area is native woodland and grassy woodland. While much of the understorey is exotic species, some remnant native patches are of unknown quality.

'However, given the Scarlet Robin's recent endangered listing and concerns about other woodland species, the importance of the woodland areas

affected needs to be determined', said FOG's advocacy coordinator, Naarilla Hirsch.

The Tuggeranong Archery Club is also campaigning strongly against the proposal, concerned both for the risk it poses to the activities of various community groups, including aged and disabled citizens, that use an indoor facility located within the subdivision area and for the ecology of the river corridor.

'The facility exists through the generous support of the ACT Government and was opened 3 years ago', said the archery club's representative, Steve Caldicott.

The club has organised guided tours of the area for politicians and ACT Land Development Agency executives to discuss its concerns and mounted its own media awareness campaign. It has also engaged with a variety of local groups and organised public petitions on social media.

'The response combined with the Save the Murrumbidgee River corridor campaign from Matthew Frawley has been overwhelming against any development impacting the area', Mr Caldicott said.

The club has been doing a monthly survey of flora and fauna, and a weed survey, and has established a register of feral pests and activities in the area such as orienteering, bike riding and bird watching.

'Separately, we're working with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service,

(continued next page)

Community groups mobilise against river corridor development proposal *(continued)*

planning to replace the blackberries with local Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) and Burgan Teatree (*Kunzea ericoides*) as well as formalising a weed management plan and drainage and fencing improvements.

'The site already has extensive signage and a safety and risk management plan registered with the ACT Registrar-General. Greening Australia is also on board and keen to source seedlings from the area for regeneration.'

With the ACT Legislative Assembly election due in October, the Save the Murrumbidgee River Corridor group and the Tuggeranong Archery Club plan to continue their campaign.



Hall used by over 10 community groups, from Archery Club.

'We'll continue speaking out using all forms of media, including on-the-ground campaigning', said Mr Frawley.

'We plan to present an online petition with over 500 signatures to the ACT Legislative Assembly soon. We've already held a community "discovery walk" to look at the Scarlet Robin and plan to conduct more such walks.

'This issue resonates strongly with the people of Canberra. It's a threat to the ideal of the "bush capital", Mr Frawley said.

'If the river corridor isn't protected here, it will open up the path for greater destruction when the push to release more land for development on the western side of the Murrumbidgee happens.'

Allan Sharp

Media releases

Effective, humane feral horse control essential for Kosciuszko, scientists say

19 August 2016

A team of 41 Australian scientists headed by Deakin University ecologist Professor Don Driscoll has written to New South Wales Premier Mike Baird to urge his government to protect the Kosciuszko National Park through humane and effective feral horse control.

The scientists, from 16 universities in Queensland, NSW, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania, were joint signatories to a submission supporting the NSW Government's Kosciuszko National Park draft Wild Horse Management Plan.

Professor Driscoll said that collectively the signatories to the submission represented the greatest pool of knowledge about alpine ecosystems in Australia.

'Most of us have direct research experience in the Australian Alps and in practical land management decision-making', he said. 'It is this deep knowledge of ecology and management which allows us to draw our conclusions that rapid, humane horse control is

essential for Kosciuszko National Park to perform its primary function of biodiversity conservation.'

'Horses are not compatible with the primary goal of nature conservation in a national park ... [they] are stock animals recently introduced and are not characteristic of this area, but threaten ecosystem processes, ecosystems and species that are characteristic', Professor Driscoll said, adding that there are now an estimated half a million feral horses across Australia, degrading much of the nation's national park ecosystems, including 48 per cent of Kosciuszko National Park.

The scientists noted that current methods of feral horse control, which do not involve culling, have been ineffective in reducing numbers. On average, just 450 horses have been removed each year over the past five years, while during the same period horse numbers increased from 4,200 in 2009 to 6,000 today.

'Further, rehoming and domestication of captured horses under the 2008 Plan is not a solution for humane control as only

18 per cent of 3,183 horses removed since 2002 were rehomed', Professor Driscoll said. 'The remaining 82 per cent of horses went to abattoirs after a long journey and such prolonged transport was ranked as the worst animal ethics outcome of all the control options considered. Rapidly reducing the population will ... be more cost effective, result in fewer horses being killed over time, minimise horse suffering and prevent further degradation of Australia's unique alpine ecosystems.'

The only caveat raised by the scientists supporting the removal plan was that the 20-year time frame to reduce horse numbers to the target 600 was too long.

For the full media release:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/19/culling-5000-brumbies-41-scientists-back-control-versial-kosciuszko-proposal>

For Professor Driscoll's letter:

<https://dondriscoll.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/aug-19-science-state-ment-on-horses-in-kosciuszko.pdf>

ACT looking after the Australian Alps

ACT Parks and Conservation Services has taken stewardship of the Australian Alps for 3 years from July 2016, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman, has announced.

The arrangement is part of the Australian Alps National Parks Cooperative Management Program, now in its 30th year, and covers over 1.6 million hectares of public land across eleven national parks and nature reserves in the ACT, NSW and Victoria.

The next 3 years will allow ACT Parks and Conservation Services to actively participate in various Alps reference groups, workshops, and various scientific and operational projects, which continue to assist Alps park agencies in managing this bioregion.

'An example of the Alps Program is highlighted by recent assistance to NSW Parks colleagues to undertake a detailed analysis of wild horse populations within the Kosciuszko National Park. This work informed the development of the park's

wild horse management plan which has direct relevance to our management of the Cotter catchment', Mr Gentleman said.

'I am sure that leading the Alps program for the next three years will offer ACT Parks and Conservation Services staff greater opportunities for collaboration and learning that will help protect the beautiful and amazing Australian Alps and in turn benefit Canberra.'

NPA outings program

September–December 2016



Bushwalk Grading Guide

Distance grading (per day)

- 1 up to 10 km
- 2 10 km to 15 km
- 3 15 km to 20 km
- 4 above 20 km

Terrain grading

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| A Road, fire-trail or track | E Rock scrambling |
| B Open forest | F Exploratory |
| C Light scrub | |
| D Patches of thick scrub, regrowth | |

Day walks Carry lunch and snacks, drinks, protective clothing, a first aid kit and any required medication.

Pack walks Two or more days. Carry all food and camping requirements. CONTACT LEADER EARLY.

Car camps Facilities often limited. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. CONTACT LEADER EARLY.

Work parties Carry items as for day walks plus work gloves and any tools required. Work party details and location sometimes change, check NPA website, www.npaact.org.au, for any last minute changes.

Other activities include ski trips, canoe trips, nature rambles and environment or field guide studies.

Wednesday walks (WW). Medium or somewhat harder walks arranged on a joint NPA, BBC (*Brindabella Bushwalking Club*) and CBC (*Canberra Bushwalking Club*) basis for fit and experienced club walkers. Notification and details are only emailed to members registered for WW. Only NPA-hosted WW are shown in this program. For WW email registration, contact the *Outings Convener*.

Transport The NPA suggests a passenger contribution to transport costs of **40 cents per kilometre** for the distance driven divided by the number of occupants of the car including the driver, rounded to the nearest dollar. The amount may be varied at the discretion of the leader. Drive and walk distances shown in the program are approximate for return journeys.

NPA ACT members undertaking walks or other activities in this program are advised they should have PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE or, at least, AMBULANCE COVER in case of an accident requiring evacuation by ambulance or helicopter.

Points to note

Please help keep our outings program alive by volunteering to lead outings. New leaders are welcome. The *Outings Convener* is happy to suggest locations suitable for a walk if you do not have something in mind. Feel free to send in suggestions for outings with a suggested date to the *Outings Convener* by email to outings@npaact.org.au

All persons joining an outing of the *National Parks Association of the ACT* do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the ACT, its office bearers and appointed leaders, are absolved from any liability in respect of injury or damage suffered whilst engaged in any such outing.

In voluntarily participating in these activities conducted by the NPA ACT, participants should be aware that they could be exposed to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to property. These risks could include but are not limited to slippery and/or uneven surfaces, rocks being dislodged, falling at edges of cliffs or drops or elsewhere, risks associated with crossing creeks, hypothermia, heat exhaustion and the risks associated with any of the Special Hazards listed on the *Attendance Record and Risk Waiver Form* provided by the leader at the activity.

To minimise these risks participants should endeavour to ensure that the activity is within their capabilities and that they are carrying food, water, equipment, clothing and footwear appropriate to the activity. Participants should advise the leader if they are taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect their participation in the activity. Participants should make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity and accept the instructions of the leader. By signing the *Attendance Record and Risk Waiver Form* participants agree that they understand these requirements and have considered the risks before choosing to sign the form and waiver any claim for damages arising from the activity that they might have against the association, the leader or any other participants in tort or contract.

Children under 18 years of age are welcome to come on NPA ACT activities provided they are accompanied by a parent, guardian or close relative. Parents or Guardians will be required to sign a specific *Risk Waiver for a Child* form.

Leaders to note: please send copies of completed *Attendance Record and Risk Waiver Forms* to Brian Slee, contact 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au

4 September Sunday Walk

RENDEZVOUS CREEK VALLEY

Map Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C

Leader Mike S

Contact 0412 179 907

A walk from the car park at Rendezvous Creek to visit historic sites including old hut sites and the remains of Rowleys Hut, stockyards, an air-strip, a grave, a significant rock shelter and the cascades on Middle Creek for lunch. Walking

mostly off-track in grasslands but with a bit of light scrub.

Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8.00 am.

Drive 100 km, \$40 per car.

10 September Saturday Work Party

GUDGENBY BUSH REGENERATION GROUP

Leader Michael Goonrey

Contact 6231 8395 or

mjgoonrey@grapevine.com.au

Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre at 9.15 am. Spraying of weeds and maintenance work on the Gudgenby

Walking Track from Old Boboyan Road to Hospital Creek. Tools provided.

11 September Sunday Walk

SHEPHERDS LOOKOUT TO URIARRA

CROSSING

Map Canberra Nature Reserves – Uriarra Loop Walk

Grading 2 A/B/C

Leader Esther

Contact 0429 356 212 or

galla001@umn.edu

Walk down from the lookout to cross the

NPA outings program September–December 2016 (page 2 of 4)

Molonglo River and on to Uriarra Crossing for lunch in the picnic area. Return by similar route finishing with steep climb back to Shepherds Lookout for impressive views of the Murrumbidgee River.

Meet at Shepherds Lookout car park off Stockdill Drive in Holt at 9.00 am.

17–18 September Weekend Walk LONG POINT AND BUNGONIA

Map Caoura 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B

Leader Steven Forst

Contact 0428 195 236

A walk down into the Shoalhaven Gorge from Long Point near Marulan. A long steady descent on a narrow path down to the river. Dropping our packs at a campsite by the river we will walk into the bottom of Bungonia Gorge. Next day climb out slowly by the same route to Long Point. Book with leader by Thursday 15 September.

Drive 260 km, \$104 per car.

18 September Sunday Walk LITTLE TWYNAM (snowshoe)

Map Perisher Valley 1:25,000

Grading 2 B (on snow)

Leader Brian Slee

Contact 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

Depart 6.15 am and drive to Guthega. Proceed via Illawong and follow Twynam Creek on its north and west sides to Little Twynam. Return on opposite side of Twynam Creek. Magnificent views. Some hard climbs. Afternoon tea at Jindabyne.

Participants hiring snowshoes should have them prior to departure. Book with leader by Saturday morning for weather check, departure point and car arrangements (chains may be required). Alternative destination Mount Twynam (if conditions excellent).

Drive 420 km, \$168 per car plus Park entry fee.

18 September Sunday Walk THE PIMPLE

JOINT NPA / BBC ACTIVITY

Map Tidbinbilla 1:25,000

Grading 3 A/D/F

Leader David Dedenczuk

Contact 0417 222 154 or
ddedentz@bigpond.net.au

In Tidbinbilla, walk up the Camels Hump Fire Trail to the skyline ridge near the Camels Hump. Then it's off track up the ridge over Johns Peak and Tidbinbilla Peak. Thence to a scrubby spur leading out to the Pimple. We might find there the Tingiringi Gum (*Eucalyptus glaucescens*), which is rare in the ACT. Return via same route.

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 7.00 am.

Drive 60 km return, \$24 per car.

24 September Saturday Work Party

RENDEZVOUS CREEK, WILLOW CONTROL

Leader Martin Chalk

Contact 0411 161 056

This work party will be a revisit of work we conducted in 2013. The main location is approximately 500 m upstream from the Boboyan Road with isolated trees further upstream. We will chop and poison the larger trees – small ones may be cut-and-dabbed. Tools will be provided but a small folding saw and/or a short-handle axe would be handy. Be prepared for wet feet! Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre at 8.30 am.

Drive 60 km, \$24 per car from Namadgi Visitor Centre.

25 September Sunday Walk NURSERY SWAMP

Map Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C

Leader Esther

Contact 0429 356 212 or
galla001@umn.edu

From Nursery Swamp car park off Orroral Road hike up to the end of the forest track and explore further into the swamp. Lunch spot and amount of exploration will depend on water levels. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 9.00 am.

Drive 85 km, \$34 per car.

26–30 September Car Camp with accommodation

YATHONG NATURE RESERVE

Map Mount Allen 1:100,000

Grading 1 B/C/E/F

Leader John Brickhill

Contact 0427 668 112 or
johnbrickhill@gmail.com

Yathong is about 500 km to the north-west of Canberra, in central NSW. Accommodation in shearers quarters, with twin beds in each room, kitchen and ablutions block. Cost about \$15 per person per night. This reserve has semi-arid woodlands, mallee and rocky hills. We will try to find a small cave art site, walk to the top of the range, assist NPWS staff to search for rare orchids, see results of fire management practices, see goat management works, look for rare mallee birds and visit a few other reserves while travelling between Canberra and Yathong. Numbers limited. Contact leader early.

28 September Wednesday Walk JOINT NPA / BBC / CBC ACTIVITY

Leader Mike S

Contact 0412 179 907

Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact the leader.

1 October Saturday Walk YAOUK PEAK

JOINT NPA / BBC ACTIVITY

Map Yaouk 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C

Leader Barrie R

Contact 0437 023 140

Departing Kambah Village Shops at 8.00 am. Mostly on trails, about 14 km, 950 m climb. A lovely walk through beautiful tall forest, then granite boulders and snow gums, and finally heaths and granite rock slabs. Wonderful wide views from the summit. A great walk. For fit walkers only, please.

Drive about 170 km, \$68 per car.

2 October Sunday Ramble CENTRAL MOLONGLO AND KAMA WOODLAND

Map Canberra, Umburra and Cotter Dam 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B

Leader Esther

Contact 0429 356 212 or
galla001@umn.edu

The walk starts high and morning tea will feature expansive views over the Molonglo Valley. Descend to follow the river through a rocky gorge looking for Wedgies (eagles) overhead. After lunch on the river bank, walk through the Kama Nature Reserve. Meet at Kama NR car park on the north side of William Hovell Drive (approx. 5 km from Glenloch Interchange) at 9.00 am. A short car shuffle may be involved.

3 October Monday Walk KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK (snowshoe)

Map Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Leader Brian Slee

Contact 6281 0719 or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

Destination will depend on snow depth and conditions. Contact leader beforehand. Book by Sunday morning for weather check, departure point and time, and car arrangements (chains may be required).

Drive 420 km, \$168 per car.

8 October Saturday Work Party GUDGENBY BUSH REGENERATION GROUP

Leader Michael Goonrey

Contact 6231 8395 or 0419 494 142 or
mjgoonrey@grapevine.com.au

Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa, at 9.15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Barbed wire fence removal in the Peppermint Hill area. Cut and dab weeds. Tools provided.

8 October Saturday Walk 45TH BLACK MOUNTAIN SPRING WILDFLOWER RAMBLE

9.30 am to 12.00 noon (approximately)

Bookings essential. Contact
friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com,

Jean Geue on 6251 1601 or
Linda on 037 298 711.

Following the tradition of Nancy Burbidge, botanist, and George

NPA outings program September–December 2016 (page 3 of 4)

Chippendale, eucalypt specialist, come and celebrate the spring flowering on beautiful Black Mountain with a social ramble. Friends of Black Mountain welcome all comers whether experts or those who never slowed down to see the surprising diversity of tiny orchids, bush peas, wattles and billy buttons. We plan four guides with helpers and will take different directions. BYO morning tea, water, hat, sunblock and stout shoes.

9 October Sunday Walk SERENITY ROCKS, TALLAGANDA FOREST

Maps Bombay and Bendoura
1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C/D

Leader Barrie R

Contact 0437 023 140

Contact leader for meeting place and departure time. A walk through beautiful forest including a few crossings of lovely ferny creeks. Varied vegetation. Lunch at Serenity Rocks with great views. About 10–12 km and about 600 m total climb. Mostly on fire trails and foot pads. Some off track at beginning. For fit walkers only, please.

Drive 100 km, \$40 per car (preferably four-wheel drive).

15–23 October Car Camp WEDDIN MOUNTAINS AND NANGAR NPS JOINT NPA/BBC ACTIVITY

Leader Mike S

Contact 0412 179 907

It's wildflower time out west and Weddin Mountains National Park, in particular, is renowned for them. Time for a car camp.

Nine days of car-camping and day walking in these two central NSW national parks out near Forbes (3 full days in each park plus 3 days for travelling to, from and between). Participants may come for either or both parks. Leader may also go on to Goobang National Park and you are welcome to join him. For day-to-day details of activities or to express interest contact the leader. Numbers limited.

16 October Sunday Walk GINNINDERRA CREEK AND MOUNT ROGERS

Map Any Canberra street directory

Grading 3 A/B

Leader Margaret

Contact 0418 645 303 or

power000@tpg.com.au

Walk part of the way around Lake Ginninderra then follow Ginninderra Creek north to Giralang. After a wander through Palmerville Heritage Park, head west, following Owen Dixon Drive and proceed to Mount Rogers, ascending from the north. After enjoying the views from the top, descend to the south-east of Mount Rogers. Return to Lake

Ginninderra, mostly following pedestrian/cycling tracks. Finish by walking around the western side of the lake back to the cars. Optional afternoon tea at Black Olive café, near the cars. About 18 km.

Meet in the car park in Beissell Street, Belconnen at 9.00 am. No car fee.

22 October Saturday Work Party BRAYSHAW TO WESTERMANS

Leader Martin Chalk

Contact 0411 161 056

This work party will involve the removal of broom in the area between Brayshaws and Westermans huts. The location of the broom plants is known to NNP rangers and the duty ranger will assist the group to locate them. All tools and equipment will be provided, just bring an appetite to sweep the area and a GPS.

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre at 8.30 am.

Drive 90 km, \$36 per car.

22–23 October Easy Pack Walk UPPER NAAS VALLEY

Map Colinton 1:25,000

Grading 1 A/B

Leader Steven Forst

Contact 0428 195 236

This walk starts at the Mount Clear campground. Mostly open grassland tracks and fire trail as we wander down the valley and climb a hill should we feel like it. Contact leader before Wednesday.

Drive 90 km, \$36 per car.

24–28 October Pack Walk BUDAWANGS: A 5-DAY CIRCUIT

Map Endrick 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/D

Leaders Dave and Judy Kelly

Contact 6253 1859 or

janddkelly@gmail.com

A walk from the Nerriga entrance to the Budawangs, via The Vines, Styles Creek, Grassy Creek, and return to Nerriga. With time available will explore Sturgiss Mountain, Hidden Valley and other sites and see wildflowers. Mainly on overgrown track with some scrub.

Contact leaders early.

Drive about 300 km, \$120 per car.

26 October Wednesday Walk JOINT NPA / BBC / CBC ACTIVITY

Leader Philip Gatenby

Contact 0401 415 446

Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday walks email list. Otherwise contact the leader.

29–31 October Easy Pack Walk RENDEZVOUS CREEK VALLEY

Map Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B

Leader Esther

Contact 0429 356 212 or

galla001@umn.edu

From the Boboyan Road, an easy walk up

Rendezvous Creek to camp for 2 nights on a grassy knoll where orchids may be in bloom. On day 2 enjoy the bush surrounding camp at your leisure (bring your sketch pad, camera or Kindle) or walk to cascades further up the valley for lunch. Return by same route on day 3. Contact leader at least 7 days in advance for further details and travel arrangements.

Drive 95 km, \$38 per car.

30 October Sunday Walk DEMANDERING HUT

Map Colinton 1:25,000

Grading 1 A/B

Leader Steven Forst

Contact 0428 195 236

This walk takes us from the Mount Clear camp ground through to Demanding Hut. Mostly open grassland tracks and fire trail. Meet at Kambah Village Shops car park at 8.30 am.

Drive 90 km, \$36 per car.

1 November Tuesday Work Party FRIENDS OF GLENBURN

Leader Col McAlister

Contact 6288 4171

Protection and conservation tasks at Glenburn and Collier's homesteads and Coppins chimney to be negotiated with the Parks Service. Meet at Canberra railway station, Kingston at 9.00 am.

Drive 50km, \$20 per vehicle.

5 November Saturday Walk SUGAR LOAF CREEK TRIBUTARIES

MONGA NATIONAL PARK

JOINT NPA / BBC ACTIVITY

Map Monga 1:25,000

Grading 2 B/C/D/E and ?F

Leader Barrie R

Contact 04 3702 3140

A beautiful rainforest walk up one creek, over a ridge and down another. A steep descent from Misty Mountain Road to the rivers, and at the end, a steep ascent back to the fire trail. Mostly walking up the creeks. Only walkers who are fit and happy with off-track walking and rock-hopping please. May get wet feet. About 8 km and 650 m climb.

We may have to leave the creek beds to go around pools, small falls or blow downs, hence the possible exploratory category in the grading. Meet at Spotlight car park, 6 Bungendore Road, (aka Kings Highway) Queanbeyan, 7.45 am, departing 8.00 am.

Drive about 250 km, \$100 per car.

6 November Sunday Walk SUNSET MOUNTAIN, NADGIGOMAR

NATURE RESERVE

Map Oallen 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C

Leader Rupert Barnett

Contact 6242 5241 or

rupert.b@iinet.net.au

NPA outings program September–December 2016 (page 4 of 4)

Would you like to see some bauxite, the stuff aluminium is extracted from? There are scattered occurrences of it over southeast NSW and this walk will take us to one that is happily in an existing nature reserve, where we can see the process that forms it. The walk will take us on easy trails through undulating eucalypt and casuarina forest to the gentle top of Sunset Mountain, and off track through open forest to the other main hill, Mayfield, and to the bauxite. Contact the leader a few days ahead to arrange transport. Maximum 8 people.

Approximately 180 km, \$70 per car.

12 November Saturday Work Party GUDGENBY BUSH REGENERATION GROUP

Leader Michael Goonrey

Contact 6231 8395 or 0419 494 142 or
mjgoonrey@grapevine.com.au

Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa, at 9.15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Spraying of weeds and maintenance work on Gudgenby walking track from Old Boboyan Road to Hospital Creek. Tools provided.

13 November Sunday Walk GININI FALLS

JOINT NPA / BBC ACTIVITY

Map Tidbinbilla 1:25,000

Grading 2 D/F

Leader David Dedenczuk

Contact 0417 222 154 or
ddedentz@bigpond.net.au

Starting at Mount Franklin car park go down a scrubby spur towards Stockyard Creek. Then it's along the scrubby Ginini Creek to the base of the falls. Return via same route. Meet at Cooleman Court shopping centre car park at 7.00 am.

Drive 144 km return. \$58 per car.

20 November Sunday Walk NUNGAR PLAIN AND MONARO RANGE

Map Denison 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B/C/D/F

Leader Brian Slee

Contact 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

Depart Kambah Village 7.00 am. Drive via Adaminaby and park north of Snowy Mountains Highway just before the park entrance. Proceed north on Gavels Hut Trail to Gavels Hut. After a break, continue north on track, watching for golden moth orchids, before turning west and climbing 200 m onto Monaro Range for lunch. *Caladenia* orchids in area. Turn south, descending either to the hut or continuing south and descending at Goorudee Rivulet. Outward track back to vehicles. Steep climbs, some scrubby sections. About 13 km. Afternoon tea Adaminaby. Twice cancelled, but let's go!

Drive 230 km, \$92 per car.

22–25 November Pack Walk

MOUNT KELLY: A 4-DAY RETURN TRIP

Map Rendezvous Creek and
Yaouk 1:25,000

Grading 2 C/D

Leaders Dave and Judy Kelly

Contact 6253 1859 or
janddkelly@gmail.com

A walk from Yankee Hat carpark across Gudgenby saddle to Naas Creek and Sams Creek base camp. Visit Mount Scabby and Mount Kelly, then return. Scrubby and partly rocky. Contact leaders by Wednesday.

Drive 95 km, \$38 per car.

23 November Wednesday Walk JOINT NPA / BBC / CBC ACTIVITY

Leader Barrie R

Contact 0437 023 140

Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday walks email list. Otherwise contact the leader.

25 November Deadline to book for 2–5 December Ettrema Pack Walk, details below.

26 November Saturday Work Party FENCE REMOVAL – GUDGENBY VALLEY

Leader Martin Chalk

Contact 0411 161 056

This will be the second fence removal work party at Gudgenby this year. In May we removed about 600 m but left more for later. All tools will be provided.

Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8.00 am. Drive 80 km, \$32 per car.

27 November Sunday Walk COMPO CANYON, GOOGONG

Map Captains Flat 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/C/E

Leader Mike S

Contact 0412 179 907

Meet at Kingston Railway Station carpark for departure at 8.30 am. A walk from the carpark at the southern end of Googong Reservoir past London Bridge limestone arch, cross Queanbeyan River at Curley Falls to Compo Canyon. Return to cars along fire trails crossing river at Gelnignite Crossing. Footwear for crossing rivers would be advisable.

Drive 50 km, \$20 per car.

30 November Wednesday Walk JOINT NPA / BBC / CBC ACTIVITY

Leader Mike S

Contact 0412 179 907

Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday walks email list. Otherwise contact the leader.

2–5 December Pack Walk ETTREMA GORGE

JOINT NPA / BBC / CBC ACTIVITY

Map Nerriga 25,000

Grading 4 C/D/E/F

Leader Barrie R

Contact 0437 023 140

A relaxed trip in the iconic Ettrema Gorge. Read, swim, paint, photograph. A walk in of about 4 km and a descent of about 300 m. Two days exploring up- and downstream from a base camp, then retracing our inwards track back to the cars. A truly beautiful place to be. Gaiters, gloves for the walks in and out, possibly wear volleys for the walks up and down the river which may also involve some compulsory swims. Day packs with waterproof liners also advisable. We will need four-wheel drive vehicles. Limited numbers, deadline for bookings by 25 November. Drive about 330 km, \$132 per car.

4 December Sunday Walk

MOUNT LEE AND ALPINE WILDFLOWERS

Map Perisher Valley 1:25,000

Grading 2 A/B

Leaders Brian Slee

Contact 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

Depart 6.30 am and drive to Charlotte Pass. Take trail to Snowy River then follow Club Lake Creek to the lake, looking for anemones. After break, climb ridge to Main Range Track. Divert to Mount Lee and descend to Kunama Hutte ruins for lunch. Return via slope of Mount Clarke. Some steep climbs and descents. 12 km. Afternoon tea at Jindabyne. Book with leader by Saturday morning for weather check and departure point. Twice cancelled – third time lucky? Drive 420 km, \$168 per car plus Park entry fee.

10 December Saturday Work Party and Christmas Party

GUDGENBY BUSH REGENERATION GROUP

Leader Michael Goonrey

Contact 6231 8395 or 0419 494 142 or
mjgoonrey@grapevine.com.au

Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa at 9.15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Planting at track rehabilitation site above Frank and Jacks Hut. Spraying of weeds around the Hut. Tools provided.

Stay for Christmas lunch at the hut. Bring a plate to share, drinks provided.

11 December NPA Christmas Party

Leader Rod Griffiths

Contact 0410 875 731 or
rod.blackdog@gmail.com

The annual NPA Christmas party – check *Burning Issues* or contact Rod Griffiths for details.

Please see page 21 or the website for advance notices of pack walks in January and February.

Outings and activities for children of all ages



Mulligans Flat

On **Saturday 17 September**, come and explore Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary for an hour on an outing jointly organised by NPA ACT and the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, and led by a Mulligans Flat ecologist.

Meet at the Mulligans Flat woolshed at 10 am. The nearest car parking is on Eric Wright Street. A gate into the Sanctuary is visible and a sign directing walkers to the Sanctuary entrance is just inside the gate. Allow 15 minutes for walk from car to woolshed.

Have you ever heard of a bettong?

Canberra's bushland used to be a very different place. Without foxes and cats we had animals like the Eastern Bettong – mini digging kangaroos that helped mix plant nutrients through the soil. Sadly, they were all gobbled up and disappeared completely from the landscape 100 years ago.

Thanks to a cat- and fox-proof fence we now have Eastern Bettongs at Mulligans Flat!

On this nature play excursion we will learn about these important 'eco-engineers' and observe the way they have positively changed the grassy woodland environment.

While the bettongs are snuggled up asleep we will look for their diggings and watch daytime wildlife like wallabies and parrots forage through the woodlands.

Cost \$6.00 per person.

Photographs.

Wallaby image from Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.

Millions of Hoary Sunrays carpet parts of Mount Majura in Spring. Photo by Graham Scully.

Waterplay in Brooks Creek. Photo by Graham Scully.

Catching Yabbies. Photo by Graham Scully.

Nesting sulphur crested cockatoos. Photo by Graham Scully.



Spring wildflowers

On **Sunday 9 October** from 9.30 to 11.30 am, walk through the woodlands of Mount Majura Nature Reserve with botanist Isobel Crawford to find, look closely at, and learn about some of the amazing plants and flowers there.

This event is designed for families with children, but adults without children are also most welcome. Enquiries to Graham Scully

scullymob@southernphone.com.au

Meet at the small parking area on McKenzie Street, Hackett.



Family day on Brooks Creek, Gundaroo

This tour and picnic on **Saturday 15 October** from 10 am – 2 pm on the family property on Brooks Creek is for accompanied children and adults.

Last year we found two Long-necked Turtles in the pools and a pair of nesting Peregrine Falcons in the cliffs above our lunch spot. There will be free play such as skipping stones on pools, exploring a treehouse with climbing nets and discovering a gnome home. Bring a packed lunch and around a small fire we'll make billy tea and toast marshmallows. Bring swimmers for the kids for a splash in one of the pools. The leaders will be 10-year-old Tulley and 9-year-old Freya, with guidance from their mother Bronwen Scully. For bookings and directions contact Bronwen on 6236 9600.



Catch a yabby

Our dam has lots of yabbies that are great fun to catch, especially in summer when the water is warmer. If your family would like to join in the fun for a couple of hours email us at

scullymob@southernphone.com.au with contact details, and towards the end of the year a day will be organised and you will be then notified of date, time, directions and what to bring.

Graham and Helen Scully live at 857 Macs Reef Road, Bywong, about 15 minutes drive from the ACT border.

Discover nesting birds this spring

Last spring we discovered an old tree with a perfect nesting hollow used by a pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos over a 2–3 week period. As well as this particular tree, children and accompanying adults will wander around other old mother trees and learn how to search for possible nesting hollows in them. Bring a packed lunch.

Let us know if you are interested in visiting our property on 857 Macs Reef Road, Bywong, when the nesting begins by emailing your contact details to scullymob@southernphone.com.au

Graham Scully



Core values, buffer zones and sightlines – world best practice for the Ginninderra Falls Conservation Park

The Riverview Group development of the West Belconnen township is gathering momentum and final approvals have been given for work to start on the ACT part of the urban development. The approvals for the NSW part of the development still have to be approved by Yass Valley Council and signed off by the NSW Minister. The timetable for this process is expected to take until February 2017 – not far away. The urban development ACT approval has been highlighted recently on the front page of the *Canberra Times* (CT) of 23 July and in the CT editorial of 25 July. The final West Belconnen population envisaged is about 30,000 people (11,500 homes), about the size of the whole Weston Creek district in the ACT.

Associated with the development is a conservation park proposal along the Murrumbidgee River and Lower Ginninderra Creek corridors. The Ginninderra Falls Association (GFA), the Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG), the National Trust ACT (NT ACT) and the National Parks Association (NPA) ACT and NPA NSW have serious reservations about the design and limited extent of the current Riverview conservation park proposals.

In 2015, to coincide with a world congress meeting held in Sydney, Graeme Worboys of the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society, and numerous co-authors from around the world compiled guidelines for the design and management of ‘protected areas’

such as conservation parks (*Protected Area Governance and Management*, ANU EPress, 2015).

The GFA and its supporters contend that these guidelines should be used in the design of the conservation park around the confluence of Ginninderra Creek and the Murrumbidgee River that is associated with the spillover of West Belconnen urban development into neighbouring New South Wales private land. The waterfalls and cascades in this area are spectacular and should be incorporated into a world-class conservation park. The current urban footprint proposed for housing development clearly jeopardises the integrity of such a park before it even gets started.

The current proposals by the Riverview Group for park boundaries are untenable. Riverview reserves expensive blocks of land for private housing with sightlines that should be made freely available to the public and future generations of Australians. The current zig-zag boundaries create isolated ecological pockets unsustainable for native wildlife and flora. The currently allocated buffer zones are not wide enough to protect for posterity the core values of river and creek corridor ecology that will provide the ‘wow’ factor for future visitors and tourists.

The development proposals by the Riverview Group are a rather transparent ploy to maximise the financial gain to the Riverview Group and Yass Valley Council from land that is currently designated as rural and protected as E3 within NSW legislation for environmental protection zones; i.e. ‘for land where there are special ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic attributes’. Yass Valley Council will be asked to approve rezoning of land from rural E3 to urban in the next 6 months.

The GCG have documented their ecological fieldwork and

wildlife monitoring over the past year that clearly make the case for much wider conservation core corridors and buffer zones. Native wildlife corridors are currently plainly inadequate. Riverview should be persuaded to consider corridor boundaries at least 500 metres from the waterways. To this we should add the doubts GFA and support groups have for the process of Aboriginal heritage site definition in the region. Pre-European heritage education is an essential element in any conservation park.

Let’s not waste any more time. Let’s apply world-class guidelines to redefine the core areas, buffer zones and sightlines for the Ginninderra Falls Conservation Park and create an outstanding tourist and educational destination just to the north of Canberra.

The Ginninderra Falls Association AGM, at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 6 September, at Cook Community Hub (the old primary school), 41 Templeton Street, will be followed at 5.30 pm by a panel discussion on Ginninderra Falls issues with candidates for forthcoming elections.

The West Belconnen development proposal has attracted local media attention. The editorial ‘Ginninderra Falls must be protected’ in the *Canberra Times* of 12 July can be read at: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/comment/ct-editorial/ginninderra-falls-must-be-protected-from-urban-development-20160722-gqbkzg.html>

Letters to the Editor of the *Canberra Times* have expressed concern about urban development near the falls. For example, David Kelly wrote (27 July) that ‘Insufficient regard has been given to siltation ponds for urban runoff, the need for a fire management zone between corridor and houses and the continuity of a wildlife corridor’,

For further information, see <http://www.ginninderra.org.au/>

Doug Finlayson
Ginninderra Falls Association,
NPA ACT



Upper Ginninderra Falls.
Photo by Doug Finlayson.

Riverview: mechanisms and principles to protect environment and heritage values

The Riverview urban development proposal is a large, complex project straddling the boundary of the ACT and NSW. The Conservation Council has been involved in various informal and formal processes over some years. We have always considered it important that any urban development here be carefully considered due to the proximity of significant woodlands, the river corridor and habitat for a range of threatened species.

The Riverview proposal has two land components – ACT land and NSW land. The ACT side has development approval from the ACT Government. The NSW land will go through further planning approvals over the next year via Yass Shire Council and the NSW Planning Minister. The current NSW development area map is indicative only. It was prepared in order for relevant authorities to have a conversation about ‘infrastructure’ and to pass a gateway for further planning work. The final map will be the subject of formal public consultation. Both ACT approval and any future NSW approvals will also be subject to Commonwealth approval and potential conditions via a strategic assessment currently in process under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. In short, the boundaries are yet to be finalised.

A key feature of planning for the ACT side was that the proposed urban boundary was based on extensive ecological studies then followed up with ground-truthing. This stands in contrast with other ACT urban developments such as Molonglo where the lines were drawn on maps before full consideration of environmental values. In addition, ecological studies for the ACT area were peer reviewed by independent consultants. Also, impacts on ‘matters of national environmental significance’ have been minimised so very few ‘biodiversity offsets’ are required.

The Conservation Council wants the same principles applied in the NSW section. To this end we have recognised the need for further studies into both environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage values. We also support these studies being peer reviewed. In 2015 we were part of a process recommending additional ecological studies be

undertaken and we supported the Ginninderra Catchment Group, one of our member groups, being funded by Riverview to conduct some of these studies. Various other studies are still in process.

On the NSW side we are yet to form an opinion until these studies have been concluded and appropriately reviewed. We do not support ‘blanket’ buffer lines; 500 metres, for example. While that might get more space into conservation in some parts, in other places we would lose valuable areas. The lines and buffers need to be scientifically based and there is no formula that fits all.

There might also be value in not being too definite about some of the boundaries in NSW – allowing a grey area – in order for long-term monitoring, particularly of the Rosenberg’s Goanna, to determine the final line. Such an approach should adopt the precautionary principle – no urban development in the areas under scrutiny unless such monitoring demonstrates there will not be adverse impacts on ecological values.

Another key issue is adequate ongoing management of land of ecological or cultural value after it is declared as protected. Riverview has developed an innovative ‘Trust’ proposal and is already well advanced on a draft management plan for the proposed reserve and river corridor and this also will be subject to public consultation. Again contrast this with Molonglo where, with at least three suburbs well developed, we are still waiting to see the draft Plan of Management for the Molonglo River Corridor.

We need to acknowledge some of the competing visions. The Conservation Council's first interest was to ensure

minimal impacts on the river corridor, on matters of national environment significance and threatened local species, our second interest was good ‘urban edge’ management principles, our third was in sustainable built form, and finally in balancing ‘access’ to the Ginninderra Falls while ensuring low-impact ‘tourism’ and safety.

Other interests include:

- those whose primary focus is in tourism and opening up some spectacular spots to the community
- the developer with an economic/business imperative
- the existing rural leaseholders with an attachment to the land.

So there are various balancing acts in this process. In regard to Ginninderra Falls, it seems all parties support creating community access, yet there are significant questions about safe access, ensuring minimal impacts on the river corridor, the type of ‘tourist’ facilities, the exact size/location of the buffers, type of land tenure (should it be called a national park?), and how it will be managed, with some discussion still occurring on the proposed ‘Trust’ model.

While there is much about the Riverview proposal that is of ‘better practice’ we also highlighted concerns in regard to the ACT development – see West Belconnen urban development under <http://conservationcouncil.org.au>

Clare Henderson

Conservation Council ACT Region

Further information: Larry O’Loughlin, Conservation Council Executive Director (02) 6229 3202



Murrumbidgee River waterhole near the confluence with Ginninderra Creek. Photo by Doug Finlayson.

All about recycling: a trip to the tip



Mugga Lane speaker, Lee, with the CCTV displaying part of the sorting machinery. Photo by Rupert Barnett.

Nineteen eager recyclers assembled at the Mugga Lane Recycling Facility on 28 April to learn how things are sorted and what to put in the bin. Our instructor Lee led us up to the classroom with a big window overlooking the sorting equipment in the big shed. There was also a large screen monitor which could be switched to view various parts of the equipment as she explained the process.

Each day about 600 household-recycling yellow-top bins are collected in the ACT, Yass and Queanbeyan by 20 trucks. Of the approximately 140 tonnes of waste dumped daily on the conveyor sorting system, about 90 per cent is recycled and 10 per cent goes to landfill. Items are sorted into paper, glass, steel, aluminium and plastic by means of shaking/sifting, air currents, laser beams and magnets. Humans intervene at first to remove things that should not have been there in the first place and large items which cannot go through the conveyor process. Large cardboard and plastic items are pulled out to go directly to their category. Things tied in plastic bags, and non-recyclable items are sent to the landfill. Very long items that will jam the equipment (hoses, ropes etc.) are also removed.

At the end of the process, the recyclables have been sorted into paper, glass, aluminium, steel and three types of plastics – PET (clear), HDPE (cloudy) and mixed coloured. These are all baled separately and sent to be recycled. Note that the symbols and numbers on plastic items indicate chemical content but are not relevant to how they are recycled.

Problematic items: empty aerosol cans and firm plastic (biscuit trays) go in the recycling. Soft plastic (carry bags, biscuit wrappers and plastic wrap) can be packaged up and taken to bins at most grocery stores. If you don't see a bin, ask, as it may be somewhat hidden to avoid rubbish dumping. Take the tops off all bottles as those with tops may appear full to the laser sorter and be sent to landfill. Also, the metal and hard plastic tops go into a different recycling category from the bottles. Small items can be enclosed in a container of similar material – plastic caps in a coloured plastic container, pieces of metal in a metal container. Broken glass is OK – but not of the prohibited types listed below.

Cannot go in recycling: Styrofoam, drinking glasses, crockery, window glass, mirrors, CDs, plastic-coated coffee cups, appliances, sharp items. Waste metal will be picked up by some metal merchants. Batteries should be recycled at the tip hazardous waste spot or battery shops. E-waste, light globes, empty gas cylinders and fuel cans can be dropped off at tip transfer stations.

New ways to recycle waste are being investigated. Mattresses will soon be 90 per cent recycled and provide jobs for the disadvantaged. Tours will be offered at the mattress operation soon. (Watch the outings listings.) Industry-funded education campaigns have been launched to encourage recycling and clarify what and how to recycle. Recycling guides are now published in six languages and given to estate agents. Recycling workshops are held for migrants and international students. Lee also encouraged us to 'close the loop' by patronising charity shops, the Green Shed and Gum Tree online listings.

During the presentation our eyes wandered to the large white area on the hillside above and a discussion of this was part of our Q&A session. The white is a tough layer of HDPE plastic which lines each section of the land fill. Household rubbish (fluffy waste) is put in the bottom of the pit and then covered with heavier, harder industrial waste. The leachate from the waste is toxic and the plastic liner keeps it out of the groundwater. Once the pit is covered over, the conditions inside are anaerobic (no oxygen) and methane is produced. This gas is captured to run an onsite power plant producing electricity equivalent to the needs of 3,000 homes.

Our 45-minute session was stretched to nearly 2 hours by the enthusiasm of both the audience and the presenter. Afterwards we collected our camp chairs and thermoses and retired to the shade of the only tree in the carpark for a rather late morning tea and further discussion.

Esther Gallant

Below left. The information session; the top of the 2 storey high pile of rubbish is on show through the windows.

Photo by Kevin McCue.

Below. Morning tea with the landfill mountain in the background.

Photo by Kevin McCue.



‘Horseworks’ at Orroral and at Cattai National Park

The cogged, metal relic at Orroral woolshed is well known to me, so it was with great interest that I read the explanatory article ‘Orroral Valley mystery object’ by Philip Gatenby and John Brickhill in the June *Bulletin*. I had often pondered on its use. Within days I undertook a field trip to Cattai National Park on the Cumberland Plains with fellow NPWS Advisory Council members, and a little distance from the historic Cattai Homestead was a familiar-looking metal object. Even better, it was complete.

Robin Heath (pictured at right), the Aboriginal representative on Council, explained how it worked. A large piece of wood, attached to the top and acting as a lever, is pulled around by a horse; there is gearing down to a shaft at the bottom which turned for operating purposes.

The horseworks at Cattai has a brand name ‘The Samson’. Great strength eh? Thanks to our NPA researchers.

Di Thompson



Kurrajong on Big Monks Hill, Conder Ridge

In early 2011 someone took an axe up Big Monks Hill (916 m) on Conder Ridge above Banks and chopped down the huge old Kurrajong (girth over half a metre) which dominated the summit, leaving a grotesque stump more than a metre high. It was a mighty effort for a miserable purpose. When visited in 2013 a circle of shoots was projecting from the rim of the stump. The accompanying photo, taken on Mike Smith’s walk of 26 June 2016, shows the developing growth. Although not visible, most of the vegetation is now emerging from two main trunks on opposite sides of the stump. The remains of the lopped tree can be seen lying to the left of the stump.

Brian Slee



Advance notice of two pack walks early next year

Early January Pack Walk

ETTREMA GORGE: A 3–4 DAY CIRCUIT

Grading 2 D

Leader Dave Kelly

Contact 6253 1859 or

janddkelly@gmail.com

A walk from the creek 1 km north of Bullfrog Creek, down along Ettrema Gorge to Transportation Spur (visiting Jones Creek), then return to Tolwong Road via Pardon Point. Scrub, rock-

hopping, wading, and possibly swimming.

Early February Pack Walk

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS TASMANIA

TWO 6 DAY WALKS

Grading 2 C/D/E

Leaders Dave and Judy Kelly

Contact 6253 1859 or

janddkelly@gmail.com

1. A circuit from Mersey Valley to Walls of Jerusalem, Junction Lake, Cathedral

Mountain, followed (after a break) by 2. a traverse of the Traveller Range from Du Cane Gap to Derwent Bridge, with variable scrub and some scrambling, visiting the wildest and least damaged parts on the western edge of the central plateau, with glacial lakes and alpine heathland.

1 partly on tracks; 2 mainly off-track.

Hiking in the Zillertal Alps *(continued)*

Siebenschneidenweg – Seven Ridges Way) interspersed with grassy slopes and boulder fields. The scene was dominated by soaring peaks to the east and south. There were cables and metal hand holds at times. At one point we saw a herd of 17 chamois. Three and a half hours into the walk a group coming the other way told us we were about three hours from our destination, Kasseler Hütte. This hut, they also said, had the best kaiserschmarrn in Austria. Fortunately, their English was better than our German and they were able to explain that kaiserschmarrn (‘emperor’s mess’) is a dessert of thick shredded pancake and berries, served with an apple sauce – very filling! Snow fell as we ate our kaiserschmarrn and settled down for the night. Fellow NPA hikers, Dave and Judy Kelly, had stayed at this hut a few days before us.

The Hapsburgs were here

There was a similarity to the following three days – steep climb in the morning, mountain pass around lunchtime and steep descent in the afternoon. So it was that we progressed to Greizer Hütte, Berliner Hütte and Furtschagelhaus. Leaving Kasseler Hütte, and before climbing to Lapenscharte (2,701 m), our mountain pass for the day, we encountered a doorway in the middle of nowhere, perched on the side of a cirque and secured with cables. It was the work of German artist Gruenher Raunch. There was no sign of the door. The historic Berliner Hütte, our destination on day four and named as such because it’s owned by the Berlin Section of the German Alpine Club, boasts five storeys and splendid internal wood panelling. It was more like an old hotel than a hut and, apparently, was the summer mountain lodge of the Hapsburgs in the days of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Crossing the highest pass

The route from Berliner Hütte to Furtschagelhaus involved crossing the mountain pass, Schönbichler Scharte (3,081 m), squeezed between Schönbichler Horn (3,133 m) and Furtschagelspitze (3,190 m), and the highest point on the Berliner Höhenweg. Snow had closed the pass a few days before but we’d heard it was now open. Getting there involved a bit of a scramble on a sharp ridge with a snowfield on one side and contorted rock formations on the other. A wire cable helped as the track approaching the pass became progressively steeper. Cloud had now rolled in and the wind was howling from the other side of the ridge making



*On Nofertenschneide, day 2 of the walk, on the way to Kasseler Hütte.
Photo by Philip Gatenby.*

the pass quite unpleasant. A short detour took us to the summit of Schönbichler Horn, very windy and with zero visibility. The descent required care because there was still quite a lot of snow around.

Mist and sleet turned to rain overnight. We were thankful that yesterday’s pass was behind us. If we had to strike rain, today was a good day to do so because a lot of the walk was along a valley beside an artificial lake called Schlegeisspeicher. The final kilometre or so involved a steady climb to Olpererhütte through forest then alpine shrub. Olpererhütte is perched 500 m above the lake. It’s a new hut, most of the previous one having been blown away a few years ago.

Hoher Riffler

Our route after Olpererhütte swung in the direction of Mayrhofen and it felt like we were on the home stretch. The next hut, Friesenberghaus, was a pleasant 5 km traverse at about 2,500 m above the Zammergrund Valley. We arrived before lunch. Near the hut is a peak called Hoher Riffler (3,234 m) which our guidebook suggests makes a good side trip and can be climbed without the need of alpine equipment. Off we went in threatening weather, over a couple of ‘humps’ and up a ridge with a few exposed sections. There was snow cover from about 3,000 m. The going got progressively colder and windier, and we crawled the last few metres through snow to the summit where it was

blowing a gale and freezing. Lingered wasn’t an option.

Next day, with no significant passes to climb and mostly downhill, turned out to be one of our hardest. The weather was grey and windy with a few spots of rain which disappeared once we’d donned goretexes. The track traversed mostly around the 2,000 m level, passing the picturesque Wésendlekarsee, over boulder fields, grassy hillsides, through rock gardens and, later, giving good views over Dornaubergertal. In places ripe red currants were abundant. The day finished with a descent to Gamshütte (literally chamois hut).

Mayrhofen is 1,300 m below Gamshütte. The walk there in the morning was a pleasant stroll down through forest to the village of Finkenberg then more downhill passing a mixture of forest and farmland, capping off a remarkable hike through stunning scenery.

Philip Gatenby

References

Hartley, A., 2012, *Trekking in the Zillertal Alps: trekking and peaks in the Austrian Tyrol*, Cicerone, Milnthorpe.

<http://www.naturparke.at/en/Home>
<http://www.austria.info/us/activities/walking-hiking/national-parks-in-austria>

PARKWATCH

Edited extracts from recent issues of journals and newsletters, and online sources.

Biodiversity legislation in NSW

The government has just released its draft Bills aimed at making sweeping changes to environment legislation, including repealing the *Native Vegetation Act*. It started in 2014 when Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Rob Stokes, initiated a review of four pieces of legislation related to biodiversity in NSW. The review produced 43 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the government just days before the last NSW election.

The most dramatic and contentious change is the repeal of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (NVA). The introduction of the NVA was the first time that NSW had successfully managed to reduce broad-scale land clearing. A report by WWF calculated that approved clearing fell quickly from 88,000 ha per year on average to just 911 ha. The implementation of the NVA was heavily influenced by the Wentworth Group and, crucially, had the support of the NSW Farmers Association and the broader community.

The government has been at great pains to highlight the 'unprecedented' investment in private land conservation in the new Bill. They may have slightly increased the money, but it's false to suggest that private land conservation is something new; Humane Society International, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and the Nature Conservation Trust have been doing great work on that front for many years! The problem is, like the NVA before it, the money will run out when budget conditions change and farmers will become disillusioned that the promised system has failed. The defence this time is that there will be no regulation preventing clearing when the cash dries up. We have said all along that the private land payments are welcome, but the regulatory element should remain too.

The key message in the reforms is that 'clearing is fine because we will offset it'. But unfortunately for the citizens of NSW, offsetting does not work. The reason plants and animals are where they are, is because of the complex relationships between abiotic (such as soil pH, moisture levels, nutrient levels, light levels) and biotic factors (such as presence of fungi and certain plant species). Is it really

plausible to think that an ecological community that is in the 'wrong' place on a farm can just be moved to the side of a paddock?

Nothing is off limits in this new legislation: the huge expansion of self-assessable clearing codes includes the ability to clear threatened ecological communities. These codes are a disaster waiting to happen: land holders are allowed to clear under a code before they have identified a suitable offset which is unlikely to replace the lost vegetation in any case. And the environment minister has no say in any of this; it's all overseen by the minister for primary industries. This balance of power tells you all you need to know about the reforms! So our Stand Up For Nature (www.standupfornature.org.au) will continue our campaign to drive Premier Baird to step in to stop this madness.

Nature NSW, Vol. 60, No. 2
(Winter 2016)

Kosciuszko National Park – the heat's on

Climate scientists estimate that by 2050 rainfall in SE Australia will reduce by a quarter and bushfires will dramatically increase in frequency and intensity. Associated increases in night time temperatures will also mean a decline in snow cover and contraction of the alpine region to above 1850m for Kosciuszko. Climate adaptation programs require that pest species management must be intensified to relieve pressure on threatened species, such as the Mountain Pygmy Possum, which are being challenged by climate change.

The feral horse policy of trapping and domestication is an expensive failure. Despite 2,000 feral horses being removed from the park in the last 5 years, horse numbers increased from 4,200 in 2009 to 6,000 in 2014 (Australian Alps Liaison Committee, 2014). The NPWS re-released large numbers of captured horses into the park because the animals, including pregnant mares, were unfit for transport. As a result, only 135 horses were removed from the park in 2015. Catchment monitoring is reporting that many alpine catchments are in a poor or moderate condition due to feral horses and over a third of wetlands in the Australian Alps are degraded by these pests. Aerial culling is the most effective and humane method of removing large numbers of horses. The ban on aerial culling was recently confirmed by the NSW Government as part of the current feral

horse policy review, condemning our largest park to further degradation.

Management reviews underway for Kosciuszko advance a 'vision' for the national park not only as a horse ranch, but also cheap real estate for resort development.

The Colong Foundation is concerned that Kosciuszko resorts are now large enough to dictate changes to park management that ensure four-season operation for greater profit. The global trend to four-season development in ski resorts is a twisted form of climate change adaptation. In Kosciuszko this trend is being expressed in greater numbers of bike and horse riding adventures, as well as events unrelated to park values, such as using resorts for concerts and conferences.

In responding to these pressures the NPWS must take a strong stand to maximise the protection of our unique alpine and subalpine ecosystems. The review of resort carrying capacity must retain existing bed numbers in the plan of management and limit carpark space numbers to curb the growth in day visitors to resorts. These limits would push development of public transport and off-park resorts, benefitting local communities. The draft cycling strategy also places an emphasis on track construction while consideration of nature-based family cycling on existing management roads outside wilderness, say around Tantangara Dam, has been largely ignored. There is also a push for more commercial bike tours in the Jagungal and Pilot wilderness.

Instead of spending money on building mountain bike trails or horse riding in wilderness, the NPWS should promote park values and appropriate, low-impact visitor use. The NPWS must build political strength for its mission of reducing environmental damage and restoring heritage values through effective management. Kosciuszko NP is now suffering because the NPWS has appeased those who do not care about park values. The future of our alpine regions is grim. Kosciuszko NP is crucial for the survival of many native plant and animal species which are now grappling with climate change. Rather than exacerbating these threats by increasing development and high impact visitor use, support for no more development must be strengthened through encouraging friends of national parks.

Colong Bulletin, No. 263 (May 2016)

(concluded on page 25)

Eucalypt woodlands WA

December 4, 2015: Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt signed off on the final – and arguably most significant – Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) to be listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity [Conservation] Act* in 2015. The Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt became the 7th EPBC Act Threatened Ecological Community listing or uplisting made in the year, with HSI playing a key role as the nominator of all but one. The Woodlands' Critically Endangered listing, proposed by HSI in 2011, saw our successful legislative habitat protection campaign become responsible for more than a third of the TECs listed under the EPBC act – a figure set to increase with 8 of 13 communities currently under assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee triggered by HSI nominations.

Humane Society International Technical Bulletin, Issue No. 27 (2016)

New flora reserves for the Far South Coast

In March, the NSW Government created four Flora Reserves totalling 12,000 hectares between Bermagui and Bega. The reserve additions unite Mimosa Rocks, Biamanga and Bermagui national parks creating a much larger connected conservation area protecting the habitat of the last koala colony on the NSW South Coast. In addition to koalas, the habitat of 25 threatened species, including the long-nosed potoroo, the yellow-bellied glider and the powerful owl will benefit from these new Flora Reserves.

Conservationists welcomed these reserves as another step towards a Great Southern Forest Park stretching from Nowra to the Victorian border, which will benefit tourism and permit the reintroduction of threatened koalas into suitable forests in the Batemans Bay area to the north. Some are concerned that these new Flora Reserves were the only option Minister Speakman could negotiate through Cabinet. Others fear that these reserves herald a step towards 'tenure-blind land management'. At the same time logging has been mooted for the new Flora Reserves by the Member for Bega, Andrew Constance in the not too distant future (ABC South East 16 March, 2016).

In another development, log haulage is to be subsidised by a \$2.5 million grant from the Environmental Trust, permitting logging further north and

ensuring sawlog supply for the Bega region is maintained. This arrangement means more logging trucks on the Princes Highway, at least till the grant money runs out. A better use of Environmental Trust funds would be a partial buyout of the Bega sawlog quota, rather than a forest industry subsidy.

Colong Bulletin, No. 263 (May 2016)

NPA NSW has moved home

After many fruitful years in Newtown, NPA NSW has relocated to Woolloomooloo. As we are still in the midst of unpacking and setting up, we may take a little longer to respond than usual. Please bear with us whilst we get back online. We look forward to welcoming you to our new address at Suite 302, Level 3, 52–58 William Street, Woolloomooloo.

E-newsletter, NPA NSW, July 2016

Creature feature

The critically endangered Lord Howe Island Phasmid *Dryococelus australis* is endemic to Lord Howe Island. The population was decimated by introduced black rats, and the species disappeared in the 1920s, later presumed extinct. An expedition in 2001 rediscovered the species on Balls Pyramid, a rat-free, rock stack 20km off Lord Howe Island. Further investigation revealed the Phasmid feeds primarily on one species of shrub (*Melaleuca howeana*).

Melbourne Zoo has a captive breeding colony of Lord Howe Island Stick Insects which they hope to be able to reintroduce to Lord Howe Island, once the feral rats and mice have been eradicated. The Phasמידs start life small and green, but become black as they mature. Adults are wingless, about 15cm long and weigh 25 grams.

Nature NSW, Vol. 60, No. 2 (Winter 2016)

Firewood for the future

Most firewood burnt in Victoria comes from poorly regulated native forests. Some is even collected illegally. In 2012 the Victorian Government announced the end of a firewood collection system that had helped protect threatened species in state forests for more than half a century. The decision to open up state forests to unregulated firewood collection quickly led to a firewood 'free-for-all' that cleared out important ground litter habitat (the small logs animals call home) and deprived locals in Central Victoria of winter firewood supplies.

State forest areas open to unregulated firewood collection provide important

habitat for threatened wildlife such as Brush-tailed Phascogales, Diamond Firetails, Grey-crowned Babblers, Speckled Warblers and the nationally endangered Swift Parrot. The original firewood permit system was introduced by the Liberal Bolte Government in 1958 to ensure Victoria's forests were used and managed responsibly. For nearly 60 years these regulations have been respected by successive Victorian governments, until the former Baillieu Government decided to scrap them in favour of a firewood free-for-all.

The negative impacts of unregulated firewood collection have been well known for decades.

Dead timber provides habitat for a range of native fauna, some threatened. Research shows that 37% of Victorian mammals use tree hollows as nest or roost sites. Hollow-nesting birds alone account for 39% of woodland and forest bird species. The Victorian National Parks Association is now calling for a new permit system for firewood collection from public land in Victoria, with greater support for farmers to help them develop small-scale wood lots for firewood.

Governments should support a sustainable firewood future by giving dryland farmers and others considering land use change an opportunity to diversify and develop new business opportunities. Regional development, landholder opportunities and biodiversity are all important components in supporting a sustainable firewood future for Victoria.

At vnpa.org.au, accessed 26 July 2016

Compiled by Hazel Rath

NPA notices

National Parks Association Calendar

	September	October	November	December
Public holidays	Mon 26	Mon 3	—	Sun 25– Tues 27
General meetings	Thurs 15	Thurs 20	Thurs 17	—
Committee meetings	Tues 6	Tues 4	Tues 1	Tues 6
Gudgeny Bush Regeneration ¹	Sat 10	Sat 8	Sat 12	Sat 10 ²
Glenburn work party ³	—	—	Tues 1	—
NPA Christmas Party				Sun 11

Further details: 1. GBRG. Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre 9.15 am.
 2. Includes GBRG Christmas Party.
 3. Friends of Glenburn meet at Canberra Railway Station, Kingston at 9.00 am, or at the locked gate off the Kings Highway at 9.20 am.

New members of the association



The NPA ACT welcomes
 Graham Wilson
 as a new member.

We look forward to seeing you
 at NPA activities.

Call for volunteers

At every NPA general meeting
 volunteers from the membership
 set up the hall and the supper. We
 need more volunteers for 2016 as
 the roster is by no means full.
 Please contact Quentin Moran if
 you would like to help on
 qmoran@webone.com.au

Thank you

NPA



Sunday 11 December

**Christmas
 Party**

Venue to be advised in
 December *Bulletin*

Check *Burning Issues* or
 contact Rod Griffiths

This *Bulletin* was prepared by:

Editor, Judy Kelly

Subeditor, Ed Highley

Presentation, Adrienne Nicholson



Contributions for the NPA Bulletin

Contributions of articles, letters, poems, drawings and
 photographs are always welcome. If possible keep contributions to no
 more than 1,000 words. 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, email admin@npaact.org.au, or to the
 NPA ACT postal address (see page 27).

**Deadline for the December 2016 issue:
 31 October 2016.**

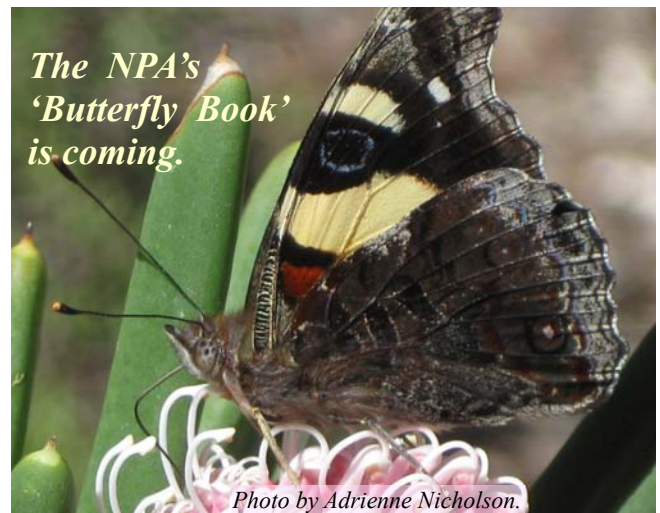
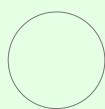


Photo by Adrienne Nicholson.



Red spot



**Subscriptions for 2016–17
 are now overdue.**

If there is a red spot on your *Bulletin*
 address sheet and in your *Bulletin* or you
 have received a reminder notice and not yet
 paid, the association's records show your
 current membership subscription has not
 been received.

Please take the time to make amendments
 to the 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

Cover photographs

Front cover

Main photo. *Scarlet Robin with chicks* (article page 11).

Photo by William Stephenson.

Insets. Left. *The cosy Gudgenby Cottage on a bleak day* (article page 10).

Photo by Ailsa Brown.

Centre. *Peter Ormay* (article page 5).

Right. *A beard orchid, Calochilus sp. on Black Mountain* (article page 6).

Photo by Adrienne Nicholson.

Back cover

Top. *Popbergschneide from Ahorn Spitze* (article page 22).

Photo by Jan Gatenby.

Bottom. *NPA members at a Dananbilla work party with Rainer*

Rehwinkel (article page 8).

Photo from Andrew Moore.

General Meetings

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



Thursday 15 September

Ainslie to Kossie: window on a wonder wander

Matthew Higgins
Canberra historian

An illustrated presentation by Matthew Higgins, mainly on the natural values of the straight-line route between Canberra and Mount Kosciuszko, looking at animals, birds, plants, geology, water, snow, fire, climate and some underlying human stories of our High Country.

Thursday 20 October

Old Fella Trees

Brandon Galpin

Ranger with ACT Parks and Conservation Service

Brandon will talk about Old Fella Trees, taking a look at the dynamics of the largely missing contingent of old-growth trees in the landscape and how Australia's national parks system can offer long-term restoration of forest ecology.

Join us for tea/coffee and a chat after Q&A with Brandon.

Thursday 17 November

Butterflies here and there

Dr Suzi Bond

Ecologist at the ABS Centre for Environment Statistics
Visiting Fellow at the ANU Fenner School

Suzi Bond was awarded a PhD for her study of bird utilisation of revegetation and woodland remnants in an agricultural landscape in south-eastern Australia. Dr Bond is currently working on a paper about the butterflies of the ACT and is lead author on NPA's new field guide on the same topic.

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

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<i>Publications Subcommittee</i>	Kevin McCue 6251 1291 (h) mccue.kevin@gmail.com
<i>Promotion and Engagement Subcommittee</i>	Vacant
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The NPA ACT office is in Unit 14 / 26 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.

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Address: GPO Box 544, Canberra ACT 2601

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheAct

Membership subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)

The subscription rate is \$22, which includes a digital copy only of our *Bulletin*.

If you want to receive a printed copy of the *Bulletin*, the subscription rates are:

Household membership	\$44	Single members	\$38.50
Corporate membership	\$33	Full-time student/Pensioner	\$22

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

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and follow us at www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheAct

