



NPA *Bulletin*



- Push for the protection of Bluetts Block and Lawson grasslands
- 50 years since the drowning of Lake Pedder, the jewel of south-west Tasmania
- MLAs inspect the damage to management trails in Namadgi
- U3A course extends NPA's education outreach

conservation education protection

June 2022 – Volume 59 – Number 2

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conservation education protection

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The **NPA Bulletin** provides the association's members with news on activities and developments in environmental and heritage conservation, education and protection, particularly as bearing on the Australian Capital Territory and adjacent regions. The *Bulletin*, our association's signature publication and prime source of information about NPA ACT, is published quarterly, in print and online, compliant with the NPA's aims and objectives. The *NPA Bulletin*:

- keeps readers informed of NPA Committee and Subcommittee deliberations and decisions, and NPA events such as social gatherings, outings, work parties and research projects,
- provides a forum for members and invited guests to express views on matters of interest and concern to NPA ACT,
- fulfils an educational role on conservation and outdoor recreation issues, and
- accepts paid advertising, where appropriate.

The editor of the *Bulletin* is bound to observe the foregoing.

Contributions of articles (up to 1,000 words), letters, poems, drawings and photos are welcome. Longer articles will be considered. Photos should be free of embedded information such as dates and names.

All items accepted for publication may be subject to editing. In making contributions, authors acknowledge that the editor retains the right of final decision on content and presentation. The *Bulletin* is also published on the NPA website where items may include extra text or photos.

Disclaimer:

Articles by contributors may not necessarily reflect association opinion or objectives

Contributions and advertisements

Send all items to the Bulletin Team, email admin@npaact.org.au.

Contact the NPA office for information and rates for advertisements.

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Cover photos

Front cover: *Mount Murray*, by Philip Gatenby

Back (clockwise from the top left): *Scarlet Robin*, by Jonah Lafferty. *Golden Whistler*, by Brett Wagner.

Tawny Frogmouth, by Kerry Highley. *A chance encounter with a feathered friend*, by Jennifer Zhu. (Jonah, Brett and Jennifer entered their photos into the NPA 2020 photo competition.)

From the President

Finally, our last online general meeting (we hope) was in February when Alison Russell-French, Chair of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, described the incredible travels of the Latham's Snipe. This little bird nests in Japan and 'winters' in the ACT during the Australian summer. Radiotracking studies are providing intriguing new information on the travels of this long-distance flier.

In March, we returned to monthly meetings at the O'Connor Uniting Church with a timely presentation on volcanos by member Kevin McCue who gamely stepped in when the scheduled speaker was sidelined by COVID-19. He presented information on the recent Tonga eruption and explored how it compared with other major historic eruptions around the world.

In April, ACT opposition leader Elizabeth Lee talked about her experiences at COP-26 (the UN's conference on climate change) in both Glasgow and Edinburgh and told us some of what she had learned there about addressing climate change. Newly appointed shadow environment minister Nicole Lawder accompanied her and presented her views on local environmental issues, including Namadgi.

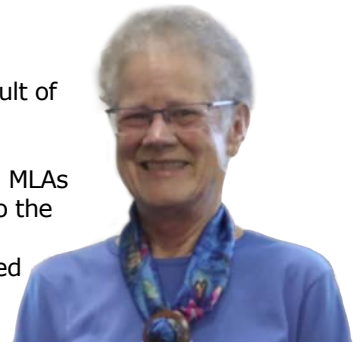
The opportunity for mingling with NPA colleagues at both the March and April meetings was a pleasant change.

A two-session U3A course developed by Allan Sharp was a new initiative for us (see p. 9). Thanks to all those who assisted and/or made presentations. Feedback was positive so we hope to do this again.

Sphagnum at close range. 'Ben [Keaney] was so good in helping us understand how important sphagnum is and the pressures it is under from frequent and hotter fires, longer drought and of course horses' (Andrew Cox)



A tour of Namadgi road damage as the result of fire and flood was organised for April in collaboration with Namadgi Manager Brett McNamara (see pp. 6-7). Initially all seven MLAs with portfolios or responsibilities relevant to the environment enthusiastically accepted our invitation to participate, but four were forced to withdraw due to COVID-19 or an urgent commitment. Those who came thought it was a worthwhile event. We are considering offering a second tour at a time convenient for the other four.



A memorial 3-day pack walk to honour the work of Geoff Hope who recently died (see *NPA Bulletin* Vol. 59, No. 1, March 2022) was held at the end of April in northern Kosciuszko National Park. Geoff spent most of his career studying fens and bogs and was the authority on their restoration after destruction by bushfires. A full report will be in the next *Bulletin*.

Management Committee News

We enthusiastically welcome Viv Schweizer who has volunteered as Temporary Minutes Secretary. Thank you Viv.

Many thanks to Kevin McCue who has resigned from the committee after decades of service in a range of office-bearer and convener roles, including 3 years as president. Fortunately, he is willing to continue as convener of the publications subcommittee. The committee will miss his hard work and enthusiasm.

Esther Gallant

Dr Ben Keaney addressing participants on the memorial walk. Photos by Andrew Cox



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Thursday 18 August 2022

Business:

- Minutes of AGM 2021
- President's report
- Financial report and appointment of auditor
- Election of office-bearers and committee
- Any other business

Note: All office-bearer and committee positions become vacant at the AGM.

Nominations for office-bearer and committee positions for the coming year are very welcome. Please contact the Secretary on 6251 1291 with nominations.

Sonja Lenz, Secretary



Work party reports

NPA work party summary – January to April 2022

Month	Activity	Agency	Participants
January	No work party		
February	Snowy Flat sphagnum recovery. Installed shade cloth covers over recovering sphagnum moss. Thirty-six more covers were installed in this work party. Together with the 46 installed in December 2020, all areas are now covered. Covers will remain in place for about 7 years. Additionally, 50 wilding pines were removed from the Pryor's Hut arboretum.	PCS	7
March	Pryors Hut arboretum: 164 Scots Pine wildings removed from within and in the immediate perimeter of the arboretum. Twenty-three deciduous trees (mostly apple) and five thistles also removed.	PCS	7
April	Bendora arboretum pine control: approximately 1,250 radiata pine removed from the boundary and approximately 540 from within the arboretum. A total of 1,790.	PCS	4

Martin Chalk

Fighting False Acacia at Frank and Jacks Hut



In February 2022, the ACT Heritage Council approved the removal of the remaining stems of False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) at the sheep dip at Frank and Jacks Hut¹, after receiving photographic evidence of the damage being caused to the dip by the continued and continual suckering of the False Acacia.

Herbicide treatment of stems and suckers

Following the removal of the last four large stems by ranger Adam Henderson earlier in April, Sonja Lenz, Kevin McCue, John Brickhill and Isobel Crawford walked into Frank and Jacks from Yankee Hat car park on 15 April and cut and dabbed the smaller visible stems. As recommended by [NSW Weedwise](#), we applied a solution of 1 part Glyphosate 360 g/L:1.5 parts water to the cut stems. It was necessary to search very carefully among the ground layer plants for well-browsed suckers and to clear around the bases of cut stumps to reveal concealed suckers.

We treated multiple suckers from 34 stumps which had previously been cut and dabbed at the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group working party on 10 April 2021, plus about 115 other patches of suckers. Only about 10 stems were more than 0.5 m tall, because of persistent browsing, assumed to be by deer species.

The ground layer vegetation at the site is now dominated by Nodding and Spear Thistles, Horehound, Fleabane and Tarweed. It could be difficult to approach by summer.

Top left: The four remaining stems chainsawed and dabbed by ranger Adam Henderson in early April 2022. Growth rings suggest they were c. 20 years old. Left: One stump cut and dabbed in April last year had resprouted vigorously. This might indicate the importance of dabbing as quickly as possible after cutting. Note shoots heavily browsed, possibly by deer. Photos by Isobel Crawford



Above: Sonja, Kevin and John on the south-western corner of the sheep dip, with Fleabane and other herbaceous weeds dominating the ground layer.
Photo by Isobel Crawford



Left: False Acacia sucker >0.5 m high, heavily browsed, possibly by deer.
Photo by Isobel Crawford

It is proposed to revisit the site each spring–early summer (Tim Entwisle’s ‘sprummer’ i.e. October–November), as the expected reaction to being cut is for stems to sucker vigorously. It will be interesting to see for how many years this continues.

Assessing seed viability

Viability of seed: seed was collected from mature plants in April 2021, and smaller (<4.5 mm × 2.5 mm) seeds discarded. One hundred seeds were soaked for 2 days until all had swollen, and sown on 16 December 2021. Another 100 were sown on 21 December, without being soaked. Of the soaked seed, 9 per cent germinated in 5–10 days, and of the unsoaked seed, 8 per cent germinated in 8–20 days.



A larva of a Tailed Emperor Butterfly was photographed by Kevin at the site, after scooping it from the potentially poisonous liquid in the sheep dip. Braby (2004) noted that legumes are its most common food plants, so it may have been feeding on the False Acacia.

We thank ranger Adam Henderson for his continuing support of the Gudgenby Bushies.

Isobel Crawford

Reference:

Braby M.F., 2004, *The Complete Field Guide to the Butterflies of Australia*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria

1. Efforts to control False Acacia at this site were reported in *NPA Bulletin* Vol 57, No 2 and Vol 58, No 2

A beautiful Tailed Emperor Butterfly larva, presumably dislodged from one of the False Acacia branches.
Photo by Kevin McCue

Bumpy journey reveals Namadgi damage

A high-level group visits Namadgi to see a park in crisis. Allan Sharp reports

A five-vehicle convoy carrying MLAs, ACT Government officials and NPA ACT members spent a day on 22 April bumping along deeply furrowed roads, and through quagmire, creek crossings and a burnt-out but recovering Namadgi National Park.

The excursion, organised by president Esther Gallant with Namadgi Manager Brett McNamara, was to give MLAs and high-level government officials a first-hand view of the effects of the 2020 fires and climate change on infrastructure and vegetation in the park.

'We wanted to give MLAs in particular a clear picture of the damage to roads, creek crossings, and to the park overall since the fires and thought the best way to do this was to take them out to the park in person,' said Esther.

Joining the ride was opposition leader Elizabeth Lee, shadow environment minister Nicole Lawder, Parks spokesperson for the Greens Jo Clay, and Alisia Turner representing the office of the Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman. Minister Gentleman and two other ministers, Greens leader Shane Rattenbury, and Minister for the Environment and Heritage Rebecca Vassarotti, were to have accompanied the tour but were unable to because of other commitments.



Brett McNamara uses a map of Namadgi to make a point. Photo by Allan Sharp

Representing ACT Parks and Environment were Ian Walker, Executive Director, Environment Directorate, Bren Burkevics, Senior Director Land Strategy and Environment, Peter Cotsell, Regional Manager Southern Parks, and Justin Foley, A/Senior Director of the Fire Management Unit.

NPA was represented by Esther, Don Fletcher, John Brickhill, Isobel Crawford, Allan Sharp and Terrylea Reynolds, who is also president of the Canberra Bushwalking Club.

From the Namadgi Visitor Centre, the convoy travelled along severely eroded roads, navigable only by rugged 4-wheel drive vehicles, through the devastated Orroral Valley – seat of the 2020 fires that burnt through 85 per cent of the park – stopping occasionally for Brett McNamara to illustrate problems relating to the park's changing landscape from events



More on storm damage from Brett on the bridge over Cotter River. Photo by Don Fletcher

such as flooding and sedimentation, which are clogging creek beds, destroying culverts, widening crossings and altering the landscape.

Brett explained how extreme weather and fire caused by climate change were creating problems for engineers who were having to design structures to withstand the new conditions. 'We need better, bigger and stronger structures to deal with it, while minimising the impact on the environment,' he said, 'and we need time, capacity and money to deal with it.'

Brett spoke of the damage being done to the park by hoofed animals – ungulates – such as deer, goats, pigs and, potentially, feral horses, and how parks management was using infra-red sensors to track feral animals.

The group stopped on a bridge over a fast-flowing Cotter River, in the Upper Cotter Catchment, where Brett explained the significance of the catchment to the ACT's water supply and the importance of Namadgi's sphagnum bogs to maintaining water purity.

Then it was on for a brief look at a wash-away at Bimberi Creek where a torrent had swept away a culvert and scoured a deep channel, cutting access to the road beyond. For decades this was a simple, yet sustainable and reliable ford through Bimberi Creek. A few years ago the crossing was upgraded by installing culvert pipes and a large volume of road base but the upgrade did not survive the rain storms of 2020.

Lunch was at the historic, fibro-clad Cotter Hut, built in 1964 on the site of a previous hut and formerly used as a residence by rangers in the Cotter Catchment. Here the group was surprised by the arrival of a guitar-carrying, long-distance walker, Max Allan who, tiring of post-COVID-lockdown life in the city, has set out to walk around Australia. Max expects the journey to take 3 or 4 years, having started out from St Kilda in Melbourne on 1 March and almost finished the AAWT.

A stop while Brett McNamara talked about sedimentation. Photo by Allan Sharp





New billabong on the Link Road beside Orroral River. Photo by Don Fletcher



Washed-away culvert at Bimberi Creek. Photo by Allan Sharp

Matt improvised several songs on request, to the delight of all present, and left with the group's best wishes – and a couple of bags of leftover slice and other treats – for his continued odyssey.

The final leg of the journey took the group on the road to Smokers Gap, with stops near 'ground zero' where the 2020 fire started after the landing of a Defence Force helicopter, and at a burnt-out Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) forest. Alpine Ash is killed by intense fire and must regenerate from seed. Conservation Research ecologists are currently assessing the degree of fire damage and the extent of recovery in Namadgi's Alpine Ash forests.



Then finally, at Corin, it was back onto sealed roads and a return to Namadgi Visitor Centre.

'It was a long, bumpy day but well worth it,' said Esther. 'I thank our elected representatives especially for the time taken out from their busy schedules to come and see the damage for themselves and the massive task of restoring Namadgi.'

'Thanks also to Brett McNamara and the team from the Environment Directorate who provided and drove three of the vehicles, Don and John who risked their own vehicles on the drive and Deidre Shaw for her usual much-appreciated slices for lunch.'

Lunch at Cotter Hut. Photo by Allan Sharp

From the Environment Subcommittee

Members of the NPA ACT recently joined with other environment groups and local residents at the Save Lawson Grasslands rally to protest against the potential destruction of grasslands in North Lawson (see p. 11). Abutting the suburb of Lawson, the site in question was an old naval communications base and the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) is proposing to build 416 dwellings there.

That's fine you say; surely we should be providing housing to our service personnel. However, only 150 dwellings will be for members of the Defence force. The remainder of the dwellings will be developed for sale to the general public and, in order to do so, adjoining grasslands will be sacrificed to the development.

In both the ACT and nationally, temperate grasslands have shrunk to 1 per cent of their pre-European extent. The existence of these grasslands is so threatened that the federal government has listed this ecosystem as critically endangered. These grasslands are rich in species and are often called the rainforests of the south. Every piece is precious and perhaps none more so than the North Lawson site. It is the largest intact grassland site outside the ACT's reserve system and should be protected by the federal government's own environmental legislation.

It is hard to believe that an alternative site cannot be found that meets the goals of the DHA and which will preserve this important habitat. Further information about North Lawson and what you can do to help is at the Conservation Council's website <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/>.

The NPA ACT is currently preparing a response to the Draft Action Plan to Prevent the Loss of Mature Native Trees. This will be an important document, as mature native trees are significant for the local environment. Mature trees provide important habitat for a wide variety of fauna, and represent decades of growth. They cannot be replaced quickly and therefore need to be protected to the fullest extent possible.

The ACT government states that 'we need to protect living, established trees and also ensure a steady stream of new trees continues to be planted over coming decades. Even dead trees provide essential habitat and should remain in the landscape where safe.' However, ongoing greenfield developments and projects such as the Callum Brae crematorium will test government resolve to protect mature native trees.



Rod Griffiths
Convener, Environment Subcommittee

Success for Gudgenby Bushies at the 2021 ACT Landcare Awards

The Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group was delighted to receive the ACT Government Quiet Achievers Award at the 2021 ACT Landcare Awards held on 10 March at Gold Creek Station. Kevin McCue and Sonja Lenz attended the ceremony. They reported it as a very enjoyable social occasion with plenty of familiar faces.

The quiet achievers award is very appropriate as, without fanfare but with great dedication, we have been going about our efforts since 1998. As many readers of the *NPA Bulletin* will know, our group was specifically established at the urging of the association to provide a forum for community involvement in



Kevin McCue among the award winners at the ACT Landcare Awards

the enormous task of removing and rehabilitating a pine plantation in our wonderful Namadgi. The land's recovery shows just what volunteer groups can achieve.

Over that time we have had the privilege and challenge of working in heat, rain and even snow, as we've sown seed, planted seedlings, controlled rampant briars and other weeds, removed old enclosures and kilometres of fences, and helped rehabilitate erosion gullies. All the while we were surrounded by fabulous mountain scenery – so not really hard work at all.

Although the devastation of the 2020 Orroral fire was a setback, we have been encouraged by the area's resilience as trees which are part of our early plantings re-shoot and seedlings emerge. While natural regeneration has been greatly assisted by the wetter than average conditions since the fire, so too has the growth of a wide range of invasive weeds been favoured. Seems like the Gudgenby Bushies will be 'quietly achieving' for a while yet.

Doug Brown
President, GBRG

CURIOUSITY



HERITAGE 20
FESTIVAL 22

NPA and the ACT Heritage Festival

Each year the ACT Government Heritage Unit coordinates a month-long Heritage Festival to provide the community from Canberra and surrounding regions a chance to learn more about the district's heritage. Events this year, held over the period 9 April to 1 May, ranged from classes to learn greetings and songs in the Ngunawal language, to open days in churches and historic buildings, and guided tours at Tidbinbilla.

This year for the first time NPA organised three activities for the festival. The aim in participating was to raise the profile of the NPA in the community. It was a deliberate decision to not advertise them in the bulletin or on social media. We wanted to attract a different and new audience. The events were advertised in the festival's printed program and online. And it worked. Attendances were capped at 20 (which mostly worked) and the feedback received at all events was very positive.

The three very successful events held under the NPA banner were:

- *Understanding Aboriginal culture through local native bush*, led by Aaron Chatfield. This was held outside at the Ginninderry Conservation Trust, and the 15 participants included a very enthusiastic Rebecca Vassarotti. She gave the event and NPA great coverage on her social media posts the next day.
- *Birds, bees and grass trees* – a two-hour walk which I led around the Parliament House native gardens. Among the 26 participants were a number of Canberra residents who have lived here for over 30 years and didn't know these gardens existed.
- *What does the word Ginninderry mean?* A two-hour walk led by Tyson Powell from the Ginninderry Conservation Trust highlighting the Aboriginal history of the area. Many of the 16 participants said the discussion about the number of Aboriginal words used in suburbs and streets across Canberra was revealing.

At the start of each event, I talked about NPA and our activities, and everyone who attended was sent a follow-up email with links to our social media and website.

The very positive responses to these events from participants, the Minister for Environment and Heritage and the ACT Heritage Unit support the ongoing involvement of NPA in future festivals.

Rosemary Hollow

Top right: Aaron at Ginninderry. Middle: CWA sundial, Parliament House walk
Right: Tyson Powell leading Ginninderry walk. Photos by Rosemary Hollow



NPA course encourages Third-ager action to protect nature

NPA ACT extended its education outreach recently by holding a short University of the Third Age (U3A) course – its first. Called 'Protecting the ACT's unique natural environment', the course was held over two sessions, on 29 March and 12 April.



Namadgi National Park manager Brett McNamara (right) discusses a map of Namadgi with U3A course members. Photos by Allan Sharp

The first session involved presentations at U3A's Cook rooms – by NPA president, Esther Gallant, Environment Subcommittee convener, Rod Griffiths, work party organiser, Martin Chalk, and head of the Rosenberg's Goanna study, Don Fletcher – followed a fortnight later by a trip to Namadgi Visitor Centre and to a nearby work site, at Glendale in Namadgi National Park.

The course was aimed at recent retirees interested in volunteer work to help the environment. Fourteen people attended the first session, which was introduced by the course organiser, Allan Sharp. Esther

led off with a brief history of the NPA and the creation of Namadgi National Park and talked about volunteering opportunities, including participation in local landcare groups.

Rod followed with a look at challenges to the natural environment, especially from climate change, and talked about several local environmental campaigns in which NPA is involved – to save the Lawson grasslands and Bluetts Block from encroaching urbanisation.

Martin's overview of the extensive work done by NPA volunteers in Namadgi and other reserves over his 20 years as work party organiser covered weed control and the removal of pine wildings and other trees and plants that are a threat to environmental values, and of old stock fencing.

The session concluded with Don's presentation on the fascinating habits of Rosenberg's Goanna and the valuable work being done by citizen scientists.

Eight participants made their way to Namadgi Visitor Centre a fortnight later for a presentation by Namadgi's manager, Brett McNamara, on how water catchment principles underpinned the location of the ACT as the site for the National Capital, and of the crucial role Namadgi plays in maintaining the quality of our water supply through its sphagnum moss marshes.

Brett outlined the major threats to the park, especially from climate change and feral animals like horses and deer. Two catastrophic fires in the park in 20 years, in 2003 and 2020, were stark examples of the influence of climate change. He stressed that protecting the park's environment was not about managing it, but about 'managing people', who have the greatest impact on it.

Then it was off to Glendale for a 'taste' of what some volunteering work entails. Led by Martin, the group visited a 1980s NPA work party site and the location of a more recent briar site, then on through a locked gate to look at remnant fencing, and the method used to preserve heritage values. The next stop was to look at recovery of an area where fences were removed in October 2021, and finally, to look at the site of briar infestations along Reedy Creek.

Feedback from course participants has generally been favourable with one participant commenting that she hoped the course was 'the first of many to be run by NPA'.

Allan Sharp



Martin Chalk (centre) with U3A course members near Glendale

NPA people

Lifelong conservationist takes some time out in the veggie patch

After nearly 40 years working in conservation in western New South Wales, John Brickhill finds new environmental challenges in Canberra, reports Allan Sharp

Since moving to Canberra in 2014 after a long and fulfilling career in conservation, John Brickhill has found time for some simple pleasures on his suburban block at Latham.

'Previously, I never had time for a vegetable garden,' he said, 'so the garden now has several vegetable beds and about 20 fruit trees, eight of which are in a chook run netted to keep out pesky birds.'

He also renovated his front garden by removing ivy and vinca and planting native shrubs. Lately, he has added local native grasses and forbs that he has grown from seed.

John's interest in the natural environment and conservation of natural areas developed in his mid-teens.

'It started with an interest in birds, my first identification being Rainbow Lorikeets in the garden using my father's copy of *What Bird Is That*,' he said. 'I attended the inaugural meeting of the Richmond Valley Naturalists, and with my parents went on monthly field trips with that group.'

In his high school years, he attended some University of New England extension courses and learnt about local forests and their management from Alex Floyd, a research scientist with the NSW Forestry Commission. His interest in forestry morphed into an interest in nature conservation.

Family friend Geoff Walker suggested that John apply for a NSW Public Service Cadetship with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. John accepted this well-timed advice and was in the first group of students studying Natural Resources at the University of New England. A career with the NPWS in western New South Wales followed.

'A major highlight was completing most of the field inspections and liaison with lessees of two large properties in the Western Division. This led

to the reservation of Nombinnie Nature Reserve and Nombinnie State Conservation Area – totalling 125,000 ha,' he said. 'These two reserves connected Round Hill and Yathong nature reserves, conserving the largest single block of mallee habitat in New South Wales.'

After the large fires of 1984–85 burnt most of what was to become Nombinnie and Round Hill nature reserves, John started a fire management program of strip burning the mallee to create long narrow fuel gaps to reduce the extent of fires.

'I was the incident controller of the first attempt to conduct these burns using helicopters for ignition of many kilometres of strip burns,' he recalls.

His interest in birds was also well rewarded by being in the Western District.

'The Riverina has many wetlands and during surveys of breeding waterbirds I enjoyed wading waist deep through

Measuring Goanna H. Photo by Don Fletcher



flooded Red Gum forests, counting colonies of up to 1,000 egret nests, with the adult birds displaying their lacy plumes while attending their nests,' John said. 'Similarly, recording ibis colonies of up to 40,000 nests was a sight that few people experience.'

John completed a master's degree on Malleefowl conservation that showed that populations were in decline across New South Wales. Other studies have confirmed that the decline continues because of foxes, and possibly cats.

John's work with NPWS extended to his own 20 ha rural block at Griffith. It carried mainly remnant native vegetation, regenerating after ringbarking over 100 years ago.

*At Yathong Nature Reserve.
Photo by Jan Gatenby*

'Living there allowed time to observe natural events such as the variable arrival of the spring migrant birds, the emergence of spring orchids, and the recovery of species following the exclusion of grazing stock,' he said.

He attempted to regenerate areas that had been cleared for cropping, mainly by direct seeding of wattles and planting local native trees that he grew himself. He estimated that many of the old trees on the block were well over 300 years old.

John joined NPA ACT soon after retiring to Canberra and immediately became involved in its activities. He is on the Environment Subcommittee, attends monthly work parties, and is closely involved in the Rosenberg's Goanna study, led by Don Fletcher. He also contributes to the citizen science website, Canberra Nature Map, and is a member of the Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group and the local Umbagog Landcare Group. He was recently appointed to the ACT Bushfire Council – now the Multi Hazard Advisory Council – which advises the ACT Government on fires and other natural hazards. John also likes 'messing about with boats'. He built his own beautiful wooden boat and is secretary of the Traditional Boat Squadron of Australia.

For the NPA ACT, John says the challenge will be to maintain the big increase in new members over the past couple of years and to entice them into the whole range of NPA activities so that they can carry on the good work of the past 60 years.



John at Cape Huay in Tasmania. Photo by Harriet Brickhill



Grey Noddy on Lake Burley Griffin. Photo supplied by John Brickhill

Lawson grasslands rally

Around 70 people gathered at the Lawson grasslands on a blustery May morning to protest against the Defence Housing Authority's plans to convert this critically endangered natural temperate grassland, and the equally rare flora and fauna within it, into a housing development. The community rally was part of an ongoing campaign by the Conservation Council of the ACT to save the grasslands. The campaign is supported by many local organisations, including NPA ACT.

Cynthia Burton



Part of the crowd at the rally. Photo by Peta Bulling



Lake Pedder shortly before flooding. Photo by Stefan Karpiniec - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pedder#/media/File:Lake_Pedder_&_Environs_-_18.jpg

Fiftieth anniversary of the drowning of Lake Pedder

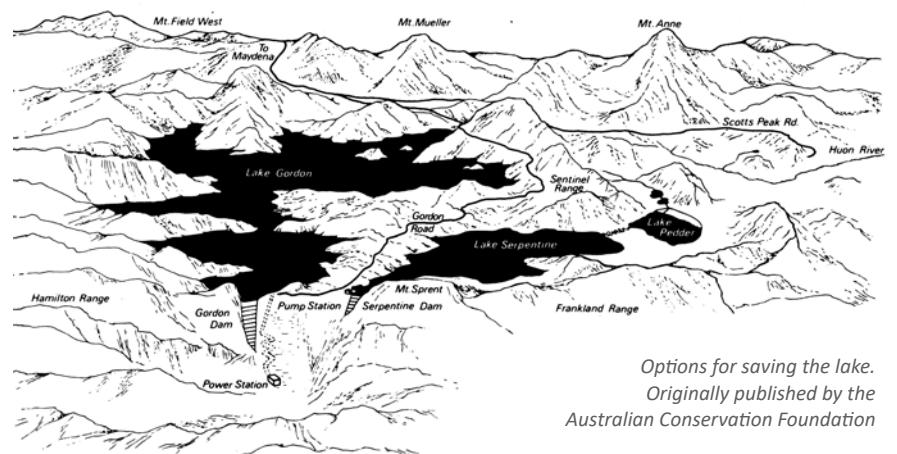
When Canberrans were celebrating Canberra Day in March, a very different anniversary was being marked in Tasmania. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the eviction of all bushwalkers from Lake Pedder ahead of its drowning under the waters of the new Gordon–Pedder hydroelectric scheme in the summer of 1972–73.

Lake Pedder was a place apart: it was an enormous 5 square kilometre expanse of water in Tasmania’s south-west carved out by the mighty power of glaciers during the last ice age. Over summer, the lake featured an iridescent 3 kilometre beach that took an hour to walk. Along two sides were towering jagged ranges, on another were four smaller lakes and on another was a languid, twisting river – the Serpentine River – that emptied the lake into the nearby Gordon River. On a still sunny day the lake was a giant mirror in the middle of one of the most rugged parts of Australia. Artist Max Angus said: ‘no description, however detailed, could remotely convey the sense of awe and wonder felt by those who saw this magic place’. Some visitors likened it to a beguiling inland sea.

But the lake’s days were numbered. Hydro-electric development in Tasmania began after the First World War. After building schemes throughout central and northern parts of the state, the all-powerful Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) began investigating the potential of the Pedder area in 1962. This was the start of two decades of controversial hydro developments in south-west Tasmania. Two years later, a HEC jeep track into the area was upgraded with federal government financial assistance. Then, in June 1965, state Labor Premier Eric Reece admitted ‘there may be some modification’ to the lake. Legislation covering the project was passed in 1966. All

this was done despite the fact that the area was made a national park in 1955. In response, a 10,000 signature petition was organised against the scheme and the state’s upper house held an inquiry into it. To make sure its plans were not upset though, the HEC immediately began work on the scheme which was completed 7 years before the larger neighbouring Gordon scheme was finished.

The then embryonic Tasmanian environment movement put up a mighty fight to save the lake which, along with the concurrent campaign to save the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling, would come to redefine ecological campaigning in Australia. Instead of the discrete, closed door diplomacy that previous campaigns had relied on, the Pedder and Barrier Reef campaigns went public and tried to win over voters’ hearts and minds through rallies, media stories, election campaigning and imagery. It even established the world’s first environment party – the United Tasmania Group – at a 1972 save-the-lake meeting at Hobart Town Hall (Bob Brown stood as a candidate). But it faced enormous external challenges. The first was that at state and federal level, both major parties supported the project. The environment movement’s hopes were raised, then dashed, when the Liberal Party briefly removed the state Labor government in 1969, then were raised and dashed again when the Whitlam Labor Party came to power in Canberra in 1972. The Tasmanian Labor Party was just as ardently committed to hydro development as the state Liberals and Whitlam felt constrained by the unqualified state Labor support for the scheme: he even told his environment minister to ‘stay out of Tassie’. Whitlam was also held back by the fact that the Pedder scheme was built, and the lake was being submerged, by the time he was elected.



Options for saving the lake. Originally published by the Australian Conservation Foundation

A second major external hurdle was the fact that there was no national heritage legislation at the time and Australia wasn't a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, which had been adopted in November 1972, just the month before Whitlam was elected. This meant the federal government could only potentially coerce the Tasmanian government through its wallet. In the 1980s the convention was key to saving the state's Franklin River. But the environment movement also had a number of its own internal challenges. One was dispersed effort: no fewer than five separate organisations were set up to fight for Pedder and the south-west wilderness during the controversy. The successful 1980s campaign to save Tasmania's Franklin River learnt from this and had only one, the Tasmanian Wilderness Society. Another was local focus: for too long the campaign tried to win the battle in Tasmania instead of concentrating its efforts on the mainland as the Franklin campaign did. Yet another was civility: the Pedder campaign wasn't prepared to break the law and tried to play too much by the rules of the Tasmanian government, again something the Franklin campaign would depart from. And the campaign had its share of bad luck, as many campaigns do: neither print nor TV media were particularly sophisticated at the time so it was difficult to relay the full, stunning beauty of the place into the living rooms of everyday Australians. Again, this was something the Franklin campaign would progress beyond.



On the beach at Lake Pedder, 1972. Photo by Philip Gatenby

One of the most unfortunate features of the Pedder hydro scheme was that, despite denials by the HEC, alternatives did exist – it wasn't all or nothing. As shown in the accompanying graphic, separate impoundments could have been built above and below Lake Pedder with a canal linking the two or just a lower dam could have gone in. There was a failure of imagination, and Australia and the world lost an absolute gem as a result. As Ed St John, a member of the Whitlam government's inquiry into the flooding, uttered: 'our children will undo what we so foolishly have done'. There is, of course, a solid case for restoring the lake, let's hope we live to witness it (see: <https://lakepedder.org>).

Greg Buckman

Greg, environmentalist and bushwalker, spent 25 years in Tasmania, moving there to work on the Franklin River campaign.

A Short Walk in the Nightcap Range

*Palm forest in Nightcap National Park, 1987.
Photo by Philip Gatenby*

*breathless...
birdsong at evening...
Wollumbin greys
fades to silhouette
catches a cloud*

*high in
the caldera core
evening unfolds
night is panorama
dawn unveils the Earth*

*wash in a pool
stand on a boulder
smell of the Earth ...
all those Gondwana
mornings long ago*

*speckled light
on leaf litter
the sound
of running water
washes right through me*

*a line
of pilgrims moves
slowly uphill
carrying daypacks
full of anxious thoughts*

*inner landscape
it's hot ... I'm tired
overtake her
omg she's passed me
I must catch up*

*overgrown track
and fallen trees...
the mind
seeks all problems...
climb over or duck under?*

*tired
at Terania Creek
but thankful...
friends have brought
chocolate biscuits*

*flickering flames
and mopoke calling
voices of frogs
and cicadas...
above us the starry night*

*all night
wind in the treetops...
spirits
of the ancestors
singing this place*

*wind stirs
the still deep pool
reflections waver...
become murky...
I'm thinking again*

*tearwashed morning...
despair for a damaged
Earth...
at my back I hear
the sound of chainsaws*

*in my nightmare
I walk in to a crowded camp
drop my cloak
and stand there naked
talking about coal seam gas*

*at last
we've lost the track...
what a relief...
I can find my own way
to the mountaintop*

*striding out
squelching and splashing
singing
this blessed rain
that soaks my skin*

*campfire flares
in a curtain of night
lighting up
the falling rain...
no one sits there now*

*I am the tick...
the leech that lopes
towards warm blood...
I am a creature
of the forest floor*

*morning after...
waking in cosy
confusion
after sleeping
with everyone's baggage*

Gerry Jacobson



North-west view from high point.
Photo by Barrie Ridgway

Protecting Bluetts Block – Piney Ridge

Bluetts Block – Piney Ridge (Bluetts) extends across Stromlo Blocks 402 and 403 and Denman Prospect Block 12, Section 1, between the Molonglo River and Uriarra Road, north-east of Mount Stromlo. It is part of the 'Western Investigation Area', a 10,000 ha stretch of land sought for future urban development by the ACT Government, south from Belconnen to Tuggeranong. The greatest threat to Bluetts is encroaching urban development. This will inevitably lead to the loss of old-growth habitat trees, rocky outcrops which provide habitat for reptiles and wildlife corridor connectivity. Other threats include an increased presence of domestic animals and invasive weeds.

Local birdwatcher Jean Casburn started the push to conserve the regenerating open forest and woodland on Bluetts, and the Conservation Council has been working actively on a campaign to have it added to the ACT's system of reserves. The campaign includes an online petition to have the area protected. This closes on 7 July. It has already achieved more than 500 signatories, the number required to trigger debate in the ACT Legislative Assembly and referral to the Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee.

Bluetts has been extensively surveyed for plants and animals. Its principal values are its rich biodiversity (over 100 plant species and more than 130 bird species), of which the accompanying photos give some idea, and in connecting Stony Creek Nature Reserve and the Lower Molonglo Nature Reserve, thence to Kama, The Pinnacle and Black Mountain. Its woodland meets the criteria for Box-Gum Grassy Woodland, which is listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

During summer, NPA ACT organised two outings to Bluetts, led by ecologist and naturalist Rainer Rehwinkel along with Peta Bulling and

Left to right: Necklace Fern, Old growth Scribbly Gum (by Rainer Rehwinkel) - Orb weaver, Kangaroo Grass, Old growth eucalypt (by Barrie Ridgway)

Helen Oakey from the Conservation Council. Twenty-five people attended the first walk on 29 January and 15 the second on 6 February.



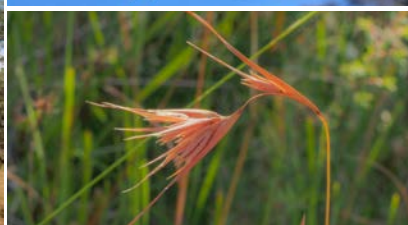
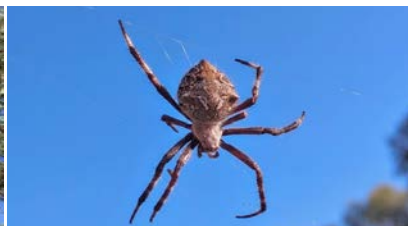
Participants on the first NPA outing. Photo by Rainer Rehwinkel

As an aside, there is confusion over the name, which is likely to persist for a while: the original spelling was Blewitt, after lessee Aubrey Blewitt, but this was mis-transcribed to Bluetts in ACT Government documentation, so community groups that are trying to have the area protected, such as Canberra Ornithologists Group, the Conservation Council and Canberra Nature Map, all use the Bluetts spelling.

Isobel Crawford

Reference:

Conservation Council ACT Region, see <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/our-campaigns/nature-waterways/protect-bluetts-block-piney-ridge/>



NPA outings program

Bushwalk grading guide June – October 2022



Distance grading (per day)

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

Terrain grading

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

Day walks

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

Pack walks

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

Car camps

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

Work parties

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

Other activities

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

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)

Walks arranged on a joint NPA, BBC (*Brindabella Bushwalking Club*) and CBC (*Canberra Bushwalking Club*) basis for 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 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 June – October 2022 (page 2 of 4)

<p>5 June Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p>Ginninderry to Shepherds Lookout Meet 8:30 am at The Link car park, McClymont Way, Strathnairn [UBD map 36, C11]. Follow newly established track south, contouring around gullies descending west, to Shepherds Lookout. Great views of Murrumbidgee and mountains the whole way. Return same route. Easy grades, 9 km. Brunch at Strathnairn Cafe.</p>	<p>Map: UBD Canberra street directory Grading: 1A Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>11 June Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Removal of damaged exclosure in Gudgenby Valley at site to be determined. Car-pooling available for journey there; tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration arrangements.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>19 June Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p>Botanic Gardens to Cork Oak plantation Meet 9 am at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. This natural history ramble will follow the newish 'Bushland Nature Walk' to a viewing platform, then the 'goat track' across the eastern slope of Black Mountain to the Woodland Walk, thence to the Cork plantation. 3-4 hours, returning same way. Book with leader by 16 June.</p>	<p>Leader: Isobel Crawford Contact: 0429 798 887 or orru@inet.net.au</p>
<p>22 June Wednesday walks</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>Medium/hard Leader: Steven Forst Contact: 0428 195 236 or steven.forst@inet.net.au</p> <p>Easy/medium Leader: Mike S Contact: 0412 179 907</p>
<p>25 June Saturday work party</p>	<p>Bullen Range Nature Reserve fence removal Meet at corner of Athllon and Learmonth Drives, Kambah at 9 am. Continuation of work begun in 2020 to remove redundant fences in Murrumbidgee River corridor. Location of work will be advised closer to the date. Please bring gloves – wire cutters, post puller, etc will be provided. Book with leader by 23 June.</p>	<p>Drive: 25 km, \$10 per car Leader: Michaela Popham Contact: 0413 537 333</p>
<p>26 June Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Nadgigomar Nature Reserve 8:30 am departure from meeting point in Queanbeyan. Nadgigomar Nature Reserve is in a rain shadow and can be a pleasant sun-trap in winter. We will walk beside the Shoalhaven River and through fairly open forest dotted with white-barked gums and casuarinas. Views to Mount Palerang at one point. 12 km, moderate gradients, mostly off-track, with some informal tracks and management trail. Contact leader for arrangements.</p>	<p>Map: Durran Durra 1:25,000 Grading: 2C Leader: Linda Groom Contact: 0474 507 259 or lbroom@gmail.com</p>
<p>3 July Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Rendezvous and Middle creeks Meet 8:30 am at Lanyon Marketplace car park near Tharwa Drive roundabout. Take Boboyan Road to Rendezvous car park and follow track into valley before heading west to Middle Creek for morning tea. Return via upper reaches of Rendezvous valley. Bring lunch. Distance will depend on winter conditions. Contact leader by 2 July.</p>	<p>Map: Rendezvous Creek 1:25,000 Grading: 1A/B/C/F Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>9 July Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Activity and site in Gudgenby Valley yet to be decided. Car-pooling available for journey there; tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration arrangements.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>10 July Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Johns Peak Walk up the fire trail to Camelback Ridge, footpad to Johns Peak, return to fire trail by the way we came but with a short off-track section between footpad and fire trail. A total of 14 km with a 700 m climb. If conditions are suitable, we may continue from Johns Peak to Tidbinbilla Peak – an extra 2 km return and 100 m climb. For weather check and departure point, contact leader by 5 pm Saturday.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/B Leader: Mike Bremers Contact: 0428 923 408 or mcbremers@gmail.com</p>
<p>16 July Saturday morning walk</p> 	<p>McQuoids Hill Meet at Kambah Village Shops (opposite service station) 9 am. A chance to visit one of the lesser known parts of Canberra Nature Park, at the back of Kambah. A relatively short walk to the top of McQuoids Hill to catch views from the western edge of Canberra. 2 hours (max) in duration with option of morning tea at one of the local shops after the walk.</p>	<p>Map: Tuggeranong 1:25,000 Grading: 1A Leader: Rod Griffiths Contact: 0410 875 731 or rod.blackdog@gmail.com</p>

NPA outings program June – October 2022 (page 3 of 4)

<p>17 July Sunday morning walk</p>	<p>Exploring Parliament House surrounds Meet 9 am on left hand side of front forecourt of Parliament House. Remnant vegetation, historic remains and roses: exploring the surrounds of Parliament House. 3-4 hours, 8 km. Optional lunch at conclusion. Contact leader, preferably by email, to register for walk and optional lunch by 15 July.</p>	<p>Leader: Rosemary Hollow Contact: 0413 977 708 or rosiehollow@gmail.com</p>
<p>23 July Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Valley fence removal Meet 8:30 am at Kambah Village shops. Work party will continue removal of fences south of Rendezvous Creek. All tools will be provided. Book with leader by 21 July.</p>	<p>Drive: 94 km, \$38 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Contact: 0411 161 056</p>
<p>24 July 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 peak. Lunch at top while admiring views of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Cotter Valley. Afternoon tea at Tidbinbilla Visitor Centre. 13 km with climb of about 700 m requiring good fitness. Book with leader by 5 pm Saturday.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/D/E Leader: Mike Bremers Contact: 0428 923408 or mcbremers@gmail.com</p>
<p>31 July Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p>Gungahlin quartz ridge Meet 8 am at Alinga Street terminus. Take tram to Mapleton Avenue and follow Gungahra Creek to Joey Playground, Throsby. Walk north into Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve and once past lake, climb quartz ridge off-track. Return via Frankies @ Forde (outdoor morning tea) to tram at Gungahlin terminus. 8 km. Optional outdoor lunch at Dickson before returning to start. Bring MyWay card and mask for tram. Contact leader by 30 July.</p>	<p>Grading: 1A/B Maps: UBD Canberra nos. 29, 30 Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>7 August Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Cotter Dam and Mount McDonald Depart Kambah Village shops 8:30 am. Park off Brindabella Road, just past turnoff from Cotter Road. Follow closed vehicle tracks to lookout over Cotter Dam and then other tracks for morning tea at edge of reservoir. Climb from there for lunch with views on Mount McDonald. Return via tracks, some possibly scrubby. About 9 km, ascent 310 m.</p>	<p>Map: Cotter Dam, 1:25,000 Grading: 1A/C Drive: 60 km, \$24 per car Leader: Mike S Contact: 0412 179 907</p>
<p>13 August Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Removal of damaged enclosure in Gudgenby Valley at site to be determined. Car-pooling available for journey there; tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration arrangements.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>14 August Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Currockbilly Currockbilly is a peak on the Budawang Range north of Mount Budawang. The walk climbs the peak from the west. We then walk a couple of km north and descend west to return to the cars This is partly exploratory and mostly off-track, involving regrowth, patches of thick scrub and rock scrambling. Total climb of about 650 m. Suitable for experienced off-track walkers. Limit of 8. Contact leader, preferably by email, by 12 August.</p>	<p>Map: Brooman 1:25,000 Grading: 2 A/D/E/F Drive: 190 km, \$76 per car Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>20 August Saturday walk</p> 	<p>Hospital Hill circuit Meet 8 am at Lanyon Marketplace car park (corner closest to Tharwa Drive roundabout). Starting from Yankee Hat car park, we will follow fire trails to Hospital Creek Hut. Then heading eastward across the creek (potential wet feet), follow a long spur up to Hospital Hill. Continue northward along Hospital Hill ridge to get some panoramic skyline views into the depths of Namadgi. The ridge descends back to the creek which we will re-cross to join fire trail near Eleanor's Grove to head back to cars. This is a long day walk with off-track sections in regrowth areas and around 400 m of ascent.</p>	<p>Map: Yaouk 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/C/F Drive: 80 km, \$32 per car Leader: Rod Griffiths Contact: 0410 875 731 or rod.blackdog@gmail.com</p>
<p>21 August Sunday walk</p> 	<p>Wrights Hill and Settlers Trail Meet 8:30 am at Kambah Village shops car park. A walk from Boboyan Road to Wrights Hill with views over Shannons Flat. Then continue through open forest and along the ACT border fire trail following the Boboyan Divide. Return along Settlers Trail beside Grassy Creek, visiting Westermans Homestead.</p>	<p>Maps: Yaouk, Shannons Flat 1:25,000 Grading: 2 A/B Drive: 160 km, \$64 per car Leader: Steven Forst Contact: 0428 195 236 or steven.forst@iinet.net.au</p>

NPA outings program June – October 2022 (page 4 of 4)

<p>24 August Wednesday walks</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>Medium/hard Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0414 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p> <p>Easy/medium Leader: Mike S Contact: 0412 179 907</p>
<p>27 August Saturday work party</p>	<p>Point Hut Hill – African love grass control Meet 8:30 am at Kambah Village shops. This is the first time NPA has visited this site. Bring gloves, all else will be provided. Book with leader by 25 August.</p>	<p>Drive: 20 km, \$8 per car Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>3 September Saturday walk</p> 	<p>Blundells Flat to Mount Coree Meet 8 am at Dillon Close, Weston. A walk up the south-eastern spur of Mount Coree, following the old route described in CBC's 1974 <i>Bushwalking near Canberra</i>. 650 m of climbing first on fire trail, then off-track. Some scrub. Morning tea with great views from Mount Coree. Descend via ACT/NSW border to Curries Road to head back to starting point.</p>	<p>Map: Cotter Dam 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/D/E Drive: 60 km, \$24 per car Leader: Rod Griffiths Contact: 0410 875 731 or rod.blackdog@gmail.com</p>
<p>10 September Saturday work party</p>	<p>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds in Gudgenby Valley at site to be determined. Car-pooling available for journey there; tools will be provided. Contact leader for registration arrangements.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Contact: 6247 0239 or kambalda@tpg.com.au</p>
<p>14-16 September Pack walk</p> 	<p>Quiltys Mountain From Nerriga entrance to Morton National Park walk off-track to the north of Quiltys Mountain. Camp both nights here and spend a day exploring top of mountain. While some of the walk is on tracks, rock scrambling and finding routes through cliff lines will be involved, and thick scrub may be encountered. Return via Redgrounds Track. For experienced off-track walkers. More details available closer to date. Limit of 8. Contact leader, preferably by email, by 11 September.</p>	<p>Map: Endrick 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/D/E/F Drive: 260 km, \$104 per car Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>17 September Saturday walk</p> 	<p>Blundells Flat to Devils Peak Meet 8 am at Dillon Close, Weston. After leaving the cars at Blundells Flat follow Pabral Road into NSW. Cross country to Coree Falls and then up the southern slope of Devils Peak. Descend through lighter scrub to Two Sticks Road to follow fire trails back to cars. A solid day of at least 15 km with a mixture of fire trail and rough off-track walking. Ascents around 700 m.</p>	<p>Map: Cotter Dam 1:25,000 Grading: 3A/D Drive: 60 km, \$24 per car (if car-pooling is in place) Leader: Rod Griffiths Contact: 0410 875 731 or rod.blackdog@gmail.com</p>
<p>24 September Saturday work party</p>	<p>Pierces Creek revegetation management Meet 8:15 am at Dillon Close, Weston. The rehabilitation project in this area, consequent to the 2003 fires, is still underway. Work party will assist PCS staff. All tools will be provided but please bring your own gloves. Book with leader by 22 September.</p>	<p>Drive: 50 km, \$20 per car Leader: Brian Slee Contact: 6281 0719 or brianslee@iprimus.com.au</p>
<p>8 October Saturday walk</p> 	<p>Corang circuit From Wog Wog entrance to Morton National Park we follow track to Corang Peak and Arch, and then scramble down Conglomerate Slope to Canowie Brook and continue to Many Rock Ribs on Corang River. Return to Wog Wog downstream from here. The walk, which will take about 8 hours, is mostly on track or footpad, some of which may be overgrown. Distance 25 km and total climb about 650 m. Early start essential. Limit: 8. Contact leader, preferably by email, by Thursday 6 October.</p>	<p>Map: Corang 1:25,000 Grading: 4A/D/E Drive: 220 km, \$88 per car Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or philip.gatenby@gmail.com</p>
<p>5-13 November</p>	<p>Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage Advance notice: Details in September <i>Bulletin</i>.</p>	<p>Leader: Eleanor Cotterell</p>



Mounts Bimberi, Murray and Morgan and Half Moon Peak from Tantangara. Photo by Philip Gatenby

Paddling the Snowy River – Victorian border to Buchan River

In 2018 and 2019 Max Smith and I went on two guided kayak trips with Alpine River Adventures (ARA) on the Snowy River covering Snowy River Falls in the Byadbo Wilderness Area of Kosciuszko National Park to McKillops Bridge in Victoria, a distance of about 110 km. These are described in earlier issues of the NPA Bulletin^{1, 2}. After two very enjoyable trips we wanted to see more, so we booked with ARA for a trip which has been described as the 'most popular canoe trip in Victoria', down the Snowy River from McKillops Bridge, through Tulloch Ard Gorge to the Buchan River confluence.



'Sworley' paddles through one of the more difficult rapids

After two postponements due to COVID-19 lockdowns and border closures, the trip was set for late March 2022. It included eight paying customers and guides Richard Swain, 'Sworley' and 'Shacka'. Due to high water levels after a wet summer, Richard decided that it would be safest to take two rafts and three single inflatable kayaks rather than 11 kayaks. Each raft carried four crew including a guide. In order to reduce travel time, it was decided that we would launch just south of the NSW/Victoria border, about 25 km north of McKillops Bridge. This would make it a distance of about 96 km of river to be covered over 6 days.

At the end of day 2 we were camped just upstream of McKillops Bridge. We had retraced the route from our 2019 trip, which was a good section in which to practise our skills for the upcoming grades 3 and 4 rapids in Tulloch Ard Gorge. Early on day 3, immediately after passing McKillops Bridge, there is a fast 10 km that we covered in one hour. It consisted



Beautiful reflection on one of the calm pools

Late afternoon on the Snowy River near McKillops Bridge.
Photos by Mike Bremers



of easy rapids and continuous fast-flowing water with a definite downhill feel. However, day 4 was the day of big rapids as we passed through the spectacular Tulloch Ard Gorge with its towering cliffs. Some of the rapids pushed our skills to the limit but all were negotiated safely. The more difficult rapids were left to the guides to paddle the craft through, providing a great spectacle as they showed their skills to the customers who watched from shore. After Tulloch Ard Gorge we entered a wetter environment, the cypress pine-clad drier country had given way to a wetter, lush type of vegetation. Day 5 was a day of easy rapids, many long pools and the appearance of some farmland. We covered 26 km which is a big effort but it put us on schedule to get to our pull-out point by lunchtime on day 6.

... day 4 was the day of big rapids as we passed through the spectacular Tulloch Ard Gorge with its towering cliffs.

Overall, the trip was very enjoyable. It was great to see the spectacular gorges, there were superb campsites and the

weather was perfect. Of the three trips we have done with ARA, however, I would say that their regular tours, upstream of McKillops Bridge, are the most rewarding because they provide opportunities to view many Indigenous artefacts and sites. This adds an extra dimension to these trips.

Mike Bremers

References:

1. NPA Bulletin, Vol. 55, No. 4, Dec 2018, p. 12
2. NPA Bulletin, Vol. 57, No. 1, March 2020, pp. 24–25



Entering Tulloch Ard Gorge on Day 4



Bushwalk reports

The Brassies and Bar Ridge

Date: 11–14 January 2022

Participants: Philip Gatenby (leader), Emily Barker, Geoff Barker, Cynthia Burton, Peter Conroy, Jan Gatenby, Linda Groom, Jacqui Rosier

Weather: Damp then mostly fine with sunny breaks, morning fog

The plan for the walk was to explore Bar Ridge, after the first night camping near Finns River, then spend the next 2 nights near Tin Hut, with a day trip in the Brassies.

Thunder, lightning and heavy rain provided an accompaniment in this unusual season on the drive from Jindabyne, where the party had gathered, to Guthega Power Station at Mungah, the start and finish of the walk. The power station is at the junction of the Mungah and Snowy rivers. The weather made me wonder about the depth of water at the crossing of Mungah River, now necessary for access to the bottom of Disappointment Spur, as the bridge which once spanned the river upstream of the power station remains unreplaced. As we waited for the rain to ease, a power company worker drove up, having been through Schlink Pass, and offered encouragement saying that the storm had arrived early and 'things up top should now be okay'. This advice prompted our departure. The weather had settled into low cloud and drizzle but still enough to

make me decide to reverse the walk's direction so that more of our first day would be on track.

Masses of Styliidium glowed pink beside the track in the cool, damp weather.



Styliidium. Photo by Jan Gatenby

The Mungah River crossing proved quite straightforward. From here the track climbs steadily on the side of Disappointment Spur. One of several aqueduct tracks, it services the aqueduct on the spur's western side, diverting creeks flowing into Mungah River to the penstock of Guthega Power Station. Masses of Styliidium glowed pink beside the track in the cool, damp weather. A couple of kilometres up the track is Disappointment Spur Hut, which dates from the 1950s and was

used to support surveys by SMA. The hut was a shelter out of the rain for lunch but so small as to make difficult social distancing while eating. At Schlink Pass we went off track up Gungahran. We found the summit with its collapsed trig, but there were no views because of mist. An hour or so to the north-east along the Great Divide is Tin Hut, a welcome sight, a place to pitch our tents and a provider of respite from the rain which inevitably returned around dinner time. Tin Hut is nearly 100 years



Crossing Mungah River. Photo by Jan Gatenby

old, built in 1926 by the NSW Tourist Bureau to support skiers crossing from Kosciuszko to Kiandra¹.

Valentines Creek rises in Gungartan Pass, flows north, wanders around, then joins the Geehi and eventually flows into the Murray. On either side of the northerly flowing part of the creek are Kerries Ridge to the west and the Brassy Mountains to the east. The Brassies, which are a part of the Great Divide between Gungartan and the oddly named Cup and Saucer and Mailbox hills, run north from Tin Hut. After delaying our departure until the morning fog had lifted, our second day was spent exploring Big Brassy Peak (the higher point) and Brassy Peak and then returning to Tin Hut along Valentines Creek for another night.



Disappointment Spur. Photo by Linda Groom



Tin Hut camp. Photo by Phillip Gatenby

and a fine-looking hut it was but, like its predecessor from the 1890s, was destroyed by bushfires (in 2003) and not rebuilt, apparently because of its remoteness. The site of the hut proved contentious. The 1:25,000 topo map (*Geehi Dam*) marks the hut site but there was no trace at the location shown and its aspect wasn't as I'd remembered. Post-walk research² indicated a location about 250 m to the north, much more in keeping with our memories of the hut. Just to further confuse the issue, the 1:50,000 topo map (*Mount Kosciusko*) gives the hut's location 400 m westwards, too close to Farm Creek in my view.

Crossing the swiftly flowing Finns River was a challenge (especially for the leader who went the wrong way, the rest of the party sensibly following Linda). Disappointment Spur was now ahead of us and readily climbable next morning from our third night's camp. The spur undulates downwards from

Sun orchids were out.

Fog again was the order of the day on the third morning, all the way along a ridge south-east of the hut to Mount Porcupine. Horse tracks and piles of dung dotted the landscape although we saw only one of the protected ferals. A spur to the east off Mount Porcupine turns south and becomes Bar Ridge. The fog lifted for a pleasant walk on the ridge through open alpine meadow, with occasional rocks to negotiate and unburnt patches of Snow Gum. At Green Knob, where there's a trig and a patchy view, we dropped off the ridge through thickish scrub to the shrubby flats around the junction of Farm Creek and Finns River. Sun orchids were out. Boltons Hut (constructed 1940), which Jan and I visited a couple of times in the 1980s, used to be here,



Ascending Gungartan. Photo by Linda Groom



Orange Billy Button.
Photo by Phillip Gatenby



Sun orchid.
Photo by Jan Gatenby



Snow Daisy. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Towards Finns River from Bar Ridge. Photo by Jan Gatenby

the top of Gungartan for about 7 km, generally south, to the Snowy River. On its southerly end is a communication tower which apparently allowed the nearby power station to be controlled remotely but now appears disused. Like many parts of the High Country the sides of the spur are heavily forested while the top is mostly open and pleasant to walk along. Two SMA trigs, in varying stages of repair,



Crossing Valentines Creek. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Horse track between Tin Hut and Mount Porcupine. Photo by Linda Groom



Summit of Gungartan. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Top of Big Brassy. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Snow Gum. Photo by Jan Gatenby

are on the ridge and provide good viewpoints. Some 200 metres shy of the communication tower we left the ridge to regain the aqueduct track. The last 100 metres of the descent was through thick regrowth relieved by reaching the track, a mere 2.5 km from the car park at Munyang and the completion of an interesting, at times delightful, walk in a part of Kosciuszko National Park seldom visited.

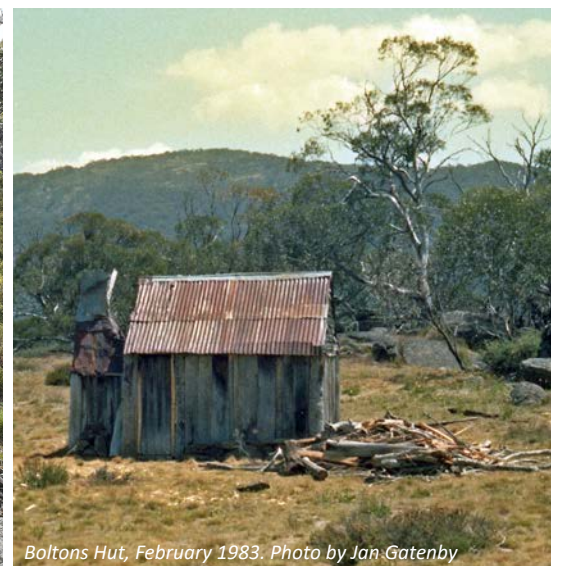
Philip Gatenby

References:

1. Kosciuszko Huts Association, <https://khuts.org/index.php/huts/kosciuszko-national-park/tin-hut>
2. See Zapruda, Bushwalk Australia, <https://bushwalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=47&t=29124>



Group photo. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Boltons Hut, February 1933. Photo by Jan Gatenby



Mount McDonald and northern Brindabellas. Photo by Brian Slee

Brown Trig

Date: 20 February 2022

Participants: Brian Slee (leader), Cindy Davis, Joanna Korecki, Janet Manley

Weather: Mostly blue sky, warm, nice breeze

I had not been to Brown Trig, a prominent hill (719 m) on the western slope of Mount Stromlo, so in September 2021 I recced the route with two fellow NPA members: Klaus, who rode a new electric bike, and Stef on an old gearless model, with me on something in between, and it was cyclists' heaven. The billy was boiled for special tea and we nibbled some food; the sun crept low over the mountains as we slipped back down Wallaby Creek Fire Trail.

Hence 'cyclists and more cyclists' was the attendance sheet warning for this outing but none were seen. On a day ideal for

being outdoors, the place was almost deserted. Even kangaroos were absent. And all the pine trees are gone now that remnants from the 2003 fire have been cleared. Their absence has restored the brilliant views of Tidbinbilla's peaks and the northern Brindabella Range.

We set out at 8:30 am from Uriarra Road car park (opposite Spring Valley) on Coopers Fire Trail, a wide smooth road which undulates south for 4 kilometres. Our two new



Setting off. Photo by Joanna Korecki



Coopers Fire Trail, mid-course. Photo by Joanna Korecki



walkers had a nursing background, and given what nurses know about humanity, the conversation soon revved up.

... we began seeing Bullen Range beyond Cotter Road and all the mountains south in a broad stretch.

As the fire trail crested a ridge, we turned right to climb to the trig. The weediness already encountered along the way (mostly fleabane) intensified as spiky thistles and bean-stalk verbascum joined the discord, the inevitable legacy of a good season. Fortunately, we began seeing Bullen Range beyond Cotter Road and all the mountains south in a broad stretch. The views from the summit are marvellous.



Coopers fire trail. Photo by Brian Slee



Having developed a reputation for entangling people in fences, there was hesitation about following me north-west down the hill to an unfamiliar section of Stoney Creek fire trail which is bordered by a fearsome cattle fence. We kept clear. Even at this lower level, the views west persisted. We were back at the cars at 11:15 am; 10 km. Cloud was building for a storm that never arrived.

Outstanding walk, near home, worth repeating. The hills and mountains surrounding Canberra have a kind of charisma. Brown Hill is an ideal location to experience it. See it before opportunistic politicians begin chopping up the land for 'dream homes'.

Brian Slee

Janet, Cindy, Joanna on Brown Hill. Photo by Brian Slee



Tabletop Mountain. Photos by Steven Forst

Tabletop Mountain

Date: 12–14 March 2022

Participants: Steven Forst (leader), Marlene Eggert, Stephen Joske, Stephen Marchant, Lisa Quilter, Margaret Power

The Canberra Day long weekend offered the chance for this 3-day pack walk from the Selwyn Ski area to Broken Dam Hut, via the site of Four Mile Hut. We camped for 2 nights at Broken Dam Hut. On the second day we climbed Tabletop Mountain, where there are 360 degree views. On day three we returned to the cars by an off-track route.

The group met in Adaminaby at the bakery café, taking the opportunity over morning coffee to break the long drive from Canberra, before continuing on to the Selwyn Ski area through the fire-damaged Kosciuszko National Park.

The Selwyn Ski area is currently being rebuilt after being destroyed in the 2019–20 summer fires. The start of our walk was delayed by restricted access to the site, which added both climb and distance to the walk on our first day. A mob of 8 or 9 horses was seen enjoying the sun and long grass immediately above the Selwyn Ski area.

Wandering the high plains



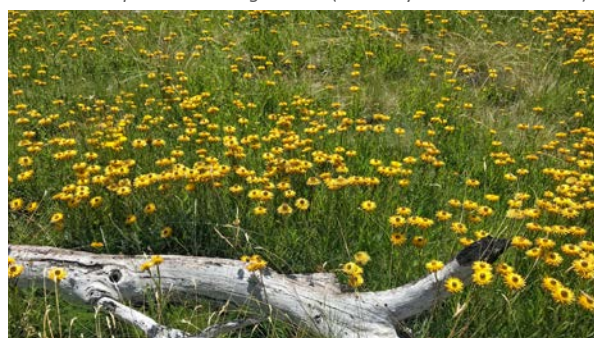
Fortunately, however, there was little sign of horses further into the national park.

Lunch was at the site of Four Mile Hut. The hut was also burnt down in the 2019 fires (see the article by Klaus Hueneke in *NPA Bulletin*, Vol. 57, No. 1), with only the slow combustion stove and other iron work remaining. It dates from the 1930s and is to be rebuilt. After a long afternoon, walking slowed by the leader's lack of fitness and his delaminating boots, Broken Dam Hut was eventually reached. The hut, which dates from the 1920s, was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1989. Its grassy surrounds provided a welcome soft green foundation to camp on.

The walk provided extensive alpine views, both along the route and from the summit of Tabletop Mountain. We passed through numerous patches of gold Alpine Everlasting Daisy (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*), set among a sea of yellow and grey Billy Buttons and other daisies. It was noticeable, however, that there had been little regrowth of the trees (Snow Gum and others) with their tortured skeletal limbs stretching as far as the eye could see. This was the only down side of the views. The weather was mild and, for the most part, dry except for a hailstorm on the Sunday afternoon during which we greatly appreciated the shelter provided by the hut.

Steven Forst

Alpine Everlasting Daisies (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*)



The 2021–22 goanna season in retrospect ... and future plans

Reporting on a citizen science project aiming to improve our understanding of habitat use, movements, conservation status and the life system of Rosenberg's Goanna in Namadgi National Park, using GPS tracking devices, wildlife cameras and field observation.¹

Hatchling highs

The hatchling patrols were one of the highlights of the 2021–22 goanna season. That was due to a small team of experienced NPA members who checked the termite mounds repeatedly, a team that included Quentin Moran, Trish McDonald, Joss Haiblen, Mark Hollow, Brice Pacey and others, as well as occasional helpers who visited to see the activity for themselves.



Hatchling patrollers Mark Hollow and Brice Pacey returning to their car. Photos by Don Fletcher

We made new findings this year. It turns out that the first observation of nesting by a Rosenberg's Goanna in the ACT, that we know of, was atypical. Female 'Rosy', observed by Matt Higgins on Mount Ainslie, laid her eggs in the same

termite mound in consecutive years. The larger sample size from the hatchling patrols showed that local Rosenberg's Goannas generally lay in a different set of termite mounds in successive years. Either the same females choose different mounds, or goannas here are not laying every year, which is also the case on Kangaroo Island. (Research using DNA could reveal the extent to which each alternative applies.)

We also learnt that the goannas are probably NOT carefully selecting a small sample of mounds to investigate for laying: 43 per cent of the mounds we monitor regularly have already been used by a female goanna. It is different for the termites. Where *Nasutitermes* mounds occur is tightly controlled: as mentioned in a previous report, the termites build at thermally favourable sites.

As well as looking for hatchlings in October, this season we trialled a February patrol to look for egg laying. Nest excavations can be speedily repaired by termites, so evidence of them usually disappears quickly, unlike hatchling exit holes, so we were not particularly hopeful. As it turns out, however, we found an amazing number of nest excavations! It remains to be seen how many of them produce hatchlings in the spring. We left cameras on nine of these mounds, and the results revealed that after being sealed over by termites, most received visits from a small, slender goanna that might have been a female, and one was also visited by a large goanna that was almost certainly male.

Cannibalism by males is known in Rosenberg's Goanna, but this season, for the first time, we were lucky to catch one of our known males in the act of eating eggs, and he allowed us to approach him closely.

Right: Vehicles had to pull hard to one side of the trail in various places to avoid collapsed sections of road



Goanna T7 raiding a nest. Inset images show the goanna's face wet with egg and a broken eggshell moved from the interior to the entrance of the excavation after T7 departed

Access lows points

Student camp cancelled due to rain and boggy roads, COVID-19 restrictions on vehicle sharing, flooded river fords, John's vehicle almost ruined by water intake, damaged roads, getting bogged – you have heard from me about these things which made 2021–22 our hardest year. And Rosenberg's Goanna sheds skin patches unpredictably, so if you can't get to them often enough, the GPS packs will be shed prematurely. And unless there is at least a minimum set of data before the pack is shed, the results are useless.





This year the river was often too deep or

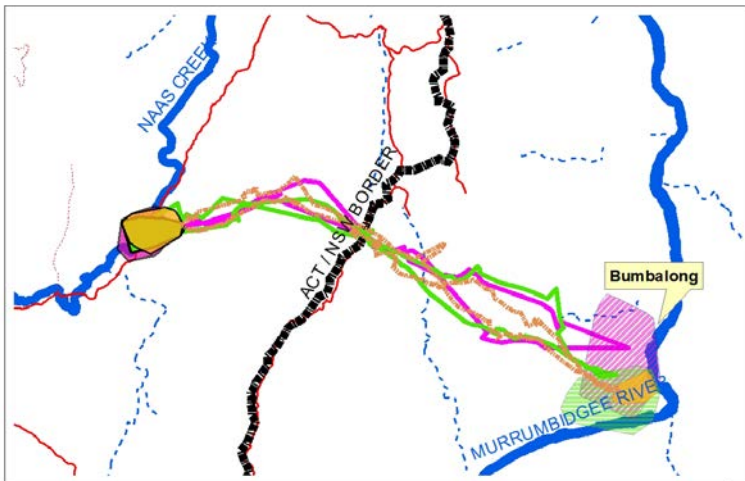


too full of sand to be safely driven across

Actual performance

Yet somehow, partly just by persisting, we have ended up with a better set of GPS data than I had hoped for. Only three packs were shed because we had not inspected them enough and, in each case, it happened after we had obtained a usable set of data. One GPS pack that is still attached (to male Goanna 14) has provided no GPS data since 21 January. Because of the access problems we haven't been able to get back to that goanna to catch him and determine what is really happening. Maybe the problem is just a broken UHF antenna and our data will be there when we get our hands on the pack. That leaves four females and one male goanna that have provided excellent results and whose packs will remain with them until the spring, hopefully providing better insight into winter activity (or lack of it) than we have previously had.

A highlight in the year's results was the finding that Goanna 18 at mating time walked 8 km across the Clear Range and down to Bumbalong, for a third consecutive year. Bumbalong on the Murrumbidgee River is 370 m lower in elevation than 18's home range on the Naas River, where he spends 90 per cent of the year at 1,070 m. We have not been to Bumbalong but we surmise that it must have female goannas and *Nasutitermes termitaria*.



Movements of Goanna 18 over three years, showing three annual primary home ranges on Naas Creek, three tracks to and from the Bumbalong vicinity which is at lower elevation on the Murrumbidgee River, and three annual mating season ranges

Future

Our plans for the 2022–23 season have yet to be finalised among the key people in the team and remain indicative for now. Key factors are funds and weather. We have applied to the ACT Government for another Environment Grant and the outcome will have a big influence on what we do. Also, we'd like to take greater account this time of the expected weather pattern (whether *La Nina* is expected to continue through the 22–23 summer). Maybe next year we should spend less time battling the Naas River and Naas Valley Fire Trail and instead tackle the problems of research in urban parks by looking more at the goannas in Ainslie Majura Nature Reserve. My 4WD would be likely to agree judging by its scars..

One activity, however, is agreed by all as a high priority – the need to mount another attempt to estimate goanna population size using wildlife cameras. Ideally, we would set cameras for 2 weeks in December to identify a 'marked' set of goannas, then 4 weeks in January–February to record the ratio of 'previously seen' to 'new' goannas. That requires three visits a week apart in December and five in January–February. Each visit would need up to four vehicle-based teams to refresh camera batteries, memory cards and baits, and the first and last visits would also install and remove the cameras. In the next few weeks one of us will call for helpers with that. Last but not least, we will be looking for volunteers to go through the memory cards to separate the photos containing goannas, and a group to peruse the goanna photos to help recognise the different individuals.

The camera survey will also give us an index of abundance of foxes, dingoes, Brush-tailed Possums, and wallaby species to compare with the results of the pre-fire goanna survey attempt.

Don Fletcher, John Brickhill and Enzo Guarino

References:

1. More information about the project is available in the *NPA Bulletin* (Mar 2018, June 2018, Mar 2019, June 2019, Sep 2019, Dec 2019, June 2020, Sep 2020, June 2021, March 2022). Readers more interested in the project can either receive a series of 'Goanna News' emails, or volunteer for field trips, by emailing don.fletcher@emailme.com.au. Also potentially available are our documents for project governance and for standardising our field methods, particularly our Project Outline which is updated before each goanna season. The Project Outline states the goals of the project, and provides an account of progress and where we are heading.

Dingoes are rare in Naas Valley. This is one of two recorded in the 2018 survey. The survey did not record any foxes, nor was any fox scat or track seen in the valley until much later



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Book launch and review

Moths in the A.C.T.

A new book, *Moths in the A.C.T.* was launched by noted local ecologist Dr Michael Mulvaney on Tuesday 12 April at a well-attended event in the Botanic Gardens hosted by the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC). Dr Marianne Horak, curator of Lepidoptera at ANIC and herself an author of an ebook on moths, opened formalities, followed by Michael, then lead author and publisher Glenn Cocking who acknowledged all the contributors. Michael gave a very animated and humorous talk in which he urged us all to buy extra books for friends and family. He mentioned the huge contribution of moth photos to the book and Canberra Nature Map by some citizen scientists, singling out Katarina Christenson with more than 600 and Alison Milton with more than 400 photos – moths in their home gardens. Glenn acknowledged his fellow authors, Dr Suzi Bond who suggested the project, and Ted Edwards, renowned walking encyclopaedia of moth knowledge.

After the talks, cold drinks, a large cake and moth-shaped shortbread biscuits (made by Katarina) were consumed as the audience bought books and lined up to have them signed by the three authors.



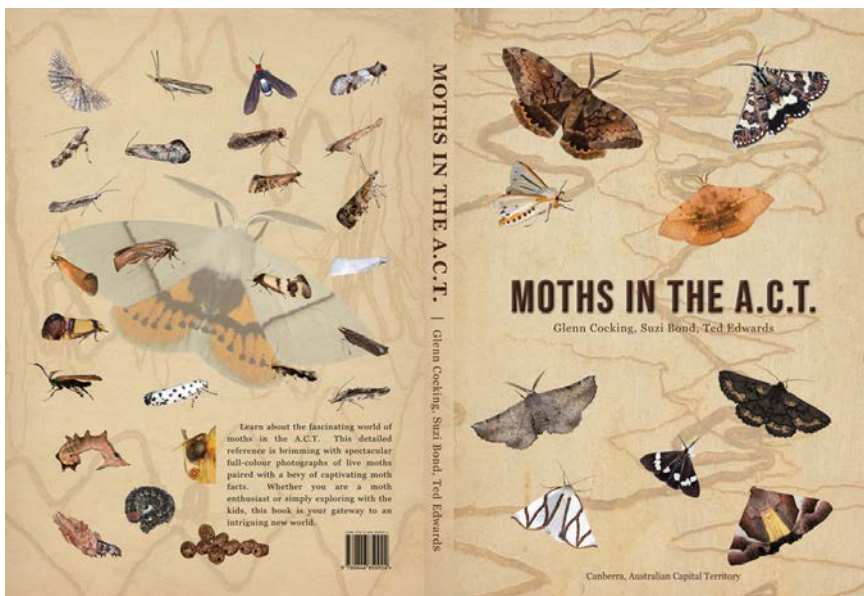
Moth biscuits. You won't find these in the book



Signing copies

The book, more an encyclopaedia of ACT moths, is a large, attractive, well-designed book that should be in your home library or better still on your coffee table where visitors might see it. The index is comprehensive and there are several appendixes and a glossary, plus hundreds of beautiful photographs that will amaze you. Each family of moths has a distinguishing colour bar on the edge of the page: geometrid moths, for example, boast deep blue, and there is a description of the family at the head of its section. The book has captured a vast amount of Ted's life-long learning about moths. There is even mention of their cousins the butterflies, and it is claimed that the moths are equally attractive.

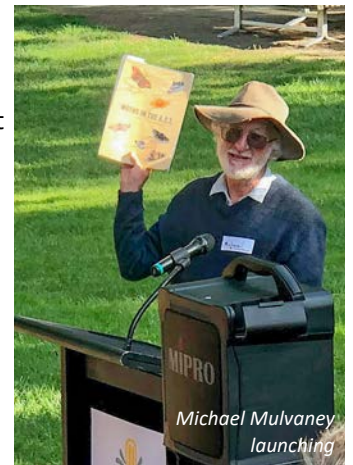
The authors estimate there are more than 2,000 moth species in the ACT, 10 per cent of the Australian tally. Seven hundred of them are illustrated in the book. The ACT species are classified into more than 50 family groups, a separate chapter for each.



Part of the crowd at the book launch. Photos by Kevin McCue

A number of messages arise from the collation of this book:

- More research is required on the moths, especially associating adult moths with their larval forms. Citizen scientists can help here. If a caterpillar that cannot be identified is found, take its picture then put it in a jar with abundant food to see what it turns into. Then take its picture again and lodge photos of both larval and adult forms on Canberra Nature Map.



Michael Mulvaney launching

- Identifying new and rare moths. The first moth described, on page 33, has not been seen since that first sighting in May 1949. That would be something to find again.
- The authors comment that burning the bush, planned or unplanned, is a destructive process for moths and other insects that break down the litter and recycle nutrients in a forest. Their role can only be restored by insects migrating from long-unburned sections of the bush.
- Citizen scientists have made this book possible and they are encouraged to keep uploading their photographs to Canberra Nature Map (for a later edition of the book perhaps).

If your goal in owning this book is to identify moths you might encounter around your home, you are going to have to learn something about the 50-odd different moth families, or face leafing through its 274 pages hoping to find a similar species.

The book is a wonderful tribute to the authors, designer and, of course, our local moths – job well done.

Kevin McCue

The book is published by Glen Cocking. More information about its contents can be found at <https://mothsintheact.org>.

Copies of the book are available from <https://mothsintheact.org/buy-now.html>.

The price is \$50, which includes the cost of delivery in Australia.

ISBN: 978-0-646-85092-4



An eruption of the Tongan volcano a day before the main blast. Photo Tonga Geological Services/ZUMA Press

Tongan volcanic eruption

The NPA's general meeting on 17 March was the first face-to-face meeting for several months. In the days before the meeting the scheduled speaker had to pull-out. The meeting was threatened with cancellation but into the breach stepped Kevin McCue to give us a thought-provoking presentation on the recent Tongan volcanic eruptions. This eruption sequence commenced on 21 December last year on Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai, a submarine volcano in the Tongan archipelago and nearly 4 weeks later, on 15 January 2022, reached a very large and powerful climax.

Explosive eruptions like this can generate a vertical column of ash and steam that rises from the crater into the upper atmosphere. On a worldwide scale, such eruptions are relatively common. Kevin illustrated this with photos of several volcanic eruptions he has

observed over the last few decades and from sites visited where volcanoes used to be active. Such explosions may generate shock waves which degrade into sonic booms within a few kilometres.

What was different about the Tongan volcano was that the shock wave generated by the largest of its several eruptions triggered a sonic boom which travelled around the world. According to Nature News, shock waves that rippled through the atmosphere and oceans were unlike anything seen in the modern scientific era.

Kevin and co-author Bruce Boreham have submitted a paper on possible reasons for the scale of the sonic boom. They found from a literature review that, apart from man-made atmospheric nuclear explosions, only two volcanic eruptions since 1880 have generated such long-lasting shock waves. From recordings of the Tongan explosion the authors computed various properties of the shock wave and postulated a possible causative mechanism involving hydrogen leaking under pressure from the Earth's outer core, roughly 3,000 km below the surface. This is a similar tectonic setting to the Krakatoa Volcano in Indonesia which famously erupted in 1883. Its sonic boom travelled several times around the world.

Kevin suggests that their proposal could be tested by water sampling regularly from ships for contained hydrogen above the Earth's major submarine subduction zones.

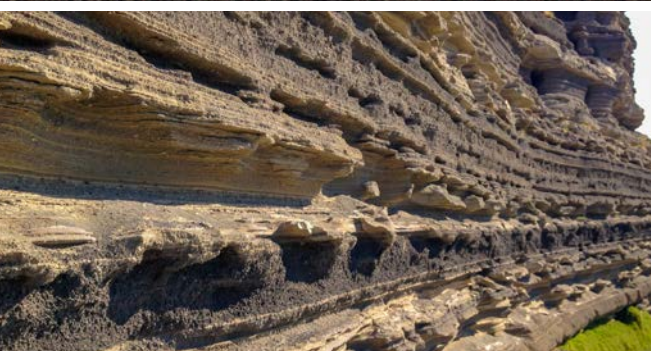


Lava channel, Mount Bagana Volcano, Bougainville

Photos by Kevin McCue unless indicated otherwise

Top: Tanna Volcano, Vanuatu

Below: Ash layers from eruptions 10–30,000 years ago, Tower Hill Volcano



Matupit Island eruption, Rabaul 2006

Philip Gatenby and Sonja Lenz



PARKWATCH

Australians put nature first in national parks: poll

New national polling undertaken by National Parks Australia Council in February confirms that most Australians do not want to see prime protected areas like national parks compromised by commercial or large-scale development.

Of the 1,122 Australians surveyed, 91 per cent agreed national parks and conservation areas are critical to protect nature from resource extraction (including logging and mining), and 78 per cent said they did not support any development in parks and protected areas at all.

The poll was commissioned in response to the increasing trend of federal and state governments spruiking and funding development and commercial interests over nature protection in national parks.

<https://bit.ly/37ASicg>

Time to rethink tourism in Tassie parks

It is time to rethink exploitation of Tasmania's national parks as a resource for growing the tourism industry, says Tasmanian National Parks Association (TNPA).

Citing the state government's policy to 'unlock the full potential of these [wilderness] areas' and to 'grow the tourism industry', TNPA president Nicholas Sawyer argued in the Hobart Mercury on 5 March 2022 that there was a need to move beyond the simplistic 'unlocking' approach and develop a more nuanced policy that acknowledges and protects the values that attract visitors to Tasmania's parks in the first place. This requires a strategic, evidence-based approach to planning which prioritises maintaining the integrity of our national parks.

<https://tnpa.org.au/unlocking-our-parks/>



The Tyndall Range, Tasmania, earmarked for a tourist development. Photo by Philip Gatenby

Searching for wildlife at Wooleen Station, WA

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) ecologists visited the remote Wooleen Station in the southern rangelands of Western Australia late last year, to conduct a preliminary biodiversity assessment of this outback station. A team of five AWC ecologists took part, invited by Wooleen's owners David and Frances Pollock to support their commitment to restoring the natural landscape across the 152,000-hectare pastoral property.

Over seven nights, David and Frances joined the ecologists in spotlighting surveys and deployed 50 camera traps at 25 sites. Detections included 24 birds, 7 reptile and 12 mammal species. They also detected a suspected Kultarr, a rarely sighted small nocturnal marsupial, and spotted the small carnivorous Woolley's False Antechinus, Wedge-tailed Eagles and Spinifex Hopping Mice.

<https://bit.ly/37vy5UY>

Final Tassie plan continues protection of feral deer for hunting

The Tasmanian Government's Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan, released in February, continues to protect feral deer within hunting zones and designates deer hunting areas within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The long-awaited plan marks a continuation of feral deer protection in the state despite their escalating economic and ecological damage and strong views from many Tasmanians that this protection is unnecessary and should stop. It follows the recent failure by the Tasmanian Government to remove feral deer protections in its Wildlife Regulations Review last December.

'This plan has been a missed opportunity to dramatically improve feral deer management in Tasmania,' Invasive Species Council Deer Project Officer Peter Jacobs said.

<https://bit.ly/3rchL2H>

Conservation and tourism in the Queensland Granite Belt

National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) has been partnering with the Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network and the Protect the Bush Alliance in proposing to expand the Protected Area Estate in the Granite Belt, which will contribute to the state government's goal to protect 17 per cent of Queensland's land area and increase economic returns for the region through nature-based tourism. Queensland's current protected land area percentage is around 9 per cent. This proposal is seen as a pilot that could be replicated in other parts of the state.

The region has significant conservation value and its proximity to Brisbane and other regional centres makes the Granite Belt a popular location for nature-based tourism. A resource document and business case have been drafted and shared with local government, state government, Department of Environment and Science and the tourism industry, and have had positive feedback.

<https://bit.ly/3jiJiuO>

Saving Redwood Park

As part of a campaign against a proposal by Toowoomba Council to build a mountain bike track in Redwood Park, NPAQ has made a video that supports the campaign. NPAQ has also organised a petition to the Minister for Environment and Science saying the commercially driven proposal is a major concern to Queensland conservationists as Redwood is a world-class fauna and flora site, home to many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. At just 243 ha it's 0.2 per cent of the size of the Daintree National Park yet home to 50 per cent of the total number of bird species found in the Daintree.

<https://npa.org.au/save-redwood-park/>

New protection for the Gardens of Stone

Blue Mountains Conservation Society celebrated the announcement by the NSW Government last November of the creation of a new Gardens of Stone

State Conservation Area (SCA) following a long campaign going back to Myles Dunphy's vision for the Greater Blue Mountains in 1932. The decision transfers a spectacular area of pagoda landscapes, cliffs, waterfalls, woodlands and flowering swamps into the national park estate.

The new SCA, covering 31,500 hectares, is made up of most of three state forests (Newnes, Ben Bullen and Wolgan) plus Crown reserve land near Mount Piper. There will also be small additions to the adjoining Gardens of Stone and Wollemi national parks.

The existing Gardens of Stone National Park, immediately north of the new SCA, was created in 1994 but left the three state forests unprotected because of active coal mining leases.

NPA NSW <https://bit.ly/3KEU76k>

NSW National Parks Cycling framework disappoints

National Parks Association of NSW (NPA NSW) members have been increasingly concerned about escalating habitat loss, soil erosion and damage to cultural sites during the illegal construction of mountain bike tracks. Many instances of illegal track construction have been reported to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

New policies were finally exhibited in late 2021, but NPA NSW is disappointed that policy and implementation guidelines in the exhibited cycling strategy were sorely lacking and barely acknowledge the extent of damage that has been, and continues to be, inflicted on parks and reserves. NPA NSW says the issue requires continuing advocacy to ensure that conservation is restored as the foremost objective for the state's precious parks.

<https://bit.ly/3DXfL3i>

Wellsford big trees recognised as significant

Two towering trees in a stand of large old box and ironbark trees – known to the locals as the Big Trees – in Wellsford State Forest have been recognised for their scientific and aesthetic values to the landscape and listed on the National Trust's Significant Trees Register.

Arborist and nature campaigner at Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA), Jordan Crook, described the Big Trees as 'truly remarkable'. 'The fact that they have survived the mining and logging operations in the area is astounding' he said. 'But their continued survival is not guaranteed. Now that we know where they are we must ensure their safety by keeping harmful firewood collection and mining operations away from them.'

<https://vnpa.org.au/wellsford-big-trees-recognised-as-significant/>

Big success for Little Terns, thanks to volunteers

At least 43 fledglings of endangered, beach-nesting Little Terns were observed at Shoalhaven Heads, NSW, this season, the highest number seen at the site since records began 20 years ago. Annemarie Mueller, Shorebird Ranger with the NPWS, said this is more than three times the



Little Tern.
Photo by Philip Gatenby

number of fledglings ever recorded in the area. Shoalhaven Heads hosted around 10 per cent of the state's entire Little Tern breeding population.

Not only 'did we see a record number of fledglings, but we also had more breeding pairs than ever recorded, which kept local volunteers very busy,' Ms Mueller said.

Ms Mueller acknowledged the contribution of nearly 100 local volunteers who protected nests, eggs, chicks and talked to beach goers and dog walkers along the coast, from Gerroa to Eden, for such a successful season.

<https://bit.ly/3rfJyz9>

Corroboree Frogs return home

One hundred critically endangered Southern Corroboree Frogs have been reintroduced to their native habitat at Kosciuszko National Park as part of the NSW Government's Saving our Species program. The frog is critically endangered because of the amphibian chytrid fungus, drought and habitat degradation from invasive species. They were badly affected in the 2019–20 bushfires. The 100 frogs have been reintroduced to a purpose-built field enclosure.

The project is a partnership between the Saving our Species program, NPWS Taronga Conservation Society Australia and Zoos Victoria.

<https://bit.ly/3KpF14G>

Bilbies returning from the brink

Encouraging news from the AWC's 2022 Bilby census. In the five Bilby populations AWC has established to date, Bilby populations increased between 2021 and 2022 by an estimated 20 per cent in feral predator-free safe havens at Mount Gibson (WA), Scotia (NSW) and Yookamurra (SA) wildlife sanctuaries and at two NSW Government partnership project areas in the Pilliga and Mallee Cliffs National Park.

Predation by feral cats and foxes has driven Bilby populations into decline, so much so that the Bilby now occupies only 20 per cent of its former range.

<https://bit.ly/3KVthr6>

National parks are not enough

When most of us think of saving species, we think of national parks and other safe refuges. But new research reported in *The Conversation* suggests relying on reserves is simply not enough. Our national reserve system now covers 20 per cent of the country, but the research found almost half of our threatened species' distributions occur on private freehold land, even though only 29 per cent of Australia is owned in this way.

'If we really want to protect our species, we must do more to bring in Australia's farmers, landowners and other custodians of land,' the report said. 'We cannot rely on protected areas alone.'

<https://bit.ly/3uH3kWX>

Tourism industry push to expand Queensland national parks

Leading Queensland tourism and conservation organisations have joined forces to call on the state government to significantly increase funding to expand protected areas in the state.

The state government has previously committed to doubling the area of protected land in Queensland from 8.2 per cent to 17 per cent – an increase of 15 million hectares. But members of the new Tourism and Conservation Alliance said it was time to start investing if the government is to fulfil the promises of its Protected Areas Strategy.

'We should be aiming to double [protected land] by 2032,' Dave Copeman, the director of the Queensland Conservation Council, said.

<https://bit.ly/3wM30GQ>

Scott Creek Conservation Park reopens to the public

More than a year after it closed, Scott Creek Conservation Park, 30 km south of Adelaide, reopened to the public in March after fire burnt more than two thirds of the park last January.

With its heath vegetation, the park provides core habitat for the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, nationally vulnerable Bassian Thrush, 10 species of nationally listed plants and many other threatened flora and fauna.

As part of this recovery process, a new monitoring program was launched last year to monitor threatened species. Weed management also remains a key focus.

<https://bit.ly/3OeH51R>

Call to cancel forest salvage plans

Newly released plans of VicForests to salvage logged parts of proposed Wombat–Lerderderg National Park reveal dramatic increase of coupes in and around Wombat Forest and have drawn strong criticism from the VNPA.

VNPA's executive director, Matt Ruchel, says the adding of dozens of coupes to this popular forest is a clear breach of last year's firm commitments by the Andrews Government to log only a small area of the soon-to-be national parks. VNPA has called for the new forest recovery timber release plan to be cancelled.

Wombat Forest is a prominent hotspot for threatened wildlife, such as the Greater Glider, Powerful Owl and Brush-tailed Phascogale, along with many others.

<https://vnpa.org.au/logging-in-promised-national-park-smashes-forest-and-andrews-commitments/>

Bush Heritage acquires Noongar reserve

Ediegarrup Reserve is Bush Heritage's newest acquisition on Noongar country in Western Australia, in the global biodiversity hotspot of the Fitz–Stirling region. At 1,067 ha it will see feeding areas and critical habitat restored for Malleefowl, Tamar and Black-gloved Wallabies and the nationally threatened Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, growing the 'conservation corridor' between connecting nature reserves between the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald national parks.

Bush Heritage will work alongside Noongar people to see the land restored, refuge enhanced, and cultural sites protected.

<https://bit.ly/3MfLn7m>

A pragmatic approach to managing weeds

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has developed a 'pragmatic' National Weed Management Strategy www.australianwildlife.org/a-national-strategy-for-weeds/ to control efforts on 'transformer' weed species – those having the greatest impact on its mission to effectively conserve all Australian animal species and the habitats in which they live. The strategy recognises that not all weeds can be eradicated from all AWC properties so is prioritising transformer weeds. The strategy includes a video on weed management at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary in the Northern Territory.

You can view the video at <https://bit.ly/3ErC01H>

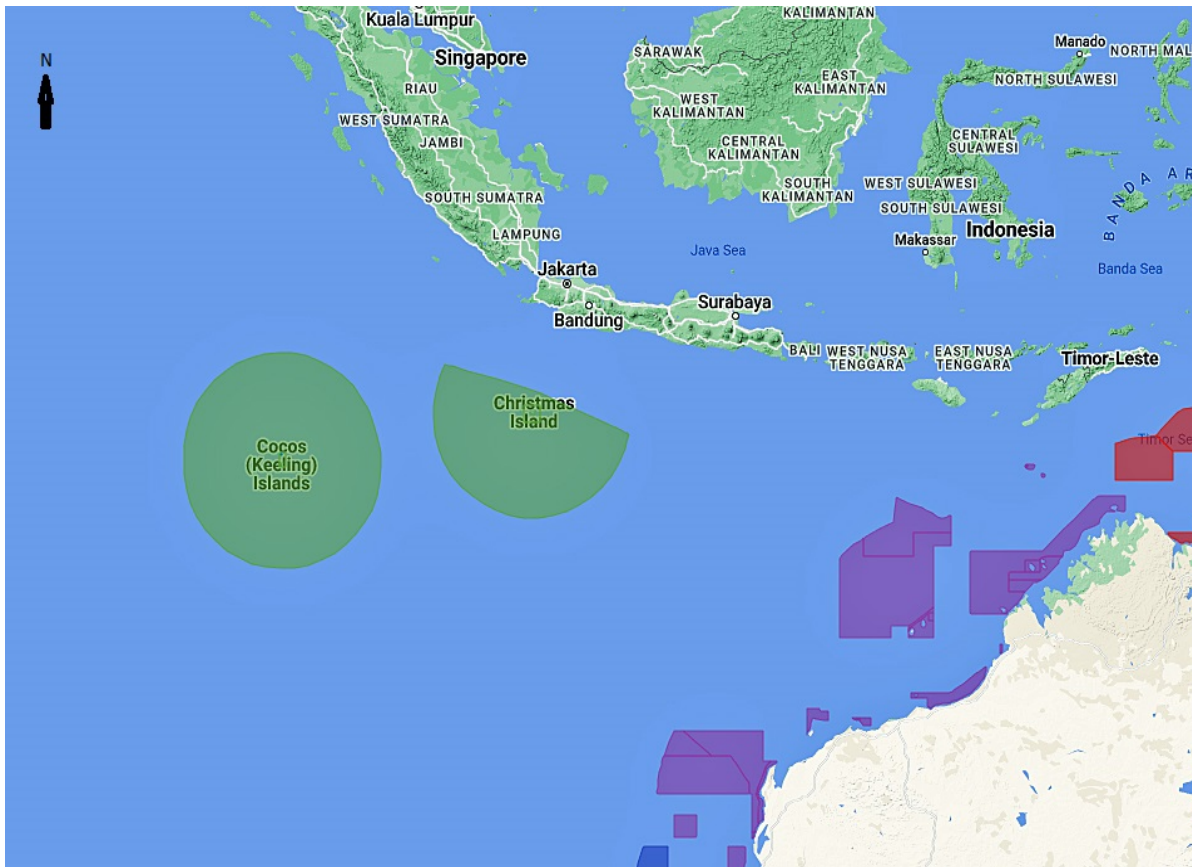
Indian Ocean marine parks get the go-ahead

Two new marine parks will be established off Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean (see map). The federal government confirmed the move in March after months of consultation with locals and an earlier \$5.4 million commitment. The two areas – which are more than 2,000 kilometres off the coast of Western Australia – are home to many species found nowhere else on Earth.

The new marine parks will cover 744,000 square kilometres and join a network of 60 Commonwealth marine parks around Australia, spanning more than 4-million square kilometres – or 45 per cent of Australia's waters.

<https://ab.co/36jABxz>

Compiled by Allan Sharp



Indian Ocean Territories Marine Parks, Australian Marine Parks, <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/indian-ocean-territories/> Map data © 2022 Google

NPA bulletin board

NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:

Galia Shy
Stephen Joske
Ana Chuda
Lisa Paul & Linda Webb
Yvonne Crofts
Marian Pearson
Patricia Molan (rejoining member)
Mary-Grace Bingham
Nancie Lim
Mark Andrews & Marika Posterino
Jan Watson
Kathy & Brian Humphrey
Georgina Fargher

We look forward to seeing you at NPA activities



Oldfields Hut and Mount Bimberi. Photo by Jan Gatenby

Red-necked Wallaby, Currango. Photo by Philip Gatenby



Please note in your diary:

NPA ACT Art Week at Gudgenby Cottage

Saturday 5 November to Sunday 13 November

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.

Details and contacts will be in the September Bulletin



Marbled Gecko, Curtin. Photo by Brian Slee

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, set up the meeting room for our general meetings, sell our books at public events, or by joining a subcommittee to spread the load.

If you can help please email admin@npaact.org.au or leave a message on the office phone (02) 6229 3201.

Membership fees due at the end of June

All members will be receiving a letter asking for membership renewal and donations in June, either as a digital document (if we have your email address) or as a printed copy through Australia Post.

- The letter contains the data we store confidentially on our membership database about you. Please check the information we have and amend your details if necessary, and send the whole form with your membership dues (and donation if possible) back to the office by post together with cheques.
- The completed form can also be scanned and sent to admin@npaact.org.au by email or you can use 'Trybooking' to send us any amendments to your details when using that facility for payment.
- You can also pay online by bank transfer – your letter contains detailed instructions. Please still send the completed form back to the office with an indication of payment method after paying online.

Thank you for your cooperation.

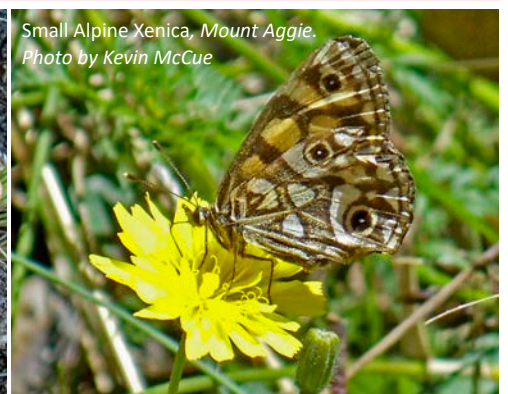
Sonja Lenz, Secretary



Eucalypt leaf galls. Photo by Rupert Barnett



Fungus, Blue Gum Creek. Photo by Philip Gatenby



Small Alpine Xenica, Mount Aggie. Photo by Kevin McCue

General meetings

Third Thursday of the month,

7:30 pm, Uniting Church hall, 56 Scrivener Street, O'Connor

Thursday 16 June

Hidden treasures of Kosciuszko National Park

Linda Groom

Join bushwalker and environmentalist, Linda Groom, on a visual journey to many of the lesser known parts of the park, experiencing its rugged beauty and rare flora and fauna.



Thursday 21 July

Saving our region's endangered Gang-gangs

Dr Michael Mulvaney

Ecologist

Respected ecologist, Dr Michael Mulvaney, will speak about a citizen science project that is helping in the fight to save the Gang-gang Cockatoo.



Thursday 18 August



AGM
Annual General Meeting

Come along to hear about our organisation's achievements over the past year and plans for the future. Help us elect a new committee for 2022-23.

More for your calendar	June	July	August	September
Committee meetings	Tuesday 7 th	Tuesday 5 th	Tuesday 2 nd	Tuesday 6 th

National Parks Association of the ACT Incorporated (Inaugurated 1960)

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, learn and work, and pay our respects to the First Nations Peoples and their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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	Rosemary Hollow
Secretary	Sonja Lenz
Treasurer	Jan Gatenby

Committee members

Cynthia Burton (Membership liaison)	Mike Bremers
Rod Griffiths (Immediate Past President)	Allan Sharp
Chris Emery	Viv Schweizer
Debbie Worner	

Conveners

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

Membership subscription rates (1 July to 30 June)

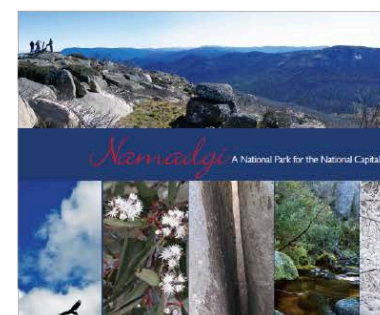
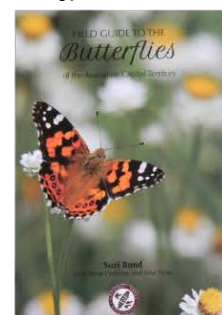
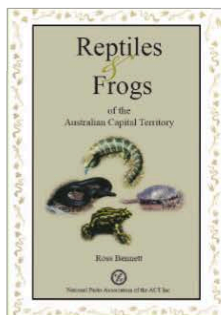
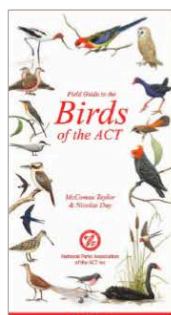
The subscription rate is \$22, which includes a digital copy of our *Bulletin*.

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

