



NPA *Bulletin*

Volume 55 Number 3 September 2018

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.



NPA's activities in the Gudgenby Valley



Your voice is needed on several issues



Developing a new KNP walk

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

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Kosciuszko wild horse debate intensifies

In April 2018, concerns over environmental damage by feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) led the NSW Government’s Threatened Species Scientific Committee to table a recommendation that feral horses be listed as a ‘key threatening process’, alongside things like climate change, invasive weeds and exotic fungi.

In direct contradiction, the NSW Legislative Assembly passed the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* on 15 June. This Act aims to enshrine the ‘heritage’ value of ‘sustainable’ wild horse populations within parts of KNP and to protect that heritage. The Bill for the Act had been introduced just a few weeks before, on 22 May, by Deputy Premier John Barilaro whose electorate of Monaro includes the park. He said that locals had been calling for years for the changes he was promoting.

This may be the first ever time that a government has legislated for the protection of an invasive species within a national park, and conservationists say it establishes a worrying precedent.

The Labor Opposition in the NSW Parliament did not support the Bill. On 29 May 2018, during its consideration, Shadow Environment Minister Penny Sharpe MLC tabled a paper detailing a six-point plan to save KNP and manage the wild horse population. It would be implemented if and when Labor returned to government.

Labor committed to:

- Restore resources to the National Parks and Wildlife Service cut by the Liberal–National Government to protect the park’s pristine environment and threatened species;
- Minimise the impacts of pest species (both plants and animals) through adequately funded and effective control

programmes.

This includes wild pigs, dogs, deer and horses;

- Conduct a scientific assessment and count of the horse population in consultation with key stakeholders;
- Ensure wild horses are acknowledged for their cultural value by retaining a smaller population in the park where degradation is less critical, and manage the horse population guided by the extensive work that produced the 2016 *Draft Wild Horse Management Plan*.

The passing of the Act has galvanised widespread opposition and action among conservation groups. Various aspects of the issue and responses to it are covered generally and in specific articles in this issue of the *NPA Bulletin*.



Kevin McCue

From the committee

Feral 'Heritage' horses!?

In the face of the absurd NSW legislation protecting feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP), we must act strongly and decisively. A 'grand coalition' of regional environmental groups has formed as a result of a July meeting in Canberra organised by NPA NSW and hosted by NPA ACT. There were representatives from NPA ACT, NPA NSW, Canberra Bushwalkers (CBC), ACT Waterwatch, Invasive Species Council (ISC), Conservation Council ACT (ConsACT) and NSW Nature Conservancy. Also represented were graziers, fishing and Indigenous tourism interests. Several NPA ACT members participated in various capacities – some as representatives of other groups.

Proposals for action were put forward (see accompanying articles by Di Thompson and Linda Groom). ISC CEO Andrew Cox is acting as the coalition organiser and proposes hiring two staff members to manage the campaign. One will be based in the ISC office in Sydney and the other in ConsACT's office in Canberra. Of course this all requires a budget. ISC and NPA NSW have already made sizable financial contributions, and both ISC and ConsACT are providing desk

space at no cost. A dedicated website has been set up at savekosci.org by Linda Groom.

The NPA ACT management committee has pledged significant immediate support. Further NPA ACT support will be provided as a match to members' contributions to the campaign. To receive the match, contributions should be directed to NPA ACT and designated for the feral horse campaign. More information will be provided in our monthly *Burning Issues* newsletter as the campaign progresses.

Should we be worried in the ACT? A resounding YES! Our own Namadgi National Park (NNP) shares a long and tortuous border with KNP. As horse and

other feral herbivore numbers increase unchecked in KNP and the land is denuded, especially during drought, large-hooved animals WILL enter NNP seeking food. Their entry into the Cotter catchment could severely reduce the quality and quantity of our water supply by destruction of the head-water bogs and fens that hold and purify the water. (This has already happened at the source of the Murray River.) Both this potential damage and the increasing cost of removing feral horses will be a burden on the ACT taxpayer. Aside from this self-interest aspect, KNP will continue to suffer environmental degradation and species extinction as a result of heavy grazing in fragile alpine ecosystems. Thus, in the long term we could see both our own NNP and our equally loved KNP severely degraded. We must act now!



Esther Gallant
President, NPA ACT



Horse trampling at a water source, KNP.

President's report on activities during 2017–18

As usual, 2017–18 was a very busy year for NPA ACT with some things way beyond our control making it even more hectic. However, in the end it was a very exciting year and satisfying to see how much we have been able to accomplish to protect our precious environment.

Support for environmental science students

We have seen very gratifying results already from our support of researchers and students of environmental sciences. This year Honours grants were awarded to a student at both the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Canberra (UC). Additionally, with ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) we are funding an ANU Honours student for a study of the outcomes of biodiversity offsets. Grant recipients are all asked to make a presentation on their project (see p 27, November general meeting).

A new initiative this year was to offer some financial support for environmental science students to attend the *Forests Forever* Easter Ecology

Camp at Goongerah, Victoria. The camp is sponsored by the Victorian National Parks Association. Two UC students attended and their report published in the June *Bulletin* simply oozes enthusiasm. We will offer up to 10 students the same kind of support to attend the 2019 event. Also, we are renewing our offer of complimentary membership to environmental science students at ANU and UC.

Support for research

As a result of issues raised at the Bushfire Symposium in July 2017, we provided a research grant to Dr Philip Zylstra for his bushfire behaviour modelling studies, as reported in the March *Bulletin*.

In Namadgi National Park, a study of the Rosenberg's Monitor involved 14 NPA volunteers. NPA purchased tracking devices that enabled a team from ANU and UC, led by Don Fletcher, to follow the movements of two goannas in the Naas Valley for several weeks. This pilot study proved the suitability of the tracking method and the results amazed experts. Thus, a follow-on major

investigation is now under-way with another grant from NPA and an NPA application for ACT Government research funds. A very successful initiative!

More recently we have joined the Canberra Field Naturalists in supporting an Australian Platypus Conservancy citizen-science project to determine the distribution of Rakali (native water rat) in the ACT. This interesting animal is one of our little known and possibly endangered native fauna. Sightings appear on the Canberra Nature Map website.

Subcommittee achievements

The Environment Subcommittee convened by Rod Griffiths has been very busy with submissions on government proposals and reports. Three major ones concerned the failure of any efforts to control feral horses in neighbouring national parks. There were also three submissions to ACT Government proposals on the management of nature parks and reserves. Many individual members also

(continued next page)

President's report on activities during 2017–18 (continued)

submitted responses, which increases our influence on all of these issues. Thank you to all.

In a meeting with some committee members, the new Conservator for Flora and Fauna and Executive Director for Environment, Ian Walker, encouraged NPA to bring matters of concern to him. He readily accepted our invitation for a bushwalk along the Yerrabi Track followed by a stop at Gudgenby Cottage during Art Week.

The Publications Subcommittee had another busy year. Four high-quality *Bulletins* were published by the editors – Philip Gatenby, Max Lawrence, Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz – with the unflinching assistance of Adrienne Nicholson, Ed Highley and Hazel Rath and contributions from many NPA members. Book sales are booming: the butterfly guide was reprinted with updates as so much new information has been gathered; the tree book was revised and printed in time for Christmas; and the bird guide was printed yet again.

Book sales and information stalls at Jerrabomberra World Wetlands Day in February and ACT Connect and Participate Expo at the Old Bus Depot in March also provided opportunities to pass out information and talk about the NPA. Adrienne Nicholson displays and sells books at all NPA events as well as any others she attends.

Outreach and planning for the future

A new 60th Anniversary Subcommittee convened by Cynthia Burton will draw on suggestions from the April members' forum to plan celebrations for 2020.

A Publicity and Outreach Subcommittee with Allan Sharp as convener has the mission of ensuring there will be a 70th anniversary. They will update promotional materials and engage a younger audience online by continued Facebook posts and other initiatives. Our website has recently been revamped and updated thanks to Sabine Friedrich and Chris Emery and is already attracting many more visitors.

Additional members are still needed for both these subcommittees.

Our Namadgi books for kids project has so far put about 600 of this wonderful publication in the hands of young families with children participating in environmental and outdoor activities. These have included Junior Rangers at Jerrabomberra Wetlands and the Australian National Botanic Gardens, participants in the Canberra Bushwalking Club's childrens'

activities, and students in environmental science classes, as well as prizes for students at Namadgi School. Jane O'Donohue has taken over distribution to schools.

Walks and work parties

Being able to get out into the bush is of course why we do all this. We want to ensure that there continues to be a natural environment with unique Australian plants and animals for us and future generations to enjoy. Many NPA walks and work parties have been documented in the *Bulletin* over the past year.

Outings program convener Steven Forst and walk leaders continue with activities every weekend, including some longer trips. Brian Slee collates participation data from walks and work parties.

NPA and the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group's (GBRG) work parties with conveners Martin Chalk and Michael Goonrey get members into the bush for the satisfying and often arduous task of restoring the environment by reversing the impact of Europeans. GBRG celebrated its 20th anniversary this year with a wonderful party at Gudgenby Cottage (see page 9).

Glenburn Precinct work parties organised by Col McAlister celebrated the completion of a decade long effort to stabilise and restore early European settlement sites. The end of the project was noted with finishing touches on signs and benches, followed by a wake. Well done!

Social activities and celebrations

The lavishly catered Christmas party at Gudgenby Cottage was again well attended. The event started with a walk to see the successful restoration and revegetation work carried out by GBRG work parties at the former rabbit warren site on Peppermint Hill.

Two convivial art weeks were held at Gudgenby Cottage providing a much appreciated opportunity to spend time in the bush while being creative (see page 11). Thanks to Adrienne Nicholson and Hazel Rath for organising these.

We also took the opportunity to celebrate with members whose achievements were recognised by the wider community: Di Thompson with the Order of Australia Medal and Martin Chalk as ACT Conservation Council Environmentalist of the Year. Congratulations again!

NPA ACT office work

Secretary Sonja Lenz and office manager Annette Smith, assisted by Julie May, Deb Cameron and Kathy Saw, have kept us organised and in communication with each other and the world. Clive Hurlstone continues to handle book orders while Chris Emery and Sabine Friedrich provide IT support. A special thank you to Max Lawrence for taking minutes at general meetings.

We remain connected to the wider environmental community through membership in the National Parks Australia Council, participation in their regular phone conferences and attendance at the annual general meeting. NPA is a member of Kosciuszko to Coast and ACT Conservation Council. NPA ACT supports the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group, Ginninderra Falls Association, Red Hill Regenerators and Environmental Defenders Office. Graham Scully represents us on the ACT Recreational Users Group and keeps track of government initiatives that might adversely affect the environment. Committee member Rod Griffith and others regularly meet with PCS staff and officials, especially the Conservator and the Director.

Managing committee retirements

Several valued committee members have stepped down over the past year. Their many talents and contributions will be greatly missed. Early in the year Christine Goonrey retired after many years on the committee. We wish her and Michael well in their new home in Bega. At this year's AGM two others stepped down: Julie May who helped to organise our membership campaign this past year and Quentin Moran after 3 years, the last of them as vice president. He will continue as general meeting setup organiser and convener of the Cultural Subcommittee. Chris Emery remains on the committee, for which we are grateful, but has retired as treasurer after 8 years. Fortunately, he also continues as webmaster. We welcome our new treasurer Hannah Conway.

And finally, thank you to all members who have supported us and contributed to a very busy and successful year.

**Esther Gallant
President**

Treasurer's report 2017–18

During the 2017–18 financial year NPA's income from memberships and donations exceeded expenses according to the profit and loss statement. All cash disbursements were approved by the committee and the balance sheet reflects a healthy state for the association. NPA's auditor, Christine Yu, finished the audit and submitted her report before the AGM and agreed to be our auditor again next year. She highlighted an issue with the book stocktake but subsequently that has been substantially resolved.

A problem has emerged with Bank Australia rejecting online deposits without telling us. This happens if the account name given does not exactly match the name of the organisation (not the name of the account). I have put in a complaint to the bank but they cannot tell us what they have rejected unless we give them the date and exact amount. Catch 22! I am trying to escalate the complaint.

Handover of MYOB will be completed in late October to treasurer-

elect Hannah Conway. The finances of the organisation are in good hands as I stand down after 8 years as Treasurer. The financial report is on our website at www.npaact.org.au/index.php/pages/annual-financial-reports.



Chris Emery

Report of the Environment Subcommittee

Horse issues yet again have dominated the work of the Environment Subcommittee. The NSW Bill, and subsequent Act, to provide protection to feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park highlighted the disregard that the NSW Government has for the protection of threatened native species. The NPA ACT was active in voicing its concerns, and continues to support the ongoing campaign against this travesty of legislation. In addition to supporting feral horses, the NSW Government is also proposing to open up areas of declared wilderness to horseriding. This is in response to a two-year trial of horseriding at a number of sites across NSW. Despite the trial showing clear linkages between the occurrence of weeds and the presence of horses the government is looking to formalise horseriding access to the trial sites. The NPA ACT's submission opposing this is

on our website at <http://www.npaact.org.au/index.php/pages/our-submissions>.

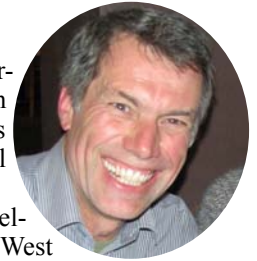
When not being distracted by the horses, the NPA ACT has:

- made a submission to the ACT Assembly's enquiry entitled Nature in our City. In the submission, the NPA ACT welcomed new initiatives that will embrace blue-green infrastructure throughout Canberra but identified that dealing with ongoing problems of feral animal and weed management, recreational demands, bushfire management and domestic animal interference needs long-term planning and sufficient ongoing base funding. A copy of the submission will be available through our website once the ACT Assembly declares it to be a public document.
- hosted the CEO of NPA NSW, Alix Goodwin, on her visit to Ginninderra

Falls and participation in the discussions of the potential environmental impacts of development in West Belconnen.

- raised concerns with the ACT Environment Minister and the Parks and Conservation Service about the impacts of the use of closed fishing nets on aquatic mammals like the platypus and Rakali and advocated for the banning of such nets.
- noted that the recent woodlands forum held in the ACT, which addressed a wide range of management issues for these ecosystems, was a direct result of the NPA ACT's lobbying on behalf of these important areas.

**Rod Griffiths, Convener
Environment Subcommittee**



Bobeyan graves

On a hillside near the ruins of Bobeyan Homestead in southern Namadgi National Park lie some unmarked graves. I have always been concerned about the lack of grave markings at this site. No doubt there were some markings in the past but they were probably wooden and, with the passage of time, have weathered away. It is likely this site contains the remains of Mary and Mary-Ann Westerman, the mother and daughter who died tragically in June 1850 when their dray overturned. The accident occurred on Bulls Creek fire trail some 3 kilometres to the west. It is

believed that Sarah Brayshaw, who died of diphtheria at age six in 1865, is also buried there. There has been some suggestion too that Joseph Allen, a boy who drowned in nearby Naas Creek, might also be buried there, but there is some doubt about this.

For some time I have been researching these graves and began negotiations with ACT Parks with a view to placing an interpretive sign there. (Actual grave marking would require an archaeological survey which neither ACT Parks nor myself were prepared to undertake.) NPA ACT has offered to pay

for the sign. Finally, I can report that I am making some progress working with Lois Padgham of ACT Parks.

However, there is a classification survey underway at present which will cause a further delay. I will let readers know when a final decision is made.

**Quentin Moran
Convener, Cultural Subcommittee**

Note: Bobeyan has different spellings in other contexts.



Gudgenby landscape. Photo by Kevin McCue.

Annual General Meeting 16 August 2018

Meeting report

President Esther Gallant welcomed about 30 members to the meeting. She acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respects to their elders past and present. A special welcome was extended to Honorary Life Members and eight new members (see page 26). There were many apologies from members who were either travelling or unable to attend for health or other reasons.

Activities in 2017–18

After confirmation of the previous year's AGM minutes, Esther elaborated on the dot points in her large-screen presentation on NPA activities during 2017–18. She pointed out that the committee, subcommittees, working groups and many individual members had all contributed to the activities and successes of NPA projects and thanked them all. The full annual report is on pages 3–4.

Financial report

Retiring Treasurer, Chris Emery, had prepared the 2017–18 financial statements before going on extended leave, and the pro-bono auditor, Christine Yu, had audited and approved them. The full financial report is available on the NPA website and a short version is included in this *Bulletin* (page 5).

Esther read out the treasurer's comments and moved that Chris's report for the year ending 30 June 2018 be accepted by the meeting, that we extend our gratitude to him and the auditor and reappoint Christine Yu as the auditor for

the 2018–19 financial year. The motions were carried by acclamation.

Other business

Esther encouraged members to take part in the 'Extinction rally' on 10 September on the lawns at Parliament House (see page 26). She then informed the meeting of planned activities to protest the recent Bill passed in the NSW Parliament declaring feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park as 'heritage'. One of the activities is a protest walk from Sydney to Mount Kosciuszko (see page 8) planned to end about the 9 December, when NPA's Christmas party would usually be held. The Christmas party date will be announced on the website and in the next *Bulletin*, when the planning of the walk is completed.

Honorary Life Membership

Kevin McCue, convener of the working group that assesses candidates to be honoured, asked the meeting to endorse Chris Emery – treasurer, webmaster, computer whiz and *Burning Issues* editor – as this year's Honorary Life Member. Lively acclamation from the floor followed this nomination. The citation for Chris is on page 7.

Election of the management committee

Returning Officer, Bruce Boreham, declared all positions vacant. He had received eight nominations and there were no further nominations from the floor. He declared the following members elected to the management committee for 2018–19:

President: Esther Gallant
Vice President: Cynthia Burton
Treasurer: Hannah Conway
Immediate Past President: Rod Griffiths (ex-officio)

Committee members: Chris Emery,
George Heinsohn, Sonja Lenz,
Kevin McCue.

The secretary's position remains vacant for the time being but the committee can co-opt additional members into that and other vacant positions during the year.

Presentation

Kevin McCue shared his experiences of monitoring earthquakes in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake in February this year. He and another seismologist were sent there by the Australian Earthquake Engineering Society about a month after the earthquake had caused extensive damage and disruption to village life and oil and mining company operations. They set up six seismographs to record further aftershocks.

After returning to Australia the data analysis continues. The results will inform the PNG Government on necessary changes to their earthquake code, and oil and mining companies as well as engineers on what steps to take to avoid collapse of buildings and infrastructure when the next major earthquake occurs.

The AGM concluded with a convivial supper provided by members.

New Treasurer and committee member – Hannah Conway

I've recently joined the NPA ACT after being introduced to the association by a colleague.

I'm originally from Perth WA, where I studied at UWA for my undergraduate and honours degrees, before completing post-graduate studies in primary education. I recently gained my Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) accreditation after 3 years of further study.

Being a Sandgroper I love all things warm and beachy so moving to Canberra nearly four years ago was quite the culture shock, but I soon developed a local fondness for walking and hiking in the surrounding national parks.

I look forward to participating in the work of the association through my new role as Treasurer.

Hannah Conway



Honorary Life Membership for Chris Emery

Chris Emery joined the management committee of the National Parks Association of the ACT at the August 2002 annual general meeting. He was Vice President for 3 years between 2006 and 2009 and made the treasurer's job his own from 2010 until the 2018 AGM, the second-longest serving NPA treasurer.

Chris guided the working group that developed the current NPA website, found a sympathetic internet service provider (ISP) and has been webmaster ever since. He was instrumental in putting up on the website all the back issues of the *NPA Bulletin*, a tremendous historical resource for members and the public, and provides the link to each new issue to members who receive a digital copy. Recently, he collaborated with Sabine Friedrich to modernise, redesign and populate the website, and organised a new ISP.

Utilising his comprehensive knowledge of computer systems, Chris advises the committee on NPA's computer requirements and recommends what hardware and software needs to be purchased for the NPA office. Chris also took on the task of keeping the computer facilities and communications operating, updating the hardware and software as required and creating and maintaining the NPA

members database, as well as keeping regular backups. He also edits the NPA email newsletter *Burning Issues*.

Chris has been the leader in negotiations with the ANU Fenner School and the University of Canberra for our scholarship program. Interfacing with the universities on the honours/research scholarships requires analysing 12–15 page contracts for accuracy and appropriateness, a very daunting task.

He represented the NPA at various meetings with federal and ACT politicians as well as at ACT Assembly committee hearings. He also willingly and ably represented NPA in lively ABC Radio interviews about NPA functions and activities.

In his quiet way he keeps us all informed by sending out links to relevant media stories and makes them accessible on the website and in *Burning Issues* – links to relevant articles and the latest newsletters of like-minded organisations. If you want to research an environmental topic – that is a good place to start.

Chris has had a close association



Photo by Sabine Friedrich.

with the Friends of Glenburn over nearly 10 years for the protection and conservation of early European structures in the Glenburn Precinct. He managed their finances, recorded all donations and reimbursements for money spent on the Precinct, set up and maintained Glenburn web pages on the NPA website – a magnificent service to the Friends.

Chris Emery is a very worthy recipient of NPA Honorary Life Membership.

A day out for the Conservator



Ian Walker, ACT Conservator for Flora and Fauna (second from right), with Rod Griffiths, Quentin Moran, Esther Gallant and Sonja Lenz at the Gudgenby Valley lookout on the Boboyan Road after walking the Yerrabi Track. Their day closed with a visit to Gudgenby Cottage where the NPA's autumn Art Week participants provided hospitality with afternoon tea.

Photo by Kevin McCue.

Concerned about feral horses? Here's something you can do!

At its August 2018 meeting, the NPA committee supported a proposal by the 'grand coalition' of environmental groups for a protest walk from Sydney to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. The proposal was prompted by the passage in June by the NSW Parliament of the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*. The walk will take about 35 days, including rest days, from late October to early December 2018 and will follow a mixture of major and secondary roads via Mittagong, Goulburn, Canberra, Cooma and Jindabyne.

In addition to getting the Act repealed, the aims of the walk are to:

- support a range of methods to control feral horses in NSW national parks, including ground-based lethal culling, under ranger supervision and according to RSPCA guidelines
- implement the NPWS Draft *Wild Horse Management Plan of 2016*
- protect the habitat of the Broad-toothed Rat, Corroboree Frog and

other native species affected by trampling and grazing.

The walk is supported by NPA NSW, Bushwalking NSW and the Canberra Bushwalking Club. It might attract a handful of people, or it might attract hundreds. Walkers and helpers will be responsible for all their own costs, though we hope to provide at least some free meals along the way.

Interested in helping? We need the following kinds of helpers:

- end-to-end walkers
- section walkers – from a couple of hours to a couple of weeks
- support vehicle drivers and other non-walking helpers – from a day or two upwards; retirees with campervans, here is your chance to do a road trip for a good cause!
- desk-based researchers and writers



Dung heaps deposited by feral horses on a walking track in Kosciuszko National Park. Photo by Dianne Thompson.

- people to sew banners
- bushwalking photographers, with the patience to get close-ups of feral horses feeding, drinking, trampling etc. in KNP.

A new website for the walk is now up, at savekosci.org, with a supporter registration form coming soon. Please use that to register.

Linda Groom
lbroom@gmail.com
Member, NPA and CBC

Proposed field trip to Namadgi wetlands

Following the recent enactment of the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* (the Act) all feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) are now protected for their 'heritage' value. Currently, there are no control methods being used and the already large herds will continue to grow and expand the territory they occupy and affect. Horses have, from time to time, come into the ACT wetlands from Kosciuszko National Park. There is little doubt that, as feral horse numbers increase and fodder in KNP decreases, many more horses will make their way into the ACT.

There is a need to develop the community's understanding of the implications of the NSW Act for the quality and reliability of the ACT's and Queanbeyan's water supply, Namadgi National Park and the Cotter Catchment. Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly (of all political persuasions) require public support to maintain their policy position to keep Namadgi free from feral horses.

To that end, the committee of the National Parks Association of the ACT (NPA), has endorsed a proposal to take a diverse group on a full-day field trip with ACT Parks and Conservation Service managers, to the western

Namadgi border with KNP and the Ramsar Ginini Wetlands. It is hoped that ACT politicians, Indigenous members of the former Interim Namadgi Advisory Board, the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Icon Water and the presidents of the Canberra Bushwalking Club and the NPA will be able to participate.

Background to the proposal

The Act has the potential to lead to major impacts and costs to the ACT and NSW taxpayers due to increased management requirements for the ACT's water catchment and Namadgi National Park.

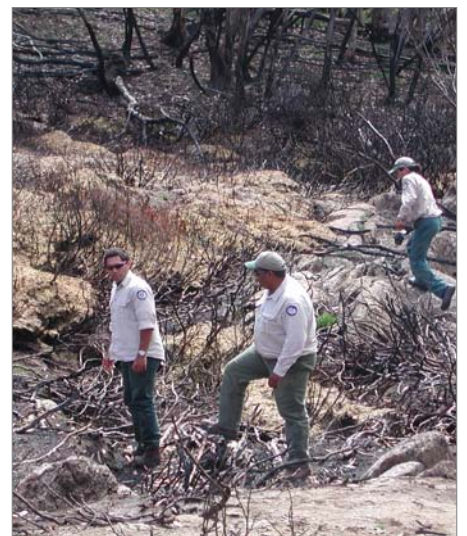
Feral horses from northern KNP, which push into the ACT western catchments, are a problem of significance with respect to the quality, quantity and supply of water to both the ACT and NSW. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the ACT, NSW and the Commonwealth on Cross Border Water Resources 2006, ACT water is supplied to Queanbeyan and neighbouring estates.

The Ginini Flats Wetlands Complex in the ACT catchment, bordering KNP, is a Ramsar wetland site and a breeding site for the critically endangered Northern Corroboree Frog. This site is the largest intact sphagnum bog and fen community in the Australian Alps. Feral horse

incursions from NSW continue to put these wetlands at risk of destruction.

Those who participated in an earlier field trip saw the damage that our Namadgi wetlands suffered in the 2003 fires and understand that these swamps are still in recovery mode and that further extensive damage by KNP feral horses cannot be risked.

Di Thompson, OAM
Convenor of the planning group



Adrian, Mark, and Daniel (then Aboriginal trainee rangers) in March 2003 at burnt sphagnum bogs, Snowy Flats.

Celebrating GBRG's 20th anniversary

The lunch party to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group was held at Gudgenby Cottage on 21 July, following the morning's work party. It was a great success with lots of delicious home-made food provided by members. Twenty-two members were present, along with four former rangers, two current rangers and Brett McNamara, Regional Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service. We were also visited by three people who had heard about the celebration on ABC Radio 666 that morning during an interview with Brett.

Congratulations were given to those who were instrumental in making the project happen and we raised a glass to all those people who had a vision of what the pine forest could become. Over the years, the members of the group have given their time and energy and all can be proud of the results.

The first president was Alec Ellis, elected in 1998. However, after a year Eleanor Stodart took over, with Syd Comfort becoming treasurer. There were no nominations for secretary and the records indicate that Syd took over those responsibilities in addition to being treasurer. In 2002, Martin Chalk became secretary.

In 2003, Eleanor resigned from the presidency due to ill health and took over the secretarial duties while Clive Hurlstone became the president of the group. Eleanor died in December 2004 and a memorial grove of Black Sallees was planted beside Hospital Creek in her memory. The Parks Service has provided a park bench at Eleanor's Grove to honour her work.

In 2005, Hazel Rath became secretary, while Clive continued as president and Syd as treasurer. There were changes to the committee in 2008, Michael Goonrey taking over the presidential duties with Clive stepping down after 5 years as president; Syd, after 10 years as treasurer, was replaced by John Waldron. In 2009, Chesley Engram took over the duties of treasurer and continues in that position today.

Frank Clements should also be remembered for his role as Public Officer and a committee member since 1999. Frank died in July 2008 and Martin has taken on the duties of Public Officer since that time. Fiona MacDonald Brand has been on the committee since 2003, taking a very active role in the early years. She still

The celebratory group at the GBRG anniversary lunch. Photo courtesy Rupert Barnett.

enjoys attending work parties out in the bush. Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz joined the committee in 2005 and both continue to serve at the present time.

Other members who should be remembered are the late David Hall, Joan Goodrum, Doug Brown and Simon Buckpitt who were active members at the commencement of the group. The project would not have succeeded in its aim to revegetate the pine forest without the many members who come regularly and work hard at weeding, planting trees, removing surplus fences, mapping rabbit warrens and all the other tasks they so willingly take on.

We should all feel proud of what the group has achieved in the revegetation area. GBRG will continue to make a difference to the landscape in the Gudgenby Valley.

The Annual General Meeting took place after the celebrations, at 2:30 pm. Michael Goonrey reported that 10 work parties had been held in the 12 months to 30 June 2018 and that the average attendance was 12 members. In total, 682 hours were spent on volunteer activities, with barbed-wire removal and general weeding the most frequently undertaken tasks. In addition, Martin Chalk and his team undertook Waterwatch activities.

The Christmas party held at Gudgenby Cottage was another highlight of the year. It was attended by 18 members. Two park benches have now been installed in the valley, – one at Eleanor's Grove, as already mentioned, and one on the Yankee Hat trail. Each will have an interpretive plaque.

Thanks to Matt Mikulandra of the Parks Service the trailer has been repainted an attractive green and looks great.



Parks people from over the years; Back (l to r) Bernard Morris, Matt Mikulandra, Chris Holder, Front (l to r) Ann Connolly, Darren Roso, Mark Elford and Virginia Logan. Photo by Max Lawrence.

A link to the history of GBRG commissioned by the Parks Service and written by Matthew Higgins is now on the NPA website (www.npaact.org.au/index.php/pages/our-friends/gudgenby-bush-regeneration-group), together with an earlier history by Hazel. They are an excellent record of how the pine forest became a eucalypt forest.

Chesley Engram provided an audited Statement of Income and Expenditure showing an account balance of \$1,060.37.

Michael stepped down as president with inaugural member Doug Brown taking over those responsibilities. There were no other changes to the office-bearers and committee members.

Further information: Doug Brown ph 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au

This is an edited version of a report written by Hazel Rath. Ed.



NPA ACT work parties update

Month	Activity	Agency	Participants
May	Point Hut seeding. African Lovegrass chipped and native herb seeding in divot holes for about 250 m north from Point Hut Road along the fire trail. Also seeded about 600 m downstream along the Murrumbidgee in swales. Revisit in autumn 2019.	PCS	9
June	Gudgenby fence removal. 200 m of fence F11 removed with 60 m remaining. 210 m of fence F2 removed and a further 80 m of wire removed (posts still remain). 160m remain. Revisit winter 2019.	PCS	10 (2 from CBC)
July	Dananbilla Nature Reserve: <i>E. albens</i> and <i>E. microcarpa</i> planted across three sites in the Barelli Section – total number approx. 600 seedlings. Koorawatha Nature Reserve: two enclosures and approx. 50 wattles planted in the Bang Bang Creek area. An additional enclosure and 13 wattles planted adjacent to the derelict farm house and a further 50 wattles planted on the north-west boundary of the nature reserve.	NPWS	8
	Stoney Creek Nature Reserve pine control: 223 pines cut down in an area south of the Brindabella Road between the Mount McDonald car park and 500 m north-east. Revisit winter 2019.	PCS	7



Martin Chalk
Work Party Coordinator

Dananbilla work party photos by Adrienne Nicholson.



Subject: Dananbilla thanks

Date: 13 August 2018

Hi Martin,

I am finally in the office on a fairly quiet day so have the capacity to get in touch to say thank you to all for your last volunteer stint. It was great getting so many trees planted, and the shrubs as well.

I thought you would also all be pleased to know that, despite appearances, your efforts ARE making a difference.

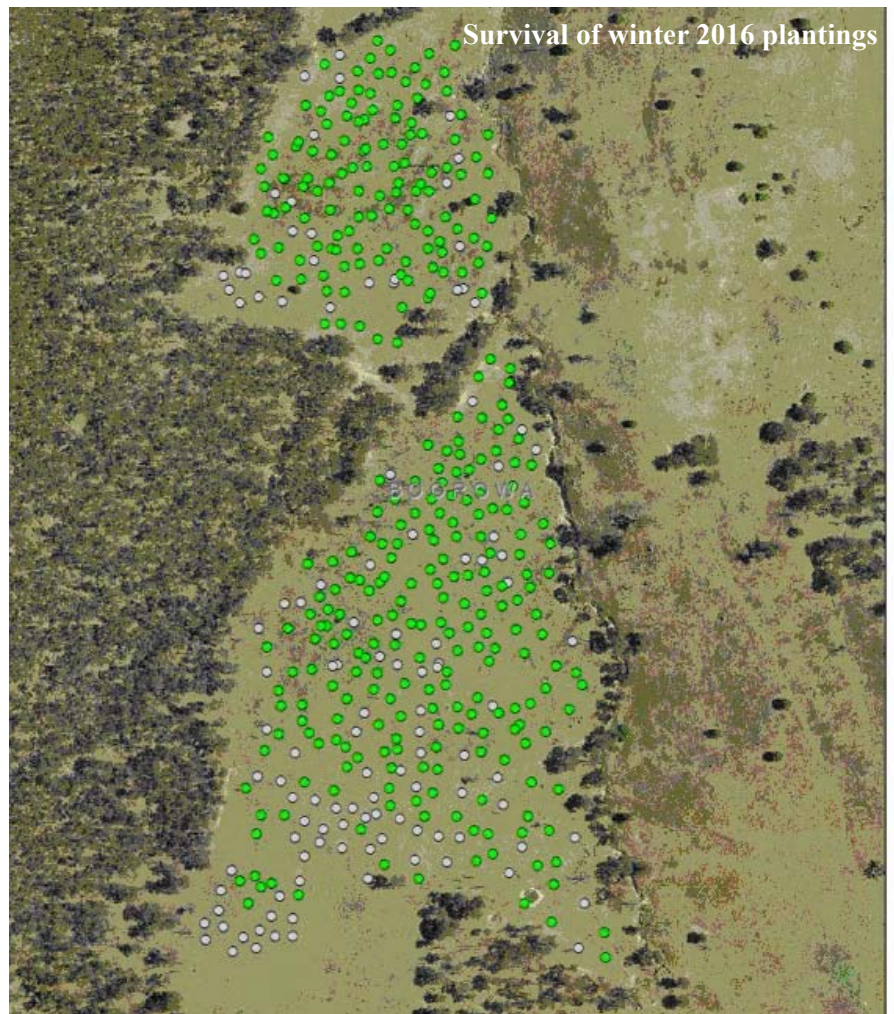
I have attached a map of the planting you undertook in winter 2016, with green dots being plants that are visibly alive now, and grey those that APPEARED to be dead. It shows that survival is greatly affected by planting location, so the area in the SW of the map which is poor is a sheep camp – obviously compaction and nitrification have a role to play in early success.

Overall for this area [there] was a 74% survival rate, which is excellent.

I hope you can pass this on to the rest of the team, with our thanks.

Susie

Susan Jackson,
Ranger – Murrumbidgee Area
National Parks & Wildlife Service
Office of Environment and Heritage
PO Box 733, Queanbeyan 2620



Art week at Gudgenby Cottage

Another successful and productive art week was held at Gudgenby Cottage in Namadgi National Park in May. Another one is planned for spring (13–20 October). Find inspiration to work on any artistic endeavour with convivial company at the cottage, or explore the valley during the day with a cosy base to come back to each evening. Paint, draw, write, weave, photograph – anything; the inspiration is yours.

The comfortable, warm cottage sleeps six people overnight. Stay for one or several nights. Contact Adrienne for further information and to book a place. Day visitors welcome.

Contacts: Adrienne Nicholson 6281 6381 or Hazel Rath 4845 1021.



Jenny Gibson's study of Gudgenby Valley rocks.



Rosenberg's Monitor by Maria Boreham who is a regular at NPA art weeks. She is a very generous teacher if other participants wish to try their hand at something new.

*Rosenberg's monitor
Varanus rosenbergi
Endangered Vulnerable
Maria Boreham*

No, not a fossil; but what a wonderful shadow. Photo by Kevin McCue.



NPA ACT/NSW visit to Ginninderry

Chris Watson, a passionate member of the Ginninderra Falls Association and long-standing NPA member, invited NPA NSW's Chief Executive Officer Alix Goodwin to discuss the Ginninderry developments on one of her visits to Canberra. This eventuated on 26 June this year and a meeting was organised by NPA ACT and GFA with

Riverview Company's David Maxwell hosting the meeting and visit to the falls with the permission of property owner Anna Hyles. Rod Griffiths and Robyn Coghlan represented NPA and GFA.

Participants Judy and Dave Kelly, members of both NPA and GFA, wrote up a comprehensive account of the discussions and visit to the falls which

can be found on the GFA website <http://ginninderra.org.au/node/713>.

The meeting was useful in not only widening the discussion on conservation issues associated with the Ginninderry development but also forging closer bonds between NPA ACT and NPA NSW.

Bogong

The fat moth-feast of the tribes ... **Les Murray**

Black and silky in cracks and crevices. Barbecues on a granite slab. Ravens caw in the cloud. Mount Bimberi is the highest peak. My left brain is reluctant to use a compass. My right brain wants to dream. So I keep going up until I can't go any higher. How will I get down?

high up
on the mountain
the mystery
closes in –
how close can I get?

Migrating and aestivating for 10,000 years, 20,000 years?
Perhaps some will stop over in Yarralumla this spring.

bogong moth
fluttering the floor
beside me
we move together
when the music starts

Gerry Jacobson

Concerning environmental laws*

Australia is a land of stunning landscapes and unique wildlife. It supports a rich and diverse avifauna, including a high proportion of the world's parrots and honeyeaters. It is the origin of the world's songbirds. Our flora and fauna are the envy of the world, particularly for countries that have lost much of theirs through human-induced landscape change and resource exploitation.

But we appear to have learnt little from the past mistakes, both at home and overseas. Australia continues to have some of the highest rates of land clearing in the world, we oversee growing lists of threatened species, and a broad range of threats such as fire, weeds and pest animals continue to increase.

Even where there is strong scientific evidence of actions that will cause harm, Australia's poor record of environmental monitoring coupled with the ambiguity of key terms in legislation such as 'significant impact' means that science can effectively be

ignored. Worse still, in some cases our Federal Minister has the power to use his or her discretion to override scientific evidence. Under exemptions such as Regional Forest Agreements, actions that will impact on threatened species don't even require Federal approval.

Our current national environment laws are not strong enough to protect critical habitats or recover threatened species. At best, they are a band-aid solution, a handbrake to decline, capable of stopping only the worst impacts. By and large they are simply managing a trajectory towards extinction – rather than arresting and reversing declines as they should.

Many Australians continue to take our extraordinary plants and animals for granted and are yet to fully grasp the concept that extinction is forever and that it's happening before our very eyes. Unless we all work together to bring about real change, future generations will be left with an Australia where once-common species such as

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots are extinct.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Birdlife Australia, together with the Places You Love Alliance and guided by the Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law, has developed a blueprint for new environmental laws and institutions that can begin the work of providing effective protection for threatened species and restoring ecosystems. It is a challenge that Australia must take on. Right now, we all have an opportunity to make real, lasting change that will provide a strong foundation for future generations and protect the unique plants, animals and places we love.

* Foreword to Birdlife Australia's report *Restoring the Balance – the case for a new generation of Australian environmental laws*, February 2018, by Professor Peter Doherty, immunologist, Nobel Laureate and author.

Anniversary of World Heritage listing of Fraser Island

The Great Sandy National Park in Queensland has two sections: Cooloola is on the coast from Noosa Heads in the south to Rainbow Beach in the north, while K'gari (Fraser Island) encompasses most of the world's largest sand island, Fraser Island, north of Rainbow Beach. For comparison, K'gari is about half the size of Namadgi National Park.

On 18 April 2018, World Heritage Day, a celebration was held at Kingfisher on the east coast of K'gari to mark the 25th anniversary of the declaration of K'gari's World Heritage listing. Congratulations, Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (FIDO) and John Sinclair AO, FIDO's founder.

K'gari suffers all the same management problems as other national

parks – weeds, feral animals and bushfires, but is also subject to cyclones and potential damage from the proposed Colton coal mine at Aldershot north of Maryborough on the Mary River estuary which is part of a Ramsar site. The mine proposes to discharge excess waste water directly into the Mary River.

In September 2017, a 'controlled burn' of 830 ha planned for Ungowa on K'gari got out of control and burnt more than 63,000 ha from coast to coast. It devastated the southern lakes area, consumed important heathlands and even wet sclerophyll forest. It is estimated that the fire-sensitive forest will take at least a decade to recover.

The high-risk strategy to burn in September when it was very dry with a chance of wind changes to the NW is

indefensible and reminiscent of decisions made in the ACT over recent years.

The conservation environment should be given high priority when planning mining operations, prescribed burns or other threatening processes. What is the point of governments declaring the conservation of nature important and then making decisions that destroy it, especially when less than 10 per cent of the land area is under so-called protection? Bit by bit, species are lurching to extinction as we destroy more and more of their habitat, for profit or through ignorance.

Prepared using information from issue no. 137 of *MOONBI*, newsletter of the Fraser Island Defenders Organisation. Ed.

Jim Gasteen – a remarkable man, a remarkable life

Jim Gasteen was born in Brisbane in 1922 and worked initially as a grazier and farmer in Queensland and New South Wales. He was a self-educated land specialist, geologist, botanist, biologist, wood-turner, author and raconteur who provided extensive land and biological research assistance to various Queensland Government departments, local councils and other organisations. He was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia in

1993 for his work as an advocate of balanced land-use management.

Jim fought hard over decades for the protection of remnant patches of Central Queensland scrub as national parks, 33 of them according to John Sinclair ('One man's one-person bioblitz', issue 136, *MOONBI* newsletter). One of them was his family home, Thrushton. His extensive survey work also underpinned many national park proposals in NSW (e.g. New England NP and Northern

Rivers NP). He was a life member of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

Jim's lifelong partner and supporter was his wife, and mother of his four children, Marj Gasteen. Jim died in Lismore last August in his 95th year, his legacy the many national parks of Queensland and NSW. We have lost a good friend.

Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz

NPA outings program

September – December 2018



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*, outings@npaact.org.au.

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*, (outings@npaact.org.au) 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.

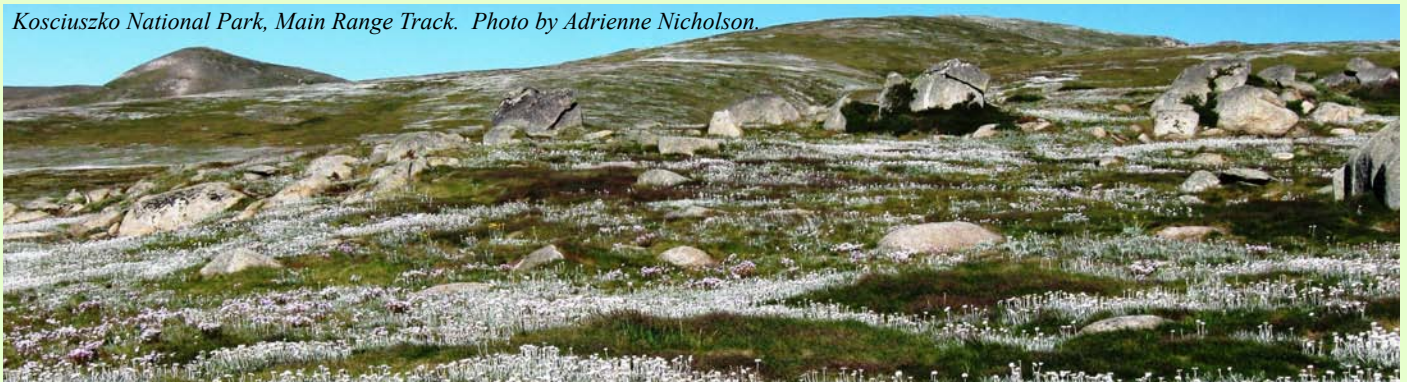
To minimise these risks participants should endeavour to ensure that the activity is within their capabilities and that they are carrying food, water, equipment, clothing and footwear appropriate to the activity. Participants should advise the leader if they are taking any medication or have any physical 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 who 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

NPA has a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) available to leaders. The PLB can be obtained from Steven Forst, contact 0428 195 236 or steven.forst@inet.net.au

Kosciuszko National Park, Main Range Track. Photo by Adrienne Nicholson.



NPA outings program September – December 2018 (page 2 of 4)

8 September Saturday work party Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa at 9:15am and car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Weeding and spraying at Peppermint Hill. Tools provided.

Leader: Doug Brown
Contact: 6288 2805 or
kambalda@tpg.com.au

16 September Sunday morning drive/walk Glenburn Precinct

Visit historic sites to see what has been achieved over the past decade by the Parks Service and the Friends of Glenburn. Meet at Canberra railway station, Kingston at 9:00 am for car pooling.

Drive: 50 km, \$25 per car.
Leader: Col McAlister
Contact: 6288 4171 or
cvmac@grapevine.com.au

16 September Sunday snowshoe Kiandra area

Depart 6:30 am. Drive via Adaminaby to Kiandra area. Destination will be decided on snow coverage and general conditions. Participants hiring snowshoes should have them before departure. Book with leader by Saturday morning for weather check, departure point and car arrangements (chains may be required).

Drive: 280 km, \$112 per car.
Map: *Rooftop's* Kiandra–Tumut
Grading: 2 B (on snow)
Leader: Brian Slee
Contact: 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

17–21 September Car camp with accommodation Yathong Nature Reserve

Yathong is about 500 km north-west of Canberra. Accommodation is in shearers quarters, with twin beds in each room, kitchen and ablutions block. Cost (donation) about \$50 per person, plus travel costs. The 3 days will include slow walks, birdwatching, plant identification, orchid searching, historic building inspections and Aboriginal objects and sites. Numbers limited. Contact leader early.

Maps: Mount Allen, Coombie 1:100,000
Grading: 2 A/B/C/D/E/F
Leader: John Brickhill
Contact: 0427 668 112 or
johnbrickhill@gmail.com

22 September Saturday work party Weed control Orroral Valley (Rabbity Hill)

This is the first time the NPA has visited this site. Weed removal (horehound and the like) from the rocky knoll about 450 m SSW of Orroral Homestead. Bring leather gloves. Nitrile gloves and herbicide provided. Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8:00 am.

Drive: 87 km, \$35 per car.
Leader: Martin Chalk
Contact: 6292 3502 or 0411 161 056

26 September Wednesday walk Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity

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

Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or
brdr001@bigpond.net.au

29 September–1 October Long weekend pack walk The Vines

Walk in Morton National Park, mainly on fire trail, from the Nerriga entrance. Two-night camp in the forest clearing at the former site of Piercy's Cabin in the Vines area between Quiltys Mountain and Galbraith Plateau. Second day visit the Bora Ground on Quiltys Mountain and Hidden Valley before returning to the camp site. Walk out on the third day. Contact leader early for details.

Drive: 256 km, \$102 per car.
Map: CMW Northern Budawang Range, Endrick 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B/E
Leader: Steven Forst
Contact: 0428 195 236 or
steven.forst@iinet.net.au

6 October Saturday walk Mount Palerang

Walk to a high summit with great views; off-track there, mostly on-track back. Good vegetation mix. Some easy rock scrambling and light scrub. About 10 km and 483 m climb. We will need high clearance vehicles. Contact leader by Friday 5 October for start time and meeting place.

Drive: 100 km, \$40 per car.
Map: Bombay 1:25,000
Grade: 2 A/B/C
Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or
brdr001@bigpond.net.au

7 October Sunday snowshoe Kosciuszko National Park

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

Drive: 420 km, \$168 per car + park entry fee + possible chairlift fee.
Leader: Brian Slee
Contact: 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

7 October Sunday walk Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP)

Meet at the entrance of the National

Arboretum Canberra Visitor Centre at 9:00 am. The short walk involves gentle slopes on gravel paths. STEP (Forest 20 of the Arboretum) is a botanic garden established to demonstrate the major vegetation types of the Southern Tablelands and is managed by the STEP community group in partnership with the Arboretum. Individuals, community groups, schools and others are sought to join in this exciting project. There are regular working bees and other activities. For more information see: <http://www.step.asn.au/about-us/step-in-a-gumnut-shell/>.

Grading: 1 A
Leader: Sally Stephens
Contact: 0428 578 586

13 October Saturday work party Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa at 9:15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Weeding and spraying around Eleanor's Grove and swamp. Tools provided.

Leader: Doug Brown
Contact: 6247 0239 or
kambalda@tpg.com.au

13 October, Spring wildflower walk 47th Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble

Celebrate spring on beautiful Black Mountain with a social ramble for wildflower lovers in the tradition established by Nancy Burbidge, and continued by George Chippendale. BOOKING ESSENTIAL to ensure there will be enough guides. See the Friends of Black Mountain website for more details.

Contact: Linda 0437 298 711 or
friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com

13–20 October Art week at Gudgenby Cottage

A week for artistic pursuits in spring. The comfortable, warm cottage sleeps six. Take inspiration to work on any artistic endeavour with convivial company at the cottage, or explore the valley with a cosy base each evening. Paint, draw, write, weave, photograph – anything; the inspiration is yours. Stay for one or several nights. Contact leaders for further information and to book a place. Day visitors welcome.

Contacts: Adrienne Nicholson 6281 6381 or Hazel Rath 4845 1021.

14 October Sunday walk Around Gilberts Gap

From the Redgrounds Track east of Endrick River walk north to the western edge of the unnamed outcrop west of Gilberts Gap, exploring its cliffline for a route to the top of the outcrop. If unsuccessful we'll

NPA outings program September – December 2018 (page 3 of 4)

continue to Gilberts Gap and climb the outcrop from there. Return via the Gap. Mostly off track, some rock scrambling, thick scrub and possible exposure. Total climb of about 400 m. Limit of 8. Contact leader by Thursday 11 October, preferably by email, for start time and transport arrangements.

Drive: 230 km, \$92 per car.
Maps: Endrick, Nerriga 1:25,000
Grading: 3 A/D/E/F
Leader: Philip Gatenby
Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com

21 October Sunday walk Central Molonglo and Kama Woodland

The walk starts high and morning tea will feature expansive views over the Molonglo Valley. We will descend to follow the river through a rocky gorge looking for wedgies overhead. After lunch on the river bank, we will walk through the Kama Woodland Reserve. This area is adjacent to the future Central Molonglo housing development. Come enjoy it before the developers arrive. Meet at Kama Woodland car park on north side of William Hovell Drive (approx. 5 km from Glenloch Interchange) at 9:00 am. A short car shuffle will be involved.

Maps: Canberra, Umburra, Cotter Dam 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B
Leader: Esther
Contact: 0429 356 212 or galla001@umn.edu

24 October Wednesday walk Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity

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

Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or brdr001@bigpond.net.au

26–29 October Pack walk Mount Kelly area

Walk from the Yankee Hat Track car park through saddle south of Mount Gudgenby, up Sams Creek, to camp below Mount Kelly, probably for two nights. Climb Mount Kelly and some of the nearby peaks then head for Bogong Gap (climb Mount Burbidge) and a clearing on a tributary of Middle Creek, for the last night. Most of the walk is off track or on overgrown track. Extensive climbs, rock scrambling and some thick scrub. Contact leader by Wednesday 24 October, preferably by email. Limit of 8.

Drive: 120 km, \$48 per car.
Maps: Rendezvous Creek, Yaouk 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B/D/E
Leader: Philip Gatenby
Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com

27 October Saturday work party Broom removal – Brayshaws to Westermans

Removal of Broom in the area between Brayshaws and Westermans huts. Locations of the Broom plants are known to NNP rangers; the duty ranger will help us locate them. All tools and equipment provided. Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre at 8:30 am.

Drive: 90 km, \$36 per car.
Leader: TBA
Contact: Martin, 0411 161 056 for information.

28 October Sunday walk Art works in the Parliamentary Triangle – State Circle to the lake

Meet in the National Library car park at 9:00 am (Sunday parking free). A gentle, level walk of some 3 km with scope for coffee/cake and toilet stops. Wear comfortable shoes and bring hat, water and lunch. Be surprised, informed and entertained. Visit many memorials, sculptures and other art works, among some of our national institutions – the National Library, Questacon and the National Gallery. Briefly visit to the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Room in Old Parliament House. A small fee of \$2 (\$1 concession) is required to visit Old Parliament House.

Leader: Col McAlister
Contact: cvmac@grapevine.com.au or 6288 4171

Support the protection of Kosciuszko National Park

Starting in late October or early November a multi-day walk to Kosciuszko Summit is planned. The walk seeks more action to protect Kosciuszko National Park from feral horse damage. If interested contact a committee member for more details and watch *Burning Issues* for further information.

31 October Wednesday walk Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity

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

Leader: Mike S
Contact: 0412 179 907

3 November Saturday walk Mount Major and 'Minors'

Walk first to the summit of Mount Major, then to several other tops. Good views, a good vegetation mix (some rainforest) and varied terrain. Some rock scrambling. Participants should be comfortable on rocks and rough terrain. Gaiters and scrub gloves recommended. About 9 km, 600 m climb. High clearance vehicles needed. Contact

leader by Friday 2 November for start time and meeting place.

Drive: 100 km, \$40 per car.
Map: Bombay 1:25,000
Grade: 1 A/B/C/D
Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or brdr001@bigpond.net.au

3-5 November Relaxed pack walk Rendezvous Creek Valley

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

Drive: 95 km, \$38 per car.
Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B
Leader: Esther
Contact: 0429 356 212, or galla001@umn.edu

10 November Saturday work party Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa at 9:15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Weeding and spraying above Bogong Creek in the Croajingalong area. Tools provided.

Leader: Clive Hurlstone
Contact: 6288 7592 or cjhurls@bigpond.net.au

11 November Sunday walk Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie

Short car shuffle. A steep ascent up Mount Majura, taking a different and steeper route to the usual path. Stop on the way up for morning tea and to enjoy views to the north and north-east. Start descent on the main track, but turn south towards Mount Ainslie, and follow tracks through bushland, staying away from suburbia. Ascend Mount Ainslie from the east, with lunch stop along the way, and descend on the main track to the War Memorial and waiting car(s). Ascents approximately 450 m. For those interested, afternoon tea at Wilbur's in Hackett. Meet at 9:00 am at parking area beside 39 Mackenzie Street, Hackett (near the end of Grayson Street).

No transport costs.
Map: Canberra street directory
Grading: 2 A/B
Leader: Margaret
Contact: 0448 924 357 or power000@tpg.com.au

17 November Saturday walk Gorilla Rock, Booroomba Rocks

Begin walk at Honeysuckle Creek camp ground, northwards along the AAWT, then

NPA outings program September – December 2018 (page 4 of 4)

off-track to Gorilla Rock, then Booroomba Rocks. Return down the Booroomba Rocks track to the car park and then along the AAWT. The off-track section is about 3 km and there should be only light scrub, although there may be denser thickets. Bring gaiters and gloves. Most of the climbing is between Gorilla Rock and Booroomba Rocks. Distance is about 13 km and the height gained about 420 m. Contact leader by Friday 16 November for start time and meeting place.

Drive: 72 km, \$30 per car.
Map: Corin Dam 1:25,000
Grade: 1 A/B/C/D
Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or
brdr001@bigpond.net.au

18 November Sunday walk Cotter Dam and Mount McDonald

A walk from the Brindabella Road down to the new Cotter Dam, along the shoreline and then up and over Mount McDonald and back to the cars. Almost all walking on fire trails or old roads. Goods views across the Cotter Reservoir.

Meet at junction of Cotter Road and Eucumbene Drive for 9:00 am start.
Drive: 24 km, \$10 per car.
Map: Cotter 1:25,000
Grading: 1 A/B
Leader: Mike S
Contact: 0412 179 907

24 November Saturday work party Weed control – Brandy Flat

The first time the NPA has visited this site, involving the removal of woody weeds. Bring loppers and bush saw. Replacement saw blades and gloves will be provided, as will herbicide. Meet at Cooleman Court (behind McDonald's) at 8:45 am.

Drive: 32 km, \$14 per car.
Leader: Martin Chalk
Contact: 6292 3502 (h) 0411 161 056

25 November Sunday walk Mount Lee and Alpine wildflowers

Depart 6:30 am and drive to Charlotte Pass. Take trail to Snowy River then follow Club Lake Creek to the lake. After break, contour around Mount Lee and descend to Kunama Hutte ruins for lunch. See anemone buttercups as they emerge from below melting snow (before they are eaten or trampled to extinction by 'heritage horses'). Return via slope of Mount Clarke. An 11 km walk with a few steep climbs. Afternoon tea Jindabyne. Book with leader by Saturday morning for weather check and departure point.

Drive: 420 km, \$168 per car + Park entry fee.
Map: Perisher Valley 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B
Leader: Brian Slee
Contact: 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

28 November Wednesday walk Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity

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

Leader: Philip Gatenby
Contact: 0401 415 446 or
philip.gatenby@gmail.com

1 December Saturday walk Demanding Hut

Meet at Kambah Village Shops car park at 8:30 am. Walk along the Naas Valley from the Mount Clear Campground, mainly following the fire trail. Several creek crossings to cool our feet along the way before we reach the picturesque Demanding Hut for lunch. Back along the Naas to the cars in the afternoon.

Drive: 160 km, \$64 per car.
Map: Colinton 1:25,000
Grading: 2 A/B
Leader: Steven Forst
Contact: 0428 195 236 or
steven.forst@iinet.net.au

1 December Saturday walk

Dr Suzi Bond will be leading a butterfly walk for NPA members at the Botanic Gardens. Bring binoculars and cameras. Meet at the ANBG Visitor Centre at 1:00 pm. Limit 12 participants. Please contact Suzi by Sunday 25 November so that she can confirm details with you.

Leader: Suzi Bond
Contact: chowchilla29@yahoo.com



2 December Sunday walk Sculpture walk – West Row to New Acton

Meet in the London Circuit car park (entry near the Reserve Bank) opposite the West Row Park. Parking is free on Sundays. This will be a gentle 3 km level walk. We will visit some 25 sculptures. You will like some, not others. We will have lunch/coffee at New Acton before returning to the cars.

Leader: Col McAlister
Contact: cvmac@grapevine.com.au or
6288 4171

8 December Work party and Christmas party Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group

Meet at the Namadgi Visitor Centre, Tharwa at 9:15 am. Car pool to Gudgenby Valley. Weeding and spraying east of Gudgenby Cottage. Tools provided. Stay for Christmas lunch at the cottage. Bring a plate to share. Some drinks provided.

Leader: Doug Brown
Contact: 6247 0239 or
kambalda@tpg.com.au

December NPA Christmas Party

The date for our Christmas party is not yet set as there is a potential clash with the planned *Walk from Sydney to Kosciuszko* in support of proper management of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park. The walk may end on the mountain on the 9th of December – our usual Christmas party date.

When the date is definite it will be put on our website, and announced in the e-newsletter *Burning Issues* and at general meetings.

16 December Sunday walk Mount Stromlo

Meet 8:30 am at Bushfire Memorial car park, west of intersection of Swallowtail Road and Peter Cullen Way, Wright (UBD map 66, p5). We will follow the path north then north-west (parallel to Uriarra Road) to Western Trailhead. Then head south and climb Mount Stromlo (782 m), steep in places, for morning tea at the cafe. Descend on trails to car park. Historic area, excellent views. An 8 km walk, with a climb of 200 m. Lunch for stayers at Holdens Creek Pond, Coombs. Walk timed to avoid hottest part of day. Drive: 0 km.

Map: Stromlo Forest Park Trail Map
Grading: 1 A
Leader: Brian Slee
Contact: 6281 0719 (h) or
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

Advance notices

19 January Saturday walk Mount Ginini Arboretum area

A walk in the Mount Franklin/Stockyard Spur area taking in the site of the old Forestry Hut on Stockyard Creek, the one-time Stockyard Arboretum, Cheyenne and Morass Flats and the old ski run. Contact leader by Friday 18 January for information.

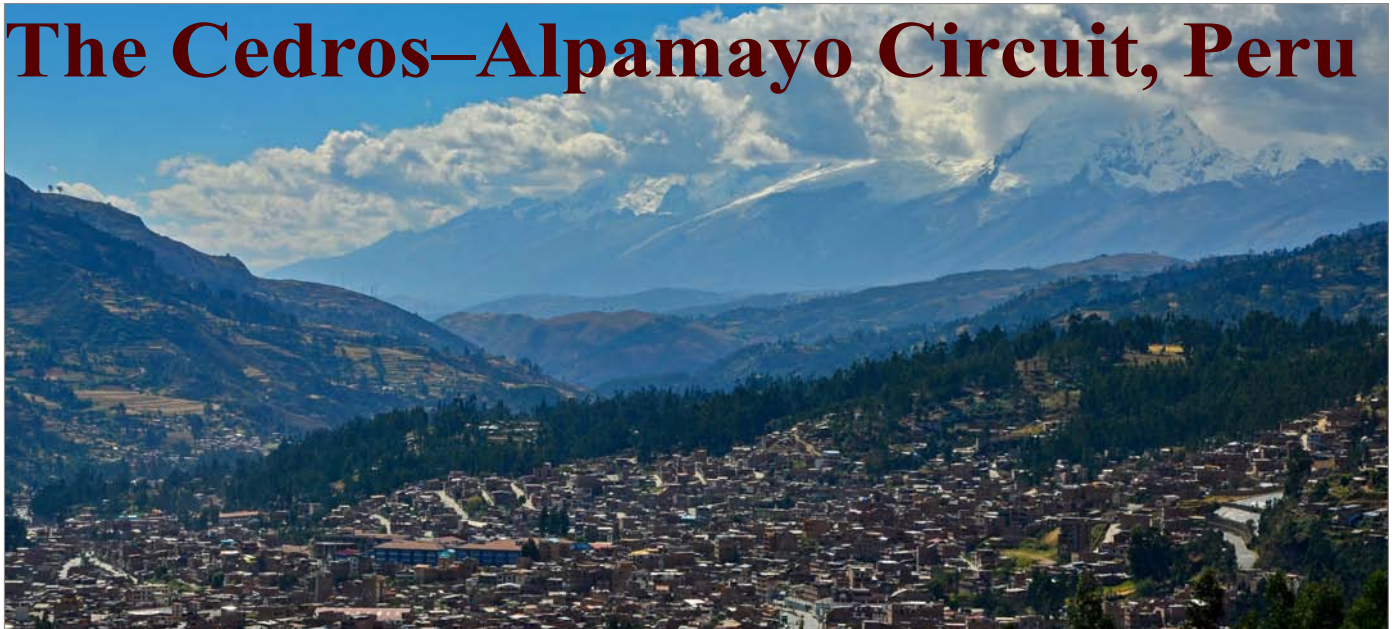
Leader: Barrie Ridgway
Contact: 0437 023 140 or
brdr001@bigpond.net.au

20 January Sunday walk Kosciuszko National Park

Walk from Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake lookout, then off track to Mount Twynam with fabulous views. Back to Main Range track and possibly on to Mount Carruthers before returning to Charlotte Pass. Book by Saturday morning.

Leader: Margaret
Contact: 0448 924 357 or
power000@tpg.com.au

The Cedros–Alpamayo Circuit, Peru



Huaraz and Huascarán. Photo by Andrew Gatenby.

Trekking in Peru is very different from multi-day walking in Australia mainly because of altitude. For much of the time on two Peruvian treks Jan and I had completed previously we were above 4,000 m and we were happy to accept the need for a guide and a mule team to support our efforts. If you are unaccustomed to high altitude, walking uphill at these heights is slow and exhausting. Under such circumstances carrying a full pack, including supplies for around 10 days, is now something we wouldn't even attempt.

Our most recent Peruvian trek, in July 2017, was called the Cedros-Alpamayo Circuit. Before the trek we'd met up with our eldest son, Andrew, and partner, Erin, who'd been travelling in South America since December 2016. They'd learnt quite a bit of Spanish in this time which for us proved very helpful. The trek was in Huascarán National Park in the Cordillera Blanca, described as the world's highest tropical mountain range and part of the central Andes. The Cordillera Blanca is about 100 km long and roughly 240 km north of Lima, 100 km inland from the Pacific coast and 1,000 km south of the equator. It boasts 29 peaks over 6,000 m, including Peru's highest mountain, Huascarán (6,768 m), as well as around 300 glacial lakes and numerous (estimated to be over 600), currently rapidly shrinking glaciers.

Huascarán National Park covers 340,000 ha and was established in 1975, 15 years after official moves were made to protect the area. Ten years later UNESCO declared the park a World Heritage Site. Apart from the loss of glaciers, the park faces challenges from hydro-electric projects, legal and illegal mining, loss of biodiversity from the conversion of land from wilderness to

agriculture and livestock and constant encroachment of human settlement. These threats in part stem from a conflict between the aims of the national park and ancestral rights of locals to use the land.

Huaraz

The base for trekking in this part of Peru is the city of Huaraz which is to the west of the Cordillera Blanca at an altitude above sea level of about 3,100 m. Life in Huaraz and the surrounding area is not without a degree of precariousness and tragedy. The area has been devastated by earthquakes with the most recent major one (in 1970) claiming over 70,000 lives, including 30,000 in Huaraz. Almost the entire city was levelled. One street that wasn't is now a tourist attraction. Huaraz is in a beautiful location, wedged between the Cordillera Blanca and the Cordillera Negra to the west, but is an unattractive city. Many of its buildings, including its cathedral, appear unfinished. It has numerous concrete fountains but none of them seem to work. Its markets, however, where each day people from the surrounding hills descend on the city to sell their produce are a revelation. Everything imaginable, from cows' noses to mobile phones, is on sale to the crowds from stalls that spill out over many thoroughfares.

The streets of modern-day Huaraz are dotted with trekking agencies, not surprising given its proximity to the popular hiking destinations of Cordilleras Blanca and Huayhuash. As we wanted to do a trek in the Cordillera Blanca in the vicinity of a peak called Alpamayo, our first day in Huaraz was spent traipsing from agency to agency seeking advice and quotes on such a

trek. We eventually settled on, not without a strong measure of relief (on my part at least), the agency Jan and I had used in 2013 to trek the Cordillera Huayhuash. Our experience on this trek was positive and booking with them took away a lot of the uncertainty associated with a trek organised by an unknown agency. The company also set us a program of acclimatisation activities based around day-long treks from Huaraz. These walks took us to progressively higher altitudes from 3,700 m on the first to 5,000 m on the fourth. Spending as much time as possible on these walks at the maximum altitude achieved supposedly increases the efficacy of acclimatisation. They conform to the notion that hiking high and sleeping low (relatively speaking) is a means of reducing the impact of high altitude. Unfortunately treks don't always conform to this notion. We knew from our trek in the Cordillera Huayhuash in 2013 that it's not always possible to sleep low. If the altitude slept on the trek is much higher than the altitude slept at when acclimatising, acclimatisation will be less effective.

Superb days, cold nights

Our trek started from the village of Hualcayan about 3 hours' drive north of Huaraz, and finished 10 days later at the village of Vaqueria to the east and a similar distance from Huaraz. The trek took us along the northern edge of the Cordillera Blanca. Most days we walked for about 6 hrs and each day generally involved a climb to a mountain pass, usually over 4,500 m (with the highest 4,860 m and called Osoruri), followed by a steep descent. We walked 132 km and climbed 8,000 m, including the all-

(continued next page)

The Cedros–Alpamayo Circuit, Peru *(continued)*



Hualcayan and the Cordillera Negra. Photo by Jan Gatenby.

important side trips. Jan, Andrew, Erin and I were joined on the trek by a couple from the USA, a guide, a cook, an arriero (donkey driver), four donkeys and two horses.

On the first day we were led by the owner of the agency and after 3 hours climbing and a multitude of zig-zags we reached our campsite, 850 m above Hualcayan. This gave us the afternoon to contemplate the view over the Cordillera Negra to the west, meet the arriero and re-acquaint ourselves (Jan and I) with Miguel and Samuel who had been the guide and cook (and arriero) on our trek in 2013. They had just done the Cedros-Alpamayo Trek in the opposite direction with two clients and were to turn around and do it all again. That night a traditional Peruvian feast (a Pachamanca) was laid on for dinner.

Each day Miguel our guide set the pace – slow but steady to help those unaccustomed to activity at high altitude. The rest of us plodded along behind. If needed, Samuel the cook helped out when the party split, which happened regularly but more often in the early stages of the trek. The mules go at

their own pace urged on by their arriero. We always set off before them only to usually be passed well before lunch. On only one or two occasions and with considerable effort we managed to get to the day's mountain pass before the donkeys.

Once the sun had risen the days were warm and sunny. The nights, on the other hand, were long and cold with a combination of altitude, latitude and clear weather contributing to our nocturnal discomfort. I wondered if my sleeping bag was up to it or was it the frequent trips on occasions to the vertical tent?

Side trips

Side trips provided some of the trek's most spectacular scenery. Our first, on day 2, took us on an indistinct track to a knoll with magnificent views over Nevado Santa Cruz (at 6,259 m, the highest peak locally). To regain the main track we mostly followed an aqueduct which carries water from a lake called Cullicocha to settlements and farmland over a thousand metres below. On the trek's third day we had our first glimpse of one of the main highlights, Nevado

Alpamayo. From the direction we approached, Alpamayo resembled a perfect white pyramid against a deep blue sky. It's not the highest peak in this part of the Cordillera Blanca (5,947 m), but is certainly one of the most spectacular. In fact in a competition

Alpamayo at night.

Photo by Andrew Gatenby.

run by National Geographic in the 1960s Alpamayo was voted the most beautiful mountain in the world.

We stayed two nights near Alpamayo and on the "rest day" Miguel guided us up the valley to a blue-green glacial lake below Alpamayo called Jancaruriscocha. From here we climbed to Alpamayo Base Camp which seemed largely deserted, most of its occupants mere specks on a nearby scree slope on their way to the peak. Miguel guided us up to a viewpoint (4,765 m) over another lovely but unnamed glacial lake. He and Andrew continued to an even higher lake and the rest of us returned to camp. They caught us before we reached the tents, Andrew looking exhausted and Miguel, who apparently hadn't kept to his slow and steady pace, still looking fresh. Back at camp we dined on trout that Samuel had caught in the nearby stream.

The following day we climbed steeply to a mountain pass called Cara Cara (named after a local raptor) which forms the watershed. The rivers east of the pass drain all the way to the Atlantic Ocean via the Amazon. After crossing a second pass we had another side trip to more glacial lakes. Alpamayo from today's view looked less like a pyramid but was still spectacular once it emerged from the clouds. Near our campsite that night was a large herd of alpaca.

Our last side trip, on the ninth day of the trek, was to Punta Union. This pass is the highest on the Santa Cruz Trek, a shorter and more popular trek than Cedros–Alpamayo and much favoured by backpackers. The day we were there was after our coldest night and a couple of tarns near the campsite were frozen. Once we reached the sunlight, climbing to the pass became more pleasant. The views of the Cordillera Blanca from Punta Union were excellent and included the Santa Cruz Valley, Huascarán Sur, Artesonraju (one of the peaks featured in the introduction to Paramount pictures) and much more.

Other trekkers and a few locals

We saw few other people on the early days of the trek, other than a large group from the British army going in the opposite direction to us (about 20 with a mule train of 23) and a Frenchman called Valerie going our way under the care of a cook and arriero (and mules). He didn't speak Spanish and his attendants spoke no French but his English was quite good so he spent a bit of time chatting with us. Our relative solitude disappeared at the end of day 6. At camp, which was at the base of a large cirque offering views of glaciers, waterfalls and the snowy peaks of

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Environment Day dinner

Each year the Conservation Council of the ACT organises a fund-raising dinner on Environment Day. This year the dinner was held at the Arboretum; NPA members and friends filled more than three tables.



One of the NPA ACT tables at the Environment Day dinner. Photo by Sabine Friedrich.



Sonja Lenz, Mike Thompson, Esther Gallant and Sally Stephens at the dinner. Photo by Sabine Friedrich.

The Cedro–Alpamayo Circuit, Peru *(continued)*



Ammonite fossil. Photo by Philip Gatenby.

Taulliraju (5,830 m), Rinrijirca (5,810 m) and Pucajirca (6,046 m), we were greeted by ladies in traditional dress from a village further down the valley selling beer and coke.

Next evening we camped by a lake called Huecrucocha where there is a trout farm. At a creek crossing en route to the campsite we found a fossilised ammonite indicating that part of the Cordillera Blanca must have been below sea level at some time.

Soon after arriving at camp, we had a visit from 3 kids from a nearby village.



Rima Rima. Photo by Philip Gatenby.

They were astounded that Jan and I couldn't speak Spanish, let alone Quechuan. Later, Valerie and his arriero came by to look at the trout farm and to say goodbye as the next day he was to head a different way to us.

Our last campsite on the fast flowing Quebrada Huaripampa was on the route of the Santa Cruz Trek. There were plenty of campers, along with more beer selling local ladies.

Flowers and animals

Apart from the first and last days, the walk was mainly above the tree-line. This meant we were either walking through bare rocky ground, especially the mountain passes, or grassland. At this height there was the occasional clump of trees which in only one place was sufficiently extensive to be regarded as forest. The dominant tree was Quenual (*Polylepis tarapacana*), which reputedly grows at a higher altitude than any other tree in the world. At lower altitudes, where much of the natural grassland has been replaced by agriculture, imported *Eucalyptus globulus* dominates. There was an abundance of wildflowers, even above 4,000 m. They included bluish lupins, yellow Anquish (*Senecio canescens*), daisy-like *Werneria nubigenia*, a herb with a thin reddish stem (*Lycopodium crissum*), mauve gentians and the amazing looking Rima Rima (*Krapfia*



Viscacha. Photo by Philip Gatenby.

weberbauerii) of the buttercup family.

A variety of native mammals and birds are found in the Cordillera Blanca but we didn't see many on the trek. We saw lots of domesticated horse, cows, sheep and alpaca, as well as viscacha (*Lagidnim peruanum*), a rodent which resembles a large rabbit from the front and, with a bushy tail, a squirrel from behind. Viscacha live high up in boulder fields. The ones we saw were well above 4,000 m.

Birdlife was more visibly common, with frequent sightings of Andean Lapwing and occasional sightings of Andean Condor (*Vultur gryphus*), Mountain Caracara (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*), pied Andean Goose and iridescent green-black Puna Ibis.

At the end of this memorable trek we returned to Huaraz via the hair-raising Portachuelo crossing of the Andes for well-earned pisco sours at the trekking company office.

Philip Gatenby

Bushwalk reports

Gudgenby Valley

Date: 20 May 2018.

Participants: Brian Slee (leader), Peter Anderson-Smith, Mark Clayton, Ken Free, Esther Gallant, John Giacon, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Greg Lawrence, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue, Marian Matchan, Margaret Power.

Weather: Clear sky; chilly at first, then mild; breezy afternoon.

In October 2017, Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group could not work west of Gudgenby River, due to wildlife filming by the BBC. Instead, we began demolishing a fence at Old Boboyan Road where it crosses Hospital Creek. As we followed the fence east up the slope, eye-catching views of the valley and Namadgi's peaks opened up. Time had come for a walks outing like this.

Most of us, including three members of Gippsland's Ben Cruachan Walking Club, had gathered at foggy Lanyon Marketplace at 8:30 am and arrived at Gudgenby Cottage gate at 9:15 in bright sun. Here Esther joined us.

The initial stretch, contouring east of Hospital Creek, was to be the only significant off-track section. Good for me as I had forgotten my boots. Views of Mount Gudgenby opened up as we headed south through easy country below Hospital Hill. We descended and crossed Little Dry Creek then Hospital Creek, noting a heavy briar infestation. We paused at Eleanor [Stodart] Grove

and reflected on the efforts of her and others to restore the environment at the former Boboyan Pine Plantation.

From there we followed old forestry roads south past Mushroom Rock (photo op for the Vics) and uphill to the bush track linking back to Old Boboyan Road. Morning tea was at Frank and Jacks Hut at 11:10 am. A new culvert has stabilised the road in.

The walk continued west across Bogong Creek, then north to Yankee Hat rock art site. The yellow/orange/brown valley floor spread out as we rose higher. Lunch was on fallen trees among eucalypts, with tourists to the art site passing by. Unusually, no wedgetails were seen all day.

Once across Middle Creek we were going to climb a hill, but instead kept on the management trail to the bridge, passing isolated, picture-postcard gums on the way. Participants in NPA's Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage had invited us to afternoon tea, so we regulated our progress across the fields to arrive at the suggested time. Mobs of Grey Kangaroos fled as we neared Gudgenby



Gudgenby Valley walkers photo stop at Mushroom Rock.

Photo by Kevin McCue.

Homestead. Ranger BenO conducted an impromptu tour of the interior of the solid two-storey building.

Tea and coffee was in afternoon sun on the Cottage veranda (Esther was 'mother') before we adjourned to the lounge room where fresh scones (courtesy of Hazel Rath) were served with jam and cream in front of the wood fire. Walkers began departing around 3:30 pm. Our circumnavigation of Gudgenby Valley is worth repeating, indeed it could become a standard outing. Ken's gismo recorded a distance of about 16 km. Thanks to all our visitors and special thanks to Hazel for her hospitality.

Brian Slee

Isaacs Ridge, Mount Mugga Mugga

Date: 14 April 2018.

Participants: Brian Slee (leader), Marlene Eggert, Margaret Power.

Weather: Heavy cloud; strong, cold wind; never quite raining.

Isaacs Ridge is one of the most imposed-upon sections of Canberra Nature Park. Crowding its western slope are Isaacs Pines and weedy Scrivener Hill. Communication towers of special ugliness intrude upon its skyline. Getting to it involves passing through streets of attention-seeking houses in O'Malley. Yet the ridge is significant for its magnificent native trees and the efforts of volunteers to restore it.

Shortly before 9 am, while waiting for a crowd of participants to arrive (never did), we took a short walk from the Callemonda Rise meeting point to Scrivener Hill. Despite a sign detailing the location's proposed rehabilitation, it is infested with mint-like horehound and

thistles. Apart from an expansive lookdown on Woden, there is a surprisingly comprehensive view of the National Arboretum.

Chilly winds pushed us up Isaacs Ridge and we were soon among its giant trees. Roos bounded and abounded. Nearby plantings by the Friends of Isaacs Ridge are doing well but mountain bikes are damaging their patch.

Once past Sheaffe Trig (793 m), the path levels out and the panorama expands to take in the east. There is much to see from the ridge as it undulates south past the towers to Stanley Trig (841 m; cf. Mount Taylor 855 m). A pair of mountain bikers arrived on the latest of machines – muscular shock absorbers, tyres on steroids – ready to plunge down through the pines. We sheltered in the forest for a break. Hey, nothing like the red flash from a robin to brighten a day that was steadily becoming milder.

After retracing our steps to Sheaffe, we descended north through bare

paddocks and eroded gullies and around an equestrian park to Canberra Centenary (CC) Trail. Since the NPA was last at Mugga Mugga in 2015, an even more substantial fence has been erected around it and the CC has been relocated from east to west of the mountain. We climbed steeply up an erosion-controlled gully, outside the fence, to the summit for lunch. On the final stretch, vigorously sprouting eucalypts bearing large blue-green leaves stood out. The horizon over Queanbeyan was growing gloomier; the fence precluded any view of the quarry.

Back at the cars via the CC at 1:15, 9 km. Afternoon tea was at Italian Continental Bakery, Mawson. The walk could be repeated as a morning outing to Isaacs Ridge. Mugga Mugga might more usefully be included in a through walk on the new, more scenic, CC from Mugga Lane to O'Malley.

Brian Slee

Tolwong Chimneys

Date: 28 March 2018.

Participants: Mike Smith (leader) and 13 other participants.

Weather: Warm and sunny.

There is a rich history of mining in the catchment of the Shoalhaven River. Sand mining still operates, as does a giant limestone quarry north of Bungonia Creek at South Marulan, while at many locations, particularly on the western side of the Budawangs, the relics of gold mining are evident. They include water races, shafts and equipment for sluicing. One of the more significant mining operations in this area from over a century ago was on the junction of Tolwong Creek and the Shoalhaven.

The Tolwong site is a bit over 5 km upstream of Bungonia Lookdown, not far downstream of the Blockup. The mine and associated infrastructure were set up early last century to exploit deposits of copper, tin and arsenic, which were discovered in 1904 by John Sivewright (hence Sivewright Spur to the north of the site) on the eastern side of Shoalhaven Gorge in Tolwong Creek. All that's left today are two chimneys, the remains of a roasting kiln and smelter, and bits of the foundations for two aerial tramways. One tramway operated to the east to bring ore from the mine down to the treatment plant. The other operated to the west to bring equipment down to the treatment plant and to take out the treated ore. Its location would have given the mine access to the Southern Tablelands railway. Production at Tolwong was short-lived, starting in 1910 and winding down between 1912 and 1916. A factor which contributed to its failure was the presence of copper and tin in a mineral called stannite and the difficulty and

expense at the time of the extraction process from this mineral (McQueen 2003).

To get to the start of the walk we travelled via Goulburn and the village of Bungonia. About 7 km to the east of the village we turned south-east on a rough vehicle track, eventually coming to a car park by a locked gate. The walking track from here to Tolwong Chimneys mostly follows the western access to the site of the treatment plant. It's called the Trestle Track, after a trestle used to support a large wheel for the aerial tramway. This part of the track was fairly level and would have allowed vehicles access to the ore discharge station at the top of the tramway where decaying concrete foundations and a rusting iron railway truck are all that's left. Perhaps the truck transported treated ore to the top of the tramway and was discarded when operations ceased. It's been lying in the forest for over 100 years and looks in surprisingly good condition. We paused here for morning tea then Mike took us on a steep zig-zagging footpath (now called the Blue Track, presumably to distinguish it from other tracks in Bungonia National Park with colourful names) to the Shoalhaven River about 300 m below. This may have originally been used by workers at the treatment plant and mine who numbered about 60 in its heyday (Dubber 2013).

Visiting the site of the chimneys from the bottom of the foot track requires crossing the Shoalhaven. Not an unpleasant task during this seemingly endless summer when river levels are low and water temperatures mild. Up close the chimneys are an impressive sight, about 20 m high and well-constructed of a reddish brick. Elsewhere many old bricks lie around, some inscribed with 'Waterloo'. To the



*One of the Tolwong Chimneys.
Photo by Philip Gatenby.*

east of the chimneys is the gully of Tolwong Creek. The map shows a footpath, the Tolwong Mines Walking Track, going up the creek, passing the site of the mine, to a property called Tolwong which is over 10 km away. On this trip we didn't have time to explore the gully to any extent above the site of the treatment plant. Maybe next time!

All that now remained was to recross the river, have lunch beside the Shoalhaven and, for some, a swim before tackling the very hot climb back up the Blue Track and along the Trestle Track to the cars.

Philip Gatenby

References:

Dubber, Alan 2013, Marulan's Mining Heritage, *Goulburn Post*, August 16, 2013,

<https://www.goulburnpost.com.au/story/1708848/marulans-mining-heritage/>

McQueen, Ken 2003, Difficulties with Refractory Ores: History of the Tolwong Mines, Shoalhaven Gorge NSW, *Journal of Australasian Mining History*, Vol. 1, September 2003, pp. 110–120.



*Crossing the Shoalhaven River.
Photo by Philip Gatenby.*

Lake Burley Griffin – East Basin

Date: 17 June 2018.

Participants: Brian Slee (leader), Mike Bremers, Max Lawrence, Colin McAlister, Deidre Shaw.

Weather: Cloudy; maximum +7°C; breezy at first, later very windy.

This outing combined walks 60–63 in Barrow’s *Walking Canberra*. The track follows the north edge of Lake Burley Griffin from the Carillon, to where it becomes the Molonglo, then around Jerrabomberra Wetlands and back along the south shore to Kings Avenue Bridge. Less frequented than the rest of the lake, perhaps walkers worry about squelching through remote wetlands to complete the circuit. Graeme’s notes indicate otherwise and indeed, it is all on path, flat as a tack, bridges where they ought to be, 10.5 km, and delightful.

Meeting at 9.30 am, we were decked out in gloves, beanies and multiple layers. No hills to negotiate so, on the coldest day (thus far) of the year, we could stay wrapped up. We set off walking under the northern end of Kings

Avenue Bridge and immediately encountered the view of Kingston Foreshore across East Basin. The flattened mass of buildings does nothing to enliven the lakescape.

Continuing east, passing through a plantation of massive poplars in their winter bareness, we turned north off the path at The Boat House restaurant for an excursion up to Kelliher Drive. Hidden away at the base of Mount Pleasant, the beautifully restored Duntroon Dairy with its associated signage is highly evocative of the first European settlement in Canberra. A neglected gem.

After negotiating traffic on Morshead Drive, we were back on the path to Molonglo Reach, crossing the fine bridge relocated from Belconnen along the way. On the shore a dozen gagging geese left us unmolested. Sad to keep passing blackberries that need spraying. Cyclists about but few walkers.

Once across the Molonglo and scooting alongside abandoned Dairy Flat Road, we were ready for morning tea and settled our bottoms on logs at the WW1 Trench Warfare and Bombing

school site. Notable is the Green Armys 2017 above-ground recreation, in timber, of a classic Western Front trench – one for kids to explore amongst otherwise gloomy reminders of the horrors of war. Cattle grazed adjacent paddocks; an exposed fox lurched to and fro in fear.

Although we paused when crossing Jerrabomberra Creek, we did not dawdle in the wetlands, they need a separate outing. We were thinking of lunch anyhow. Into Eyre Street, across the pedestrian bridge at Kingston Harbour, and we were settling at The Dock pub + grub for loads of comfort food, roast pork for most, plus a pizza. Mmm!

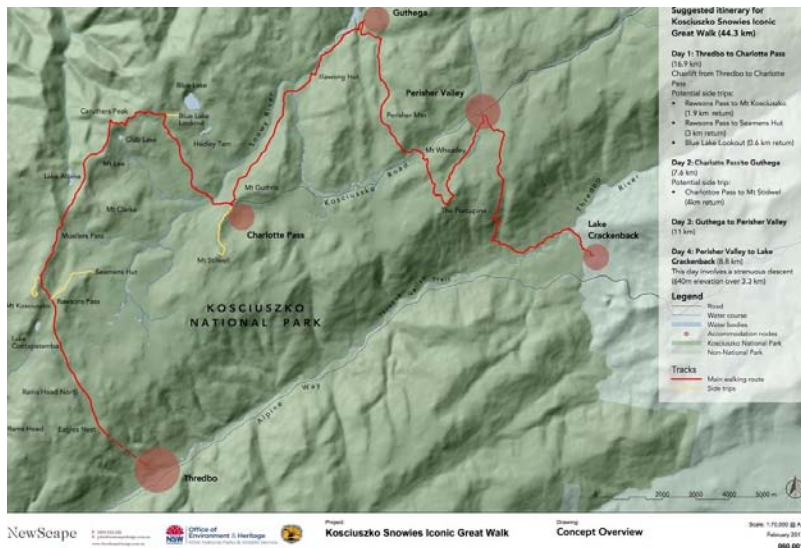
Wild and windy was the order of the afternoon as we circled out onto Kingston Island and then followed the long curved path west under the bridge, through the flash new bicycle tunnel under Bowen Drive and up onto Kings Avenue. Back at the cars at 1.40 pm. Well worth repeating, winter proved ideal.

Brian Slee

New multiday walk in the Snowies

A project underway in the High Country will create a four-day walk of approximately 45 km, starting at the top of Thredbo and ending at Bullocks Flat. It will link Thredbo, Charlotte Pass, Guthega, Perisher and Lake Crackenback. The route will cover about 20 km of existing tracks and 25 km of new tracks. Hikers will be encouraged to stay in existing resort lodges each night, or they may choose to camp. The following will be key features of the walk:

- It will create exceptional views and the potential for it to be badged as a ‘Great Walk’ under the Tourism Australia Great Walks program. This status will not only promote the walk itself, but also will allow it to become a ‘flagship’ type promotional tool for visitation to the Snowy Mountains in summer.
- All new tracks will be predominantly elevated platform or stone structures. This will minimise the environmental impact and reduce the long-term maintenance costs.
- The existing Main Range Walk near Mt Lee will be realigned with an elevated platform of approximately 1.5 km. The track will be relocated slightly to the west to mitigate the existing impact on the critically endangered windswept feldmark plant community.
- A permanent single toilet facility will be built approximately 30 m behind Seamans Hut. This will reduce the impacts of people camping near the hut. The toilet will be open year-round.
- A sample itinerary is detailed on the attached concept map. The exact location of the route is still being defined, taking account of the preliminary environmental assessments and targeted species surveys.



This map is a draft, but it does show the overall concept clearly.

- The walk will use the following existing tracks:
 - o Kosciuszko Walk (steel walkway) from Eagles Nest
 - o Summit Walk to the top of Mt Kosciuszko
 - o Main Range Walk from Kosciuszko to Charlotte Pass
 - o The Illawong Walk from Illawong Hut to Guthega
 - o The Porcupine Walk from Porcupine Rocks to Perisher Valley.

Development of the walk is expected to be finished in 2022, with some construction commencing next summer (2018–19).

PARKWATCH

*News from state-based associations
and agencies.*

Dealing with deer

Deer are creating havoc in our natural areas. The problem will have to be faced on a series of fronts, but strategies can be developed for all of them if the will is there. In the 19th century a few deer were introduced to south-eastern Australia for sport. But the descendants of that original population have multiplied spectacularly in the last decade or so. Something like one million deer are currently chewing their way through Victoria. They eat and trample a wide range of vegetation; snap off shrubs and young saplings; ring-bark trees by 'antler rubbing'; and make large wallows in wet areas.

Our main invaders are sambar deer which dominate in the east of the state but also now turn up along the Murray, the Otways and in the Prom. Around 60 native plants are now significantly threatened by deer, and more than a dozen state or federally listed vegetation communities are being brought close to the brink.

Parks Victoria is about to trial aerial shooting of deer around the Alpine National Park's Mt Howitt area, using experienced NSW operators. And there are plans to erect expensive deer-proof fences around a few highly vulnerable research plots on the Bogong High Plains. But what we really need is a solidly funded commitment to remove all deer from the alpine region.

The international Convention of Biological Diversity, signed in 1992 and ratified in 1993, obliges the federal government to 'prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species'. That should be a compelling trigger for federal funding for immediate action on deer, and urgent research into future management options.

*Park Watch (VNPA)
No. 273, June 2018*

Where's the line?

The pressure for increased visitor access to public land is growing at a great rate, but uncertainty seems to be the only 'rule'. A whole range of proposals, from mountain bike trails to spa hotels, are being pushed into our national parks. And because there are no clear regulations, each proposal faces its own battleground.

As far as we can see, the only people employed to actually implement nature-

based infrastructure are employed by Parks Victoria and they can only develop infrastructure on land Parks Victoria manages. That leaves our vast public land estate beyond the park system without a recreation planning process. We need a really solid planning process, well advised by ecologists, land managers, recreation planners, social scientists and tourism operators: a process that can produce strong and lasting guidelines and regulations across public land. Without such a planning process there is no certainty for developers, and no certainty for nature. A wise society would fix that situation.

*Park Watch (VNPA)
No. 273, June 2018*

The Federal Government's Tasmanian Wilderness abuse subsidy

The Liberal Government in Tasmania elected in 2014 vowed to develop 'appropriate' tourism projects in the state's Wilderness World Heritage Area. The Federal Government has assisted by providing regional development subsidies to private, commercial schemes to exploit Tasmania's wilderness for well-heeled visitors, who will enjoy serviced walks and accommodation. It will be adventure with a branded style and for a fat price, with the least effort – adventure experienced with a much smaller 'a'.

Senator Eric Abetz recently gave \$2.95 million to Maria Island Walk Pty Ltd, to help develop the South Coast Track with cabin accommodation as a commercial proposition. Another proposal is a commercial walking track from Farmhouse Creek to Lake Geeves below Federation Peak to ensure walkers don't get wet feet. This development received \$70,000 in 'seed money' from the Federal Government's regional development fund. If ever there was a development that justified the need for state wilderness legislation, then it is this proposal. The promotional website, Geeves Effect, claims 'such an iconic walk will allow investors to leverage from the trends currently experiencing strong growth: accommodation, outdoor experiences, eco-experiences and food, cider and wine experiences.' The track's developers even have the temerity to call for public donations on their website, having won Federal Government support. The developers plan to charge a fortune for the privilege of using this track, just like the Three Capes Track, but in pristine wilderness.

The proposal is completely at odds

with the park's management plan and the area's World Heritage values. It is disgraceful that taxpayers' money is being used to push such a misguided tourism proposal into the spiritual heart of Tasmania's wilderness. Walls of Jerusalem and Frenchmans Cap are also targeted. At the very top-end of the market is a helicopter-accessed private tourism proposal at the Walls of Jerusalem. This development also doesn't conform with the park's management plan.

The Federal and the Tasmanian Governments seem to think they can act regardless of the World Heritage convention, and the sanctity of national parks and wilderness. It is long overdue for wilderness to be recognised as a World Heritage value.

*Colong Bulletin
No. 271 (July 2018)*

Saving the Great Barrier Reef

Our Great Barrier Reef is a global icon, arguably one of Earth's most important natural treasures. It is a place of immeasurable beauty and biodiversity, and the largest living structure on Earth, visible from space. Since 1981, when the Great Barrier Reef was World Heritage listed, it has formed the basis of a vibrant tourist economy supporting 69,000 jobs and contributing billions of dollars to the Queensland economy.

The Reef is now in crisis as a result of climate change. During the summers of 2016–2017, unprecedented coral bleaching occurred. It has been estimated by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority that these mass bleaching events caused the death of two thirds of the coral in the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef.

It can take up to a decade for a coral reef to recover. This recovery depends on a healthy and resilient marine ecosystem. Currently the reef is experiencing further stress and degradation from the accumulated impacts of poor water quality caused by decades of land clearing, pollution, dredging, coastal development, illegal fishing and the invasive crown of thorns starfish.

Our Great Barrier Reef is at a tipping point. Although governments acknowledge the Reef is in danger they continue to pursue policies, subsidies and approval mechanisms that promote harmful projects, including mega coal mining proposals. If approved, the Adani Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland could be the death knell for

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PARKWATCH (continued)

the Great Barrier Reef. Adani plans to build the largest coal mine in Australia. It requires a railway to be built from the mine to Abbot Point port where the coal will be shipped for export. The port requires significant dredging through the reef to provide access for large bulk carrier ships.

This industrialisation of the Great Barrier Reef and increased risks of serious shipping accidents threaten its pristine waters. At this stage, both major political parties prioritise economic growth and jobs, including growth of the coal industry. Governments are also in denial of the science of climate change and the overwhelming evidence that coal and fossil fuels drive climate change. If approved, the Adani mine will unlock the vast coal reserves of the Galilee Basin. This mega mine, rail and port project will produce 7.7 billion tonnes of carbon pollution over its lifetime, which is almost ten times Australia's current annual CO₂ pollution. This massive increase in greenhouse gases will accelerate catastrophic climate change, and flies in the face of Australia's commitments to carbon emission reduction under the Paris Climate Agreement. Strong action is needed to protect the Great Barrier Reef and ensure a safe climate for posterity. Australia must abandon coal and vigorously transition to clean renewable energy.

Colong Bulletin
No. 271 (July 2018)

NPA NSW News

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Tourism, Adam Marshall, to develop a nature-based tourism strategy to 'unlock NSW's multi-billion dollar backyard', and calls on the Government to heed NPA's Forests For All strategy to exit native forest logging on public land and use the forests to promote nature conservation to underpin nature-based tourism. Tourism Australia describes Australia's 'world class nature' as its biggest strength, and Destination NSW research shows that nature-based visitors spent \$18.3 billion in 2016 – with visitor numbers growing consistently.

'We have known for a long time that national parks are one of the biggest attractions pulling visitors out of Sydney and into regional NSW, and we welcome the Government's recognition of nature as fundamental to regional economies', said NPA CEO, Ms Alix Goodwin. 'Just last Wednesday night we launched our 'Forests For All Case for Change' at NSW Parliament. It demonstrates that there is an economically-viable way to

transition away from logging, protect two million hectares of public forests and provide jobs and economic benefits to regional communities, including through nature-based tourism. We must remember that many of our outstanding national parks were only created through dedicated efforts of groups like NPA to protect them from logging or clearing for short-term gain — often hotly contested at the time, but in retrospect the right decision. The dollar figures show that not only are protected areas key to conserving wildlife and landscapes, but the efforts to protect them have paid off providing substantial revenue to NSW on an ongoing basis.

Nature NSW (Winter 2018)

Saving our underwater forests

Australia has lost almost 40% of its native terrestrial forest.

But what is the story underwater? We have forests there too, made up of kelp and other large brown algae. The surface area of oceans on earth is more than twice the area of land, so the processes of photosynthesis, oxygen generation and CO₂ capture in our oceans are as important as those on land.

Recent work by scientists has highlighted the importance of our *Great Southern Reef*, spanning 70,000 km² from northern New South Wales to the southern half of Western Australia. These forests produce up to 65 tonnes of biomass per hectare per year. They are home to unique Australian marine communities, with up to 80% of species found no-where else in the world. Yet these reefs receive less than one tenth the research funding of our coral reef. There is much we don't know about them.

We see declines in kelp densities, overgrowth of kelp by other algae, damage by storms and the expansion of urchin barrens. Whilst robust data sets are scarce, we do have some quantified evidence of loss of kelp forests; up to 95% decline of the grand *Macrocystis* forests of Tasmania and 90% loss of some kelp forests in Western Australia. Studies have found that urchin barrens are more abundant than kelp in some NSW sites, and at the northern edge of NSW kelp forests are declining as fish assemblages become tropicalized.

The growth in urchin barrens is of particular concern. Urchin barrens form when sea urchins – avid consumers of algae – become over-abundant and strip an area bare. Barrens represent an alternate state – once they are established, it is difficult for kelp to reclaim the area, even if the original cause of the barren is removed. Barren-forming urchins, such as the black urchin

Centrostephanus rodgersii, are so adept at scraping the rock surface that even a small number of individuals can maintain the barren.

It's no easy task to prevent the spread of urchin barrens. Urchin larvae benefit from strengthening, warming currents, so tackling climate change is important, but on current trajectories this will take many years. Unsustainable fishing practices also give urchins a free kick, as humans have removed most urchin predators, namely large carnivorous fish and lobsters. Algae have no root system, nor seeds, so we can't plant forests on a large scale like on land.

Despite these challenges, successful projects like Operation Crayweed bring hope (www.operationcrayweed.com). Crayweed forests are being re-established, with a lot of time and care, by planting small patches that become self-sustaining growing populations; but restoring other species like kelp is more difficult. Programs like Reef Explorers (www.reefexplorers.org) provide a focal point for citizen science information, including projects on kelp monitoring, Crayweed restoration and tracking urchin barrens. In a vast ocean, projects such as these will be increasingly important in maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems and ultimately life on earth.

Nature NSW (Winter 2018)

National parks: the preservation of Indigenous heritage

When the subject of protecting indigenous parks is raised, the first response by most people sympathetic to these issues tends to be: Of course! Great idea. National park status for Aboriginal land, however, also brings with it limitations on access and/or usage, even by Traditional Owners. Local initiatives may have to be approved by remote authorities in cities who may not have full knowledge of local circumstances. Employment is subject to state government conditions and budgets are set, again often by authorities remote from the local community.

With the creation of Rinyirru (Lakefield) National Park, Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Lama Lama National Park and Muundhi (Jack River) National Park, there is a lot of support for the concept and practice of incorporation of indigenous land within the traditional national park structure. At face value, this would seem to ensure protection and security for the Aboriginal lands concerned. It also means visitors to these national parks

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PARKWATCH (continued)

can receive interpretive guidance to country and have their experience of the park enriched by awareness of the Traditional Owners.

The advantages of this change is that indigenous people can reassume the role and legal authority for stewardship over portions of land.

There is tension between preservation of conservation values and the rights of Traditional Owners. This tension happens in the same context as the pressure more broadly on all protected areas: between economic demands – the jobs and income that can come from full use of the land and rebalancing the historic lack of opportunity, and the priority to protect the environment for degradation. If Traditional Owners are not partners in conservation decisions we will perpetuate historic unfairness and lose a potential ally in our efforts to protect our precious places.

*Protected (QNPA), Issue 21
(June–August 2018)*

Principles for environmentally sustainable tourism – a starting point

The Tasmanian National Parks Association, along with other Tasmanian Environment Non–Government Organisations, has developed the following set of principles as a basis for developing a framework for environmentally sustainable tourism in Tasmania’s national parks:

- Tourism (and recreation) interests have a responsibility to pass on to future generations Tasmania’s exceptional natural and cultural heritage in no poorer condition than we experience it.
- Wilderness is a diminishing global asset which needs to be protected, not compromised.
- Tourism (and recreational) ventures will be compatible with statutory management plans (and not require ad hoc changes); and will be established and managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- Where facilities can be developed outside the TWWHA and national parks, such facilities and services will not be provided as concessions within the TWWHA or national parks.
- New tourism (and recreational) initiatives will support and commercially contribute to communities living in juxtaposition with National Parks and other protected areas, so that the benefits flow to these communities.
- Tourism (and recreational) initiatives should encourage a mutually beneficial

relationship between tourism operators, rather than a competitive one.

- Assessment of new tourism initiatives will be undertaken in a publicly transparent and accountable manner.

TNPA website, accessed 28 July 2018

Fresh legal challenge to NSW land-clearing codes

The NSW Nature Conservation Council has initiated fresh legal proceedings to overturn environmentally harmful land-clearing codes introduced by the NSW Government in March this year. The council, represented by public interest environmental lawyers EDO NSW, is challenging the codes on two grounds:

- That the Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton failed to properly, genuinely, and realistically consider her decision to agree to the codes being made; and
- That the Environment Minister failed to properly consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development when considering whether to agree to the code being made.

‘If either of these grounds is upheld, it would constitute a significant failure by the Environment Minister and underline the government’s careless disregard for nature in NSW,’ NCC CEO Kate Smolski said. ‘The rushed and potentially unlawful actions of the Environment Minister have put wildlife at risk and undermined the principles of good government in NSW. If our challenge succeeds, we will call on the government to scrap these laws and make new codes that actually protect our threatened species for future generations.’

‘... More than 1000 plant and animal species are at risk of extinction in this state, including the koala and 60 per cent of all our native mammals. Land clearing is the main threat to many of these animals, and the land-clearing codes this government has introduced, potentially unlawfully, are pushing them closer to the brink.’

Nature Conservation Council NSW,
press release, 27 June 2018

The Great Koala National Park

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) has welcomed the renewed commitments around protecting koalas and establishing the Great Koala National Park made by Opposition Leader Luke Foley. Mr Foley committed Labor to protecting remaining koala populations on the north coast in national parks, holding a NSW koala summit and working with farmers, scientists and environment groups to protect native vegetation.

‘We’re really at crisis point. Koala populations have all but disappeared in southern NSW, plummeted in the Pilliga, gone down by 50% on the north coast and are under significant pressure from development in suburban Sydney. We must start taking koala declines seriously,’ said Ms Alix Goodwin, NPA CEO. ‘The drivers are clear: loss of habitat from urban development, logging and clearing, which then renders koalas increasingly vulnerable to dog attacks and vehicle strike because they must spend more time on the ground, and disease because they are increasingly stressed.’

‘The first and most important step is habitat protection — as it is in the conservation of all animals. Unfortunately, the Government has effectively removed habitat protection on private land; released a koala strategy that contained no new protection for koalas and is introducing logging laws that will see almost half of mapped high-quality koala habitat on the north coast subjected to clearfell logging. We simply can’t expect koalas to persist in the face of the current onslaught on their habitat.’

www.npansw.org
accessed 28 June 2018

Compiled by Hazel Rath

Marine parks butchered

In 2012 Australia created the world’s largest marine parks network – a global inspiration. However, in 2013 the new Abbott Government suspended these parks and ordered a ‘review’. Now a butchery of our Marine Parks is proposed by the Federal Government’s new management plans. The scale of these cut backs is unprecedented globally, and will allow destructive industrial fishing and dangerous oil drilling into our precious marine parks.

We were made an election promise that this government wants to flout. We were assured that any changes to our national network of marine sanctuaries would be science-based. These new plans ignore the government’s own independent science review and public opinion.

It’s the biggest rollback in ocean protection Australia’s ever seen, butchering 40 million hectares. This is huge – an area twice that of Victoria. This is equal to cutting half of Australia’s national parks on land – an outrageous step backwards.

Source:

<https://www.marineconservation.org.au/pages/save-our-sanctuaries-australias-marine-parks-under-threat.html>

accessed 4 August 2018

NPA notices



National Parks Association Calendar				
	September	October	November	December
Public holidays	—	Mon 1	—	Tues 25 Wed 26
General meetings	Thurs 20	Thurs 18	Thurs 15	—
Committee meetings	Tues 4	Tues 2	Tues 6	Tues 4
Gudgenby Bush Regeneration ¹	Sat 8	Sat 13	Sat 10	Sat 8 ²
Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage		Sat 13 to Sat 20		
NPA Christmas Party				TBA ³

Further details: **1** GBRG. Meet at Namadgi Visitor Centre 9.15 am.
2 GBRG Christmas Party.
3 NPA Christmas Party; see notice in Outings Program, page 16.

The NPA welcomes

the following new members
 Cynthia Coppock,
 Luke O'Connor,
 Neal Gowan and An Van den
 Borre,
 Julie Hardy,
 Pete Hegarty,
 Doug Brown,
 Linda Groom and Peter Conroy,
 Hannah Conway.
 We look forward to seeing you at
 NPA activities.

This *Bulletin* was prepared by:
 Editors, Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz
 Copyeditor, Ed Highley
 Presentation, Adrienne Nicholson.

Stand Against Extinction

Where: Lawns of Parliament House, Canberra

When: 10th September 2018, 8.30am

Why: Australia is facing a national extinction crisis

*Things do not have to be this way. With strong new laws
 and more resources we can turn things around.*

The *Places You Love* alliance has an ambitious goal for September 10 – to see 2000 people, representing Australia's 2000 threatened species, take a visible public stand against extinction on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra.

We're asking Australians who love our unique wildlife to join us in holding up the banners and placards we are

printing with the names of Australia's growing list of threatened species.

If there is a threatened plant, animal or ecosystem you feel connected to, we'd love you to bring along your own posters, puppets, masks or other visual props that help you take a stand on their behalf.

The *Places You Love* alliance is a broad movement and we are encouraging groups to use the event to highlight the environment and conservation issues they care most about. This can include bringing along props, images and banners to the event and promoting the event to your members, supporters and networks so they too can take a stand on the issues that they are passionate about.

We need your support to help turn out numbers!



Red spot

Subscriptions for 2018–19 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 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

Call for volunteers

At NPA general meetings volunteer members set up the hall and the supper. We need more volunteers for 2018 as the roster is by no means full. Please contact Quentin Moran if you can help.
qmoran@webone.com.au Thank you.



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 2018 issue:
31 October 2018.**

Cover photographs

Front cover

Main photo. Gudgenby Valley from above Hospital Creek
(bushwalk report page 20).

Photo by Ken Free.

Insets. Left. Mushroom Rock, photo opportunity on a walk in
 the Gudgenby Valley *(bushwalk report page 20).* *Photo by Kevin McCue.*

Centre. Those who care need to be heard
(calls for participants pages 3, 8 and above). *Photo by Adrienne Nicholson.*

Right. KNP near The Porcupine
(track proposal page 22). *Photo by Adrienne Nicholson.*

Back cover

Top. Damage caused to a stream by feral horses in Kosciuszko
 National Park; the foreground is outside an exclusion
 fence *(see pages 3 and 8).* *Photo by Dianne Thompson.*

Bottom. How the streams should look; Sams Creek below Mount Kelly,
 Namadgi National Park *(see pages 3 and 8).* *Photo by Max Lawrence.*

General Meetings

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



Thursday 20 September

Collector for ArcGIS

Steve Taylor

Invasive Plants Coordinator with the ACT Government

Steve will talk about an online system called *Collector* which is used for storing the location of weed species in the ACT. He will discuss which weeds are considered important, how they are mapped and how the data get added to the database. Importantly, he will mention the follow-up actions taken to remove the weeds.

Thursday 18 October

Walk the border, ACT

Rod Griffiths

Immediate Past President of NPA ACT

The ACT's border passes through some of the most accessible, and inaccessible, country in order to define the ACT. Join Rod Griffiths for a night of spies, feral horses, endangered species and some great views on the first anniversary of his 21 day, 306 km fund-raising walk around the ACT. Rod's sponsorships raised more than \$20,000 for the Conservation Council of the ACT Region.

Thursday 15 November

Earless Dragons in the ACT

Emily Stringer

Honours student, Australian National University

Emily was sponsored by NPA ACT during her Honours year to investigate the viability of Earless Dragons in the ACT. What are they? Why are they important? How do you actually find and catch them? Then what?

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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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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Email: admin@npaact.org.au

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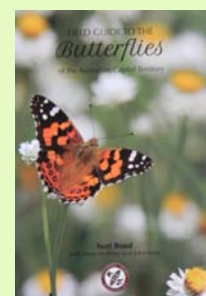
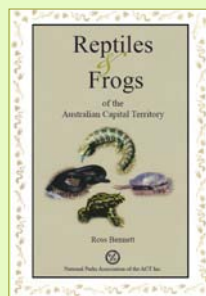
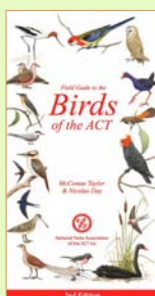
The *NPA Bulletin* accepts advertisements and inserts. Contact the NPA office for information and rates.

Printed by Instant Colour Press, Belconnen, ACT.

ISSN 0727-8837



NPA books available from some bookshops (e.g. ANBG), or contact the association office.



For information on NPA ACT activities, please visit our website <http://www.npaact.org.au> and follow us at www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheAct