



NPA Bulletin



- Aboriginal art decorates new NPA work party trailer
- Scorched sphagnum gets sun protection at Snowy Flat
- Four Mile Hut given a voice in a plea to be rebuilt
- New walking tracks under construction in the High Country

conservation education protection

March 2021 – Volume 58 – Number 1

Contents

From the President	3
<i>Esther Gallant</i>	
Story of the trailer artwork	3
<i>Megan Daley</i>	
From the crucible – the new NPA work party trailer	4
<i>Martin Chalk</i>	
Working in the valley at Gudgenby	5
<i>Kevin McCue</i>	
Report from the Environment Subcommittee	5
<i>Rod Griffiths</i>	
ACT Rangers talk about the recovery in Namadgi	6
<i>Allan Sharp</i>	
John Robert Evans, OAM	7
<i>Brian Slee</i>	
Down the Darling with a paddle (Part 2)	8–12
<i>Mike Bremers</i>	
New member recounts first NPA walk	13
<i>John Geasley</i>	
Work party reports	
Piccadilly Arboretum – removal of pine wildings and other exotics	13
<i>Brian Slee</i>	
Snowy Flat work party – sphagnum bog restoration	14
<i>Michaela Popham</i>	
NPA work party summary – Q4 2020	15
<i>Martin Chalk</i>	
Facebook leads Rosemary Hollow to NPA	15
<i>Allan Sharp</i>	
Outings news	
Short notice outings	16
<i>Mike Bremers</i>	
Emergencies: establishment of a Check-in Officer	16
<i>Mike Bremers</i>	
Perceptions of emergency	16
<i>Barrie Ridgway</i>	
NPA outings program, March – June 2021	17–20
Rewards in the Brindabellas	21
<i>Rupert Barnett</i>	
Bushwalk reports	
Watsons Crags	22–23
<i>Margaret Power</i>	
The Castle and Monolith Valley	24–25
<i>Philip Gatenby</i>	
Aranda Bushland butterfly walk	26
<i>Suzi Bond</i>	
Mullangarri Grasslands	27
<i>Brian Slee</i>	
New walking tracks in the High Country	27
<i>Brian Slee</i>	
Book review	
<i>The Life of a Mountain Hut</i>	28
<i>Stefan De Montis</i>	
Editor's note	28
<i>Brian Slee</i>	
Tyrie Starrs' bird photography	29
<i>Terra Spiritus</i>	29
<i>Gerry Jacobson</i>	
PARKWATCH	30–31
<i>Compiled by Hazel Rath</i>	
Vale Dr David Eugene Pfanner	31
<i>Clive Hurlstone</i>	
Namadgi pictures	31
NPA Bulletin board	32
Meetings and speaker information	33
NPA information	33

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 below).

Deadline for the June 2021 issue:

30 April 2021

Advertising:

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

This issue was prepared by:

Editor: Brian Slee

Copyeditor: Ed Highley

Presentation: Sabine Friedrich

Printed by:

Instant Colour Press, Belconnen, ACT.

ISSN 0727-8837 (printed copy);

ISSN 2209-6256 (digital copy).

Cover photographs:

Front: *Megan Daley's artwork for the decals on NPA's new work party trailer.* Supplied by artist. (See p. 3 for the story of the art.)

Back (top): *Max Smith with view of Jagungal from Watsons Crags, Kosciuszko National Park.* Photo by Mike Bremers. (See p. 22)

Back (bottom): *The Pilot from South Ramshead Range, Kosciuszko National Park.* Photo by Mike Bremers. (See p. 13)

NPA ACT office address:

Unit 14 Lena Karmel Lodge, 26 Barry Drive, Acton, co-located with the Conservation Council. It is staffed by volunteers on an irregular basis.

Messages may be left at any time.

Phone: (02) 6229 3201 or 0429 356 212 (if urgent).

Email: admin@npaact.org.au

Postal address: GPO Box 544, Canberra, ACT 2601

Disclaimer:

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

Early Nancy (male, female), Stoney Creek Nature Reserve. Photos by Rupert Barnett



From the President

Welcome to 2021! We are no doubt all glad for the end of 2020. Despite all the disasters, NPA ACT has flourished this past year. We celebrated our 60th anniversary almost as planned, received many donations, especially for work parties, and had a remarkable surge in membership due to the diligent efforts of Cynthia Burton. Unfortunately, our beloved Namadgi suffered the horrible fate of a second major bushfire in less than 20 years. We will watch and help when needed as the recovery is slowly underway.

The holiday season was busy with two picnics at Namadgi Visitor Centre. The usual Christmas picnic on 13 December was attended by over 30 members and guests. A picnic organised by Kevin McCue on 23 January to launch the new trailer had over 40 participants. The general meeting was online in November and will also be online in February. We hope to meet again at the O'Connor Uniting Church hall in March, COVID-19 restrictions permitting. Watch *Burning Issues* and/or check the website for updates near the date.

The new work party trailer has been a major project funded by our very generous donors to whom we are most grateful. Many thanks to Martin Chalk who was responsible for selection and purchase of the trailer and stocking it with high quality tools. His diligence and attention to detail are much appreciated. The trailer is now adorned with a wonderful painting by local Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri artist Megan Daley who attended the launch celebration (see cover, and below on this page). Our thanks to Namadgi Manager, Brett McNamara, who organised the painting and ACT Parks and Conservation Service which commissioned it (see p. 4).

We received a donation from local professional photographer Ari Rex. Part of the prize for his winning entry in an international photo competition was \$US 1,000 to be directed to a charity of his choice in his home country. Ari does night-time photography and classes in Namadgi so wanted to help with bushfire recovery. We thank Ari for this generous donation.

We now have a new and much greener ACT Legislative Assembly. Congratulatory emails were sent to the eight new MLAs asking for a meeting and suggesting we would be happy to take them on a guided walk in Namadgi. We have now had responses from five, representing all three parties and including the Environment Minister and Shadow Minister. At our meetings each received a Namadgi book and recent *Bulletin*. Discussions were lively and the invitation for a walk accepted by all. Thanks to all the committee members who participated in the meetings and have volunteered for the guided walks.

Your committee continues to plan for the future of NPA ACT with ongoing evaluation of policies and communication channels. We will attempt to continue the momentum in recruitment of new members initiated in the past year. As always, new volunteers are welcome, as are your comments and suggestions.

Esther Gallant



Rod Griffiths, Darren Roso and Esther Gallant



George Heinsohn, Graham and Helen Scully



John Webster, Max Lawrence and Ed Highley. All three photos above taken at NPA Christmas party

Story of the trailer artwork



*Jaimie Vincent, ESA officer, and Megan Daley, artist, with new trailer.
Photo by Sabine Friedrich*

The goannas are to represent the discovery of the Rosenberg's Goanna down in this area.

Black leaves are running through the background to represent the fire season and the drought we had earlier in 2020.

In the centre is a community coming together, in particular the National Parks Association team. The centre colours also reflect renewal and regrowth.

The two wave panels up either side are to represent waterways but are filled in with other colours of the earth.

The orange panel running from the centre is also to represent the pattern of cracked bark and how it looks when new growth starts to show underneath.

The red background is to represent the smoky skies and red dust.

*Megan Daley
Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri artist*

Martin Chalk, Clive Hurlstone, Doug Brown and Chesley Engram



From the crucible – the new NPA work party trailer

As the horrors of the Orroral Fire of early 2020 inexorably morphed into the sustained threat from COVID-19, the NPA work party program was put on hold. During the subsequent period of stasis, work was underway within the NPA to respond to offers of help from the community to assist with rehabilitation of the fire damage. NPA membership grew as a consequence and so did its body of volunteers.

Also in this period a substantial donation was offered to the NPA to help with the rehabilitation of Namadgi. After a period of examination, an appropriate use for these and other funds offered by NPA members was identified. The tool trailer project was born. As the Work Party Coordinator, the task of managing the project was offered to the author. Life is full of closing and opening doors that are seemingly choreographed!

So I began the search for a 'tradie' style trailer, and a firm that could manufacture one at a time of multiple lockdowns. I contacted the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) where a helpful fire officer showed me their highly durable Community Fire Unit trailer, which I had noticed parked in Fadden, plus others, all of which had been built by Dean Trailers, Bowral. Their products, and their willingness to add bespoke features, had impressed the fire officer. Following a period of refinement of the features needed in an NPA trailer, which included maximising its



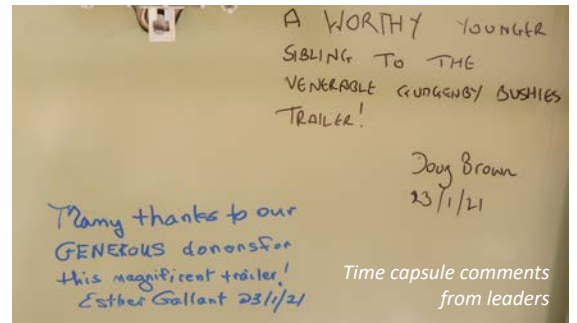
Bruce Boreham, Martin Chalk, Kevin McCue and Chris Emery

ground clearance and using a torsion bar-style suspension to reduce the need for maintenance of leaf springs, the Dean quote was accepted on 23 August.

With the trailer under construction, the next task was filling its cavernous proportions with tools and equipment. Armed with a shopping list (shovels, mattocks, loppers, saws, secateurs, wire-cutters), I did the rounds of hardware stores only to find that stocks were fast diminishing as a result of the pandemic. It was not until mid-January 2021 that the last purchases were made.

ground clearance and using a torsion bar-style suspension to reduce the need for maintenance of leaf springs, the Dean quote was accepted on 23 August.

In addition to tools, there was also a need for items such as personal protective equipment, herbicide and applicators, a spill kit for those (rare) occasions when the herbicide 'escapes', hygiene equipment, a wheel brace, tyre pump and a first-aid kit. The last item, once purchased, was found not to fit the space allocated but Dean's modified the trailer shelf so that it does.



When it came to the finishing touches for the trailer, I opted for a shade and tone of olive green similar to that seen as the masthead colour on the *NPA Bulletin* from 2008–19. The NPA accepted a suggestion from the Manager, Namadgi National Park, Brett McNamara, that Indigenous artwork be incorporated into the trailer. I was assisted by the ESA Public Information and Engagement Officer, Jaimie Vincent, who had previously undertaken a similar task for two ESA fire trucks. She conducted the entire artwork procurement and decal production process, something for which I was very grateful.

Aboriginal artist, Megan Daley, painted the artwork. Installation of the decals took place 21–22 December at Screenmakers, Queanbeyan. The trailer was now complete and awaiting its 'début' at Namadgi Visitor Centre on 23 January 2021.

*Martin Chalk
Work Party Coordinator*

From left to right: Mark and Rosemary Hollow, Fiona MacDonald Brand, Brett McNamara, Brian Slee and Clive Hurlstone. All photos by Sabine Friedrich



Working in the valley at Gudgenby

Hazel Rath cutting the cake. Photo by Kevin McCue

The Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group's second work party since the January 2020 bushfires, and COVID-19, closed most of Namadgi National Park was the prologue to our Christmas lunch at Gudgenby Cottage on Saturday, 12 December.

The morning's weeding party, led by Doug Brown, ventured up Gudgenby River, south of Gudgenby Homestead, to an area known to be infested with hawthorn in previous years. The fire had consumed almost everything: vegetation was reduced to ash, including a tree housing the low-level nest of a Wedge-tailed Eagle. Yet the hawthorn persists, suckering from many of the charred bases. We worked in dense, waist-high grass and flowering plants; Bulbine Lilies in great splendour.

Patches of healthy trees, spared by the fires, were being mobbed by hawthorns, cherry trees, blackberries, briars and mahonia, flourishing after the drenching spring rains. No end of toil for work party participants!

Doug led the fourteen members from behind, behind the scenes that is, organising the agenda with PCS and the lunch with Hazel and Sylvia. The valley looked splendid, green and lush, lots of tall native grasses including Kangaroo Grass waving in the wind, water cascading down the river. A thin Brown Snake minding its own business caused excitement as it passed between two of the workers, a surprisingly rare but wonderful encounter.



In past years the Christmas party has largely been catered by members bringing a plate of food to share. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Hazel and Sylvia organised a prepared lunch of homemade sandwiches, espresso coffee and truly delicious homemade cakes. As master of ceremonies, Doug outlined prospects for the 2021 work program. He was applauded for keeping GBRG alive and together in a difficult year, and for working with PCS to transfer historical records to the ACT Heritage Library. Hazel and Sylvia were also warmly thanked for all their work in provisioning the Christmas party. Gratitude was also expressed to the Parks Service for permitting access to the cottage.

Kevin McCue

Report from the Environment Subcommittee

It was great to have the first Environment Subcommittee meeting for the year in February. Already there are lots of things to be involved in. A key concern will be continued monitoring of the rehabilitation of Namadgi National Park. Parks and Conservation are doing important work on weed and feral animal control in the park so there should be some good news stories coming through after 2020's devastating bushfires.

The first submission for 2021 will be in response to the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary draft strategy. The sanctuary plays an important research and conservation role in the ACT: the draft strategy sets out key objectives. Submissions close 4 March so keep your eyes peeled for the NPA's submission, which will appear on our social media sites.



The subcommittee will also be involved in lobbying on behalf of the environment where there are proposals to build new mountain bike facilities in the ACT's conservation reserves. And the NPA will continue the process of updating its policies and look at opportunities to raise community awareness and lobby on key biodiversity matters through position papers.

If you are interested in any of the above matters, or environmental matters affecting biodiversity in the ACT region, the subcommittee would love to hear from you. Contact subcommittee convener on 0410 875 713 or rod.blackdog@gmail.com.

Rod Griffiths

Mulligans Flat wetland (NPA 2020 photo comp, 3rd prize Box-gum woodlands: the big picture). Photo by Tom Corra



Glendale turns green. Photo by Daniel Charron

ACT Rangers talk about the recovery in Namadgi

As Namadgi National Park gradually reopens following the devastating Orroral Valley fire that began 27 January 2020 and destroyed 80 per cent of the park, Allan Sharp talked to rangers who aired their sense of loss but also their resilience and optimism as they work to restore the park.

Wade Young

Ranger-in-charge, Wade Young, said seeing any bushfire destroy natural and protected habitat is soul destroying. 'But this fire was even more so due to the knowledge that, given the interval between this and the 2003 fires, many of the ecosystems would be in for major change, and for some, permanent removal,' he said.



Wade Young. All photos supplied

Asked if he felt overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task of restoring the park after the fire, Wade said he was not just thinking of his own burden of work around the recovery program, but of his team's as well. 'The Rapid Risk Assessment Team that was engaged early in the piece developed a prioritised plan for recovery that provided a great relief in terms of direction and allocating resources. You'd be surprised how having a plan alleviates stress and anxiety. I never felt like giving up – not at all.'

Wade said he was fortunate to work with a motivated and driven team of

professionals. 'I recall turning up to work in the early days after the fire and not seeing anyone – they were already out in the field either fixing things or collecting information on damaged infrastructure. The team was eager to make the best of the situation and do whatever was possible to assist with the park's recovery.'

While fire recovery work takes priority, day-to-day operations, such as weed and pest control, infrastructure maintenance and works planning continue. As well as coordinating the ranger team, Wade is also the bogs

and fens recovery project coordinator, working with the team to restore the sphagnum bogs that were damaged in the fires. The bogs underpin much of Canberra's water supply.

'We have been structuring the recovery work and working with some experienced people in developing the Bogs and Fens Recovery Plan, as well as managing the Commonwealth funding and reporting that was sourced to facilitate the recovery work. And all while COVID-19 played an active role in our lives.'

Nick Thorne

Ranger Nick Thorne's introduction to Namadgi could be described as a baptism by fire. Nick, whose work includes 2 years as a conservation ranger in Sherwood Forest, England, joined the team at Namadgi just 2 months before the Orroral Valley fire. 'I only got to see the park in all its glory for a short time,' said Nick. 'I remember driving around just after the fires feeling down. Only after the tinge of green and the new shoots started reappearing did I realise that there had been no life in the park after the fires.'

Nick, whose area is responsible for the heavily burnt



Nick Thorne

Naas Valley, says his main work continues to be 'doing the basics' on weed and vertebrate pest control, and ensuring fire trails are safe and accessible. 'I was unlucky in that two huts, Demanding and Max and Berts, were burnt on my patch. I'm liaising with ACT Heritage and Kosciuszko Huts Association on how to move forward.'

Dylan Saunders

Newcomer Dylan Saunders has been a ranger at Namadgi for about 4 months. Although not at Namadgi during the fires and the immediate recovery period, he describes seeing the devastation at first hand as 'a significant feeling'. 'To watch such a beautiful area of the ACT swallowed in fire and realise that it may change ecological communities forever is a realisation that I had to come to,' he said.

Dylan Saunders



Since starting work at Namadgi he has been involved in cutting down dangerous trees along walking tracks and fire trails, and managing invasive weeds that established since the fire. 'My main priority now is focusing on making the valley safe for the public to enjoy the recreational activities that the park provides.'

The future

Wade talks of the sense of achievement among rangers when parts of the park reopened midway through last year. 'We were rapt to get loads of positive feedback from people who stayed at our campgrounds as well as those who walked on our reopened tracks,' he said. 'As the Senior Ranger, Nathan Kay has taken the lead in implementing roll out of the on-ground works associated with the bogs recovery. We got some drone imagery of a couple of bog sites part-way through the year, after we had installed some water-retention measures. To see wetted soils behind the devices was amazing. And now, with all the rain we have had, the grass is growing and looking fantastic – something that didn't happen after the 2003 fires.'

While signs of Namadgi's recovery from the 2020 fires are cause for optimism, the overall larger threat of climate change with the prospect of further fires and major ecological change looms. Nevertheless, Wade and his team believe their work can continue to contribute to the protection of the park's unique environment. 'Mother Nature will always respond in whatever way she can,' says Wade, 'but I am a firm believer that we have the knowledge and ability to assist her, having seen it done many times over. We have the power to degrade the environment, that's for sure. I would like to think that if we are able to do that, we have an obligation as users of this planet to protect and repair it as well.'

For newcomer Dylan, it is a matter of focusing on the priorities and steps needed to ensure the park recovers, 'things like keeping on top of invasive flora and fauna that inhabit the area, for example. If we continue to do so, I feel that Namadgi will come back stronger than ever'.

Despite the devastation from the fires and the sometimes seemingly overwhelming current and future challenges confronting the Namadgi rangers, working there can be summed up in a word coined by Nick: Namagical!

Allan Sharp

Convener of the NPA Promotion and Outreach Subcommittee

John Robert Evans, OAM

John Evans is a familiar name to any NPA member who has an interest in bushwalking, particularly through his comprehensive, nay, encyclopaedic, website 'Johnny Boy's Walkabout Blog' www.johnevans.id.au which covers the subject in the ACT, many parts of NSW and points further afield where John has travelled. We have enjoyed his company on his first explorations of the High Country on snowshoes, and, together with Max Smith, I reached the peak of Tasmania's Frenchmans Cap with John in 2015.

He has now been honoured in the 2021 Australia Day Honours with the Medal (OAM) in the General Division 'For service to bushwalking, and to the community'. It is quite a milestone for someone who came late to bushwalking, beginning in 2004. Most of his organised walking has been with Canberra Bushwalking Club and, using his increasing experience and his delight in the latest gadgets, he has created the aforesaid blog with free access to all. The website is in temporary abeyance while John regains his strength after cancer treatment. We expect to share years of bushwalking with him well into the future.

Congratulations, John.

Brian Slee

John at the Paralyser trig. Photo by Mike Bremers





Down the Darling with a paddle

Burtundy Weir. All photos by Mike Bremers

In the last issue of the Bulletin, Mike Bremers described his 2020 kayak journey down the Darling River from Brewarrina to Tilpa, a distance of 580 km, which took 3 weeks. The epic journey continues here to its conclusion in Wentworth.

Tilpa to Wilcannia

Upon leaving the village of Tilpa, where I had picked up 10 days of food for the 272 km paddle to Wilcannia, I was feeling apprehensive. I did not expect to see another human on most of those days and it would be the longest stretch of paddling I had ever done. Long distance paddling is as much a psychological challenge as a physical challenge. The enormity of the journey gets to you. The day after leaving Tilpa, Wilcannia seemed a long way away. What made it worse was the thought that Wilcannia is then only halfway down the Darling. Would I be sick of paddling? However, these doubts did not persist. Over the course of the next day or two there were

brilliant sunrises, I camped near a magnificent canoe tree and I saw a good variety of birdlife from Sea Eagles to the ever present Black-fronted Dotterels. I was especially excited to encounter flocks of budgies. They were difficult to see but their chatter brightened the day. On the fifth day I reached the Coach and Horses Campground in Paroo–Darling National Park: other campers were present and good mobile phone reception connected me to the outside world just in time for Father’s Day.

Ever since Brewarrina, feral goats had been very common, apart from the notable exception of Paroo–Darling National Park. Feral pigs were observed over the first 4 weeks but not in great numbers. The weather started to warm-up with several days in the low thirties. My usual routine was to start paddling by 8 am and keep going more or less continuously until I found a campsite between 1 and 2 pm. On warm days it was desirable to find a beach facing east so that the trees on the bank behind would begin to shade my tent. I would then have a relaxing afternoon – sometimes even napping. Two days before arriving at Wilcannia I passed the Paroo River junction. The Paroo looked like a dry creek bed but it must be a very old river considering the depth of the channel.

It was another hot day when I arrived at Warrawong, just upstream of Wilcannia. I had to carry my gear a few hundred metres to the room where I was staying. Several trips in the hottest part of the day left me dehydrated. I had completed the section from Tilpa in 8 days instead of 9, so elected to have an extra rest

Steep banks, lower Darling





Scar tree

day at Warrawong. Wilcannia, 850 km downstream of Brewarrina, marked my halfway point. It was once the third busiest port in NSW but now struggles to survive. There are many historic buildings in town, a cultural centre is due to be built and with its Indigenous culture I can see a bright future in tourism. The mobile coffee trailer was doing good business and the wildflowers around town were beautiful.

Wilcannia to Nelia Gaari

The 6 days it took to paddle the 198 km from Wilcannia to Nelia Gaari Station could be broken into two halves. This first was characterised by great sandy beaches for camping. The second featured water backed up for 200 km by Lake Wetherell near Menindee, creating a deeper, wider river but without sandy beaches. I was still able to find great campsites, although on one occasion had to settle for a site with too much slope for a good night's sleep and there was a dead goat in the water just metres away. Fortunately it did not smell.

A highlight of the whole trip was the reflections I usually saw in the first hour of paddling. Arthur Upfield, who travelled down the Darling in a row boat and went on to write the Bony series of novels, captures it perfectly with his description of the Darling as 'marked by the avenue of stately and ancient red-gums nearly two thousand miles in length'.

I had another rest day at Nelia Gaari, enjoying the wonderful hospitality of Greg and Lily, especially welcome after not having seen

anyone for 5 days. Greg and Lily supplement their income by operating a farm-stay where travellers come and camp along the river, with facilities such as toilets and showers being provided. They and other tourist operations along the river had been very busy since regional travel resumed in early June.

Nelia Gaari to Menindee

The 4 day, 110 km journey from Nelia Gaari Station was rather eventful. Severe storms were forecast for the second day so I decided to do a big first day and find a good campsite in which to ride out the storm on day 2. This went to plan with a 47 km paddle on day 1. The campsite was well drained and skies cleared late on day 2 for a beautiful sunset. Early on the third day I strained my back while loading the kayak. Fortunately, I could still paddle okay. Then the expected 30 km paddle down the river and across Lake Wetherell to the regulator turned out to be about 37 km



Mike at Wentworth.
Photo by Christine Bremers



Afternoon reflections on lower Darling

because the lake is basically confined to the meandering river channel until the final 2 km – unlike what is shown on the map. Things improved on the fourth day with a brilliant sunrise and an easy portage around the regulator. My back was recovering such that I could walk upright! On arrival at Menindee, I was greeted by Kevin Frawley from Canberra for two rest days in Broken Hill. Accommodation in Menindee was booked out but before leaving we had lunch at historic Maidens Hotel where Burke and Wills stayed in 1860.

Menindee to Bindara

Menindee marked the start of the last third of the journey, 530 km from the Murray River. The Darling below Menindee Lakes is a controlled river. Water was being released at about 200 ML/day but just before my arrival it had increased to 400 ML/day and would stay at that level till January. The extra release was to encourage Murray Cod to breed after the devastating fish die-offs in early 2019. The additional water was also going to benefit me. It would increase the depth by

about 20 cm which in some places would make the difference between paddling and having to drag the kayak through shallows. I had also decided I would need to swap kayaks. The Hobie had performed well but with shallower conditions I knew I would not be pedalling much. If I had to paddle most of the time then my fibreglass sea kayak would be more suitable. Additionally, it is only half the weight of the Hobie so portages would be easier. I would quickly come to appreciate having swapped kayaks, made possible thanks to Kevin who had driven to Menindee the long way to avoid flooded roads.

I covered the 94 km from Menindee to Bindara Station in four relatively easy days. Weir 32, just downstream of Menindee, required portaging and strong, cold headwinds ensured that paddling was not easy. Once past the weir the river returns to a



Snaggy section of river



Sunrise before hot day near Pooncarie



relatively narrow, snaggy, shallow channel with high, steep banks. Recent rain caused havoc with mail deliveries. My food parcel had not arrived at Bindara but fortunately turned up soon after. It would not have been a complete disaster if it had not arrived: during the whole trip I had carried a 5 day emergency supply and had leftovers from other days. Also, Barb at Bindara cooked lovely roasts which I enjoyed before heading to Pooncarie, 200 km down the river.

Bindara to Pooncarie

During the 6 days it took to paddle from Bindara Station to Pooncarie the weather became hot, with temperatures in the high 30s. Flies and mosquitoes were becoming a real nuisance. On hot days there were signs of blue-green algae

and treated river water was tasting earthy. I started to see more people camping or fishing. On my first night I camped at Great Darling Anabranch. It looks just like a dry creek bed but has been returned to an ephemeral system with the removal of weirs etc. Apparently, monitoring has shown a strong initial ecological response to restoration of the Anabranch. One of the highlights of this section was the wreck of the paddle steamer *Rodney* which was burnt during a shearer's strike in 1894. The remains look like the skeleton of a fish poking out of the water.

Pooncarie to Wentworth

The 242 km section from Pooncarie to Wentworth took 7 days and included three weirs to be negotiated. The river ranged from shallow and snaggy below Burtundy Weir to wide and deep for the final 100 km due to water backed up by Weir 10 on the Murray River at Wentworth. The final 2 days were a shock. After being in remote areas for such a long time there were frequent signs of civilisation, with houses along most reaches of the river.



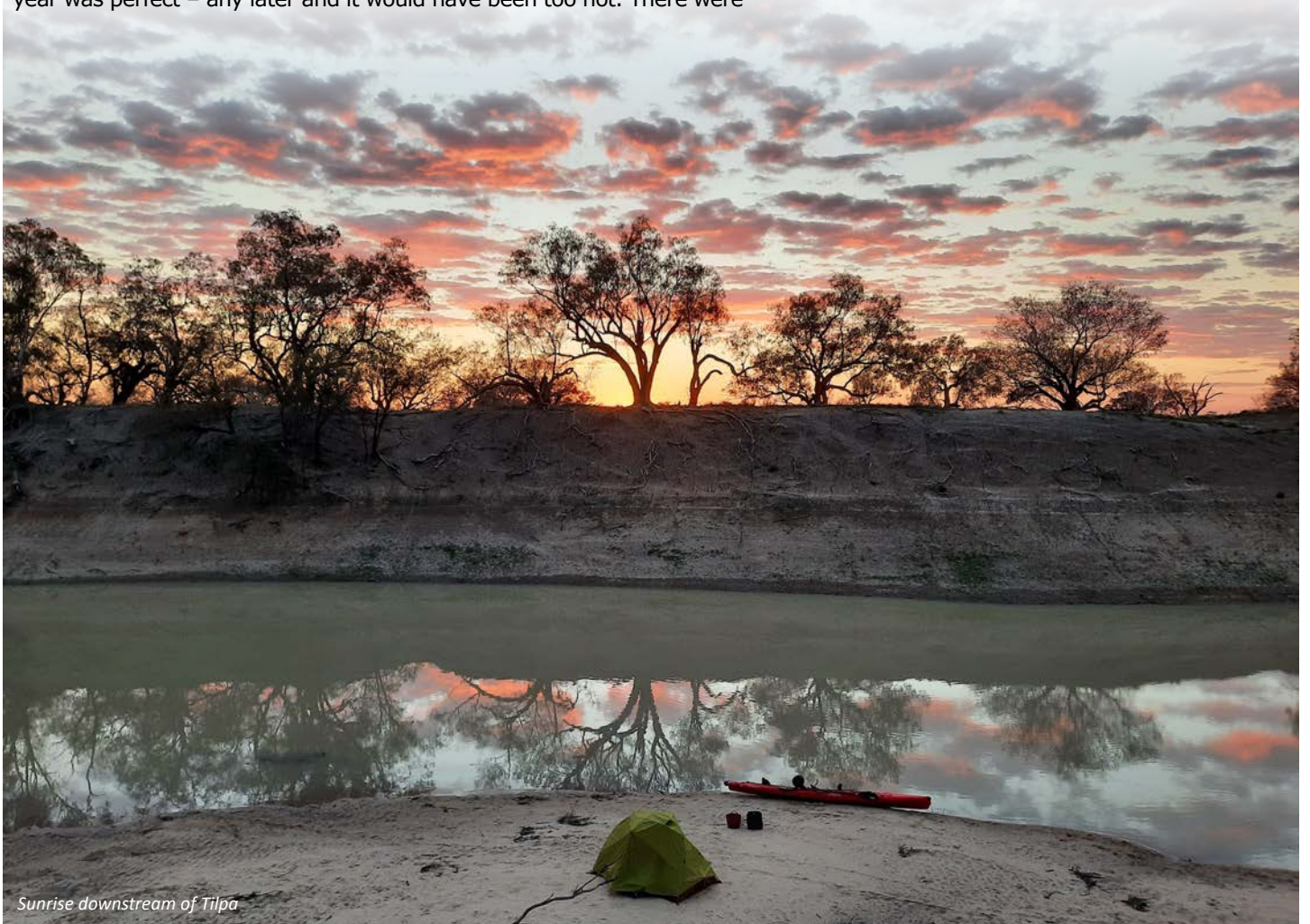


Morning view from tent, third last day

Having set out from Brewarrina on 11 August, I arrived at Wentworth on 14 October, 65 days and 1,693 km later, to be met by my wife Christine who had been my lifeline sending supplies throughout the journey. Overall, the journey went as well as could have been hoped for. River levels were ideal, an infrequent occurrence on the Darling. The time of year was perfect – any later and it would have been too hot. There were

no major medical or health problems; not even a bandaid or aspirin was used. The logistics worked perfectly, food supplies all arrived in time. It had been the trip of a lifetime.

Mike Bremers



Sunrise downstream of Tilpa

NPA people

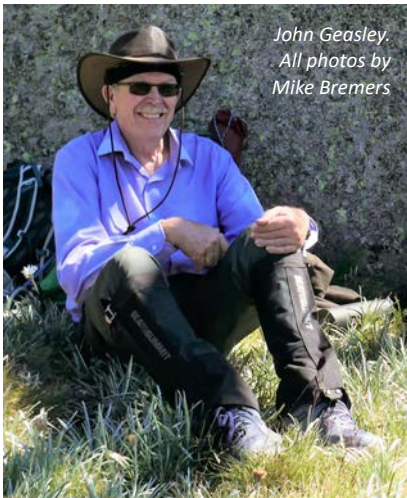
New member recounts first NPA walk

John Geasley became a member of NPA in 2020. He joined Mike Bremers' day walk to South Ramshead peak on 9 January 2021. This is his account of the experience.

My first walk with NPA was something very special. I was excited to look over Kosciuszko National Park, see Mount Kosciuszko in the distance, and enjoy this special place with my bushwalking companions, Mike, Margaret and Stephen.

Reaching South Ramshead was an achievement; it had started with a love of the outdoors and climbing various peaks around Canberra during the lockdown when gyms had been closed and for me an alternative needing to be explored. I had taken to trail running, walking and climbing. I set myself a challenge to complete the Mount Stromlo Running Festival 10 km trail. My training involved the exploration, during autumn and winter, of Mulligans Flat and mounts Ainslie, Majura, Painter and Taylor. This led to the next challenge of joining the NPA to meet others with a similar interest to improve my understanding of our unique landscape.

I felt confident I could tackle the South Ramshead walk and was surprised at Mike's caution about accepting me as a participant. Sharing my journey appeased his uncertainty. As we



*John Geasley.
All photos by
Mike Bremers*

started the climb, I appreciated his caution as it was relentless. The climb for me was not easy, but I was very happy that I had been consistently training over the previous 8 months. Reaching the summit above Dead Horse Gap, although demanding, was achievable, and I was encouraged by a canvas of textures, colours, shapes and forms unique to the Australian Alps (see back cover, bottom photo).

The sculptured landscapes of rocks, boulders and peaks were breathtaking and wonderful to see. The wildflowers, though not numerous at this time of year, encouraged thoughts of future visits into this unspoilt landscape. The trees, many of which had been scarred by previous fires in the recent and distant past, were left with grey hues reaching the heavens.

The walk was steady and Mike's interest in photographing the landscape gave me added confidence that this was not a race to the summit. I appreciated Mike's suggestion to bring gaiters and a mat to sit on. To my surprise, the mat was a shower curtain, effective in keeping ants at bay and most of all, light to carry. I also benefitted from a friend's suggestion to take walking poles, which were invaluable on the descent.

The opportunity to stop and rest provided time to re-energise and get to know my companions and admire nature's canvas. Their congratulations on reaching the summit was a highlight of the day and will always be a treasured memory. I look forward to more walks and adventures with fellow members of the NPA.

John Geasley



High Country insects

Work party report

Piccadilly Arboretum – removal of pine wildings and other exotics

Date: 28 November 2020

NPA last visited this location in 2014 when 311 pines, 16 birches and 8 other deciduous trees were cut down. On this work party the tally was:

111 *Pinus radiata* (a few were pull-outs but most were 5–10 cm diameter, largest 20 cm and 5 metres high)

1 unknown species of conifer (2 metres high)

6 birches (up to 4 metres; some were regrowths from previous loppings)

7 other deciduous trees (beeches? with multiple trunks, up to 6 metres; all regrowths, with suckering, from pollarded trees which had subsequently also been lopped).

Five volunteers met at Dillon Close, Weston, at 8:15 am and collected a radio and key from ranger Liz Collier at Murrumbidgee Depot on the way to Mount Franklin Road, just south of Piccadilly Circus. The lock was rusted shut and required a squirt of WD-40 to budge it open before we parked at the edge of the old arboretum. None of the area driven through had been burnt in January 2020.

From 9:30 am to 12:20 pm we searched the locality from where most of the above listed trees were removed. The deciduous trees were treated with glyphosate. A few pines were removed from the area bordering the western and north-western boundaries of the arboretum.

After lunch we spent half an hour scouting along the northern boundary to the valley on the eastern side and returning via the centre and southern boundary to check what remained but found only eight pines, all included in the above tally.

Lovely orchids were sighted and numerous birds called. We finished at 1:40 pm. The sky was partly cloudy, temperatures mild and winds moderate (despite forecast) but we finished at a good time as a wet and gusty squall blew through at 3 pm, by which time most of us were tucking into afternoon tea at 'Morning Dew', Denman Prospect.

Thank you Rupert Barnett, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue and Michaela Popham for your very satisfying efforts. Thanks also to Martin Chalk and Liz Collier for assistance with organisation. Rupert has since discovered a large remnant pine wilding but it is unlikely the arboretum will need to be revisited by a full work party during the next 3 years.

Brian Slee

Snowy Flat work party – sphagnum bog restoration



Snowy Flat. All photos by Brian Slee

Snowy Flat Creek flows down the eastern slope of Mount Gingera (1,850 m) and meanders for a couple of kilometres through a subalpine peatland bog (1,600 m), from which the creek gets its name, before completing its 7 km journey at Corin Dam.

In November 2020, NPA was contacted by ACT Parks and Conservation (PCS) about the possibility of doing a one-off work party assisting them with bushfire recovery work in Namadgi at Snowy Flat, which was badly burnt in the Orroral Valley bushfire early in that year. The work involved erecting shade cloth covers to provide protection for the sphagnum moss that was still alive. For a detailed description of the role played by sphagnum moss in protecting peatlands and, ultimately, Canberra's water supply, see 'ACT Peatlands' by Geoffrey Hope, *NPA Bulletin* December 2018, p. 6. Also 'Nature's sponge' by Brett McNamara, *NPA Bulletin* June 2020, p. 12.

On 18 December 10 volunteers were available for the work party. After meeting Ranger Riko Ahlers and three other Parks staff at Murrumbidgee Depot we proceeded to the Mount Ginini locked gate on Mount Franklin Road where we had a briefing on the work required and the site involved. We were not going to have to locate the unburnt sphagnum as this had already been done, we would just be erecting the covers. Unfortunately, PCS had been unable to source sufficient shade cloth to complete the whole site, so we would start at the southern end of Snowy Flat and cover as many patches as we could.

After arriving at the southern end and disinfecting our boots we got to work in groups of 2–3. We were able to install all 46 covers available by attaching each corner to a long stake forced into the squelchy ground. The resulting appearance was referred to as 'Bandaid Flat' by Martin Chalk. As we had finished earlier than expected, after lunch Riko led a walk comprising most of the group up Mount Gingera. Despite the damage caused by the fire, much new growth was evident and the wildflowers were particularly lovely.

Thanks go to Russell Ayres, Rupert Barnett, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue, Adrienne Nicholson, Terrylea Reynolds, Brian Slee, Mike Smith and Ryan Wilson for their enthusiastic participation.

A second work party was scheduled to finish the job in January but has been postponed to a later date.

Michaela Popham

Left: Speedwell among Stellaria

*Right top: Ranger Nick from France
Right middle: Ryan Wilson, Sonja Lenz
Right bottom: Russell Ayres, Kevin McCue*



NPA work party summary – Q4 2020

Month	Activity	Agency	Participants
October (<i>held in November due to rain</i>)	Briar control on ridge above Glendale. Heavily infested area had been burnt in January. All standing, burnt canes were checked and regrowths treated with glyphosate/metsulfuron mix. Good rain had promoted small briars in the groundcover and these were also treated. 100+ briars treated overall. To be revisited November 2021.	PCS	9
November	Piccadilly Arboretum exotic control. 111 <i>Pinus radiata</i> , 1 unknown conifer, 6 birch and 7 other deciduous trees removed. To be revisited in 4 years.	PCS	5
December	Snowy Flat sphagnum recovery. 46 shade cloth covers installed to protect sphagnum moss recovering after fire. 50–60 more shade cloths to be done. This was an extra-ordinary work party arranged at PCS request.	PCS	10

Martin Chalk

NPA people

Facebook leads Rosemary Hollow to NPA

When she retired from the public service, Rosemary Hollow was looking for new interests to add to an already busy life. She was familiar with the NPA, having encouraged her mother-in-law to join the Ulladulla branch 20 years ago when her in-laws moved to the coast. Rosemary regularly read *Nature NSW*, the NPA NSW bulletin. In early 2020 she saw the NPA ACT Facebook posts.

A bushwalker for over 30 years, Rosemary has also taught cross-country skiing and worked as an outdoor guide in Tasmania. But it is NPA's lobbying work that particularly interests her. With a PhD in cultural heritage and a long career working in environment and heritage for the Tasmanian and Australian governments, Rosemary thought she might be able to make a useful contribution. So she signed up.

NPA ACT vice president Cynthia Burton saw how Rosemary's background in cultural heritage could be an asset, and after an initial chat referred her to president Esther Gallant. Between them, Esther and

Cynthia persuaded Rosemary to take on the role of convener of the Cultural Heritage Subcommittee.

In her short time as an NPA member, Rosemary has already made a significant contribution, assisting with submissions into the preservation or restoration of Namadgi huts destroyed or damaged in the 2020 fires (see *NPA Bulletin* December 2020, pp. 10–11).

In the 1990s she worked at Port Arthur and regards the historic convict penal colony as an

outstanding example of cultural heritage preservation, despite the challenges it faces. 'It balances the need to protect and present not just convict heritage but more contemporary heritage, and even with increasing visitor numbers it still manages to do it very well', she said.

Rosemary believes Australia could be doing much more to protect its cultural heritage and says we have an 'appalling record' when it comes to preserving Indigenous cultural heritage. She is also concerned that national parks and historic reserves still do not have the profile they deserve and consequently are still subject to regular funding cuts.

Her 3 years of teaching the ethics and philosophy of heritage, mostly to second- and third-year students at the University of Canberra, gives her hope for the future. 'There are a lot of good students out there who are as committed to managing the protection of our cultural heritage as those who have been doing it for a long time', she said.

Rosemary believes NPA needs to capitalise on this enthusiasm by 'marketing' to these younger people. 'We don't necessarily need to bring them into NPA initially, but we need to be setting up links with them so that they know about us and the work we do', she said. 'The photography competition was a fantastic way of doing this and has set NPA up to run it again – even perhaps as an annual event. Maybe we could look at getting some of the winners involved in organising the next one.'

As convener of the Cultural Heritage Subcommittee, Rosemary hopes to educate people about the importance of cultural heritage and to place more emphasis on Indigenous heritage, including inviting Indigenous speakers to address general meetings and organising Indigenous-themed walks.

Allan Sharp



Rosemary on Tate Ridge, Kosciuszko NP, 2020. Photo by Mark Hollow

Short notice outings

A system of short notice outings has been introduced. See **NPA Bulletin board**, p. 32.

Emergencies: establishment of a Check-in Officer

It recently came to the Outings Subcommittee's attention that the NPA ACT does not have an emergency contact. Other walking clubs have an emergency number for initial contact by concerned family members in the case of the late return of a walking party. It has been decided to rectify the situation with the creation of a NPA Check-in Officer.

Since all outings will either be within mobile phone range and/or the leader, at least, will be carrying a personal locator beacon (PLB), it is expected that enquiries to the Check-in Officer will be rare. The main function is envisaged to be to allay the fears of family or friends of walkers in instances of late returns, and to monitor the situation (i.e. if necessary, inform the police).

It will be good practice for the leader, at the end of an outing in a remote area, to contact the Check-in Officer. This will allow remote area activities to be monitored in case of a delayed return of a group and, depending on the circumstances, the possibility of informing the police.

Check-in contact details for emergencies will be updated on the NPA website under the 'Contact Us' tab. As of March 2021, details are:

Check-in Officer (Mike Bremers): 0428 923 408,
mcbremers@gmail.com, outings@npaact.org.au

Alternative Check-in Officer (Brian Slee): 6281 0719,
brianslee@iprimus.com.au

On behalf of NPA, Brian records attendances for each outing. Leaders email him a copy of the attendance form sometime after the walk. Perhaps the easiest way to implement a check-in system would be for leaders to send the attendance form to Brian and myself as soon as possible after the walk. This could be done by photographing the form with a mobile phone and emailing it to both of us. Alternatively, a text message to me that the walk has completed safely would suffice, with the attendance form sent to Brian at a later time.

In order to streamline the process for checking-in, I suggest the following:

- Leaders of outings conducted in areas with good mobile phone coverage **do not** need to check-in at the completion of an outing. They should still send the attendance form to Brian at a convenient time.
- Leaders of outings conducted in remote areas ('remote' meaning no comprehensive phone coverage), **should check-in** as soon as practicable after the completion of a walk.
- Leaders of outings in remote areas must carry a PLB or equivalent emergency beacon. The NPA has a PLB available for loan (contact Brian Slee as above).
- Checking-in could simply be a text message to the Check-in Officer (attendance form sent at a later time) or, as soon as practicable, be done by emailing the attendance sheet to both the Check-in Officer and Alternative Check-in Officer with a note that the walk has been completed.
- The Check-in Officer may contact the leader if the leader fails to check-in. In cases of emergency the assumption will be that the leader will activate the PLB.
- If an outing is cancelled for any reason, the leader should inform the Check-in and Alternative Check-in officers.
- Before the start of outings in remote areas, the leader should include the Check-in Officer in the email to participants with the final details. This means that the Check-in Officer knows the meeting point, travel arrangements and the participants.

Mike Bremers

Perceptions of emergency

With the establishment of a NPA Check-in Officer, it might be useful to allay needless anxiety among family and friends of those participating in outings by considering some of the 'facts' about bushwalking and fostering an appreciation of what is involved.

There are many factors which might delay a party, including injury, weather, ill-health, unexpected obstacles and density of the scrub. People do twist or break ankles or become unwell. On the walk, there might be a person who is very slow (and perhaps therefore should not be there), and this will significantly alter the speed of the party and the intended finish time. These are all factors over which a leader has little control. They might mean a return home many hours late, or darkness overtakes the party which is then out all night. Delayed returns are often likely when a walk is designated as exploratory.

A late return, even if by 12 hours or more, should not of itself be alarming. A broken ankle, for example, may mean that a person has to hobble slowly back to the cars. If however, there is a genuine emergency – that is, one that is life-threatening – a personal locator beacon (PLB)

will be used to summon a rescue helicopter and then the person's emergency contact will be advised by emergency services. We do not use a PLB except in life-threatening situations. Therefore, with bushwalking, no news is usually good news.

Anyone concerned about the late arrival of a party should certainly contact the Check-in Officer, but in most cases I would guess they would not alert the police or emergency services until the following morning. If the delay is due to something life-threatening, a PLB will have been used and the necessary contacts will have been advised, including the Check-in Officer who should have a list of the emergency contacts of all in the party.

It is suggested, though, that one should not arrange dinner parties or an evening at the opera on the same day as one is going on a bushwalk. Another suggestion is that participants on bushwalks might wish to buy a Garmin Mini In Reach, which is a PLB with an email facility and operates off satellites. When out of mobile range they can thereby send an email to their partners.

Barrie Ridgway

NPA outings program

Bushwalk grading guide

March – June 2021



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
- B Open forest
- C Light scrub
- D Patches of thick scrub, regrowth
- E Rock scrambling
- F Exploratory

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.

Short notice walks To volunteer to lead a short notice walk, or to have your name added to the short notice walks alert list, email outings@npaact.org.au

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* 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 waive 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.

Check-in/Emergency contact:

Leaders can borrow the NPA's Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) from Brian Slee, 6281 0719, brianslee@iprimus.com.au.

In the event that an outing party returns late, the first point of contact for concerned family members is NPA's Check-in/Emergency contact Officer, not the police or National Parks service.

To check the status of an overdue walk, contact Mike Bremers, 0428 923 408, outings@npaact.org.au or Brian Slee (contact as above).

Leaders should check in by contacting the Check-in Officer (text or email will suffice) at completion of outing. Leaders should also email their signed ATTENDANCE RECORD AND RISK WAIVER FORM to Brian as above.

COVID-19 arrangements:

The following information sets out the current arrangements for outings in the NPA ACT walks program under restrictions on community activities introduced by the ACT Government aimed at reducing the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Walk descriptions will not always contain a meeting place or time, with this information being made available by contacting the leader. Walkers wishing to participate in a walk need to read these arrangements and the risk waiver on the Attendance and Risk Waiver form available at [https://www.npaact.org.au/res/File/2017/Attendance%20Form\(2017\).pdf](https://www.npaact.org.au/res/File/2017/Attendance%20Form(2017).pdf), then contact the leader to register, providing their name and a contact phone number.

Walkers are advised that they should not register with the leader (or attend the walk) if they have or have had flu-like symptoms such as a fever with a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath in the previous 2 weeks. For further information see the ACT Government COVID-19 website (<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>)

Walkers will need to arrange their own transport prior to the walk as the walk leader, because of social distancing and hygiene requirements, will not be facilitating ride sharing. Walkers are reminded that social distancing requirements will be in force on the walk and they are expected to practise good hygiene.

Participation in the walk will be considered acceptance of these arrangements and the risk waiver.

NPA outings program March – June 2021 (page 2 of 4)

<p>6–8 March Pack walk</p>	<p>Upper Naas Valley A 3-day easy pack walk up Naas Valley along the Old Boboyan Road and Sams Creek Fire Trail then crossing the ridge by the site of the Lone Pine Homestead ruin before turning back down Grassy Creek. Campsites will depend on conditions with the second night likely to be near Westermans Homestead. Contact leader before 3 March for transport arrangements.</p>	<p>Drive: 160 km, \$64 per car Maps: Yaouk, Shannons Flat 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/B Leader: Steven Forst Contact: 0428 195 236 or steven.forst@iinet.net.au</p>
<p>11–14 March Pack walk</p> 	<p>Ettrema Gorge A relaxed and relatively easy introduction to the fabulous Ettrema Gorge and an excellent intro to pack walking. Day 1 walk in (about 4 km with full pack) and set up camp at Ettrema Creek, Days 2 and 3 exploratory walks (day packs) up and downstream, involving wading, swimming across pools and scrambling, Day 4 walk out. Contact leader for more details and book in no later than 1 March, providing full name and mobile number. Limit of 8.</p>	<p>Drive: 315 km, \$125 per car Map: Nerriga 1:25,000 Grade: 2/B/C/D/E/F Leader: Barrie R Contact: brdr001@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>13 March Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Management of potentially invasive <i>Robinia</i> associated with the former sheep dip near Frank and Jacks Hut. Car-pooling available and tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration and details of meeting place and time.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>21 March Sunday morning walk</p>	<p>Australian National University sculptures Meet 9 am in car park near Reserve Bank Building at the city end of University Avenue. An easy stroll through the ANU grounds to view some of the wonderful sculptures. A complement to the October 2020 walk led by Jan Morgan to view the ANU's trees.</p>	<p>Leader: Col McAlister Contact: 6288 4171 or cvmac@grapevine.com.au</p>
<p>24 March Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>27 March Saturday work party</p> 	<p>Pine control near Pryors Hut Meet 8:15 am at Dillon Close, Weston (across Namatjira Drive from McDonald's). NPA last visited this site in 2014. The old pine arboretum adjacent to Pryors Hut continues to be a source of wildings. This work party will locate and/or remove the wildings (depending on size of individual trees). Hand saws and loppers provided, just bring gloves.</p>	<p>Drive: 130 km, \$52 per car Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>28 March Sunday nature walk</p>	<p>Birdspotting at McQuoids Hill Meet 9 am. Join family-friendly excursion (1.5–2 hours of gentle walking) in Kambah to look for some of the ACT's wonderful birds. Walk leader is a highly knowledgeable 'birder'. Meet up location to be advised. Places limited, bookings required.</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Robbins Contact: npa60thinfo@gmail.com</p>
<p>28-30 (31) March Pack walk</p>	<p>Picture Canyon and Sassafras Trig This partly exploratory walk is from Nerriga entrance to Morton National Park. Initially on Redgrounds Track then off-track through Galbraiths Yard Gap, up Bulee Brook and on to Picture Canyon on Back Range Creek. From here, head south up and over Sassafras massif in search of its old trig, drop into headwaters of Endrick River. Option to extend the walk an extra day to further explore this part of the Budawangs. Rock scrambling, patches of regrowth and cliff-lines to negotiate. Limit of 8. Contact leader, preferably by email, by Friday 26 March.</p>	<p>Drive: 260 km, \$104 per car Maps: Endrick, Nerriga 1:25,000 Grading: 2/A/D/E/F Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>31 March Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Margaret Power Contact: 0448 924 357 or power000@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>5 April Monday holiday walk</p>	<p>Glenburn precinct loop Meet 9 am at Canberra Railway Station, Kingston. Drive to Charcoal Kiln Road turnoff, Kings Highway, Burbong (alternative meeting place: 9:30 am). Follow trail via Atkinson Trig to Colliers ruins for morning tea. Ripe quinces may be available in orchard. Continue west to Coppins ruins and then north-east to Glenburn Homestead for lunch. Return via Colverwell Graves and road. Historic area, well signposted. 12 km, not much shade. Afternoon tea Queanbeyan. Advise leader by Saturday whether joining group at Kingston or Burbong.</p>	<p>Drive: 50 km, \$20 per car Map: Glenburn Precinct Heritage Trails, ACT Government (available online) Grading: 2A Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>10 April Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds along Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Walking Track (off Old Boboyan Road). Car-pooling available for the journey there and tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration arrangements and details of meeting place and time.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>

NPA outings program March – June 2021 (page 3 of 4)

<p>11 April Sunday Walk</p>	<p>Palmerville, Mount Rogers, Harcourt Hill and Percival Hill A medium difficulty walk in Belconnen and Gungahlin. Distance 17 km + total climbs of 340 m. The walk is on established trails and paths as well as off-track, walking through long grass. The pace will not be fast. Morning tea on Mount Rogers, lunch on Harcourt Hill, perhaps coffee at Gold Creek on way to Percival Hill. Meet at Palmerville Heritage Park car park, North McKellar, off Owen Dixon Drive, near William Slim Drive, at 8:30 am.</p>	<p>Map: Hall 1:25,000 Grading: 3B/E Leader: Steven Forst Contact: steven.forst@inet.net.au</p>
<p>18 April Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p>Denman Prospect vistas Meet 8:30 am. Route will take in hills west of Denman Prospect, Butters Bridge across the Molonglo, and Ridgeline Park, with coffee at 'Morning Dew' at the shops. Great views, interesting new suburb. 9 km, easy but with some steep grades and a fence to climb over. Brunch for stayers at 'Sakeena's', Cooleman Court. Contact leader by Saturday morning for meeting place.</p>	<p>Map: 2021 UBD street directory maps 56, 57 Grading: 1A/B Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>24 April Saturday work party</p>	<p>Murrumbidgee River downstream from Tharwa Bridge This is the NPA's first work party in an area that has been the focus of PCS rehabilitation work for some time. This work party will involve planting <i>E. viminalis</i> (Manna Gum) tube stock on left bank of river. It may involve wading in places so bring waterproof footwear or footwear you do not mind getting wet. Most tools provided but bring gloves and favoured planting tool if you have one. Meet Kambah Village shops at 8:30 am. Book with leader by Thursday 22 April.</p>	<p>Drive: 37km, \$15 per car Leader: Michaela Popham Contact: 0413 537 333</p>
<p>25 April Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Mounts Ginini and Gingera circuit From Mount Ginini car park we walk to summit of Mount Gingera via Mount Ginini, Little Ginini and north summit and ridge of Mount Gingera. We will look for historic remains of a ski hut at Stockyard Gap and visit Pryors Hut. Outward leg all off track, partly scrubby. Gaiters and gloves recommended. Homeward leg on track. About 16 km and 600 m climb. Please register with leader by 5 pm Friday 23 April to obtain start time and meeting place.</p>	<p>Drive: 160 km, \$64 per car Map: Corin 1:25,000 Grading: 2/A/B/C/D/E/F Leader: Barrie R. brdr001@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>28 April Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Steven Forst Contact: steven.forst@inet.net.au</p>
<p>2 May Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Gibraltar Peak Starting from Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre we take a walking track with moderate climbs to Gibraltar Peak for magnificent views over nature reserve and to the south. Suitable for walkers with some fitness. 11 km return with 350 m climb. Book with leader by Saturday morning 1 May.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2A Leader: Mike Bremers Contact: 0428 923408 or mcbremers@gmail.com</p>
<p>8 May Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds (briar, blackberry and hawthorn) at unnamed knoll near Gudgenby Homestead. Car-pooling available and tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration and details of meeting place and time.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>8 May Saturday walk</p> 	<p>Tinderry Peak Walk follows Round Flat Fire Trail for a couple of km before a steep climb to a rocky outcrop. We then walk north-west for a further 2 km, through scrub which is thick in places, followed by rock scramble to Tinderry Peak (1,619 m). Return route is roughly south from peak, merging with fire trail about a km from cars. Mostly off-track with one section of mild exposure on final climb to summit. Distance about 15 km, total climb about 600 m. Limit of 8. Contact leader, preferably by email, by Thursday 6 May.</p>	<p>Drive: 140 km, \$56 per car Map: Tinderry 1:25,000 Grading: 3/A/D/E Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>9 May Sunday walk</p>	<p>Lower Molonglo Medium to hard walk exploring north side of Molonglo river upstream of Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre to Kama Nature Reserve. Walk starts from Stockdill Drive, West Belconnen, and heads south to river before climbing back to overlook river and gorge. We will follow headlands upstream before descending back to river at other end of main gorge for morning tea. We will then follow river to meet it once more for lunch where Kama Nature Reserve meets Lower Molonglo Reserve. Return via pipeline road and track along fence line. 16 km with total climb of 650 m. Meeting place: Adjacent to first gate of lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (not main gate) at 8:30 am.</p>	<p>Maps: Cotter Dam and Canberra 1:25,000 Grading: 3B/E Leader: Steven Forst Contact: steven.forst@inet.net.au</p>
<p>15 May Saturday morning walk</p>	<p>Guided nature walk: Campbell Park Meet 10 am for two hour gentle walk through Campbell Park (Majura west) woodlands with ecologist for guide. Discover the flora and fauna that shelter in the area.</p>	<p>Leader: Thea O'Loughlin Contact: Numbers limited, bookings required at npa60thinfo@gmail.com</p>

NPA outings program March – June 2021 (page 4 of 4)

<p>15–23 May Art Week</p>	<p>NPA ACT Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage Held in a comfortable cottage in the heart of Namadgi. Come for a single night or the whole week. Painting, drawing, writing, photography, weaving, whatever you like to do. Contact leaders early. Limit six per night, but day visitors welcome. See detailed notice on NPA Bulletin board, p. 32.</p>	<p>Leaders: Adrienne Nicholson and Hazel Rath Contact: 6281 6381 or hazel5040@gmail.com</p>
<p>16 May Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Mount Domain Starting in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, walk along fire trail to Fishing Gap then off-track through patches of regrowth and some rock scrambling to reach peak. Lunch at top while admiring views of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Cotter Valley. Afternoon tea Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre. 13 km return with a climb of about 700 m requiring good fitness. Book with leader by Saturday morning 15 May.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/D/E Leader: Mike Bremers Contact: 0428 923408 or mcbremers@gmail.com</p>
<p>22 May Saturday work party</p>	<p>Pine Island fence removal There are 35 km of redundant stock fences in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor and we are one of a number of volunteer groups assisting with their removal. We first visited this area in June 2020. This year we will continue fence removal. Location of work party will be advised closer to date. Please bring gloves – wire cutters, post puller etc. will be provided. Book with leader by Thursday 20 May. Meet at corner of Athlon and Learmonth Drives, Kambah at 9:00am.</p>	<p>Drive: 25 km, \$10 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Contact: 0411 161 056</p>
<p>23 May Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Mount Ginini Stockyard Creek circuit From Mount Ginini car park we walk along Mount Franklin Road to Stockyard Spur, looking for old ski hut at Stockyard Gap on way. We then proceed to Stockyard Creek and site of old Forestry Hut, then up to the old arboretum and back to the carpark via Morass Flat and the old ski run. Gaiters and gloves recommended. About 13 km and 300 m climb. Register by 5 pm Friday 21 May for details of start time and meeting place.</p>	<p>Drive: 160 km, \$64 per car Map: Corin 1:25,000 Grading: 2/A/B/C/D Leader: Barrie R. Contact: brdr001@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>26 May Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>6 June Sunday walk</p> 	<p>The Pimple and Tidbinbilla Mountain A great walk without too much scrub. Ascend long, steep ridge to Snowy Corner, then to Tidbinbilla Mountain and down to The Pimple. Return will be either along ridge to the Camels Hump Track or back the way we came. Gaiters and gloves recommended. 13 km and 1,000 m climb. Register by 5 pm Friday, 4 June. Limit of 10.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2/A/B/C/D/E Leader: Barrie R. Contact: brdr001@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>12 June Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Maintenance of exclosures and removal of material from Peppermint Hill, together with associated weed control activities as required. Car-pooling available and tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration and details of meeting place and time.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>20 June Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Calvary ruins A relatively easy walk to the 'pise' walls which are all that remains of the 1903 Calvary homestead in Bullen Range. After visiting the ruins will continue along range to Brett Trig for lunch. Return after lunch over Barnes Hill. The walk is mostly on fire trail or in open country. Around 200-m climb. Meet at Kambah Village Shops at 8:30 am.</p>	<p>Drive: 30 km, \$12 per car Maps: Tuggeranong 1:25,000 Grading: 2/A/B Leader: Mike S. Contact: 0412 179 907</p>
<p>23 June Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Barrie R. Contact: brdr001@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>26 June Saturday work party</p>	<p>Fence removal – Gudgenby Valley This year we will continue work on fence in north-west of valley in vicinity of Rowleys Hut site and also work on fences within 1 km of Boboyan Road. All tools provided. Meet at Kambah Village shops at 8 am.</p>	<p>Drive: 80 km, \$32 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Contact: 0411 161 056</p>
<p>30 June Wednesday walk</p>	<p>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p>Leader: Mike S. Contact: 0412 179 907</p>



Gudgenby Valley



Rewards in the Brindabellas

Goodradigbee Valley

Where to go – I had not been in the tent for a year and reckoned the time had come. It was December 2020 and a couple of the Namadgi camp areas had reopened after the February fire but I wanted a night up high, where the view would sweep the ranges and the night sky whisper of the universe. How about the Brindabella Range – it would be good to revisit places I had enjoyed in earlier years.

Mount Franklin car park proves to be a good starting point – local plants that were old friends welcome me with bright yellow and orange pea flowers, while the pendant heads of *Tetradlea* add complementary purples. Along the track to the summit different colours are inserted by grevilleas, pimeleas, and lots of daisies – mostly purple *Brachyscome*. That stops when a rough lawn of poa grasses provides a spread of white daisies.

A hundred metres on and the emergency shelter appears, and just beyond it a twisted frame of rusted iron testifies to the ski chalet that had stood here for seven decades until these ranges were swept by fire in 2003. Across the track was another relic – the line of rusty car wheels held on pipes above the

shrubbery was once part of a beginners' ski tow. The tow for the more confident is a mile up the track, where the shell of an Austin A40 that was adapted to drive it endures a lonely exposure to all weathers.

The Austin is just below Mount Franklin summit and has a grand view south across Namadgi NP. But I do not think it enjoys the view – around the Austin and across the first valley the forests are recovering from the 2003 fires; they are mostly young and dense, but beyond them the ranges are dark and bleak, with rocky scarps that, usually unseen, are now exposed, dull red – all burnt in February 2020.

The cause of that fire sounds unreal – it was surely so predictable and totally avoidable – and from the old Austin I look down at the scatter of bleached stags standing above the young forest, and wonder if they were alpine ash giants that once offered hollows for birds, gliders, much more. In 2003 some of those animals might have moved to unburnt areas but most of that has burnt now, and there will be few big-tree hollows in our ranges for almost a century – if they escape another burn.

Where to spend the night? I walk around the aircraft comms facility on Mount Ginini but the ground seems deep-ripped and rocky – not nice under a tent. The map suggests another peak in the Brindabellas that I have not been to, so I am soon on a foot track climbing a kilometre through unburnt forest that opens to a sunny crest – Mount Aggie. It is ideal, with shelter in Snow Gum forest on the west edge (away from Cotter catchment), and views to flats in the Goodradigbee Valley far below, to Mount Coree dominant to the north, and to the south-east over Namadgi. Soon the gold of sunset has the world aglow; later a near-full moon invites me to share a different grandeur.

From left to right: *Grevillea lanigera*, *Podolobium alpestre* and Grasshopper. All photos by Rupert Barnett

Rupert Barnett



Bushwalk reports

Watsons Crag

Date: Sunday 17 January 2021

Participants: Margaret Power (leader), Mike Bremers, Stephen Marchant, Max Smith

Our group of four met at Calwell at 6:30 am – a good number for car-sharing purposes. On the drive to Charlotte Pass we commented on the heavy cloud but when we arrived at 9 am it had gone, leaving us with a good day for the walk. The sun shone, the sky was blue, apart from some occasional white fluffy clouds; a pleasantly cool breeze kept us comfortable all day.

On the drive past Spencers Creek we observed work on a new track, possibly linking Thredbo to Charlotte Pass. Early in our walk, as we descended to Snowy River, we saw work on a newly constructed track running north, parallel to the Snowy and linking Charlotte Pass to Illawong. It is expected to open in April. The Main Range track was not in as good a condition, as is usual. Perhaps Parks is putting its efforts into new tracks.

After crossing the river we continued on track to a point overlooking Blue Lake. We had morning tea then proceeded off-track to the ridge and track that leads to Mount Twynam. Atop the ridge we came across a new anemometer (measures wind speed and direction). After following the track for a short distance, we again proceeded off-track, rising over the highest point on Watsons Crag and continued for another 1.5 km towards the end of the Crag. There we found a 'trig' – well, not really a trig, it only had one leg. Perhaps it was an ig.

We continued another 115 metres before stopping for lunch. It was a wonderful spot – oh, what magnificent views! There were mountains all around and we overlooked Geehi Valley. Below we could see a waterhole with a small waterfall cascading into it. Of course, we could see a lot of fire damage, but we could also see a lot of undamaged landscape.

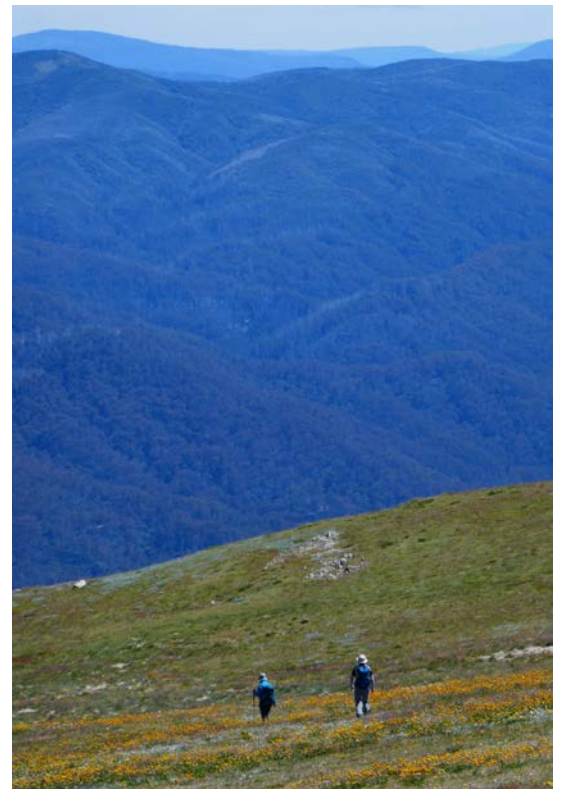
After lunch we returned towards where we had come from, staying a bit south of our outward route. After rejoining the track, we proceeded towards Carruthers Peak, but before reaching the summit we left the track and descended along a shoulder of the mountain to the valley below. We continued on alpine grass until we were almost back to Snowy River. We crossed the river on the Main Range track before plodding up the hill to Charlotte Pass.

The walk had proceeded brilliantly all day. We saw many wild flowers – daisies, billy buttons, sunrays, eyebrights, gentians and more. We also saw birds, butterflies, march flies (happily, seen but not felt), and lakes (Hedley Tarn, Blue Lake and Club Lake).

The walk was 18 km with a total of 840 metres ascents. Before the return trip to Canberra we had afternoon tea at Stillwell Hotel cafe in Charlotte Pass Village. Service was not quick but when we got our food and drinks, it was all good. We sat on the deck where they have brightly coloured tables and chairs. A very relaxing and fitting end to the outing.

We arrived back at Calwell at 7 pm.

Margaret Power



Walking on Watsons Crag

Margaret and view west from Watsons Crag. All photos by Mike Bremers





Bottom: Field of Billy Buttons

Middle – from left to right: Sunrays, Eyebrights and Gentians



The Castle and Monolith Valley

Castle Saddle and Mount Nibelung. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Date: 18-20 September 2020

Participants: Philip Gatenby (leader), Geoff Barker, Jan Gatenby, Terrylea Reynolds, Mike Smith, Lorraine Tomlins

Weather: Mist and drizzle.

The Castle is famous among bushwalkers, perhaps because of its outstanding profile, the difficulty it presents to climbers and the relative recency (1948) of its first recorded ascent. It is an imposing triangular shaped mesa with a double cliff-line. A tail from the triangle's most northerly point partially joins it to its closest neighbour, Mount Nibelung.

On hearing that this part of the Budawangs had reopened after the devastating 2019–20 bushfires, and with prompting from Terrylea who was keen to get to the top, I jumped at the idea of leading the trip. To round out the plan I decided to go to Monolith Valley as well to see firsthand the effect of the fires.

Our walk started from Long Gully campground beside the Yabbaro River. Access was via the Western Distributor off Kings Highway at the bottom of Clyde Mountain. A few kilometres north of the highway, approaching Carter Creek, we were confronted by a large truck carrying a front-end loader and accompanying utes blocking the road. The person in charge wondered at our arrival as the road had been closed for 2 weeks while work, just completed, was undertaken on the bridge over Bimberamala River. Unbeknown to him the 'road closed' signs on Kings Highway had been removed. We were told we could continue so long as we could get around the large truck, which we did. The second surprise of the day was the number of vehicles we found at Long Gully car park – it was

Castle Saddle and Climbing into the mist. Both photos by Jan Gatenby.



almost full, a precursor to the number of people we subsequently met en route to and at Cooyoyo Creek, our campsite for both nights. Cooyoyo is said to come from the Indigenous name for The Castle.

After a knee deep wade of the Yabbaro we were on our way up Kalianna Ridge. Concern that this part of the Budawangs may have been a blackened ruin were quickly dispelled. In places the vegetation had been destroyed and quite a few trees had fallen over the lower section of the track as it climbs the ridge. Elsewhere, wildflowers (especially wild iris, stackhousia, eriostrimon and lobelia) were abundant and regrowth was prolific, significantly more obvious than in burnt parts of Namadgi, perhaps reflecting the area's more conducive climate.

Kalianna Ridge is a steady climb. Drizzle of increasing persistency accompanied us. The track approaches the south-west corner of The Castle where a scramble to the base of the lower cliff is helped by wooden steps and a chain up a steep conglomerate slope. From here the track undulates along the western side of The Castle, below the cliffs, through massive boulders of conglomerate, punctuated in a good

Descent from The Castle. Photo by Philip Gatenby



year by the drip, drip of water, before climbing steeply to Castle Saddle, the low point between The Castle's tail and Mount Nibelung to the west. There are many wooden steps on the climb, some of which had been superficially damaged by fire. Part way up the climb a carved rock indicates a track to the Tunnel which goes through the tail, a short cut mainly for those climbing The Castle as a day walk. Cooyoyo Creek campsite, our destination for the day, was 500 m beyond the saddle. It is a spectacular location perched on cliffs above the Clyde River. There were quite a few tents around which progressively filled as the afternoon wore on. Pre-bushfire there was a toilet, now burnt and forlorn. Its restoration cannot come soon enough. A nearby lookout with a resident water dragon provides a Budawang's panorama including the Clyde River Valley, Talaterang Mountain, Pigeon House and Byangee Walls.

Climbing The Castle next day depended on fine weather and, luckily, after a few overnight showers, the morning was fine but foggy. Deciding the fog was showing signs of lifting we



Burnt top. Photo by Jan Gatenby

were off, back to Castle Saddle then sidling on the northern side of the tail to the Tunnel where the footpad we had been following became more well-defined. Between here and the burnt-out flat top of The Castle was Meakins Pass, which penetrates the upper cliff line, four sections of which were rope assisted in our climb onto the tail. The scorched top of The Castle was a sad sight, but to every cloud there is a silver lining – traversing the summit plateau to points south-east and south-west was much easier than on earlier trips. Foggy views.

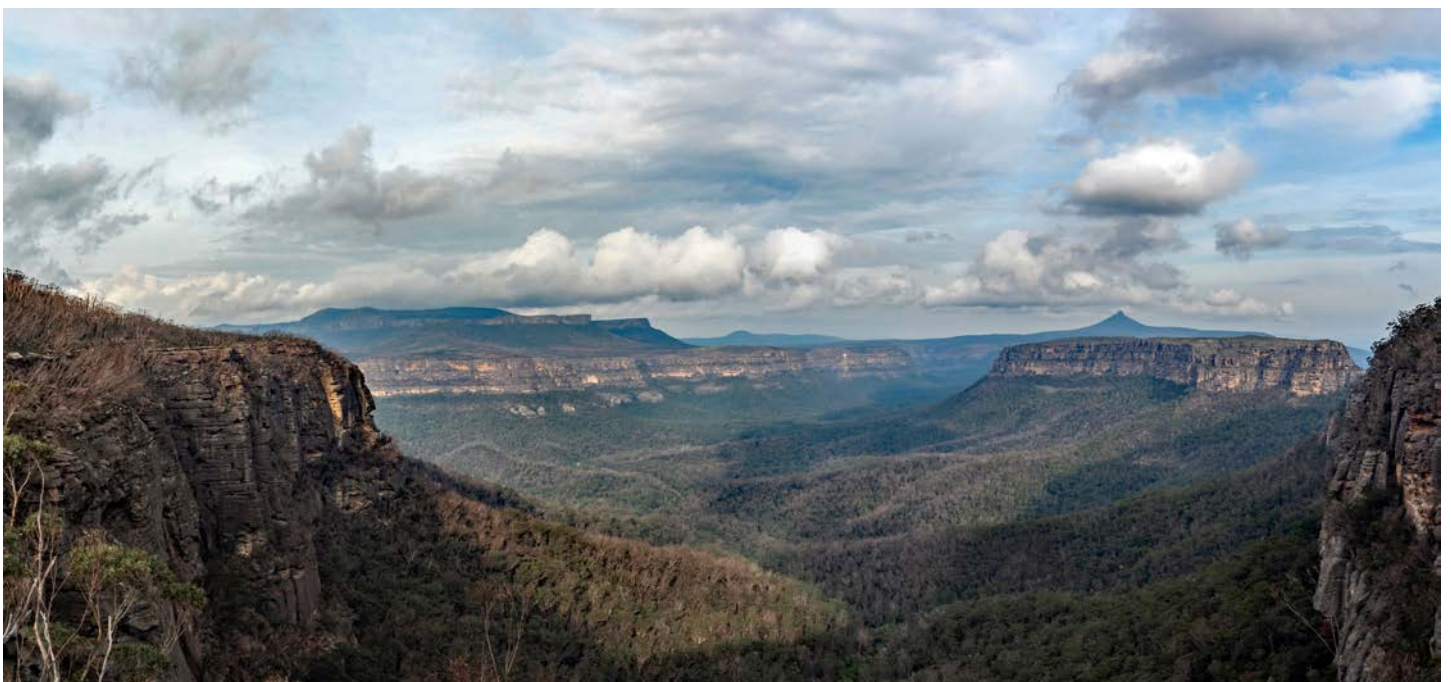
Leaving The Castle we returned to Castle Saddle (some via the Tunnel) and continued through Nibelung Pass to Monolith Valley. The valley is beautiful, with rainforest (still mostly intact), running water, sculptured moss-encrusted rocks and a spectacular natural arch. At its northern end is a remarkable outcrop of sandstone monoliths, Seven Gods Pinnacles. Much more visible now as a result of extensive fire damage to the area's vegetation, so much so that seven would seem to deserve an upward revision.

Rain, which conveniently had held off for our Castle climb and brief exploration of Monolith Valley, returned overnight and accompanied us back to Long Gully campground.

Philip Gatenby



Top: Monolith Valley. Bottom: Clyde River Valley. Both photos by Philip Gatenby



Aranda Bushland butterfly walk

Date: 16 January 2021

Participants: Suzi Bond (leader), Ingrid Anderson, Casey and Charles Broughton, Denise Fowler, Esther Gallant, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue, Julie McGuinness, Donna O'Brien, Vivian Phung and Stephen, Carmel Summers, Craig Watson.

Weather: Fine, calm and sunny.

Our group met on Bindubi Street and proceeded up the hill on the main track in brilliant sunshine at 10 am. Aranda Bushland is a 104 hectare reserve located between Black Mountain and Mount Painter reserves, and is perhaps best known for its small population of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*). While the two neighbouring reserves are known to host several species of interesting butterflies, we do not know as much about Aranda Bushland. Our first butterfly of the day was a basking Meadow Argus (*Junonia villida*) which settled at our feet almost as soon as we moved off. This species would turn out to be our constant companion most of the morning.

We then stopped to check some young Silver Wattles (*Acacia dealbata*) for immature life stages of hairstreaks, as during our recce the previous week we had observed a female Amethyst Hairstreak (*Jalmenus icilius*) visit these plants. Nothing was found however, so we kept moving up the hill, stopping again at some Dodder Vine (*Cassytha*), larval food plant for the dusky-blues (*Erina*); Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), larval food plant for the Spotted Jezebel (*Delias aganippe*); and a Meat Ant (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*) nest, which are the attendant ants for Stencilled Hairstreak (*Jalmenus iclinus*), whose eggs, larvae and pupae can be found on wattles in the vicinity of the Meat Ant nest. Here we discussed how many blues (Lycaenidae) have an often obligate relationship with ants; this is where the ants protect the immature stages of the butterfly from predation and parasitism, and in return the larvae provide the ants with tasty honeydew.



Suzi explaining the connection between larval food plants and where adults lay eggs. Both photos by Kevin McCue



Chequered Copper

a favourite larval food plant of the ochres (*Trapezites*), and some Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda*), a larval food plant of the Common Browns and Marbled Xenicas we had been seeing on the walk. The tall grasses were looking spectacular in this section of the walk, and as we continued downhill through the dry forest we had excellent views across to Black Mountain Reserve, Lake Burley Griffin and to the south of Canberra. We left the dry forest of the hillside and entered the lower slopes of the Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodlands, where we stopped to look at some mistletoe (*Amyema*) for Broad-margined Azures (*Ogyris olane*) without success, as it was possibly a bit too cool in the day yet for them to be flying. Nearby, we found some Coconut Ants (*Papyrius nitidus* complex) in a fence post and learnt about their relationship with Small Ant-blues (*Acrodipsas myrmecophila*) in the ACT. We also took the opportunity to smell the coconut oil aroma that makes the Coconut Ants so distinctive, and of course gives them their name.

After this, we wandered out into the grasslands, finding many Common Grass-blues (*Zizina otis*) frolicking around the path, along with a few introduced Cabbage Whites (*Pieris rapae*), a perched Australian Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*), and some Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis*) in yellow flower, a larval food plant of Chequered Coppers (*Lucia limbaria*). We walked back through the woodland where a couple of us saw a Jacky Dragon (*Amphibolurus muricatus*) and returned to the main track where Leaden Flycatchers (*Myiagra rubecula*) were calling. By now the tiny Chequered Coppers were flying and basking obligingly on the track, showing us their gorgeous fresh orange patches on their wings. We finished the walk at about noon.

After a terrible couple of years for butterflies, it was satisfying to see some butterflies flying well again during this walk, with a total of eight butterfly species recorded, and the highlights being the Macleay's Swallowtail and the Chequered Coppers. The hilltop we visited would be worth investigating during suitably warm, calm weather one afternoon during the flight season to see what other species might fly here. Thanks to the participants for their interest, enthusiasm and delightful company on the walk.

Suzi Bond

Mullangarri Grasslands

Date: Monday, 28 December 2020

Participants: Brian Slee (leader), Marlene Eggert, Esther Gallant, Michaela Popham, Margaret Power

Weather: Sunny, warm, nice breeze.

The recce for this walk dates back to 19 January 2020 when seven NPA members checked out the route during a brief hiatus in that dusty, smoky, miserable month. A notable change since then was that Mullangarri is now truly grassy, a metre high in parts.

We caught the 8:45 am tram at Alinga Street, faces shielded with pandemic masks, but few were being worn by other passengers. Spring rain has given the much maligned Northbourne Brittle Gums the will to live: they were thriving. Native grasses planted in their midst had been allowed to go to seed and will never provide a traditional lawn. Other spring arrivals: abandoned orange (Beam) and purple (Neuron) e-scooters.

Adjacent to the Gungahlin terminus is 'DaMingle' where we had coffee before heading south, crossing Camilleri Way and stepping through a gate into Mullangarri. A large, perfect-for-housing area has been set aside to preserve native grasses. These were submerged in wild oats. Wildflowers absent, the casual visitor's eye was drawn to the ancient eucalypts, and their promising offspring. A gala tantrum by a begging baby galah distracted us in our progress across the paddock. St John's wort was being sprayed by Park staff.

The only climb of the day, after crossing Manning Clark Crescent, was 30 metres up Gubur Dhaura, the red ochre peak. Beneath the shady Apple Boxes we dallied at memorials to Aboriginal, farming and mining history, fanned by a breeze, before descending through the footpath infested ('Old Canberra', where are yours?)



Mullangarri grasslands. Photo by Esther Gallant

streets to Mapleton Avenue, Franklin, from whence we took the tram to Dickson Interchange.

A holiday Monday had enticed few of the customer-starved eateries to open, so busy 'Highroad', 1 Woolley Street, was it. The outdoor tables were occupied so while we enjoyed good service and tasty food, Highroad's noisy inner space is a place to avoid. The restrooms rated highly!

Our third tram ride of the day delivered us back to the city around 1 pm. Altogether, a pleasant post-Christmas stroll to get us back out in the open.

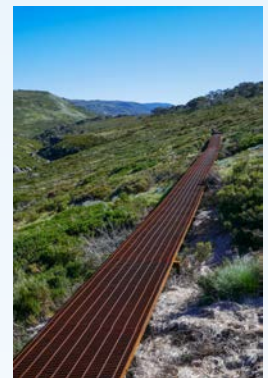
Brian Slee



Canberra from Gubur Dhaura. Photo by Brian Slee

New walking tracks in the High Country

According to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website, the 'Snowies Iconic Walk' is a \$17 million project to create a multi-day walking track across some of the highest terrain in Kosciuszko National Park, linking existing tracks. For earlier background, see *NPA Bulletin* September 2018, p. 22. Three new sections of track are now either under construction or being planned.



New track near Snowy River



Charlotte Pass sign. Both photos by Mike Bremers

1. **Charlotte Pass to Illawong track**, approximately 5.6 km, will be located on the east bank of, and close to, the Snowy River. It will depart the Main Range track below Charlotte Pass. A bridge will cross Spencers Creek. The surface will comprise steel mesh, rock paving and gravel. At Illawong it will connect to the existing bush track to Guthega. Expected to open late April 2021.

2. **Charlotte Pass Village to Porcupine Rocks track**, distance not provided but about 7 km, will head east from the village, mostly on Ramshead Range (elevation 1,800–1,900 metres). It will comprise a variety of surfaces. At Porcupine Rocks it will connect via an existing track to Perisher Village. Under construction and expected to be completed in 2022.

3. **Perisher Valley to Bullocks Flat track**, 11.5 km, will leave the Porcupine Rocks track near Perisher Village before eventually descending 700 metres to Bullocks Hut near Skitube railway. Still in planning stage.

By way of comment, 'Iconic Walk' suggests unity among what is a disparate set of incidentally linked tracks. The purpose is to attract and hold summer visitors to Charlotte Pass, Perisher and Guthega. Nevertheless, ordinary backpackers will be grateful beneficiaries. All tracks pass through magnificent country and tracks 1 and 3 in particular will provide access through terrain that is otherwise impenetrable. I am not sure about the environmental impacts, although meticulous care appears to be being taken in actual track construction.

Brian Slee

Book review

The Life of a Mountain Hut

by Klaus Hueneke, 2020, Tabletop Press, Palmerston, ACT, 232 pp, RRP \$30

If these walls could talk, what stories would they tell? I often ask myself that when visiting one of the many huts that dot our beautiful High Country. Klaus Hueneke has managed to bring one of those huts alive in his new book *The Life of a Mountain Hut*. The reader is taken on a journey, from the very first moments to the very last, of one of the most iconic huts in the mountains – Four Mile.

If you are looking for no-compromise history then *The Life of a Mountain Hut* is not for you. This is a book where fact and fiction come together to keep the reader turning page after page. There is no shortage of historical events framed by real life characters. Bob Hughes, the builder of Four Mile, makes several appearances, the mythical skier and raconteur Ted Winter features, as does bushwalker Harry Hill of Tumut. The author himself is naturally part of several stories, from work parties to family visits. All these stories are cleverly told from the perspective of the hut. At first this seems unusual but before long you realise you would not want to read the hut's story any other way.

The book is filled with poems and songs, from cheeky to traditional and everything in between. There is a memorable Christmas spent at the hut where *Silent Night* is recited in German and English. We have a quintet of intrepid singers sharing songs and, according to the hut, they sounded better than most previous visitors (I obviously did not sing loud enough when I visited ...). Without a doubt the most moving poem in the book is Lillian's Poem (p. 206; also *NPA Bulletin* March 2020, p. 12 – first and fourth verses). The author discovered this deep and contemplative poem in the hut's log book during his last visit in 2019. My favourite (second) verse reads:

*The hut restores the faith of those
who gaze at the single diamond flame.
They begin to feel the urgency,
and walk amongst tombstones and suburbs
in search for a close friend
who has warmed their hearts, never met.*

It is not all poems, songs and reminiscence. Along the way the reader encounters robbers and spoilers, unhygienic damper bakers, a tunnel-boring wombat named Crump and, of course, fire. Fire is the thing Four Mile fears most. Yet there is an understanding that without fire the hut may have never been built and its many visitors and inhabitants would not have been kept warm and comforted when they needed it most. Over the years and through the magic of the hut telegraph, Four Mile learns about the fate of its relatives such as Broken Dam, Pretty Plain and Constances losing their lives to fire. Sadly, as readers know, Four Mile unfortunately faced its biggest fear again and was lost in the horrendous 2019–20 fire. The author's love of this hut and sadness at its demise is apparent in the closing chapters.

The book does not end in ash and smoke, however. We are told Four Mile is looking forward to a bright future, another 100 years perhaps. The final pages

Editor's note

In the December 2020 *NPA Bulletin* (p. 11), Rosemary Hollow expressed the view that 'From a heritage perspective, it would be hard to reconstruct Four Mile Hut. The original materials from the mine are no longer available, and perhaps neither would be the skills required?' However, as if in anticipation, *The Life of a Mountain Hut*, p. 228, dispels the uncertainty (the author assuming the persona of the hut) thus:

Unlike Humpty Dumpty who couldn't be put together again ... I'm much easier to reconstruct. I could, given a dozen sheets of rusty iron, a stack of slabs, some rough sawn floorboards and eight or nine strong posts, be back in my body in no time. Nor would it take all the king's horses and all the king's men – just three or four men and women with a love of timber, the urge to swing a broadaxe, drag a crosscut saw and dig a hole or two. Those who love finicky details could search for old kerosene tins for my metal strips and bits of leather to make hundreds of Bob's [Bob Hughes] beloved washers. Others could scour local antique shops for dynamite boxes to sit on.

Re the availability of skills, the Kosciuszko Huts Association is replete with appropriately qualified members.

Brian Slee

The Life of a Mountain Hut

Klaus Hueneke



are a call to rebuild this beautiful and significant hut, not just for heritage or history but for the purpose and meaning it can bring to people's lives which I think is exemplified by this book. If this book has taught me anything it is that huts are a lot of things to a lot of different people.

I will finish with a snippet of the author's poem *If I was a Mountain Hut* (p. 224; also full text *NPA Bulletin* June 2017, p. 12). This poem was glued into Four Mile's log book by Klaus in 2019, only days before the hut burned down. This verse sets the tone for book:

*If I was a mountain hut people would
renew my scarred and tired old skin,
replace my worn out, tottering legs,
leave some food for me to eat,
replenish my wood supply,
build a fire to keep me warm and
tell me stories, tall and true.*

Stefan De Montis

Tyrie Starrs' bird photography

Three of Tyrie Starrs' entries in the 2020 NPA photographic competition.

Right top: Mistletoebird
Right bottom: Dusky Woodswallow, Tinderry Range.
Highly Commended, 'Flora and fauna' sub-category
Below: Boobook fledgling being fed, Pierces Creek



Terra Spiritus¹

'Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to now' exhibition is on at the National Gallery of Australia until 4 July 2021. Included is the southern part of Terra Spiritus, Bea Maddock's panoramic print of the Tasmanian coastline with European and Aboriginal place names. So now we know not only the artist's name, but also the ancient names for coastal features and mountain ranges.

Tasmania was occupied by Aboriginal communities continuously for at least 35,000 years, right through the last ice age when half the island was glaciated. A land bridge to the mainland was drowned by rising seas around 10,500 years BP. From then on the people were isolated until the British started a colony in 1803. At that time there were about 8,000 Tasmanian Aboriginals, in twelve language groups. By 1831 there were two families left (in hiding), a small number of captives exiled to Flinders Island and 25,000 colonists.

my country
carried round inside me
underneath
and all around me ...
where has it gone?

I walked the south coast in 1996. My colleague C wanted to do a walk; he was grieving his late wife. I tacked it on to geological field work at Melaleuca. C flew in and we lay out in button grass near the airstrip, at ease on a summer evening, sorting food and gear. Then we headed for Southwest Cape. Running down the final spur in light work-shoes, I sprained my ankle. We rested up on a remote beach for a couple of days, eating mussels. Then I strapped the ankle and limped out along the South Coast Track.

sleeping
on the cliff top
with middens
where women once
dived for abalone

My pack was too heavy so I buried tins of sardines, a towel, spare clothing. I enjoyed the squelch as I trod them into the mud. Up and over the Ironbound Range: a taste of subalpine. Stretches of boardwalk over bogs. Wet across South Cape Range. Several crossings of tidal inlets.

naked
and vulnerable
holding hands
we cross the river
stumble through shifting sands

Hugs from a friend meeting us at Cockle Creek, and so to the comforts of Hobart. But as I limped I came down heavily on the other foot, and finished up with plantar fasciitis. Six months of no walking.

There is an 1847 watercolour portrait of Tinganoke, the last woman from Southwest Tasmania, in the National Library (Charles Stanley Natives at Oyster Cove). She eked out her life in an old convict station. The region is uninhabited, empty, to this day.

Gerry Jacobson

¹ Terra Spiritus ... with a darker shade of pale, 1993-8, by Bea Maddock (1934-2016). Stencil printed in hand-ground ochre, blind-printed letterpress, handwritten script.

Snowy 2.0 electricity connection must go underground

Twenty-four organisations and fifty expert engineers, scientists, environmentalists, academics and economists, are calling on Planning Minister Rob Stokes and Environment Minister Matt Kean to avoid further damage to Kosciuszko National Park by putting the electricity transmission connection for Snowy 2.0 underground. Their Open Letter urges the ministers 'to insist on a comprehensive analysis of underground alternatives prior to the submission of the EIS, and that the proposed option must be for underground cables, not overhead lines. Overhead lines would cause environmental impacts that are totally incompatible with the national and international significance of Kosciuszko National Park'.

'Snowy 2.0 is already inflicting massive damage to Kosciuszko, and now we now find out that TransGrid, acting on behalf of Snowy Hydro, is proposing to construct two sets of transmission towers and clear an eight kilometre scar right through the heart of Kosciuszko', said Gary Dunnett, EO of National Parks Association NSW.

'Let's make no mistake, they are choosing overhead transmission just because it is cheaper than going underground, having no regard to the wholesale destruction of native vegetation and fauna, nor the blight of transmission towers, lines and cleared easements that would be visible over vast areas of alpine national park. TransGrid and Snowy Hydro should be looking for every possible opportunity to reduce impacts on Kosciuszko National Park. Both companies claim to be exemplary tenants – here's their chance to prove it by going underground with their transmission project. Overhead transmission lines are totally incompatible with the fragile alpine habitats of the National Park. We must adopt international best practice, which is to avoid damage to sensitive environments by going underground', concluded Mr Dunnett.

<https://npansw.org.au/2021/01/20/>

NSW Government supports more culls after survey finds 14,000 wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park

The first aerial survey since the catastrophic 2019 bushfires has found that the number of wild horses in the Kosciuszko National Park has fallen by more than a quarter. The survey found there are now an estimated 14,000 horses – 5,000 fewer than the previous year. The NSW Environment Minister, Matt Kean, said while there had been some reduction in numbers, the population remained too large to be environmentally sustainable.

'We will always have wild horses in Kosciuszko but 14,000 is still too many,' he said. 'If we want to preserve this precious place and the plants and animals that call it home, we need to manage horse numbers responsibly.'

Surveys conducted between 2014 and 2019 showed that the horse population was increasing by more than 20 per cent each year. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has long voiced concern that the damage caused by the horses' hooves threatens sensitive alpine ecosystems and destroys key habitat for several threatened native species. The latest survey was commissioned by the NSW

Government and carried out by helicopter surveillance over four days in October and November 2020.

Mr Kean welcomed the new data, which he said reinforced the need to manage the wild horse population. 'We can now be confident that we have the most up-to-date data as we get the balance right, protecting the Snowies and retaining the heritage value of these wild horses.' He said several factors had contributed to the fall in numbers, including the drought, the bushfires and the fact that the 2019 survey covered the entire NSW and Victorian Alps region while this survey only looked at wild horses within Kosciuszko National Park. Mr Kean said that more than 340 horses were removed from the park in 2020 by passive trapping and re-homing. He said this interim program would continue, pending the finalisation of a new management plan.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro, whose Monaro electorate covers part of the Kosciuszko National Park, had campaigned for a new survey, saying he believed the summer bushfires had significantly reduced the brumby population. 'The results of this survey show we were justified in our push for an urgent recount of the wild horses in the park,' Mr Barilaro said. While he has previously opposed a cull of wild horses, he said he was now ready to support a plan to reduce numbers. 'I accept that the figure of just over 14,000 wild horses in the park is still too high and that active management of their impact on the park's alpine environment must continue,' he said.

Jamie Pittock from the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University said the survey demonstrated that there has been no real change in the number of wild horses. 'The numbers in the 2020 survey, scientifically they are not statistically significantly different from the 2019 pre-fire survey,' he said. 'It's really hard to count any large animals in a large area of bushland so statistically the numbers fall within the error range of the surveys of 2019 and 2020.'

He said the only significant change was that no horse population was found around Cabramurra, which was severely burnt in the bushfires, whereas there was no reduction in numbers in the northern part of the national park. 'In that area, the density of horses has not changed and that's really significant because of the key habitat for threatened animals impacted by horses is in that area,' Dr Pittock said.

The National Parks Association said horse numbers must be urgently controlled as alpine habitats are incredibly rare in Australia. 'All of the science says the number of horses that should be in the park is a number in the hundreds not a number in the thousands,' executive officer Gary Dunnett said.

There is a whole range of plants and animal species that cannot survive anywhere else than in those Alpine habitats, such as the Stocky Galaxias, the Corroboree Frog and the Mountain Pygmy Possum. Mr Dunnett also does not think that re-homing the horses is the answer. 'It is really stretching credibility to think that there are enough people out there to take these animals and to make a real difference to the high level of horse numbers we have at the moment. There are a whole range of techniques that could reduce numbers. Aerially culling is a well-established technique for controlling animal numbers from an animal welfare and human safety aspect. Corralling horses is also effective and so is ground shooting. When horse counting

began in the early 2000s there was estimated to be about 2,000 brumbies in the national park.

The Government said the results of the survey would be used to draw up a new draft wild horse management plan,

setting out how it intended to reduce the horse population to a sustainable level.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-13/wild-horse-population-in-kosciuszko-slashed-by-a-quarter/13053240>

Compiled by Hazel Rath

Vale Dr David Eugene Pfanner (17 October 1929 – 19 January 2021)

After moving to Canberra in 1979, David and his wife Ruth joined NPA ACT in August 1980. David also became involved in some of Canberra's other early conservation orientated groups including the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) and the Canberra and South-East Region Environment Centre where he was a member of the *Bogong* journal editorial working group. David was a member of the NPA Committee 1998–99 and of the NPA Environment Working Group. As a regular general meeting attendee in 2004–05, David provided the *NPA Bulletin* with articles based on guest speaker presentations. David's lifelong interest in birds involved him in many COG activities including bird surveys and a bird observing adventure in Kakadu National Park in the wet season. David was made an Honorary Life Member of Birdlife Australia in 2017.

David lived a full and inquiring life and apart from involvement in conservation was always up to something interesting: playing in a recorder group, involving himself in the appreciation of SE Asian art and culture and completing an ANU Master of Philosophy Degree with a thesis on *The millennial King Arthur: the commodification of the Arthurian Legend in the 20th Century*.

Clive Hurlstone

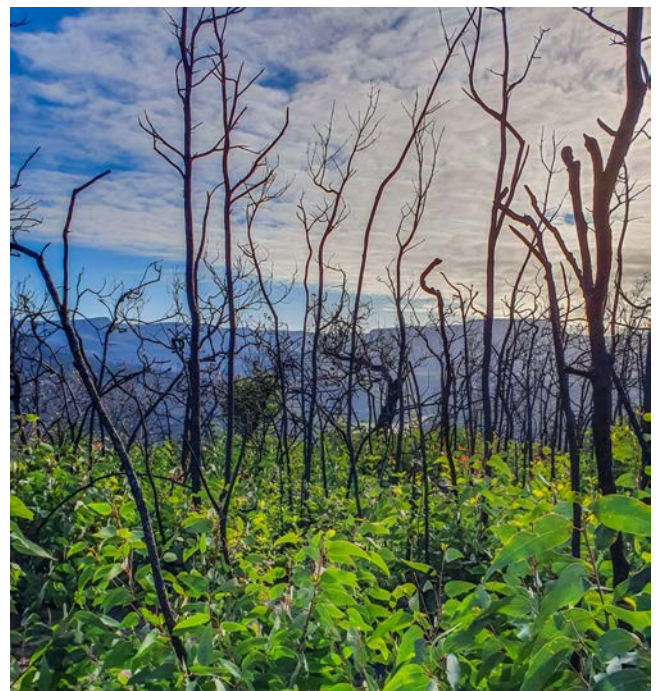
Namadgi pictures



The exquisite markings of a Copperhead, lurking in *Stellaria*, can be made out in Mike Bremers' photo, taken 12 December 2020 on NPA's second short notice walk, to Mount Gingera.



Paul Regan (left), Attaché, British High Commission (new NPA member), happened to have a map of the London Underground with him at Naas Creek on 15 November 2020 and was explaining to Steven Forst the best route from Bank to Baker Street. Photo by Brian Slee



Namadgi resurgent. Photo by Eleanor Cotterell



NPA Bulletin board

Short notice outings

In addition to the outings program published quarterly in the *NPA Bulletin*, the NPA now offers the opportunity for leaders who are unable to commit themselves many months ahead of time to propose walks or outings within a much shorter time frame. The new system also allows advantage to be taken of good weather.

Interested members can email outings@npaact.org.au to be added to the short walk email list and be advised of forthcoming outings. Leaders should contact the same address if proposing to lead a short notice walk.

Mike Bremers
Outings Subcommittee

Volunteers needed

We always need new volunteers to take over from members who have volunteered for a long time and need a break. Please consider putting your name forward for any jobs you think you can spend some time on for the good of NPA. It can be to lead walks or work parties, help organise events, sell our books at public events, help with office work, or by joining a subcommittee to spread the load.

Please email admin@npaact.org.au or leave a message on the office phone (02) 6229 3201.

Nominations for Life Membership now open

The committee is again calling for nominations for Honorary Life Membership. If a member has done something very special for our association and is worthy of this recognition, please send a confidential nomination to Secretary Sonja Lenz by mid-April (signed by yourself and another member who seconds the nomination).

Further information on what to put into the written nomination can be found on the NPA website or by contacting Kevin McCue on 6251 1291 or email mccue.kevin@gmail.com

Wanted ...

[Advertisement]

NPA member is looking to buy a second hand camping outfit to take on hikes. Please email marleneeggert@bigpond.com if you are interested in giving your equipment another life. Will consider all offers.

NPA ACT welcomes the following new members

Ali Goward
Ser & Irene Sim
Chloe Ives
Sarah & Angus Boyd
Vance, Simon & Kate Lawrence
Wade McCagh
Joseph & Yolanda Lovie-Toon
Jaqueline Rosier
Joss Haiblen & Trish Macdonald
Stephen & Lisa Marchant
Craig Watson

We look forward to seeing you at NPA activities.



NPA ACT Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage

Saturday 15 May to Sunday 23 May

Think about what creative things you could do in a comfortable cottage in the heart of Namadgi. Comfortable beds and all mod cons. Come for a single night or the whole week. Painting, drawing, writing, photography, weaving, whatever you like to do.

Contact leaders early as previous Art Weeks have booked out early. Limit six per night, but day visitors are welcome. Note that at the moment this part of the park is still closed, but we will be advised of current restrictions at the time.

Adrienne Nicholson, 6281 6381 or Hazel Rath, hazel5040@gmail.com

General meetings

Third Thursday of the month,
**7:30 pm, Uniting Church hall,
 56 Scrivener Street, O'Connor**

Note: All General Meetings now begin at 7:30 pm.

From March it is hoped to resume holding General Meetings at O'Connor Uniting Church hall. However, please check NPA website and *Burning Issues*, or ring Sonja Lenz on 6251 1291.

Meetings held in-person will have specific CovidSafe procedures. If you are not well, please do not come. Attendees will need to sign in, preferably via the CBR Safe app on a mobile. Supper will not be served.

Thu 18 March

Fire recovery in Namadgi

Peter Cotsell

Regional Manager
 Southern Parks ACT

Peter will provide an update on progress and challenges in the ongoing recovery of Namadgi National Park from the 2020 fires.

Thu 15 April

Update on the Rosenberg's Goanna Project: What have we learned?

Don Fletcher

Project Leader

Dr Fletcher, leader of the NPA's project on the Rosenberg's Goanna, will share the latest findings. Despite multiple challenges, the team has mapped, tracked and monitored goannas, and their termite hosts, and recorded previously unsuspected goanna behaviour.

Thu 20 May

Dreamtime Connections

Aaron Chatfield

Aaron, a Ngunnawal, Kamilaroi man, owns and operates Dreamtime Connections which focuses on connecting the community to culture through interactive and informative workshops. Participants gain an understanding of Aboriginal culture through bush foods, medicines, tools and artefacts.

More for your calendar	March	April	May
Public holidays	Monday 8 th - Canberra Day	Friday 2 nd to Monday 5 th - Easter Monday 26 th - ANZAC holiday	Monday 31 st - Reconciliation Day
Committee meetings	Tuesday 2 nd	Tuesday 6 th	Tuesday 4 th

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

President	Esther Gallant
Vice President	Cynthia Burton
Secretary	Sonja Lenz
Treasurer	Bernard Morvell
Minutes Secretary	Debbie Worner

Committee members

Mike Bremers
 Chris Emery
 Rod Griffiths (Immediate Past President)
 George Heinsohn
 Rosemary Hollow
 Kevin McCue
 Allan Sharp

Conveners

Bulletin Working Group	Kevin McCue
Cultural Subcommittee	Rosemary Hollow
Environment Subcommittee	Rod Griffiths
Outings Subcommittee	Mike Bremers
Publications Subcommittee	Kevin McCue
Promotion and Outreach Subcommittee	Allan Sharp
Work Party Co-ordinator	Martin Chalk

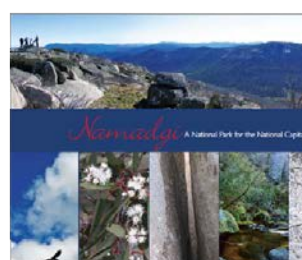
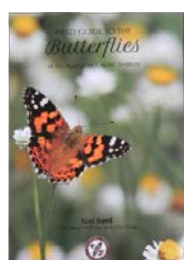
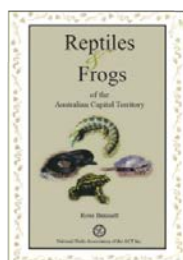
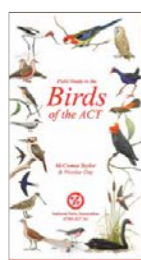
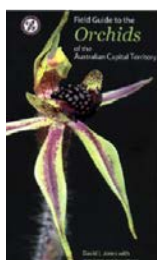
Membership subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)

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.



NPA books are 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:
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/npa_act/
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Lovenature321>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheACT

