

## **NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION of the ACT**

**By Martin Chalk**

The National Parks Association (NPA ACT) conducted three fewer work parties than normal over the reporting period. Wet weather and COVID restrictions took July to September off the program.

Six of the seven work parties that were conducted took place within Namadgi National Park and the seventh comprised African Love Grass control in the Red Gum reserve on Sheep Station Creek, just south of Tharwa.

In Namadgi, the NPA ACT's activities have been spread across a number of locations. Of significance was the seventh work party to remove redundant stock fencing from the Gudgenby Valley; conducted in June 2022. These fences typically comprise multiple strands of barbed wire, plus mesh supported by multiple strands of high-tensile wire, all held in place by star pickets. This work has been underway since 2015 with some 5.5km removed so far and approximately 700m to go. These fences have been a threat to kangaroos and bats and their removal is a milestone for conservation in this area.

Fence removal work has also been undertaken in the Glendale area between the PCS Glendale Depot and Reedy Creek. The second of two work parties was conducted in October 2021, which resulted in a total of 1.3km now removed. There are 420m remaining.

It's not always about removal! In February 2022 the NPA ACT assisted PCS staff to complete the installation of shade cloth panels in selected locations on Snowy Flat. This montane wetland was badly damaged in the 2020 fires and the recovery of the sphagnum moss was under threat. The shade cloth panels reduce ultra violet damage to the moss and assist in its recovery. This technique was successfully used at Rotten Swamp following the 2003 fires. The 36 panels installed in February complemented the 46 installed in December 2020. The panels will remain in place for some seven years.

(Photo: Conifer Control at Bendora Arboretum Photo by Kevin McCue)

