



## Media Release 3/5/2010

# NPAACT Symposium 2010

### “National Parks - can they take the heat?”

Friday 7 May 2010, 1pm - 5pm

Saturday 8 May 2010, 9am - 5pm

Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Clunies Ross Street, ACTON

Nineteen experts from across Australia, including academics, scientists, park managers and volunteers, will be presenting papers and discussing the state of our National Parks at a symposium in Canberra on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May at the CSIRO Discovery Centre.

The symposium will examine the challenges facing national parks and how research, sound management and community activism can help conserve their precious natural resources in this International Year of Biodiversity.

Topics include climate change on geological timescales; using tree rings to find out about past climate change; the ephemeral lakes of Namadgi National Park; and changes in plant communities in the Alps Parks in response to predicted changes in climatic regimes.

While beautiful natural features such as the ephemeral lakes of Namadgi National Park can still be viewed by the keen bushwalker, climate change is threatening the viability of plants and animals in Kosciuszko National Park, long-wall mining is undercutting spectacular scenery in the Blue Mountains and demands for more recreation facilities in national parks and reserves is creating tension between conservationists and sporting organisations in South Australia.

Our national system of parks and reserves is our best hope of preserving our unique plants and animals yet it is facing increasing threats from human pressures as the impact of climate change begins to bite. Speakers will present papers discussing what is needed to protect our natural systems and what governments and communities can do to ensure they survive into an uncertain future. Printed proceedings will be available.

#### Contacts:

Christine Goonrey: 0400 052 700 or 02 6231 8395; [cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au](mailto:cgoonrey@grapevine.com.au)

Kevin McCue: 0405 082 306 or 02 6251 1291 or [kmccue@grapevine.com.au](mailto:kmccue@grapevine.com.au);

**Online registration and further details, including program and speakers bios, is available at [www.npaaact.org.au](http://www.npaaact.org.au) (Registration is open to the general public).**

With assistance from an ACT Government Environment Grant

