

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.



# NPA Bulletin



**NPA's new website launched**

**Len Haskew departs the scene**

**Urban growth on Canberra's western edge**

**Feral animal control program in Kosciuszko National Park**

*conservation education protection*

**March 2024 – Volume 61 – Number 1**



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**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**

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The **NPA Bulletin** is published quarterly in print and an extended online version to provide members with news on environmental and heritage conservation, education and protection, particularly as bearing on the ACT and adjacent regions.

Its aim is to report on NPA Committee and subcommittee deliberations and decisions; NPA events; provide a forum for members and invited guests on matters of interest and concern to NPA ACT; and fulfil an educational role on conservation and outdoor recreation issues. We accept paid advertising, where appropriate.

Contributions of articles up to 750 words, letters, poems, drawings and photos are welcome. Longer articles will be considered. Photos should be free of embedded information. The editor retains the right of final decision on content and presentation.

Send all items to the *Bulletin* team, email [admin@npaact.org.au](mailto:admin@npaact.org.au).

Contact the NPA office for information and rates for advertisements.

Deadline for contributions to the next issue is **1 May 2024**.

**Disclaimer:**  
**Articles by contributors  
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Front cover: *Snow Gum blossom, Porcupine Rocks, December 2023*. By Mike Bremers (see p. 20)

Back cover: *Tawny Frogmouths*. By Matthew Higgins (see p. 35 re new video)

# From the President

## Greetings everyone

I'm writing this on another damp day in what has been varied summer weather, but great for the rain that has our parks and reserves looking very green.

It was good to catch up with many of you at our Christmas party, and we were delighted that Minister Vassarotti joined us again.

Huge thanks to all our volunteers who kept our activities going over the summer. We had the occasional cancellation of walks and work parties due to storms, otherwise some interesting outings, as highlighted in this *Bulletin* and on social media. We have been getting great compliments about the website, including that it is easy to use on phones, and how well the new calendar and booking system are working. I had a couple of people on one of my walks who recently moved to Canberra. They found our Facebook page and used it to book into walks. Thanks to the social media team for keeping it going, the number of our followers continues to increase.

And thanks to the outings program leaders. As usual, some great short walks around Canberra and longer walks in the bush. I'm pleased that Aaron Chatfield, a Ngunnawal/Kamilaroi man, will lead an activity on 2 June in conjunction with Reconciliation Week. Aaron is renowned for his enthusiasm in sharing his knowledge about local plants and bush foods.

NPA was instrumental in the establishment of Namadgi National Park and we will be organising significant events to mark the

40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its gazettal on 3 October 1984. Discussions have been conducted with ACT Parks about their support. If you have ideas for activities, or would like to assist in organising, please contact me or Allan Sharp. Allan will also be looking for stories and photos of members' activities in Namadgi for our September *Bulletin*.

It was good to start our monthly meetings with representatives of ACT Parks as guest speakers, outlining the Namadgi Management Plan review. With ACT elections scheduled for 19 October 2024, representatives of the major parties will be invited as guest speakers, not just to spruik their policies but also so we can share our concerns about the management of ACT parks and reserves. Details will be made available in *Burning Issues* and on social media.

Warm wishes from the committee for a good year ahead, and huge thanks again to the *Bulletin* team for their hard work in producing another great issue.

Rosemary Hollow



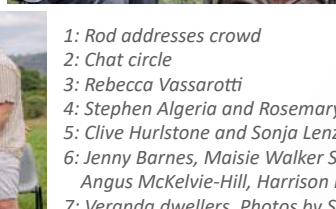
## NPA Christmas party

Jerrabomberra Wetlands provided an interesting new location for the 10 December 2023 NPA Christmas party. Tables and chairs were arranged under trees adjacent to Dairy Flat Farm Education Centre in Dairy Road, Fyshwick. Some of the approximately 40 attendees also sought shade under the building's veranda.

Among guests were the ACT Minister for the Environment Rebecca Vassarotti, who formally launched the new NPA website (partly funded by the government, see p. 15), and PCS Manager Stephen Alegria. Rod Griffiths ceremoniously presented a certificate of life membership to Sabine Friedrich who was overseas when the award was announced (see *NPA Bulletin September 2023*).

Preceding the event, NPA President Rosemary Hollow led a group of eleven on a 90 minute walk on the loop around Kellys Swamp to view the water birds.

Brian Slee



1: Rod addresses crowd  
2: Chat circle  
3: Rebecca Vassarotti  
4: Stephen Alegria and Rosemary Hollow  
5: Clive Hurlstone and Sonja Lenz  
6: Jenny Barnes, Maisie Walker Stelling, Angus Mckelvie-Hill, Harrison Davies  
7: Veranda dwellers. Photos by Sabine Friedrich





Lunch at Black Dog Corner, October. Photo by Brian Slee

## Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group's activities in 2023

2023 was another productive year for the Gudgenby Bushies, with less disruption from weather and reduced access difficulties as the extended La Niña event passed into a drier weather pattern (although end-of-year rain suggested not quite yet). The group's 11 work parties, with the assistance

of rangers, had on average 10 participants. A new weed, Rose Campion, a garden escapee, has been targeted in recent times, its prevalence perhaps encouraged by wet conditions.



Exclosure construction, June. Photo by Brian Slee

when we were able to venture into the far south-west of the revegetated area ('black dog corner') which we had been unable to access for 3 years. In autumn 2024 we aim to return there and continue treating briars and also check for regrowth of blackberries that were treated by contractors last autumn.

In an interesting exercise in June, under the guidance of horticulturalist Liz McPhee and supervised by ranger Adam Mahon, the group constructed a substantial enclosure around isolated Snow Gums on a rise west of Peppermint Hill. The purpose was to boost regeneration, particularly of trees, by excluding grazing animals. Within months the effects were becoming evident, with considerable growth of protected grasses. PCS subsequently constructed several similar enclosures nearby.

Highlights for the year were the installation in September of enhanced interpretative signs along the revegetation trail as part of the recovery effort from the 2020 Orroral fire; plus the successful October work party

GRBG's Christmas work party was again held at Gudgenby Cottage. In the morning several volunteers removed verbascum from line-of-sight of the cottage while others weeded up the gorge from the homestead. We were joined at the delightful self-catered lunch by Parks staff Adam and Jasper.

*Doug Brown*

Rose Campion. All photos below by Kevin McCue

Black Sallee blossom, April

Hazel Rath's delicious mango cake at Christmas





# What future for Canberra's wild west?

*The ACT Government's long running evaluation of a westward expansion of the Territory's urban footprint has been quiet for some time but, with differing views between the major parties and a perceived housing crisis, could it become an ACT election issue in 2024?*

The latest population projections released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (which stresses they are not predictions or forecasts) are for the ACT's population to have an annual increase of between 0.5 and 1.6 per cent. This would mean that by 2034 the ACT population could be upwards of 100,000 higher than it is now and could be as high as 750,000 by 2050.

Although Canberra is one of the few Australian cities currently recording accelerated housing supply,<sup>1</sup> once remaining areas at Ginninderry, Gungahlin and Molonglo Valley are fully developed, it is uncertain where future settlement may occur in the Territory.

The 2018 ACT Planning Strategy sets a strategic direction for urban growth by working towards delivering up to 70 per cent of new housing within Canberra's existing urban footprint, and the remaining 30 per cent to be delivered by 'greenfield' development. The Planning Strategy identifies the Western Edge Investigation Area (WEIA) as a site for potential future urban growth to help meet that proposed 30 per cent.

The WEIA is 9,816 ha comprising land bordered to the north by Ginninderry and south Belconnen, to the east by Molonglo, Weston Creek and the northern tip of Tuggeranong, and to the west by the Murrumbidgee. Current reserved areas within the Murrumbidgee Corridor are not included in the WEIA. In addition, the WEIA contains a number of areas of Designated Land under the National Capital Plan. These include Mount Stromlo and Narrabundah Hill, and the nature reserves on Coleman Ridge and McQuoids Hill. Planning and development approval responsibility rests with the federal National Capital Authority for these areas.

Several investigative studies into the WEIA were completed in 2020 and 2021 (available on ACT Government website) but there have been no significant public updates on progress of the WEIA since then. A Capability and Suitability Assessment was due by the end of 2023 but, as at late January 2024, had not appeared on the government website.

One of the investigative studies, a 2021 Ecological Review of the WEIA, noted that much of the vegetation and associated fauna/fauna habitat that occurs today is moderately to highly modified, but did note that previous ecological studies and surveys had recorded a substantial number of significant ecological values in the WEIA. While many of these values occur in reserved areas, a substantial proportion occur on leased land primarily used for agriculture or commercial activities.

The review modelled potential habitat for threatened species and made recommendations for possible conservation areas within the WEIA based on this modelling. It recommends the early identification and protection of conservation areas should urban expansion occur within the WEIA.

A well-known area of high-quality bushland within the WEIA is Bluett's Block, above Denman Prospect. Previously designated for housing

development, it has had a reprieve; the development footprint on the block was more than halved following a concerted community campaign (see *NPA Bulletin* June 2023).

The NPA, Conservation Council ACT and other members of the ACT Biodiversity Conservation Forum (a consultative body between government and community on biodiversity issues) have continued to lobby for implementation of the recommendations from the investigative studies, particularly in respect of the protection of areas of moderate to high biodiversity value and areas needed to achieve adequate connectivity for biodiversity protection.

New housing developments often provoke strong opinions, whether it be in-fill in existing suburbs or the development of new 'greenfield' land, sometimes termed 'urban sprawl'. Some groups believe, for example, that Canberra's urban footprint should not extend to the WEIA, citing concerns that sprawling cities are less sustainable and that the environmental values of the WEIA will be lost if it is developed. There are also concerns about bushfire risks.

The Canberra Liberals, on the other hand, have previously accused the ACT Government of 'dragging out' investigation of Canberra's Western Edge. The Shadow Minister for Planning, Peter Cain, said in a 2022 press release, 'The Canberra housing market needs the Western Edge to be ready for development as soon as possible'. His office has advised that the party will have a position on the Western Edge as part of their planning policy to be released at a later date.

Estimates by the ACT Government on the timeframe for the investigation to run its course have been up to 17 years. Assuming that period started in 2018, we could expect that the Government considers any land-use change in the Western Edge area may still be 10 years off.

Potentially a 'slow burn' issue worth watching ahead of the 19 October election.

*Craig Watson*

## Reference:

**1** *Christopher's Housing Boom and Bust Report 2024*, SQM Research, November 2023.

*Southern end of the WEIA from Coleman Ridge. Photo by Craig Watson*





# Update on feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park (KNP)

*We may be starting to see the payoff for decades of work on feral horse policy by NPA ACT members. Figures announced by the NSW Government reveal that 2,656 horses were removed by all methods in 2023, a huge increase on previous years.*

The biggest contributors were ground shooting (38 per cent), rehoming (32 per cent) and aerial shooting (30 per cent). The contribution of aerial shooting is expected to increase greatly in coming months. The NSW Government approved the method in October 2023, thereby ending its 23-year-long ban on use of the method for horses in national parks, and returning NSW to the position adopted by other states and territories.

More horses were rehomed last year than the number estimated in one of the amateur counts of horses in KNP, and the total number removed since December 2021 (3,530) is greater than all amateur estimates. Yet, following the removals, mobs of horses are still being seen and photographed and continuing damage to streams and wetlands is evident.

There is a sense that the protest groups are reeling. A plan to do an 'independent recount' of half the northern plains to 'prove' that fewer than the statutory 3,000 horses remain, collapsed in acrimony after \$78,000 was donated. A project leader, statistician Claire Galea, withdrew completely from horse matters. Many donors asked for their money back. At the time of writing, efforts were underway to revive the plan (see final section).

## Park closures

The NSW Government also identified, in its 29 January statement, areas of KNP that will be closed during aerial shooting of deer, pigs and horses. A [southern area](#) will be closed for most of March 2024 and a larger [northern area](#) from 4 April to 4 October 2024. In both cases, parts of the Australian Alps Walking Track will be closed. Meanwhile a NSW Legislative Council inquiry into helicopter shooting of feral horses is still underway. What effect it will have on the horse control operation remains to be seen.



Numerous feral horses remain following recent removals: 50-54 in top mob (Boggy Plain, 26 January 2024), 41-49 in bottom mob (Blanket Plain, 27 January 2024). Photos by Linda Groom





## Graph of horse counts

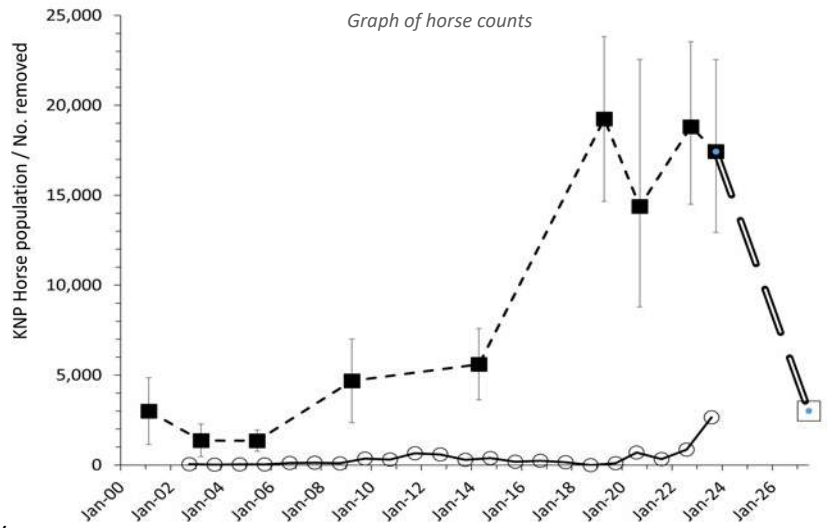
Solid squares are the KNP horse population estimates since 2001, with error bars indicating 95% Confidence Intervals (CI); hollow circles indicate the numbers of horses removed per year, showing the recent increase; the line of large dashes is the aspirational reduction to the legally mandated target marked by a hollow square, i.e. 3,000 horses on 30 June 2027.

There is still a long way to go. The graph shows that the latest estimate of horse abundance in KNP, made in October 2023, is 17,432 (95 per cent CI 12,934 to 22,536).

To reduce the population from ~17,000 to the mandatory target of 3,000 horses by 30 June 2027 would require a remarkably rapid rate of removal (heavy dashed line) which could be achieved only by intense helicopter shooting. Even after that, protection of the natural values of KNP will require yet another policy change, so that the number of horses to be retained in KNP may be reduced to under 3,000.

## Rival plans for an 'independent recount'

Rocky Harvey is leading the effort to revive the December 2023 'recount'. He provides occasional updates about the method on a Go-Fund-Me web page. The current plan is for contractor Airborne Logic to make aerial photos with pixel resolution 5 cm, of just under half of the open plains. If sufficient additional funds are donated, all of the open plains will be surveyed. Horses in the open can be counted from this image but not horses under trees. Harvey expresses the desire to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to count the visible horses, in preference to manual counting.



Other protestors have indicated the result will be used to stop the cull with an injunction based on the evidence that fewer than 3,000 horses remain. It is unclear to me how this can be done because other populations of feral horses in KNP number more than 3,000 but are not included in the recount. So even if the 91 (or more) horses in the photos above were agreed by both sides to be the only feral horses left in northern KNP, that fact alone could not prove NPWS had reduced the Park's population to fewer than 3,000.

Meanwhile, a second plan for an alternative count has been announced by Eden-Monaro candidate Andrew Thaler. In a rambling 75 minute speech posted on YouTube, he attacks people associated with the Harvey count but also appeals for the public to donate photos of horses to train an AI program to recognise horses in aerial photos. The plan is essentially the same as the rival one, except using drones instead of light aircraft. Again AI is seen as important to count the horses visible in the imagery. Deficiencies of both plans have been documented elsewhere.

Don Fletcher

## Weed control work using NatureMapr©

NatureMapr, as reported in *NPA Bulletin* December 2023, is an online database that allows anyone with the app to post a picture of a plant or animal and receive an expert identification, about which location and other data are stored on the app. There are currently over 2 million sightings logged on nationally.



ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is now using plant sightings recorded in NatureMapr to track and monitor new weed incursions in the territory. A recent example is the mapping of the highly invasive perennial weed Scotch (aka English) Broom (*Cytisus scoparius subsp. scoparius*), which outcompetes native understorey through its rapid growth and high seed output.

Furthermore, using NatureMapr data on rare native plant species, PCS weed control teams can now ensure that these species are protected when they are located within or near weed control areas.

This is possible because known weed infestations and control works are already mapped using the Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Field Maps app. NatureMapr sightings are now being added to these GIS maps as shown in the sample screen shots below. The resulting combined maps allow a new level of spatial information to clearly show the location of valuable native species in areas designated for weed control. These species can then be protected from herbicide spraying.



Steve Taylor  
Manager Invasive Plants  
and Plant Pests, PCS

Field map screen shots showing two different locations (left field and right field).

Maps combining NatureMapr plant sightings (red diamonds are weed infestations and purple dots are protected native plants) with field maps showing shaded polygons of weed control work.

Note the protected native plant site in the weed polygon area in the figure on the right. This knowledge allows any weed spraying to take into account the protected native plant.



# Vale Life Member Len Haskew, 30 January 1933 – 14 December 2023

## From Bob Haskew:

Len, the eldest son of Walter and Ethel Haskew, was born in Orange, NSW. He has three brothers, Kevin, Malcolm (dec) and me. We all attended Cootamundra Primary and Cootamundra Intermediate High schools. Len trained at Wagga Wagga Teachers College where he met Jill. His numerous tales of his journey through his chosen profession were enjoyed by all present around the campfire, especially when influenced by his occasional mug of green ginger wine.

Our walk along the developing Larapinta Trail in 1995 was my introduction to the NPA family. His selflessness came to the fore on this walk. When most of the party climbed Brinkley Bluff, Len remained at camp boiling water so that everyone had potable water for the next day. Members will remember Len's qualities and achievements as a result of his participation in NPA governance and his companionship on numerous walks.

A lasting memory I will have of Len is our time spent at Oldfields Hut and the tenacity he showed when he 'conquered' Mount Morgan. This was his first walk after open heart surgery. He was so chuffed when he reached the summit. Len transitioned from backpacking to car camping with consummate ease. He enjoyed camping in Kosciuszko, Namadgi and Morton national parks with NPA members and his family.

Len is survived by his wife, Jill and sons John and Geoff. His daughter, Ros predeceased him.

Len with Fiona Brand. Photo by Reg Alder



Triumphant on Mount Morgan. Photo by Bob Haskew

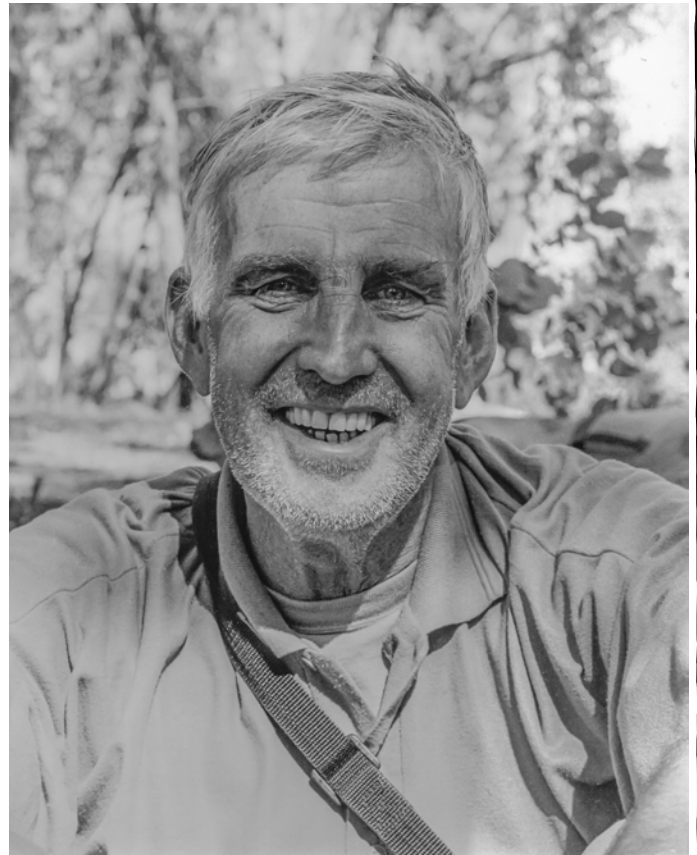
## From NPA's life membership citation:

When NPA life membership was granted to Len Haskew in 2008, the Committee commented on his significant contribution over many years. He had joined in 1987 and became an active participant as a walks leader and organiser of car camps and work parties. Members commented on his companionable presence which added greatly to the value of any activity in which he participated.

Len served on the committee for ten years, five of them as secretary (on two separate occasions) and became convener of the Marketing, Publicity and Education Subcommittee. It was commented that he carried out the duties with quiet efficiency.

In relation to the *Bulletin*, Len began contributing in 1990 with a stream of articles, reviews, reports and many fine photographs. He compiled PARKWATCH for more than ten years. It was only in his later years, when coping with declining health, that his participation abated.

Photo by Reg Alder





**From Di Thompson:**

Everyone I have heard from has been both saddened and rejoiced in the kindness and deeds of 'our' Len. Those of us who pack walked and car-camped with Len, shared fun times and many memories, particularly those of his early teaching days. He and Jill, when first married, lived at Mangoplah, a small town 36 km south of Wagga, and from that period I and many other NPA walkers got to know a lot about the school long-drop toilet, the students and the characters of Mangoplah and other NSW country towns.

When Len retired he took up social golf but then found bushwalking and NPA, and that was the end of golf. He loved the Australian bush and led many a pack walk, not only locally but in the Bogong High Plains and Central Australia. In 1995 he introduced many NPA walkers to what was then a basic route for the Larapinta Trail. We saw few walkers on the route itself, climbed Brinkley Bluff, got very wet in Hugh Gorge, and dried out by the usual Den Robin lit fire. His ever delightful demeanour never faltered under adversity. We camped in places that are closed to camping now, and savoured the beauty of the flowers, plants and grasses before the dreaded Buffel Grass took hold.

The 'NPA retiree adventure walkers set' in the late 1980s included Reg Alder, Fiona Brand, Les Pyke and Syd Comfort. Len became a welcome member and roamed Namadgi for weeks on end. The rest of us could but hope to live long enough to join them. Many of us took recreation leave and travelled with Len and them to marvellously remote areas.

I expect there are several who could add a few chapters to these adventures and laughs with Len: like picking ants from jam rollettes carried together with fresh milk into a hut on the Bogong High Plains; giving his maps to a young Victorian copper with girlfriend, who had no map or compass; getting almost washed away in a storm when he camped outside Windermere Hut; getting the giggles one morning in Rylstone's main street when he accidentally kicked over our new bottle of sherry.

On the official side of things, Len was a huge advocate for the NPA and its activities. In the early 1990s, Beverley Hammond became president, I was vice-president, and Len became secretary. It was such a peaceful and workable team.

**Col McAlister has many memories:**

I have known Len and Jill for much of my life as I went to primary and secondary school at Cootamundra with Len's youngest brother, Bob. I enjoyed many day and pack walks with Len, particularly the pack walks on the Larapinta Trail and the Kowmung River in the Blue Mountains. Bob came on both those pack walks and Max Lawrence came on the pack walk in the Blue Mountains.

Len was a wonderful companion and gave me many useful tips. I very much enjoyed the amusing stories about his and Jill's early teaching days in country NSW.



Glenburn work party, 2006. Photo by Max Lawrence

**Jane O'Donohue recalls:**

One evening on the Overland Track in Tasmania, Len picked up my bottle of metho, in an unmarked drink bottle, and poured some on his freeze-dried packet dinner. Len was so gracious about his spoiled meal. (Luckily he had a spare, as did we all.) Afterwards I added a red ribbon to the lid, and it is still there, over 30 years later! Whenever I get out that bottle for camping trips I think of Len's graciousness. His gift to us: Memories of the goodness of others are wonderful to have.

**From Brian Slee:**

I got to know Len best after he had given up most of his NPA activities. When I began editing the March *Bulletin* in 2019, I hand delivered it to Len and Jill and we chatted for an hour over a cup of tea. That continued with subsequent issues. Len and I got in the habit of meeting for chai latte at Curtin's My Gourmet Delights and we had lovely conversations. He was still as sharp as a tack when I last saw him, a week before he died. Plain speaking, unique. I miss him very much.

NPA members extend their sympathy to Jill Haskew and family on the sad loss of Len.

With Bob on Bimberi pack walk, 2003. Photo by Max Lawrence







## Paddling the Wakool, a journey back in time Day 1 campsite. All photos by Mike Bremers

**Date:** 30 November – 2 December 2023

The Edward and Wakool River system is an anabranch of the Murray River of about 400 km in length. The uplift of the Cadell Fault 45–60,000 years ago obstructed the original course of the Murray and caused water to flow north and south. The new course of the Murray flows through present day Echuca and the northern flow is down the Edward River which flows through Deniliquin. The Wakool comes off the Edward downstream of Deniliquin and follows along the old channel of the Murray for much of its course. The Edward rejoins the Wakool near Kyalite about 30 km before the Wakool joins the Murray. During high flows, some of the water in the Murray flows through the forest to the Wakool such that more water flows down the Edward–Wakool system than the Murray.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, the Murray below Echuca is relatively narrow until the Wakool confluence about 400 km downstream.

Having paddled the Edward River from Deniliquin to Kyalite in 2018 (*NPA Bulletin* March 2019), it was a personal goal to paddle the final 30 km of the Wakool from Kyalite to the Murray. Once on the Murray, I would need to paddle to the town of Boundary Bend in order to access public transport back to my car at Kyalite, altogether an 85 km journey.

The lower Wakool is wide with a gentle current and reminiscent of the lower Murray. There are large sandy beaches but these were partly underwater during my journey. Like my earlier Edward River journey, I observed several scar and ring trees. At one point about 10 cockatoos were screeching and generally making a racket. Upon investigation, I saw that they were not happy at the presence of a Lace Monitor that eventually scampered away. At the Wakool–Murray confluence, the Murray joins from the left. It being a narrower stream than the Wakool, being almost half the width, caused confusion for Captain Cadell and William Randell during their 1853 paddle steamer race up the

Murray. They accidentally steamed up the wider Wakool, the original course of the Murray, before realising their mistake.<sup>2</sup>

I had hoped to camp at the Wakool–Murray confluence as I knew that there were two sandy beaches which would make great campsites. Unfortunately, both were taken by car campers and I



*Cockatoo scares off Lace Monitor*







Murrumbidgee confluence, 1862. Photo by George Burnell. Art Gallery of SA



Murrumbidgee confluence, 2023

had to settle for a less desirable spot a few kilometres downstream. It was striking to see the recent flood levels marked on the trees above my tent. A year ago, the river was 6–8 metres higher than what I was encountering.

Day 2 continued much like day 1 with beautiful weather and an improved flow downstream of the confluence. My goal was the next major confluence, about 40 km away, which I reached early in the afternoon, to see the green waters of the Murrumbidgee gently

merging with the brown waters of the Murray. Craig, Alan and I camped here in 2022 on our trip down the Murrumbidgee (*NPA Bulletin* March 2023) and due to high water levels, we were able to paddle onto the top of the bank for easy disembarkation. Now, with the river level several metres lower, it was a difficult scramble up a steep bank but I was motivated by my desire to take a photo of the confluence from the same spot that Cole and Burnell took their photo in 1862.

Cole and Burnell rowed an 18 ft boat down the Murray from Echuca to Goolwa.<sup>3</sup> During this journey they took what must be some of the earliest photographs of the Murray. The confluence also bears significance in Australian history. It is here that a relieved Captain Charles Sturt, on his expedition down the 'gloomy and contracted banks' of the Murrumbidgee River, on 14 January 1830 recorded 'we were hurried into a broad and noble river' and 'such was the force with which we had been shot out of the Morumbidgee [sic], that we were carried nearly to the bank opposite'.<sup>4</sup> Note: this is my fifth visit to this spot but I am yet to see the Murrumbidgee flowing with such force as it would require the rare combination of high water in the Murrumbidgee and low water in the Murray.



Day 1 camp with flood level show in trees



Dawn on Murray River





Road bridge, Kyalite - note flood-stained pylons



Tree ring, Wakool River



Murray River

After settling for another less desirable campsite 7 km downstream of the confluence, I enjoyed another leisurely 7 km paddle to Boundary Bend on day 3 to conclude the trip.

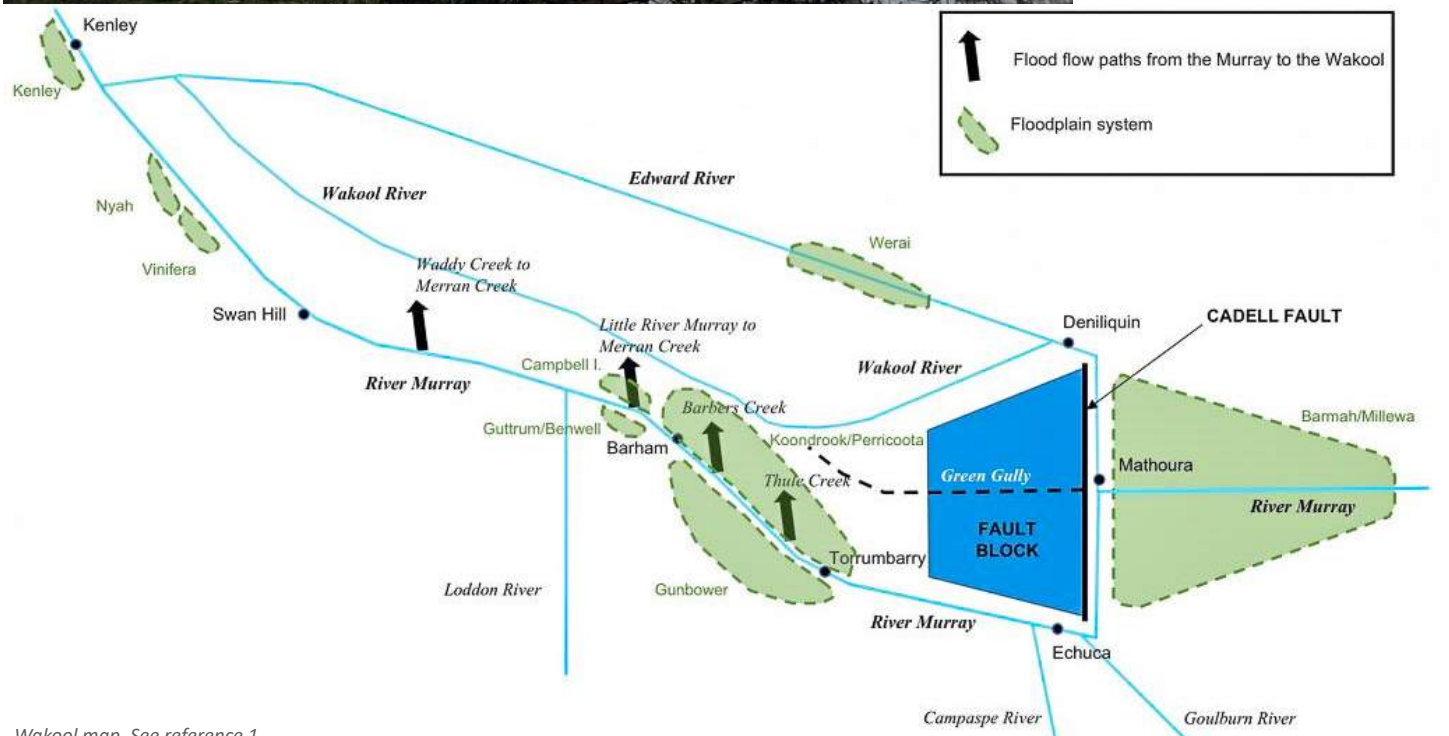
Mike Bremers



Murray sunset

**References:**

1. Why does the Murray shrink downstream of Echuca? 5 March 2018, [www.eassoc.com.au/why-does-the-murray-shrink-downstream-of-echuca/](http://www.eassoc.com.au/why-does-the-murray-shrink-downstream-of-echuca/)
2. *The Incomparable Captain Cadell*, Nicholson, 2004.
3. *Murray-Darling Journeys*, Angela Bremers and Mike Bremers, 2017.
4. *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia during the Years 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831*, Sturt, 1833, [gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/e00059.html](http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks/e00059.html)



Wakool map. See reference 1.



# Western Australian wanderings

**Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine** recounts a trip to Western Australia in 2022, where the state's national parks and wildflowers were high on the itinerary.

My husband, Chris, and I had travelled to many parts of WA but a gap remained in our wanderings in the vicinity of the south coast (Esperance to Albany) and the mid-western hinterland. We chose to travel there during the wildflower season.



Wave Rock, Hyden

Our first stop after leaving Perth was Dryandra Woodland National Park near Narrogin. Conservationist Vincent Serventy 'saved' the area from mining in the 1970s. It is home to 850 plant, 100 bird and 24 animal species, including numbats. There are many walks

in the reserve, and we saw a variety of plants and animals. Birds seen included the Red-capped Robin.

Next stop was Kulin, along the Tin Horse Highway, where a long stretch of roadside is decorated with quirky and creative structures evocative of horses. We followed this en route to Wave Rock, a geological phenomenon at Hyden where there are more than 2,500 species of wildflowers and abundant birdlife. It is a popular tourist spot, so early mornings or late evenings are best.

From Ravensthorpe we travelled to Esperance before continuing to Cape Le Grand National Park. It proved to be the highlight. We enjoyed the wild coastal scenery, the rugged granite peaks (including Frenchman Peak) and the sweeping heathlands with abundant trigger plants. There are many walks, ranging from 600 m to 17 km, and camping and barbecue facilities are well kept.

From here we drove to Quaalup Homestead in Fitzgerald River National Park, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, with beautiful wildflowers all year round and over 1,740 species found so far. It is one of Australia's largest and most botanically significant national parks. The wildflowers were a treat, with the Qualup Bell, Royal Hakea, Cauliflower Hakea, Coneflower, Painted Lady and orchids all featuring.

Point Ann is an easy drive from here and a good spot to watch Southern Right Whales as they swim close to the beach. It was a short distance from there to Albany where more history and amazing scenery awaited. Cheynes Beach whaling station operated from 1952 to 1978, the last one in Australia. It is now a tourist attraction where you can learn about the history of whaling, see skeletons of pilot and humpback whales, and whale watch from an excellent cafe.

We then travelled north via Porongurup National Park to Stirling Range National Park which was founded in 1913. The area has many excellent climbing trails: Bluff Knoll (1,096 m) is the highest but Toolbrunup Peak (1,052 m) and Ellen Peak (1,012 m) also provide a challenge. Over 1,500 species of native plants are to be found, 87 of which are endemic. There is also the Yongergnow Centre at Ongerup, programmed to preserve the Malleefowl.



Cape Le Grand National Park. All photos by Barbara Slotemaker de Bruine





Stirling Range

Heading west, Kojonup was a surprise. Schoolteacher Myrtle Bean, who taught in the area from 1931 until 1972, began visiting a small reserve on the edge of town with her Grade 6 class in 1969 to teach them nature

appreciation. They developed the reserve into a flora and fauna sanctuary, with walking trails, information panels and a rich diversity of orchids and other wildflowers, and birds and other small animals. Now named after her, it is a delight to visit.



Royal Hakea

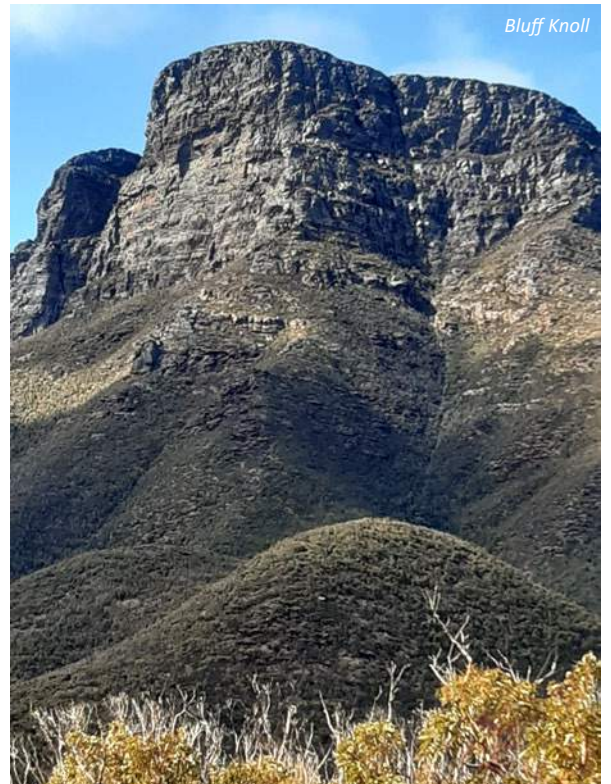
From here we headed to Bridgetown, a lovely rustic town, and enjoyed a pleasant drive along the Blackwood River to arty/crafty Nannup. There are Jarrah and Marri forests here and several walking trails where orchids and kangaroo paws can be found, together with *Hardenbergia*, *Wahlenbergia* and orange and red pea flowers.

We were now returning to Perth. On the way we linked up with a friend who was coordinating a bird-watching trip in Tuart Forest National Park near Capel. There are a number of beautiful drives in what is the largest remaining pure forest of Tuart trees. Wildflowers are plentiful, including Donkey Orchids, buttercups, Egg and Bacon Plant and many others.

I hope this article encourages readers to follow similar routes in wonderful WA.



Whale skeleton, Albany



Bluff Knoll



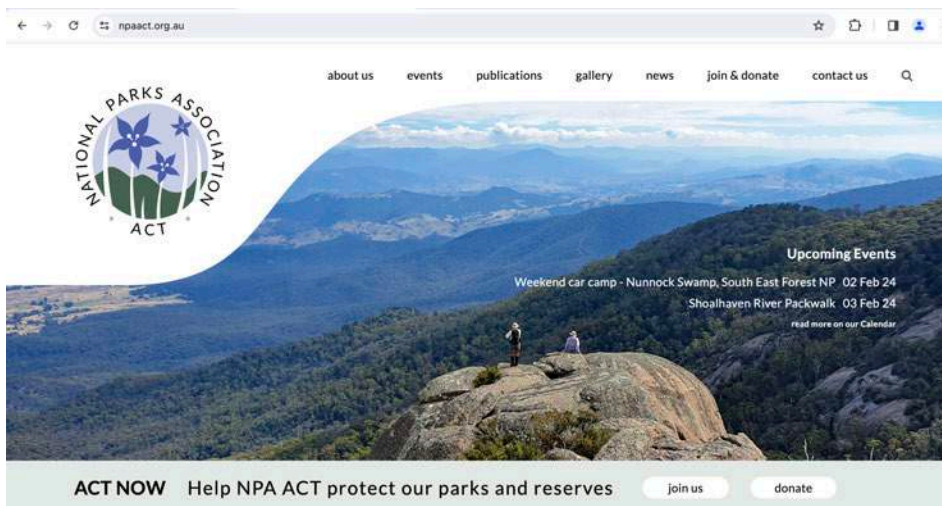
# Check out NPA's new website

After more than a year of planning and development, the new NPA website went 'live' on 10 December 2023 when formally launched by ACT Environment Minister, Rebecca Vassarotti at the NPA Christmas party (see separate item). The ACT Government provided \$5,000 towards site development through an environment grant and a further \$10,000 came from a generous, anonymous donor.

Michelle van der Linden of Linden Graphics designed the site, with Bevan Calliess of Blue Igloo IT responsible for back-end development.

The new website contains some novel features while retaining most of the information from the previous site. Chief among the new features is the events calendar which allows online booking for walks and other outings and easier communication between walks leaders and participants.

The calendar has been refined after extensive testing by, and feedback from, walks leaders, as organised by outings convener Mike Bremers. With 86 configurable text blocks relating just to the forms and emails, getting the right settings involved considerable trial and error. Thanks go to those who participated in testing and providing much useful feedback, ensuring that the system is easily accessible by leaders and participants alike.



A new extension has been added to simplify the search process. On the old site the default search in the menu could search for content on the website, but not pdf content such as in the *Bulletins*. A second search function was provided on the *Bulletin* list page that used an external Google search to access content in the magazine. Consequently, new visitors to the site who were unaware of the search form on the *Bulletin* list would have missed a significant portion of the website's content.

The new software integrates both search functions so that one search in the main menu will return results from articles and pdf files.

If you are interested in NPA's history and achievements we recommend you dip into 'Our history' in the drop-down menu under 'About us' on the home page. This information was available on the former site, but many members may have been unaware of the trove of fascinating information from the Oral History Project, which was initiated in 1996 by founding members Reg Alder and Fiona MacDonald Brand and the committee as a contribution to NPA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2000.

We have also made it easier to 'Join' and 'Donate' online, and there are plans to review and refresh the Gallery. Other enhancements to the site and further integration with our office systems are planned over the coming year.

The new website is a work in progress and comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to me at [allan@npaact.org.au](mailto:allan@npaact.org.au).

*Allan Sharp  
Convener, Promotion and Outreach Subcommittee*

## Steven Forst departs for Queensland

*Long time walks leader Steven Forst departed Canberra for Queensland in late 2023.*

After joining NPA in 1985, Steven began leading walks the following year. His first outing as leader was a cross country ski



trip from Selwyn to Four Mile Hut, to be followed by numerous such outings in the Kiandra area. He became a prolific leader, frequently offering a walk a month. His favourite destinations were southern Namadgi, the Brindabella Range, northern Kosciuszko National Park, the Budawangs and Canberra's northern edge. He led both day walks and pack walks and was a great contributor to the multi-club Wednesday walks. He even led a 'Devonshire Tea Crawl' in the Southern Highlands in 1994. Similarly, his Big Hole walks were often just a way of burning off a pile of pancakes consumed at Captains Flat.

Steven served on the committee for 18 years, having several stints between 1988 and 2020. He was outings convener for 8 years and even took on the role of treasurer in the early 2000s.

Members will recall his quiet manner, gentle determination and the folding camping stool which accompanied his every outing. We appreciate Steven's long and dedicated service to the NPA and wish him and Sue well in their life together in the steamy north.

*Mike Bremers, outings convener,  
with input from walks leaders*

*Steven Forst and Sue Chadwick. Photo by Max Lawrence*



# NPA outings program

## Bushwalk grading guide **March – June 2024**



### 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 |                   |

<b>Day walks</b>	Carry lunch and snacks, drinks, protective clothing, a first-aid kit and any required medication.
<b>Pack walks</b>	Two or more days. Carry all food and camping equipment. CONTACT LEADER EARLY.
<b>Car camps</b>	Facilities often limited. Vehicles taken to site can be used for camping. CONTACT LEADER EARLY.
<b>Work parties</b>	Carry items as for day walks plus work gloves and any tools required. Work party details and location sometimes change, check NPA website, <a href="http://www.npaact.org.au">www.npaact.org.au</a> , for any last minute changes.
<b>Other activities</b>	include ski trips, canoe trips, nature rambles and environment or field guide studies.
<b>Short notice walks</b>	To volunteer to lead a short notice walk, or to have your name added to the short notice/weekly walks alert list, email <a href="mailto:outings@npaact.org.au">outings@npaact.org.au</a> .
<b>Wednesday walks (WW)</b>	Walks arranged jointly by NPA, BBC (Brindabella Bushwalking Club) and CBC (Canberra Bushwalking Club) for club members. Notification and details are emailed to those registered for WW. Only NPA-hosted WW are shown in this program. For WW email registration, contact the <i>Outings Convener</i> , <a href="mailto:outings@npaact.org.au">outings@npaact.org.au</a> .
<b>Transport</b>	NPA suggests a passenger contribution to transport costs of <b>45 cents per kilometre</b> 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.

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 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](mailto:outings@npaact.org.au).

Anyone joining an NPA outing does so as a volunteer and therefore accepts responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred. The NPA, its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability for injury or damage suffered while engaged in any such outing.

In voluntarily participating in NPA activities, you should be aware that you 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 elsewhere, risks associated with crossing rivers, 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 of the activity.

To minimise these risks you should endeavour to ensure that the activity is within your capabilities and that you are carrying food, water, equipment, clothing and footwear appropriate to the activity. You should advise the leader of any physical or other limitation that might affect your participation or any medication that could require attention during the activity. You should make every effort to remain with the rest of the party and accept the leader's instructions. By signing the *Attendance Record and Risk Waiver Form* you agree that you understand these requirements and have considered the risks before signing and waive any claim for damages arising from the activity that you might have against the association, the leader or any other participants.

Children under 18 years of age are welcome to come on NPA activities if 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](mailto:brianslee@iprimus.com.au). In the event that an outing party returns late, the first point of contact for concerned family is NPA's Check-in/Emergency Contact Officer, not the police or parks service. To check the status of an overdue walk, contact Mike Bremers, 0428 923 408, [outings@npaact.org.au](mailto:outings@npaact.org.au) or Brian Slee.

For outings in remote areas, leaders should check-in by contacting the Check-in Officer (Mike Bremers) by sms or email (as above) at completion of the outing. For all outings, leaders should email their signed *Attendance Record and Risk Waiver Form* to Brian, contact as above.

### COVID-19 arrangements:

There are currently no COVID-19 public health restrictions in the ACT but **COVID-smart behaviours** are encouraged (see <https://bit.ly/3SjM83K>). If you have had flu-like symptoms, such as a fever with a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, within 2 weeks of an activity you should not attend. While on an activity, social distancing and good hygiene are encouraged, as is mask wearing when car-pooling.




## NPA outings program March – June 2024 (page 2 of 4)

<p><b>3 March</b> Sunday morning MTB ride</p> 	<p><b>Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve</b> Meet 9 am at Mulligans Flat carpark, off Amy Ackman Street, Forde. Suitable for mountain bike riders of medium fitness and all skill levels. 14 km circuit ride of around 2 hours. Includes mix of terrain from short but moderately steep hills to flat, all on trails. Lots of wildlife. Coffee at Wildbark on the way back.</p>	<p>Map: Mulligans Flat Sanctuary Map available online. <a href="http://www.mulligansflat.org.au/visit">www.mulligansflat.org.au/visit</a> Grading: 2A Leader: Trevor Costa Enquiries: <a href="mailto:Littoralzone@outlook.com">Littoralzone@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>9 March</b> Saturday work party</p>	<p><b>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group</b> Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds at site to be determined in Gudgenby Valley. Car-pooling available for journey there and tools will be provided. Register online.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Enquiries: 6247 0239 or <a href="mailto:kambalda@tpg.com.au">kambalda@tpg.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>11 March</b> Monday holiday walk and work party</p>	<p><b>Stockyard Arboretum and falls</b> Exploratory walk to find alternative route to Stockyard Arboretum since traditional route now difficult. We will also visit the spectacular falls below the Arboretum. On our way through Arboretum we will remove any conifer wildings found. Steep climbs and thick regrowth. Rescheduled from 2 March. Register online by 9 March.</p>	<p>Map: Corin Dam 1:25,000 Grading: 1A/C/D/F Drive: 130 km, \$60 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Enquiries: 0411 161 056</p>
<p><b>16 March</b> Saturday walk</p> 	<p><b>Hanging Rock</b> Walk partly on track from Berlang Campground in Deua National Park. Wade Shoalhaven River and take track towards Big Hole, then off-track to old trail which is followed north for a kilometre. Then more off-track on undulating route to Hanging Rock. Return to trail and campground via Big Hole. About 14 km and climb of 650 m. Partly exploratory and suitable for experienced off-track walkers. Max 8. Register online by 14 March. Conditions may affect plans.</p>	<p>Map: Kain 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/B/D/F Drive: 168 km, \$75 per car Leader: Philip Gatenby Enquiries: 0401 415 446 or <a href="mailto:philip.gatenby@gmail.com">philip.gatenby@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>17 March</b> Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p><b>Urambi loop (NPA/CBC)</b> Drive yourself to meeting point. Pleasant walk, all on track or footpad. We start near western side of Lake Tuggeranong and climb steeply to top of Urambi Hill, then loop south to join Murrumbidgee Discovery Track. Follow river to Kambah Pool, returning via base of Urambi Hill. 13 km with climb of 360 m. Should be back for lunch but bring morning tea. Register online by midday 16 March for more details. Max 12.</p>	<p>Map: Tuggeranong 1:25,000 Grading: 2A Leader: Cynthia Contact: <a href="mailto:cynthia@npaact.org.au">cynthia@npaact.org.au</a> or 0488 071 203</p>
<p><b>23 March</b> Saturday work party</p>	<p><b>Bullen Range NR pine control</b> Meet 8:15 am at Dillon Close, Weston. This is a continuation of the July 2023 work party. Exact location will be advised closer to the date. Bring gloves, all other tools provided. Note: road access requires 4WD, please advise leader if you can offer the use of one. Register online by 21 March.</p>	<p>Drive: 50 km, \$22 per car Leader: Michaela Popham Enquiries: 0413 537 333</p>
<p><b>23–25 March</b> Pack walk</p>	<p><b>Kosciuszko National Park</b> 3-day pack walk in Kosciuszko National Park. Check website for details.</p>	<p>Leader: Stephen Marchant Enquiries: 0401 094 606 or <a href="mailto:smarchant151@bigpond.com">smarchant151@bigpond.com</a></p>
<p><b>27 March</b> Wednesday walks</p>	<p><b>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity</b> <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p><b>Medium/hard walk</b> Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or <a href="mailto:philip.gatenby@gmail.com">philip.gatenby@gmail.com</a> <b>Easy/medium walk</b> Leader: Mike S Contact: 0412 179 907</p>
<p><b>31 March</b> Easter Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Googong Foreshores</b> We start from the Lower Foreshores car park and follow footpad to Shannons Inlet, then go off track the next 3 km through open bushland with some hills. Return via Western Foreshores Walk. You will be home for a late lunch. Distance about 10 km, ascent 200 m. Max 10. Register online by 29 March for details.</p>	<p>Map: Hoskinstown 1:25,000 Grading: 1A/B/C Leader: Marlene Enquiries: <a href="mailto:marleneeggert@bigpond.com">marleneeggert@bigpond.com</a></p>
<p><b>6 April</b> Saturday MTB ride</p> 	<p><b>Southern Namadgi bike ride</b> Depart 8:30 am from Tharwa Bridge carpark (near toilets). Return ride on trails from Yankee Hat carpark along Old Boboyan Road to Naas Creek and Mount Clear Campground (lunch), return same way, about 35 km. Steep at first, gentle gradients over remainder. Suitable for mountain bikes, hybrids (front suspension and suitable tyres), gravel bikes (experienced riders). E-bikes welcome (fully charged). Bikes must be in good condition, with necessary spares. Ride time 5.5 hours. Max 8. Register online by 3 April.</p>	<p>Maps: Namadgi NP map; Rooftop Namadgi - ACT South Grading: 4A Drive: 64 km, \$29 per car Leader: Kevin Frawley Enquiries: 0427 005 411 or <a href="mailto:kfrawley@inet.net.au">kfrawley@inet.net.au</a></p>
<p><b>7 April</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Glenburn precinct loop</b> Meet 9 am at Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre car park, Campbell St, Queanbeyan (UBD map 81, N1). Drive to Charcoal Kiln Road turnoff, Kings Highway, Burbong. Follow trail via Atkinson Trig to Colliers ruins for morning tea. Fruit may be available in orchard. Continue to Coppins ruins and Glenburn Homestead for lunch. Return via Colverwell Graves. Historic area, signposted. 12 km, not much shade. Afternoon tea Queanbeyan. Register online by midday 6 April.</p>	<p>Map: Glenburn Precinct Heritage Trails, ACT Government (available online) Grading: 2A Drive: 30 km, \$14 per car Leader: Brian Slee Enquiries: 6281 0719 (h) or <a href="mailto:brianslee@iprimus.com.au">brianslee@iprimus.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>13 April</b> Saturday work party</p>	<p><b>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group</b> Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds at site to be determined in Gudgenby Valley. Car-pooling available for journey there and tools will be provided. Register online.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Enquiries: 6247 0239 or <a href="mailto:kambalda@tpg.com.au">kambalda@tpg.com.au</a></p>



## NPA outings program March – June 2024 (page 3 of 4)

<p><b>14 April</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Mount Tennent and Bushfold Flats</b> Climb Mount Tennent with a loop out to Bushfold Flats. 18 km, 900 m ascent, all on track. Register online by midday Saturday for more details.</p>	<p>Map: Williamsdale 1:25,000 Grading: 3A Drive: 40 km, \$18 per car Leader: Trevor Lewis Enquiries: 6288 1495 or 0435 714 430 or <a href="mailto:tglyndwrlewis@gmail.com">tglyndwrlewis@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>20 April</b> Saturday walk</p> 	<p><b>South Bullen Range and 'Calvary' (NPA/CBC)</b> Lovely views of Tidbinbilla Range. Walk fire trail and off-track through Barnes Hill onto south Bullen Range. Turn west down through shrubby country to 'Calvary', a pisé homestead ruin. Further down to the west in open going, we will visit lovely grass trees near Larrys Creek. Return via Miowera Pine Forest. Around 16 km and 450 m climb. Register online by 16 April for details.</p>	<p>Maps: Tuggeranong, Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 3A/B/C Drive: 20 km, \$9 per car Leader: John Evans Enquiries: <a href="mailto:jevansact@gmail.com">jevansact@gmail.com</a> or 0417 436 877</p>
<p><b>27 April</b> Saturday work party</p> 	<p><b>Stoney Creek NR fence removal</b> Meet 8:30 am at Dillon Close, Weston. This work party will complete work begun in 2020. Approximately 100 m of fence remains in steep and rocky ground. Could include optional 2.5 km round-trip walk to Murrumbidgee River. All tools provided, just bring gloves. Register online by 25 April.</p>	<p>Drive: 35 km, \$16 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Enquiries: 0411 161 056</p>
<p><b>28 April</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Googong Dam to Cuumbeun NR</b> Start at Downstream Picnic Area. Climb on Bradleys Creek Walk to Googong Reserve border which we follow until we approach Hickory Hill. Follow Deep Creek to Queanbeyan River Trail. Return via Cuumbeun NR, off track. Undulating walk of medium difficulty. Distance 14 km, ascent 600 m. Max 10. Register online by 26 April for details.</p>	<p>Map: Hoskinstown 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/B/C Leader: Marlene Enquiries: <a href="mailto:marleneeggert@bigpond.com">marleneeggert@bigpond.com</a></p>
<p><b>28 April</b> Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p><b>Parliament House and surrounds</b> Remnant vegetation, historic remains and roses: exploring surrounds of Parliament House. 3–4 hours, 8 km mostly on paths, optional lunch at conclusion. Max 20. Register for walk and optional lunch by midday 27 April.</p>	<p>Leader: Rosemary Hollow Contact: 0413 977 708 or <a href="mailto:rosemary@npaact.org.au">rosemary@npaact.org.au</a></p>
<p><b>5 May</b> Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p><b>Circumnavigating Curtin</b> Meet 8:15 am at Redbrick, cnr Theodore and Carruthers, Curtin for coffee. Circuit includes Dawson Street garden, Whyte Place rain garden, Illoura, Tuggeranong track, cork oaks, 'Great Wall' and new diplomatic area. Autumn colours in trees. Finish with brunch at Curtin shops. 9 km, some bushland and uneven ground. Register online by Friday 3 May.</p>	<p>Maps: UBD Canberra street directory maps 67, 68 Grading: 1A/B/C Leader: Brian Slee Enquiries: <a href="mailto:brianslee@iprimus.com.au">brianslee@iprimus.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>11 May</b> Saturday work party</p>	<p><b>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group</b> Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Control (cutting and dabbing) of woody weeds at site to be determined in Gudgenby Valley. Car-pooling available for journey there and tools will be provided. Register online.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Enquiries: 6247 0239 or <a href="mailto:kambalda@tpg.com.au">kambalda@tpg.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>12 May</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Bogong Creek falls</b> From Yankee Hat car park walk up Gudgenby Valley, partly on track, then climb beside Bogong Creek to small waterfall. Return same way. Mostly off track with patches of thick scrub and rock scrambling. Suitable for fit, experienced off-track walkers. About 16 km and climb of 300 m. Expect to take 7 hours so early start essential. Max 8. For details contact leader, preferably by email. Register online by 10 May.</p>	<p>Map: Yaouk 1:25,000 Grading: 2A/D/E Drive: 100 km, \$45 per car Leader: Philip Gatenby Enquiries: 0401 415 446 or <a href="mailto:philip.gatenby@gmail.com">philip.gatenby@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>19 May</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Jerrabomberra ramble</b> Start from The Scar Recreation Park, Queanbeyan. Climb Mount Jerrabomberra for great views then descend and cross Edwin Land Parkway into adjacent bushland. Explore footpads to Barracks Creek before returning to starting point. Home for a late lunch. Distance 12 km, ascent 320 m. Max 10. Register online by 17 May for details.</p>	<p>Maps: Canberra, Tuggeranong 1:25,000 Grading 2A Leader: Marlene Enquiries: <a href="mailto:marleneeggert@bigpond.com">marleneeggert@bigpond.com</a></p>
<p><b>22 May</b> Wednesday walks</p>	<p><b>Joint NPA / BBC / CBC activity</b> <i>Details are emailed to those on the Wednesday Walks email list. Otherwise contact leader.</i></p>	<p><b>Medium/hard walk</b> Leader: Philip Gatenby Contact: 0401 415 446 or <a href="mailto:philip.gatenby@gmail.com">philip.gatenby@gmail.com</a> <b>Easy/medium walk</b> Leader: Elaine Atkinson Contact: 0410 154 133 or <a href="mailto:elainem.atkinson@gmail.com">elainem.atkinson@gmail.com</a></p>



## NPA outings program March – June 2024 (page 4 of 4)

<p><b>25 May</b> Saturday work party</p> 	<p><b>Bullen Range NR fence removal</b> Meet 8:30 am at Dillon Close, Weston. This work party is a continuation of removal of redundant fences in Murrumbidgee River Corridor. On this occasion we will operate on the eastern side of the Murrumbidgee River, between it and Weston Creek. Bring gloves. Wire cutters and post puller will be provided. Register online by 23 May.</p>	<p>Drive: 25 km, \$12 per car Leader: Martin Chalk Enquiries: 0411 161 056</p>
<p><b>26 May</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Rob Roy Nature Reserve</b> A loop of the gullies and waterfalls of Rob Roy NR with some off-track walking in open bush, also some rock-hopping and scrambling through the 'Lanyon Canyon'. About 8 km, 250 m ascent. Register online by midday Saturday for details.</p>	<p>Map: Tuggeranong 1:25,000 Grading: 1A/B/E Drive: 28 km, \$12 per car Leader: Trevor Lewis Enquiries: 6288 1495 or 0435 714 430 or <a href="mailto:tglyndwrlewis@gmail.com">tglyndwrlewis@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>26 May</b> Sunday morning walk</p>	<p><b>Australian National University sculptures</b> An easy stroll through the ANU grounds to view some of the wonderful sculptures. A leisurely 3 hours with optional lunch at conclusion. Max 20. Register for walk and optional lunch by 23 May.</p>	<p>Leader: Rosemary Hollow Contact: 0413 977 708 <a href="mailto:rosemary@npaact.org.au">rosemary@npaact.org.au</a></p>
<p><b>2 June</b> Sunday morning walk</p>	<p><b>Understanding Aboriginal culture at Mulligans Flat</b> Aaron Chatfield, a Ngunnawal/Kamilaroi man, operates Dreamtime Connections, focussing on connecting schools and communities to Aboriginal culture. Aaron will talk about local bushfoods and animals on a stroll through the reserve. Max 25. Register by 30 May.</p>	<p>Leader: Rosemary Hollow Contact: 0413 977 708 <a href="mailto:rosemary@npaact.org.au">rosemary@npaact.org.au</a></p>
<p><b>2 June</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Queanbeyan River Reserve</b> Walk starts at suspension bridge in Queanbeyan. Follow river upstream to Ellerton Drive bridge, cross and walk downstream passing Queen Elizabeth Park (toilet facilities), old Queanbeyan cemetery and into Oaks Estate. Return via Queanbeyan Railway Station. Optional coffee at Byrnes Mill. Distance 13.7 km, ascent 250 m. Max 10. Home for late lunch. Register online by 31 May for details.</p>	<p>Map: Queanbeyan 1:25,000 Grading: 2A Leader Marlene Enquiries: <a href="mailto:marleneeggert@bigpond.com">marleneeggert@bigpond.com</a></p>
<p><b>8 June</b> Saturday work party</p>	<p><b>Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Group</b> Meet 9 am at Namadgi Visitor Centre. Activity in Gudgenby Valley to be determined closer to the date. Car-pooling available for journey there and tools will be provided. Register online.</p>	<p>Leader: Doug Brown Enquiries: 6247 0239 or <a href="mailto:kambalda@tpg.com.au">kambalda@tpg.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>10 June</b> Monday holiday walk</p> 	<p><b>Lake Burley Griffin: eastern circuit</b> Meet 9:30 am at National Carillon car park. Follow path east under Kings Avenue Bridge and proceed via Hospice, Duntroon Dairy and Molonglo River to Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Sit down lunch at Kingston Foreshore. Return via Kings Avenue Bridge. Register online by 8 June.</p>	<p>Map: UBD Canberra street directory Grading: 1A Leader: Brian Slee Enquiries: 6281 0719 or <a href="mailto:brianslee@iprimus.com.au">brianslee@iprimus.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>16 June</b> Sunday walk</p> 	<p><b>Gibraltar Creek hills</b> Meet 8:30 am at Kambah Village shops. As you drive up Corin Dam Road there is a rugged little range on your left across Gibraltar Creek. Our object is to walk along that range, taking in three prominent peaks. Distance is not great but this is a physically challenging walk with climbs totalling 700 m, steep grades and rock scrambling. Good views. Suitable for fit walkers with good boots and gear. Register online by midday Saturday.</p>	<p>Map: Tidbinbilla 1:25,000 Grading: 2C/E Drive 60 km, \$28 per car Leader: Rod Griffiths Enquiries: 0410 875 731</p>
<p><b>22 June</b> Saturday work party</p> 	<p><b>Orroral Valley fence removal</b> Meet 8:30 am at Kambah Village shops. This is a continuation of the removal of barbed wire in Orroral Valley. Exact location will be advised on the day. All tools provided, just bring gloves. Register online by 20 June.</p>	<p>Drive: 86 km, \$38 per car Leader: Michaela Popham Enquiries:</p>
<p><b>23 June</b> Sunday morning walk</p> 	<p><b>Anzac Parade sculptures</b> Leisurely walk along both sides of Anzac Parade to view war memorial sculptures. An introduction to the landscape, artists, events and people they commemorate. Will conclude with conversations at nearby café. Max 20. Register by 20 June.</p>	<p>Leader: Rosemary Hollow Contact: 0413 977 708 <a href="mailto:rosemary@npaact.org.au">rosemary@npaact.org.au</a></p>
<p><b>29 June</b> Saturday walk</p> 	<p><b>Bullen Range traverse</b> Meet 7:30 am at Dillon Close, Weston. South to north full traverse of Bullen Range. On fire trail for a long day, starting at travelling stock reserve on Tidbinbilla Road and ending at Cotter Reserve. zRoute is very undulating with approximately 500 m of ascent. Great views east over the Murrumbidgee and west to Tidbinbilla. Car shuffle required. Register online by midday Friday 28 June.</p>	<p>Maps: Tuggeranong, Tidbinbilla, Cotter Dam 1:25,000 Grading: 3A Drive 90 km, \$40 per car Leader: Rod Griffiths Enquiries: 0410 875 731</p>





Descending beside Trapyard Creek. Photo by Brian Slee

## High Country walks

During the 2023–24 summer, Mike Bremers led two NPA day walks on sections of the Snowies Alpine Walk.

On 17 December a group of 12 gathered in perfect weather at Perisher Gap to walk to Porcupine Rocks where they picked up recently opened Stage 3 of the track and

followed it to Charlotte Pass Village. A car shuffle had been involved, so after coffee at Stillwell Cafe, the group returned to the Gap to collect the remaining vehicle. Heavy spring rain had eliminated most of the Main Range snow but wildflowers were a notable feature of the walk, with particularly brilliant displays of Snow Gum blossom (see front cover). For an earlier report on Stage 3, see *NPA Bulletin* [March 2023](#).

At short notice a further outing was arranged for 15 January whereby a group of 11 walked Stage 2 of the track, part of the group setting off from

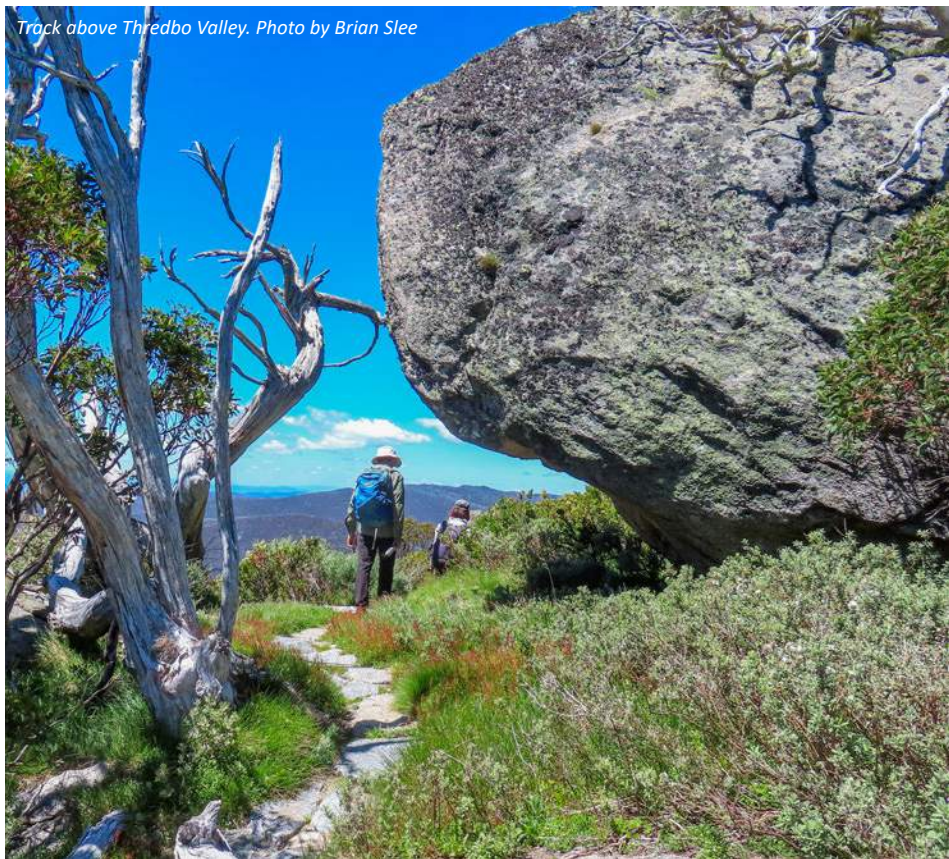
Bridge near Guthega. Photo by Mike Bremers



Note: This article has 2 more parts, see [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.

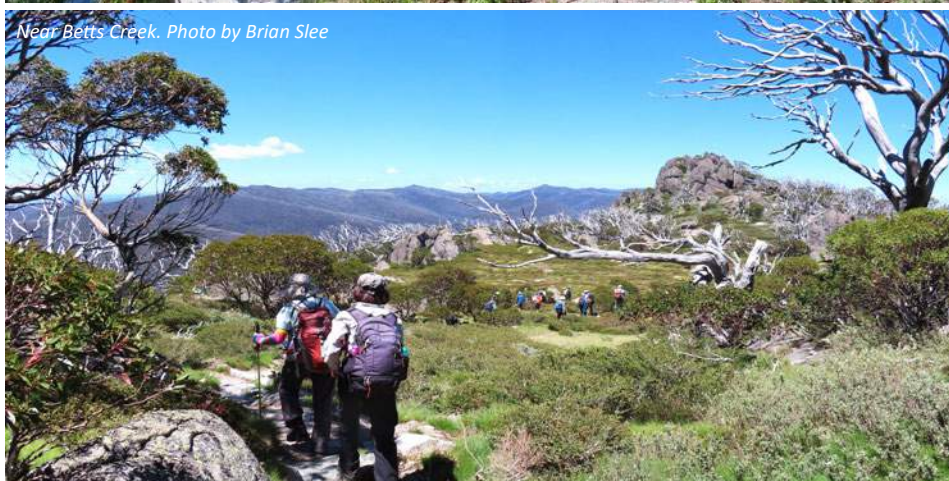


Track above Thredbo Valley. Photo by Brian Slee



Porcupine Rocks. Photo by Mike Bremers

Near Bett's Creek. Photo by Brian Slee



Wet Snow Gum. Photo by Mike Bremers



Trackside Snow Gum, Ramshead Range. Photo by Mike Bremers



Another wet Snow Gum. Photo by Mike Bremers





Lamble Bridge, Snowy River. Photo by Mike Bremers



Gathering at Perisher Gap. Photo by Brian Slee

Guthega for Charlotte Pass, with the remainder completing the walk in the opposite direction, swapping keys along the way. The weather was less kind, with drizzle at first and the cloud not fully lifting from the peaks. One compensation for the dampness was the enhanced colours on the Snow Gum trunks. Again, an earlier report on this stage appeared in *NPA Bulletin* [March 2023](#).

Many thanks to Mike for organising these great occasions.

*Brian Slee*

Note: Construction of Stage 4, the 11.4 km Perisher to Bullocks Flat section of the 55 km Snowies Alpine Walk, commenced in 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in spring 2024.



Kunzea at Wrights Creek. Photo by Mike Bremers





View east from border

## Taylor Conservation Area

**Date:** Sunday 3 December 2023

**Participants:** Brian Slee (leader), John Brickhill, Sim Brown, Virginia Buring, Vikki Clingan, Isobel Crawford, Margaret Mahoney

**Weather:** Warm, blue sky clouding over later, light breeze

Since NPA's first outing on the Centenary Trail (see *NPA Bulletin* March 2014), Gungahlin has filled with new suburbs, leaving a band of vacant rising land between its outer boundary and the ACT/NSW border. With the admirable Graeme Barrow no longer with us to publish walking guides, I had been keeping an eye on access for walks around Casey, until Klaus Hueneke alerted me to Taylor.

Canberra's suburbs usually have defined edges: a line of houses backing onto bush. But north Taylor is like Swiss cheese, incorporating numerous lofty parks before giving way to what is designated (on just one small sign) as 'Taylor Conservation Area', part of Canberra Nature Park. Three recesses later and I had found a route through it for this NPA walk.

Gathering for the start proved slightly chaotic but we eventually set off at 9 am from Trewenack Street where bollards, the first infrastructure, were being installed. The track north beside Ginninderra Creek was well drained, despite recent rain. First stop was at a pair of enormous Apple Boxes, located amid a mix of successful recent plantings (trees, shrubs) and persistent grazing-era weeds (briars, hawthorns, boxthorns).

Margaret and Isobel beneath the Apple Box. All photos by Brian Slee



The track veered north-east toward the River Peppermint plantations dating from the 1980s which have survived their fate as firewood. As we headed over a small ridge into a second valley we were accompanied by annoying in-your-face flies. We rounded a farm dam and made a steep climb before passing through the only gate which would open for us all morning, onto the Centenary Trail (the other five gates had to be climbed).

It was a pleasant walk west through open forest, with frequent stops to detect border markers, before we emerged on a hill overlooking the border's most northerly point. We stopped for morning tea with a fine view of One Tree Hill among myriads of Common Brown butterflies. A couple of cyclists puffed by.

The trail undulated west with increasingly panoramic views until we reached a point where high tension power lines met the track, in a grove of Scribbly Gums. From here we descended the ridge back to Taylor. Large numbers of kangaroos could be seen on the slopes which were home to ancient and craggy eucalypts. Much of Canberra and surrounding mountains was spread out before us, although cloud was dimming the view.

We were soon back at the start, arriving about 11:45 am, 8 km. An enjoyable outing, worth repeating, maybe extending to Jacka one day. Good that a non-member chose to join us. A large area has been preserved for public use: visit now while local residents are preoccupied with home construction. Some weeding has taken place but a concerted eradication program would be effective. And yes, demolish the fences!

Group on ridge above Taylor



Solitary sign

Brian Slee





Descending south. Photos by Brian Slee unless indicated otherwise

## Sammys Hill

**Date:** Sunday 22 October 2023

**Participants:** Brian Slee (leader), Liz de Chastel, Bridget Donovan, Marlene Eggert

**Weather:** Clear sky, chilly wind

NPA's latest light rail outing was sponsored by The Village Building Co (developers of South Jerrabomberra). Well, their advertising adorned the doors, windows, everything, on our formerly gleaming red tram. Fortunately, views from within were not obscured – the controversial Brittle Gums could still be seen, thriving, and empty building blocks on Northbourne Avenue are gradually filling.



On course with Marlene. Photo by Bridget Donovan

Three of the group took the 8:15 am tram from Alinga Street, to be met by Bridget on alighting at Mapleton Avenue. We were on our way to coffee at Wildbark. After diverting into back lanes in order to visit Gungaderra Homestead, we came across a proud gardener nearby watering a magnificent bed of golden ranunculus.

We followed Gungaderra Creek into Joey Park, with the customary group photo at the 'Stopping to smell the flowers' sculpture (mother roo and joey), before continuing through Throsby. Over coffee it was decided to defy the wind and proceed with the 'Ground to sky walk', basically to climb Sammys Hill.

It should have been uncomplicated but I missed a turn through an unmarked gate and we continued heading east. Eventually Marlene's gizmo said 'Wrong Way'; a huge fence was blocking access to Old Joe Hill anyhow. It added half an hour to the walk but along the way we saw plenty of wildlife (kangaroos, shinglebacks and an echidna) and wonderful trees and wildflowers, but no Superb Parrots. We also encountered an inspiring young mother walking the Centenary Trail as a fundraiser for post-natal care.

Descending south for great views, we curved back north to Wildbark for a 12:15 pm lunch. There was a bit of a crowd at first and an incurably happy young waiter, but it is a quiet and pleasant place for a talkative lunch. Two Long-necked Turtles, looking less stressed than formerly, shared the aquarium with a pair of fish.

We followed Gungaderra Creek back on the eastern side, past remarkably preserved wetlands, before crossing Harrison Oval (cricket match in progress) to the tram at Nullarbor Avenue; 10 km walk altogether. Residents who deplore light rail would have been surprised at the large number of passengers on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

Back in the city at 1:30 pm. A walk worth repeating, particularly in spring, visiting other parts of easily accessible Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. Hey, love the tram, we all did!

Brian Slee



Joey Park sculpture



Bridget, Liz, Marlene



Harrison ranunculus





## Budawangs – plans are not always realised

Folly Point lookout. Photo by Sue Brown

**Date:** 22–26 October 2023

**Participants:** Philip Gatenby (leader), Sue Brown, Cynthia Burton, Jan Gatenby

**Weather:** Mostly sunny and warm

**Stats:** Distance 70 km, climb 1,400 m

*The plan was to begin at Meangora Road, go off-track east of Alum Creek Trail, cross Running Creek to Endrick River Trail and find a campsite north of Quiltys Mountain. Next day traverse Quiltys via Binnari Pass, Endrick Trig, the Indigenous Bora Ground, descend to The Vines and head to Camp Rock for the night. On day 3, proceed south across Island Mountain to Munnuldi Falls and climb to Folly Point via Watsons Pass before returning to Camp Rock on Folly Point Track and Endrick River Trail. On last day, return to car via Endrick River Trail, Red Ground Track and Quiltys Crossing.*

The first two days went to plan. We safely crossed Running Creek (which was running despite the dry), continued roughly east, keeping to the higher ground north of Round Mountain and avoiding the nearby private property, to Round Mountain Trail. Post-fire regrowth was not especially thick with the walking easier than on several pre-fire trips. The rest of the day, moving eastwards, was on trails. Lunch was beside a pool on a low-flowing Endrick River, near its junction with Sallee Creek. Wildflowers were abundant. The Budawangs dryness (driest 6 months on record, perhaps) was most obvious when we got to Nomchong Creek.<sup>1</sup> It was not flowing. Nomchong is one of a couple of creeks which drain Quiltys Plateau<sup>2</sup> northwards to the Endrick. A hundred metres or so from the trail, almost in the shadow of Quiltys' cliffs to the south and with a view to the north of Sassafras Plateau, we found a campsite beside Nomchong Creek. Cynthia chose a rock platform in the dry creek bed.

Next day we climbed onto Quiltys by way of Binnari Pass<sup>3</sup> on the plateau's north-western edge. The top was quite open with once thick patches of 2–3 m high banksia between rock slabs replaced by knee-high saplings. Post-fire recovery on the plateau tops is slow. South then east, keeping to the ridge line (what there was of it) brought us to Endrick Trig, Quiltys' not so prominent and viewless high point. Finding the trig in the scrub used to be a challenge; not so these days. East of the trig, towards The Vines, scrub thickened in places. We reached the Bora Ground with its stone



Binnari Pass. Photo by Jan Gatenby

arrangements and impressive views to the east. The Vines, a small area of remnant rainforest, was below us. Close-by a track goes between Quiltys and Sturgiss plateaux to link Endrick River Trail with Styles Plain to the



Natural arch. Photo by Jan Gatenby





*Bora ground, Quilts Mountain. Photo by Philip Gatenby*

south-west. Post-fire regrowth had made the track almost impassable when I last visited in 2022 but it has now been cleared if the 200 m or so we explored on our way to The Vines is any indication.



*Sue, Philip, Jan, nearing Folly Point. Photo by Cynthia Burton*

The plan for day 3 had changed once already. The idea of going to Folly Point via Munnuldi Falls<sup>4</sup> and Watsons Pass was abandoned pre-walk after advice of horrendous scrub between Island Mountain and the falls. The new plan was

to climb Island Mountain then cross Camping Rock Ravine and join the track to Folly Point about 2 km north of the point. All went as planned to begin with. We found and admired a natural arch just south of Camp Rock (marked on the Budawang's sketch map), climbed through the cliffs and onto the plateau of Island Mountain, then headed for the tree-covered high point. On the climb, progress went from slow to very slow as the scrub thickened. The leader was ready to give up but fortunately the rest of the party rallied, and with turns taken to be out in front for short bursts of scrub bashing through the almost impenetrable undergrowth, the unremarkable summit was reached. This approach was used to regain the cleared area of the plateau's rim overlooking Camping Rock Ravine, which now had to be crossed. This, however, did not happen. The day was hot and everyone, the leader in particular, decided we were over scrub bashing so returned to Camp Rock where we had started that morning (8 km in 8 hours). Folly Point would be tackled tomorrow as a there-and-back day walk.

Overnight the weather turned a bit and a few spots of rain fell. By morning low cloud shrouded the higher points around Camp Rock. The sun returned and burnt off the mist, but it was cooler. The foot track to Folly Point goes south off Endrick River Trail, 3.5 km north-east of Camp Rock. The point is about 7 km from the turn-off. Post-fire the track has been restored and was mostly easy to follow. Not far from the start Sue spotted a Bearded Orchid. Foolishly some of us decided to forgo a photograph in the hope that later the orchid would be opened further. That afternoon, alas, there was no sign of the orchid. Near Folly Point the track forks, with a branch, now somewhat overgrown, going west to the cliff edge for spectacular views over Hollands Gorge, The Castle and nearby mountains. The main track continues to a small campsite (with water despite the dry conditions), a recently renewed log book, Watsons Pass and beyond.



*The Vines. Photo by Jan Gatenby*





Isopogon. Photo by Cynthia Burton



Bearded orchid. Photo by Sue Brown



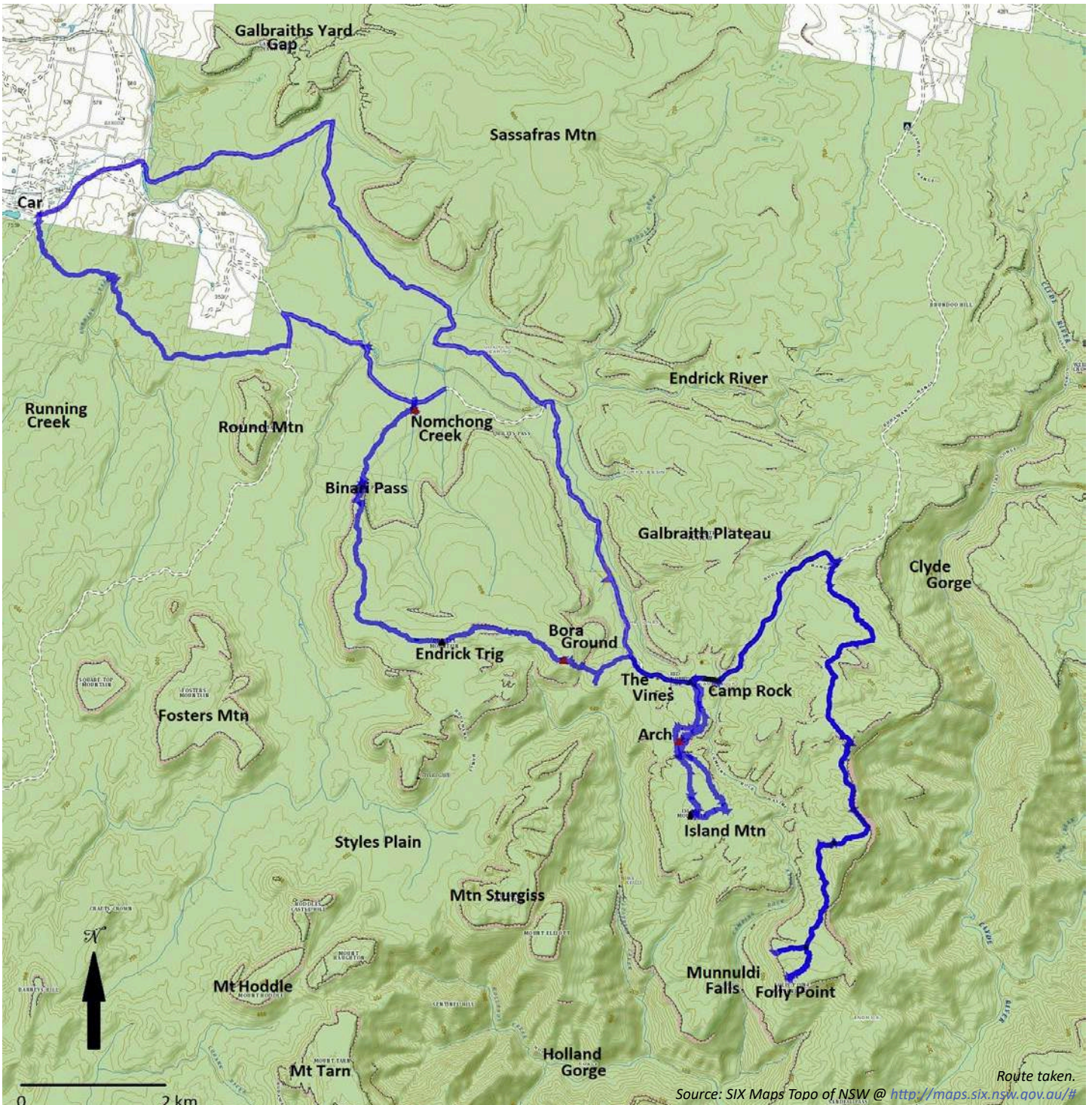
Sun Orchid. Photo by Jan Gatenby

A large flock of woodswallows greeted us next morning. Waratah bloomed beside Endrick River Trail. We stepped over the Endrick to Red Ground Track. Recently graded, it looked more like a fire trail than a walking track. Quilts Crossing, also on the Endrick, was possible with dry feet. It was cool enough not to be tempted to swim. Back at the car a local asked us about our trip and the extent of regrowth and told us of the close shave he and his family had had with the 2019 bushfire.

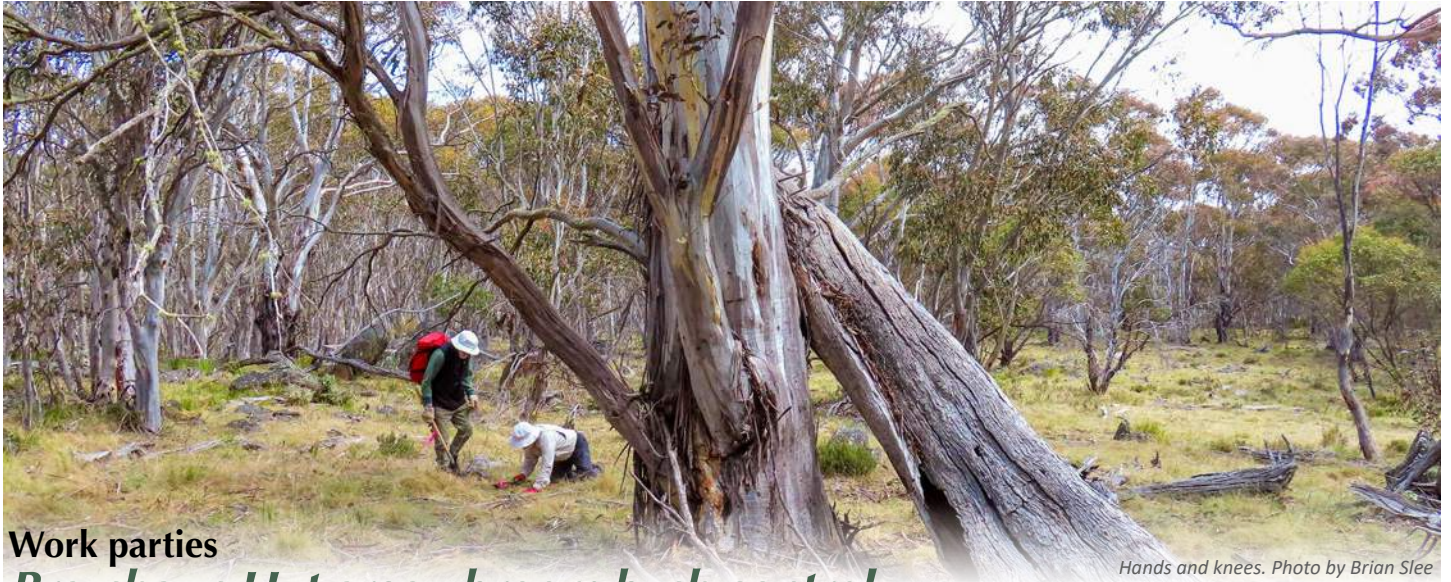
Philip Gatenby

**References:**

- 1 After Chee Dock Nomchong of Braidwood who established a saw mill near The Vines around 1913.
- 2 After the Quilty brothers who, in 1895, constructed a pass to give cattle access to the plateau.
- 3 Indigenous word for climb.
- 4 Indigenous word for hidden.







Hands and knees. Photo by Brian Slee

## Work parties

### *Brayshaws Hut area - broom bush control*

**Date:** 28 October 2023

**Participants:** Michaela Popham (leader), John Brickhill, Isobel Crawford, Marlene Eggert, Kevin McCue, Brian Slee, plus ACT ranger Adam Mahon

This was the NPA's first visit to the area since October 2019. The weather was lovely, mostly sunny with a light breeze at times. The outlook had looked poor as we gathered at Kambah in misty rain but the sky cleared. We all left Brayshaws Hut in jumpers and jackets, but these were quickly removed as we got to work. We had lunch in the field.

At a prior discussion with Martin Chalk it was decided to focus on those marked sites that had consistently shown the greatest number of broom plants over the years. Altogether 13 sites were visited (most of them high priority) and 2,030 broom plants were removed. Most sites visited were cleared of all broom but at least one needs more attention.

Some plants had to be cut and dabbed but most were small and could be uprooted. Only two were in flower. Most had been nibbled, possibly by feral deer. Whatever the cause, infestations are being kept down, especially as flowering is being curtailed. Alas, seed in the ground will continue to sprout well into the future so the area needs to be monitored and work parties organised as necessary.

Ten briar plants were also removed. Many remained but it was decided early on to concentrate our efforts on broom. It may be useful to put on a separate work party to deal with briars.

Overall it was a very successful day. Many thanks to everyone who participated and to Adam for unexpectedly joining us.

*Michaela Popham*



Top: Rare moth, *Taxeotis exsectaria*. Both photos by Kevin McCue  
Below: John, Brian and Michaela at 'heritage' post



## *NPA work party summary – November 2023 to January 2024*

Month	Activity	Agency	Participants
November	Orroral Valley barbed wire removal. Cancelled due to weather	PCS	-
December	No work party	-	-
January	SHORT NOTICE. Orroral Valley: A further 1.6 km of barbed wire and a short length of ringlock fencing were removed from the area between the space station site and the homestead. This work party finalised barbed wire removal work around the homestead and along the eastern side of Orroral Road.	PCS	8

*Martin Chalk*



# Special partnership unfolds in wombat preservation

*Collaboration between a developer and a wildlife group could be a model for other developments in wombat areas, writes **Yolandi Vermaak**, founder and president of Wombat Support and Rescue NSW/ACT Inc (Wombat Rescue).*

In the bustling Ginninderry area, Canberra's environmental story is evolving. The Ginninderry joint venture has exciting plans for the \$14 million Riverside Parkland, a haven by the Murrumbidgee River in the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor.

At the heart of this venture is the Pavilion, which will host social, educational and recreational activities. The Riverside Parkland, spanning 11 hectares, is forecast to welcome 90,000 visitors yearly. With educational programs, stargazing spots and nature play areas, it will be a classroom connecting people with nature.

But the Pavilion is more than bricks and mortar: it embodies a shared vision. It will be a starting point for nature trails, an educational hub, and a source of sustenance for visitors and the ecosystem. Designed with respect for Indigenous heritage, Aboriginal rangers are actively participating in its creation.

During the Development Application (DA) process, Wombat Rescue noticed that the project did not include a wombat management plan or acknowledge the existence of wombat burrows in the area demarcated for development. A detailed response was submitted, identifying the risks involved if construction commenced without taking wombats into account, and provided much-needed feedback in terms of burrow locations, and suggested modifications.

Wombat Rescue has been collaborating with the Ginninderry Conservation Trust for over a year, mapping existing wombat burrows and monitoring current populations. Wombats in the area are considered mange-free, a rarity in the ACT region. Wombat Rescue, in collaboration with the Trust, aims to keep this population healthy.

Following from Wombat Rescue's response to the DA, the developer of the Pavilion, Riverview Developments, invited Wombat Rescue to meet and discuss the development. In a strong first for the ACT and possibly in the country, a developer and a wildlife group sat around the table to discuss the best approach to ensuring the ongoing safety and health of wombats that could be affected by the development. This project could be a model for other developments in wombat areas.

Wombat Rescue is very encouraged by this and welcomes any such meetings with other developers such as those from Denman Prospect. The aim is to work closely with Riverview Developments and turn this into a case study, highlighting the importance of working together and what can be achieved for the community, for the wombats and for future collaborations if our voice is heard and listened to.

*Photo by Mike Bremers*



## Harbingers

*Artwork by Trevor Costa*

*Out of their forest with a promise to keep.  
Black wings, measured strokes over the dry river deep.  
Following a path only they could see.  
Calling in the old tongue ee ya ... hear me, hear me!*

*So close, so low you could see the spark of their eyes.  
Over treeless fields under ever clear skies.  
Over the grey roofs of houses and thirsty parks.  
Descending into the trees, flashing yellow then dark.  
They sat like beacons in the shimmering heat.  
Ripe fruit in tired gardens along silvery streets.*

*To the west,  
to the mountains, to look was to see.  
But no one looked, no crowd gathered, to follow, to flee.  
Then the church bell rang, startling the day.  
A signal to regather and re-find the way.  
Still calling in hope but flying in regret.  
To the east,  
as guides to the promise they had met.*

*Now in the silence it was free to fall.  
Just a few black spots, then more and more.  
To float and swing, glowing red in the gust.  
To land and flare in the tinder dry dust.*

*Trevor Costa*



# NPA science

## Esther Gallant's 80<sup>th</sup> and her exemplary citizen science

Many longtime friends and walking companions attended nibbles and drinks, organised by Cynthia Burton, Terrylea Reynolds and Annette Smith, at Pollen Café, ANBG, on 8 December 2023 to celebrate Esther's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Of particular interest was the cake designed and baked by Sabine Friedrich which was decorated with six Dainty Swallowtails, derived from one of Esther's photographs (see *NPA Bulletin* cover, March 2017). Esther recalls:

*The butterfly emerged from a pupa on my lemon tree and kept falling on the walkway as it was not able to fly for several hours. I started photographing the butterfly in various locations. For the photo used on my cake, it was on a hydrangea blossom. At one point when taking close ups, the butterfly stepped onto the lens and walked up my arm. I was amazed and enchanted.*

*Subsequently, I paid more attention to Dainty Swallowtails and realised that many did not survive the pupal stage because of predation by tiny parasitic wasps. I began raising the butterflies in my wasp-free kitchen, releasing nearly 100 adults over several summers. It was the ideal COVID-19 activity.*



Photo by Sabine Friedrich

## Controlling weeds, growing seeds

Following on from his presentation at the NPA annual general meeting on 21 September 2023, **Hugh Coppel** describes the research project he undertook at the ANU toward the award of his Bachelor of Environment and Sustainability (Hons) degree.

### Overview

My honours project aimed to address a concern held by many revegetation practitioners: how do you suppress weeds long enough for native trees and shrubs to grow? This is especially pertinent on former agricultural lands, where exotic pasture grasses may have been sown and fertilisers applied. The current practice in these situations is to apply Roundup®, a glyphosate product, prior to sowing. However, this herbicide alone does not generally control weeds for long enough to establish trees and shrubs. As such, I sought to trial herbicides that remain active in the soil (known as residual herbicides) to see if the duration of weed control could be increased.

### A few key points on herbicides

Two concepts form the basis of this study: herbicide modes of action and herbicide selectivity. At its most basic, a herbicide's mode of action describes the system within the plant that is to be disrupted by the chemical, leading to its death. For example, the photosynthetic system is a key target for disruption.

Herbicide selectivity is the sum of factors that determine which plants will be killed by a herbicide, and which will survive. Ensuring that herbicide selectivity is predictable is an important component of this study. Factors that influence herbicide selectivity include the chemical properties of the herbicide, the herbicide's formulation, environmental conditions and application method. Herbicide selectivity also has spatial and temporal elements, which are important in the context of this study.

### Thesis structure

My thesis took the following structure: a literature review, interviews with revegetation practitioners, and an experiment. The literature review provided a theoretical background for the rest of my study, primarily focussing on the aforementioned concepts. Additionally, the literature review revealed a number of herbicides (with differing modes of action) that may be suitable for the experiment.

The practitioner interviews were an important component, reinforcing the importance of this study. It became clear that there were ongoing issues with weed control, which reduced the success of revegetation efforts. However, the interviews also showed that the range of herbicides used in revegetation work was very limited and built primarily on experiences that have not been documented in literature.

The experimental component of this study trialled three herbicides (combined with glyphosate) against a glyphosate-only application. The day following the herbicide application, seed of native trees and shrubs was sown using a direct-seeder. The plots were monitored for 24 weeks, at 6-week intervals.

### What I found

While the findings were likely influenced by the large amount of rainfall experienced during the experiment (which ran through the 2022–2023 summer), it was clear that the glyphosate-only application did not facilitate the establishment of the native trees and shrubs. The other herbicides provided varying durations of control, with some benefit to the native trees and shrubs, but no conclusion could be drawn that any treatment was successful in controlling weeds sufficiently to aid establishment of native trees and shrubs. Further trials, in different environmental conditions, are required to determine suitable weed control methods for revegetation efforts.

Hugh spraying at experimental plot, north-east of Goulburn. Photo by Ian Rayner





## Book review

# South Coast Islands

by Helen Moody with Mike Jefferis,

self-published, 2023, 198 pp., ISBN 9780646870601

(for book's cover, see *NPA Bulletin* March 2023)

**Klaus Hueneke**, author of two titles concerning the NSW South Coast (*A String of Pearls* (2011) and *Exploring a Wild Australian Coast* (2015)), has kayaked many of its lakes and inlets. Here he reviews a recent book on the area.

I thought I had learned a lot about the south coast since doing a 1969 NPA NSW bushwalk to what was then an embryonic Mimosa Rocks National Park, but the knowledge in text, historic records, maps and photos in this book puts me back in kindergarten. It is a stunning production. I quickly learnt that I did not spend enough time in local libraries, on the water in a well-equipped sea kayak, or in the air in a helicopter or sea plane. Numerous sharp, colourful, double page aerial panorama photos by Phil Warburton are a highlight. It is wonderful to see islands in three dimensions.

The title suggests it is only about islands but it goes deeply into their surrounds and hinterland. Topics include local history and folklore, placename origins, geological complexities, stories of First Nations people, shipwrecks, plant and bird identification, as well as directions for getting there. It contains a wealth of kayaking information.

At the outset to this ambitious five year project, the authors and a large group of helpers identified 61 islands – 20 offshore and 41 in rivers and lakes – between Nowra and the Victorian border. The latter number was a surprise. Clyde River alone has five. Many are easily missed as they are low lying and well hidden. I tried paddling around Chinaman Island on Lake Conjola and almost got stuck on the lee side because of a falling tide. The council had opened the entrance before it was really necessary. Whether to open lakes and lagoons has long been controversial between locals, who do not want their cottages flooded, and environmentalists, who see the benefits of maintaining natural cycles.

Some offshore islands, like Broulee, Lennards and Crampton, can be walked or waded to most of the time. Islands requiring a boat or sea kayak are only a few and include better known ones like Montague, Tollgate and Wasp. Tollgate – depicted



Fishermen on beach at Narooma, Glasshouse Rocks behind. Photo by Klaus Hueneke

from the air in what could almost be a flat acrylic painting – is very visible from Batemans Bay and Wasp, with its unusual rock dykes and sandwiches, is off Murramarang National Park. Montague is the only one with solid buildings, bookable accommodation and a regular boat service. That is unless seas are rough. On one of my trips, the return through the churned up waters of the very tight rock walls at Narooma was almost heart attack inducing. Then suddenly, as soon as we were through the eye of the needle, all was calm, the water like a mill pond.

The authors have kept an eye for unusual or rare features, as well as the scientific. There are unbelievable but teasing stories about yowies, a photo of a gunya or stick shelter decorated with shells and seaweed and details of the wartime bunker operated by the RAAF between 1943 and 1945 at Burrewarra Point, Guerilla Bay. They mention the cliff line and rock platform walk from there to Barlings Beach but not the spoiling, poorly camouflaged sewage pipe and sea outlet along the way. Nor do they say much about invasive Bitou bush, sea spurge or rabbits on islands and along the coast.

This is a book devoted to the beauty of the coast and its islands – totally deserved and necessary of course – but not the darker side of human incursions and developments. That needs another book, one which might be less enjoyable to produce, might not sell as well but is probably just as urgent. The five pages of further reading at the back will be of enormous help to anyone going on this journey.

## Detachment

*my fingers dance  
remembering  
the rock they gripped ...  
granite and sandstone  
rhyolite and dolerite*

*We're on top of Kunanyi (Mt Wellington) in the mist. Hands on the lichen-covered summit rocks: dolerite, the great sill that covers half Tasmania, and forms most of its mountains. Once upon a time it was hot magma, intruded from the Earth's mantle into the layered Permian and Triassic sediments of Gondwana. Some dolerite goes off with Africa and some is left in the Antarctic, as Tassie is pulled away. The island drifts north, oh so slowly, for forty million years. The miracle of Tasmania.*

*caressing  
gneiss in a cutting ...  
could anything  
be quite as old  
as this crusty Earth*

Gerry Jacobson



# PARKWATCH

## 'Urgent rethink' needed on national park visits

A string of recent incidents resulting in injuries in national parks has prompted two researchers to call for an 'urgent rethink' on coping with increased number of people visiting national parks.

Samuel Cornell and Amy Peden, from University of NSW, note that better access and infrastructure is attracting increasing visitor numbers to national parks. 'Studies are needed to determine if encouraging visitors to take more responsibility for their actions would lead to fewer safety incidents – and if so, how best to get people to adopt this attitude shift,' they said. 'National parks are a public good – and we need to make sure they stay that way.'

*The Conversation* <https://bit.ly/41TzblK>



Photo by Mike Bremers

## NPA NSW challenge on overhead power lines in KNP fails

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA NSW) has failed in its legal challenge to prevent the Snowy Hydro 2.0 scheme clearing land in Kosciuszko National Park for above-ground transmission lines.

NPA NSW sought judicial review of a 2022 decision that exempted the Snowy 2.0 project from a long-standing ban on new overhead power lines in the park. Previously the park's plan of management required 'all additional telecommunication and transmission lines to be located underground'.

The chief judge of the NSW Land and Environment Court, Brian Preston found the challenge was based on an incorrect reading of the law.

*Sydney Morning Herald* <https://bit.ly/3Hztb8v>

## Flinders Ranges rated world class

A leading travel publication has named the Flinders Ranges, including the new Nilpena Ediacara National Park, as one of the world's top places to visit. The region is home to some of the world's oldest examples of life and has featured in *Explore Travel's* list of the world's best places to visit in 2024.

Nilpena Ediacara is about 500 km north of Adelaide and is home to the world's most comprehensive records of Ediacaran fossils. The park has gained significant international attention from researchers,

palaeontologists and conservationists, including NASA and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough. It is also an important part of the World Heritage listing bid for the Flinders Ranges.

*Environment SA* <https://bit.ly/3u5PbVm>



Photo by NPWS SA

## First Indigenous man appointed to top national parks role

Ronald 'Ricky' Archer, a former ranger and Djungan man from north Queensland, has been appointed the new director of National Parks. He is the first Indigenous man to be appointed to the position, which is responsible for Commonwealth parks across Australia, including Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta in the Northern Territory.

Mr Archer said he was looking forward to caring for 'some of our most stunning and valuable natural and cultural assets' and 'strengthening the role of traditional owners' in caring for the parks.

*ABC News* <https://bit.ly/48DpoTx>

## Popular park in the Kimberley to reopen for dry season

The popular Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park in the Kimberley is expected to reopen to visitors in time for the 2024 dry season. The area, including the visitor centre, was severely damaged in the 2023 flood disaster.

The park is an important cultural site for Bunuba traditional owners and a major attraction for the town of Fitzroy Crossing. The WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions announced the Danggu Geikie Gorge Recovery Project in January and outlined tentative plans to open the park to day users this year.

*ABC News* <https://bit.ly/47YoVKi>

## Culling of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park defended as humane

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has defended the November 2023 trial of aerial culling of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park as humane. A parliamentary inquiry into aerial shooting in December questioned NPWS head Atticus Fleming about the trial's 'repeat shooting' policy. Fleming said the policy was humane and backed by the RSPCA and vets.

*The Guardian* <https://bit.ly/3SALHDC>



## 4-step plan to reach '30x30' goals

In December 2022, Australia joined 195 other nations in signing on to the Global Biodiversity Framework to set a goal of '30x30' – protecting at least 30 per cent of land, freshwater and ocean ecosystems by 2030. To reach this ambitious goal, Australia will have to sharpen its focus and boost funding, say two researchers writing in *The Conversation*. Currently, the proportion of land under protection is 22 per cent.



Photo by James Fitzsimons

The researchers propose a four-step plan to meet the goal, including establishing a new dedicated land fund and supporting creation of new Indigenous Protected Areas.

*The Conversation*  
<https://bit.ly/47SiHfg>

## Helena Aurora Range on track for national park status

*The Reserves Bill 2023* passed by the WA parliament in November could soon see the Helena Aurora Range (Bungalbin) National Park expand, pending negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with native title claimants.

The Helena Aurora Range, about 440 km east of Perth and 100 km north of Southern Cross, contains iron ore deposits. After two mining applications and subsequent appeals were rejected in 2017, the WA Environment Minister announced the area would be protected. The first stage of the national park was declared in 2021, spanning 149,000 hectares, and it is expected that it will soon almost double in size.

ABC News <https://bit.ly/3u0klgD>

## Call for Victorian Government to honour national parks promises

Over 70 state, national and international groups, joined by prominent individuals, signed an [open letter](#) to Victorian premier Jacinta Allan in November 2023, calling on the government to stop logging and create promised legislated parks in regional areas. While native forest logging in the state's ceased on 1 January 2024, VicForests still has over 60,000 hectares in the west open for logging.

Among their demands the groups want an end to native forest logging statewide and the promised Wombat-Lerderderg, Mount Buangor and Pyrenees national parks legislated. 'Precious habitats and endangered animals are at risk every day we wait for a three-year-old commitment to gather more dust,' said Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) Executive Director, Matt Ruchel.

VNPA <https://bit.ly/428O5Vk>

## Strict environment protections urgent for offshore energy projects

Leading conservationists have called on the Victorian Government to urgently put in place strict environmental protections for offshore energy projects. This follows the veto of the Port of Hastings plan by federal Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek because the proposed port was environmentally 'unacceptable'. The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) welcomed the decision.

'While a fast transition from polluting to clean energy sources is necessary to avoid the extreme impacts of climate disruption, it cannot come at the cost of the marine environment,' said VNPA's nature campaigner Shannon Hurley.

VNPA <https://bit.ly/3HqxEKn>

## Need to refine walker registration system, says TNPA

A voluntary walker registration system for parts of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area needs more information to refine the system, says the Tasmanian National Parks Association (TNPA).

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) introduced the registration system to several backcountry overnight-walking destinations in 2021 because of the dramatically rising number of visits to the heritage area and long-standing concerns about potential damage to the environment. TNPA has long advocated for a system to limit walker numbers visiting sensitive areas.

PWS reported that during the 2022–23 season, record numbers of walkers again visited the Western and Eastern Arthurs and Mount Anne area. Lake Rhona and the Walls of Jerusalem also had high use. A survey of more than 1,000 walkers had mixed responses about the effectiveness of the current



Walls of Jerusalem. Photo by Brian Slee

registration system. TNPA says it strongly supports the intent of the system and encourages PWS to provide resources to obtain more information to refine it.

TNPA <https://bit.ly/428RQtv>

## Rare violet found in Tasmanian national park

A walker has found 'a super rare violet' growing beside a track in in Tasmania's Ben Lomond National Park. The purple dwarf violet, *Viola improcera*, had never been recorded in Tasmania and is an endangered species found only in a handful of places in eastern Victoria and south-eastern NSW.



Photo by Ned Johnston, NatureMapr

A photo of the violet uploaded to citizen scientist platform iNaturalist caught the attention of experts, who identified the plant. It will be added to Tasmania's list of threatened species and registers Australia-wide will be updated to reflect that it is now found in Tasmania.

ABC News <https://bit.ly/4b2XW33>



## Yet another clean-up notice for Snowy Hydro

The Environmental Protection Agency issued yet another direction to Snowy Hydro in December 2023 to stop polluting Kosciuszko National Park. The latest clean-up notice related to Snowy Hydro's mismanagement of spoil from blasting and tunnelling in the national park and followed six previous environmental breaches.

'There has been a lot of media attention on the poor progress and excessive cost of the Snowy 2.0 project,' said National Parks Association of NSW CEO Gary Dunnett. 'This clean-up notice is a reminder of the hideous damage Snowy Hydro is inflicting on Kosciuszko National Park on a daily basis, which far exceeds the limits of their project approval.'

NSW NPA <https://bit.ly/425atir>

## Ancient Aboriginal art site vandalised again

In January 2024, an ancient Aboriginal art site on the NSW Central Coast was vandalised for a second time in a matter of months, despite the presence of deterrence measures. Vandalism was first spotted at the ancient Bulgandry Aboriginal art site in the Brisbane Water National Park at Kariong and at a nearby separate sacred women's site in 2023, prompting calls for better education about the significance of such sites across Australia.

ABC News <https://bit.ly/4b9fcDV>



Photo by NPWS

## New permit issued to protect Aboriginal heritage

An Aboriginal heritage impact permit has been issued by the NSW Government to protect conservation efforts at Lake Victoria, a vital water storage facility in the Murray-Darling Basin. The natural freshwater lake, 75 km west of Mildura, is crucial for water management in NSW and SA. The area around the lake contains Aboriginal burials and archaeological sites and has cultural significance dating back at least 28,000 years.

The permit is a modernised version of the previous one issued in 1998 after concerns were raised about effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
<https://bit.ly/47MKBZG>



Northern shore of Lake Victoria, NSW Credit: Bottlebrush Media

## Cyclone stresses already fragile coral

Record rainfall from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023 has exacerbated the risk to already fragile coral, says Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority acting chief scientist, Jessica Stella. Dr Stella said the summer began with elevated sea-surface temperatures, which stressed the coral, and while cyclones could reduce reef temperatures, the volume of rain only added to the stress.

Scientist and conservationist Nigel Brothers, who has been calculating the environmental damage along a 10-km stretch of shoreline where the rainforest meets the reef north of Cairns, said the drenching had resulted in the death of other animals, including echidnas and wallabies, as they were washed from the rainforest onto the beach.

ABC News <https://bit.ly/4b71iC2>

## New extension granted on Lake Malbena proposal

A decision on a controversial proposal to build helicopter-accessed tourist accommodation on Hall Island on Lake Malbena, on Tasmania's Central Plateau, has been delayed yet again. In November, federal environment minister Tanja Plibersek issued yet another extension of time for her decision on approval of the proposal under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. The latest extension includes a request for 'a thorough Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report', which is expected to take considerable time and effort by the company proposing the development, Wild Drake.

The proposal has drawn widespread opposition, including for the alienation of public land in a national park for the benefit of a private developer and for its impact on the wild character of the area.

Mountain Journal <https://bit.ly/3SKV6bj>

## New boardwalk for Tasmanian national park

A new boardwalk at Dove Lake in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park has been completed as part of the \$26.8 million investment towards the implementation of the Cradle Mountain Master Plan. The boardwalk is designed to reduce the harmful effects of infrastructure at the site.

The boardwalk connection from the Dove Lake viewing shelter allows people of all abilities to access the viewing platform and enjoy the values of the World Heritage site. The new boardwalk and Dove Lake viewing shelter will further support visitors with interpretative signage.

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service  
<https://bit.ly/47GJNWh>

## 'Short on trees, big on story'

Matthew Higgins has written a succinct and beautifully illustrated history of Long Plain in the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park for *Australian Geographic* magazine No. 178 (Jan-Feb 2024), pp. 38-40.

Available from newsagents or by subscription.

*Australian Geographic* [bit.ly/3UzL4vg](https://bit.ly/3UzL4vg)

Compiled by Allan Sharp



# NPA bulletin board

## *NPA ACT welcomes the following new members:*

Carolyn Page & Clive Haggar  
Bronwyn Welch  
Amanda Nott & Michael Hibbert  
Helen Osborn  
Lesley Cioccarelli  
Sen Fei Lam

*We look forward to seeing you  
at NPA activities*



*Four Mile Hut near Kiandra is being rebuilt.  
Photo from NPWS as at January 2024*

## *Nominations for life membership now open*

The committee is again calling for nominations for honorary life membership. If a member has done something very special for our association and is worthy of this recognition, please send a confidential nomination to the secretary at [secretary@npaact.org.au](mailto:secretary@npaact.org.au) by the end of April signed by yourself and another member who seconds the nomination.

Further information on what can be put into the written nomination can be found on the NPA website or by contacting Rod Griffiths at [rod.blackdog@gmail.com](mailto:rod.blackdog@gmail.com) or 0410 875 731.

## *Bitly*

Readers may have noticed the proliferation of 'bit.ly' web addresses in recent editions of the *Bulletin*. They are a shortened form of a URL (Uniform Resource Locator), available from a free (within limits) online service at <https://app.bitly.com>. Instead of typing in a long or complicated web address, users can arrive at the same destination following the creation of a 'bit.ly' shortcut.

URL shortening services are also available online at a number of other platforms.

## *Volunteer bank*

We're looking to establish a list of volunteers we can call on to help out on our stand at events such as the Tidbinbilla Open Day. It involves helping set up and packing up our marquee and other display materials and taking a turn on the stand to talk to people about our activities. These are great opportunities to get our name out there and for recruiting potential new members, but they can only work if enough of you are willing to give a little of your time occasionally to help. If you are new to NPA, don't let that deter you – a more experienced member will always be on hand to help.

Please contact Allan at [allan@npaact.org.au](mailto:allan@npaact.org.au) if you would like to help or know more.

## **Videos**

### *Matthew Higgins reports that his new nature video is available on YouTube*



My latest nature video, *Frogmouths Forever*, which is just under 5 minutes long, is now on [YouTube](#). There is narration and natural sound on the soundtrack so turn your audio on.

Tawny Frogmouths are an intriguing night bird, and will be well known to NPA members. The nest and family shown were at our property south of Bega and form the majority of the video; also included in the production are frogmouths from Mount Ainslie where my wife Steph and I used to watch 8–10 pairs each year. I trust that the video will spread awareness of this marvellous Australian bird, and assist conservation. Feel free to share the link.

(For links to Matthew's earlier videos, see NPA bulletin board in *NPA Bulletin June 2021*.)

*Matthew Higgins*

*Frogmouths by Martin Moore, Ainslie shops. Photo by Brian Slee*



# General meetings

conservation education protection

General meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month (except December and January), usually at **Weston Creek Uniting Church hall, 16 Parkinson Street, Weston, at 7:30 pm**

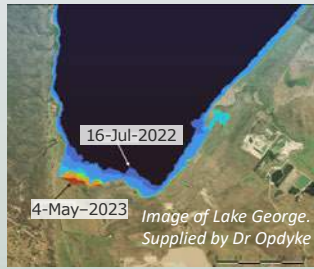
## Thursday 21 March

*Lake George – what the records reveal*

**Professor Brad Opdyke**

*Research School of Earth Sciences, ANU*

Dr Opdyke has extensive research experience with paleoceanography; understanding coral reef ecosystems and their impact on CO<sub>2</sub> levels is at the core of his work. His talk will focus on recent research examining Lake George's unique physiography and hydrology. It involved compiling a 200-year water level record of the lake which is the longest water-level record of its kind in the southern hemisphere.



## Thursday 18 April

*Conservation of freshwater ecosystems in parks – ignored so far in Australia?*

**Professor Jamie Pittock**

*Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU*

Professor Pittock's research focusses on environmental governance, climate change adaptation, energy and sustainable management of water. He will draw from recent research to address the degradation of freshwater systems and options for improved conservation, including by expanding protected areas.

## Thursday 16 May

TBA

Please check *Burning Issues* closer to the date.

More for your calendar	March	April	May	June
<b>Committee meetings</b> (5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>

## National Parks Association of the ACT Incorporated (Inaugurated 1960)

### Aims and objectives of the Association

- Promotion of national parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery, natural features and cultural heritage in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena and cultural heritage by organised field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Cooperation with organisations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of, and education for, conservation, and the planning of landuse to achieve conservation.

### 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.

### Office-bearers

*President*

Rosemary Hollow

*Vice President*

<vacant>

*Secretary*

Maisie Walker Stelling

*Treasurer*

Jenny Barnes

### Committee members

*Immediate Past President*

Esther Gallant

*Public Officer*

Jennifer Carter

Mike Bremers

Hugh Coppell

Alison Russell-French

Marian Pearson

Steve Perry

Ben Schutte

Allan Sharp

### Conveners

*Bulletin Working Group*

Allan Sharp

*Cultural Subcommittee*

Rosemary Hollow

*Environment Subcommittee*

<vacant>

*Outings Subcommittee*

Mike Bremers

*Publications Subcommittee*

Kevin McCue

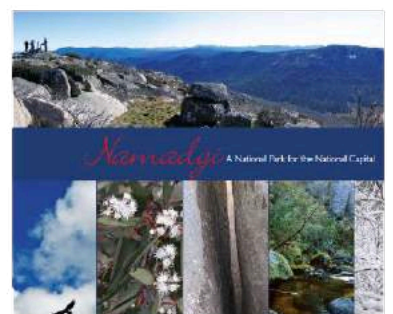
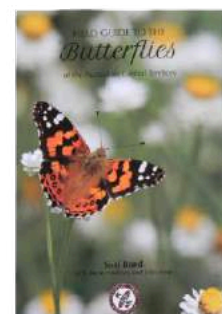
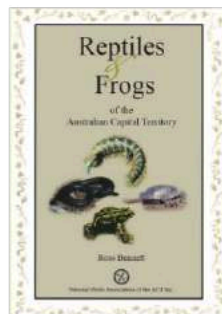
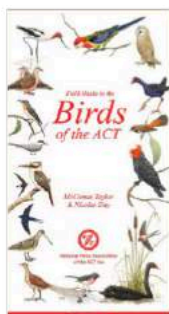
*Promotion & Outreach Subcommittee*

Allan Sharp

*Work Party Co-ordinator*

Martin Chalk

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/](https://www.instagram.com/npa_act/)

**X (formerly Twitter):** <https://twitter.com/Lovenature321>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheACT](http://www.facebook.com/NationalParksAssociationOfTheACT)

