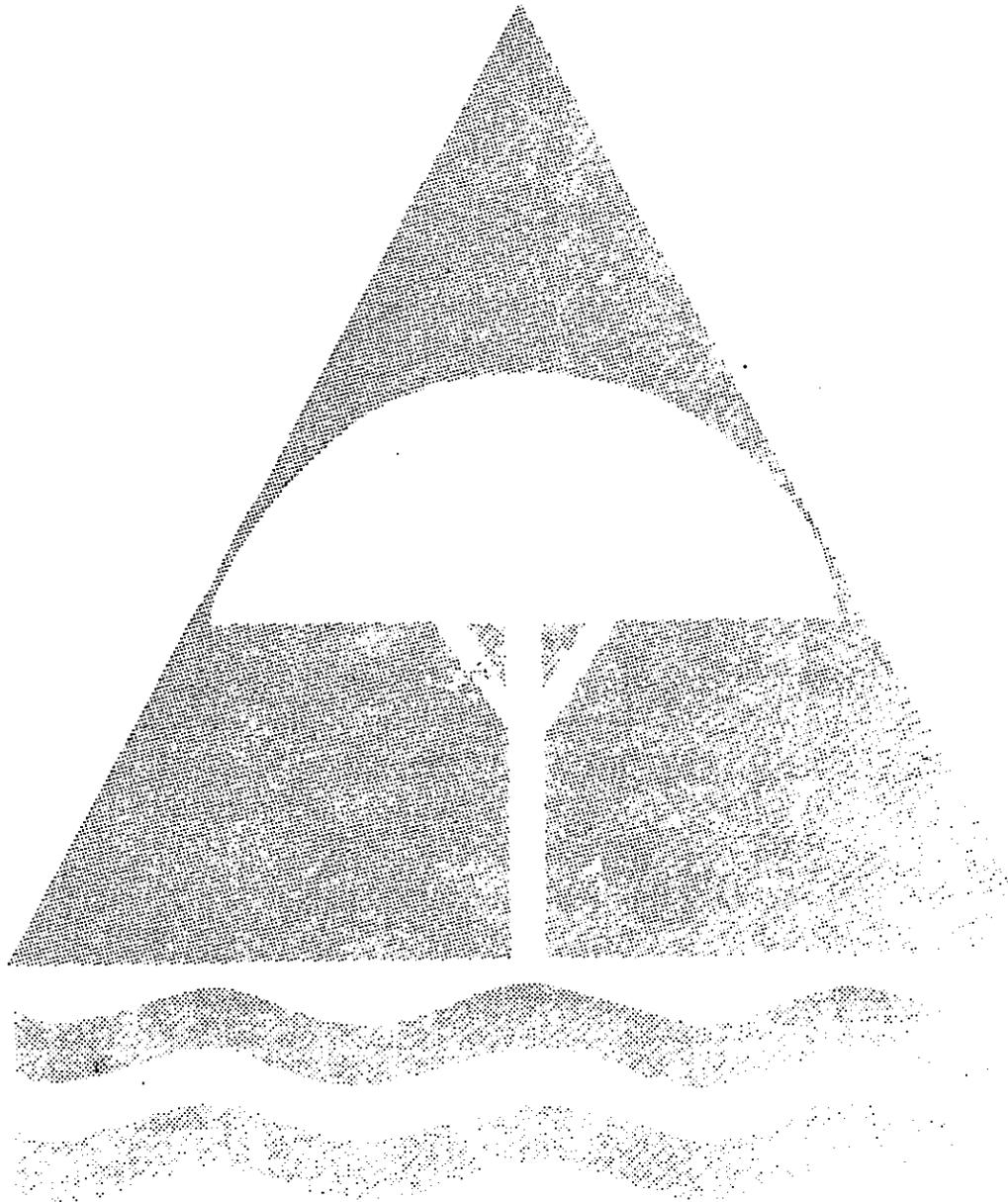


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# **NPA Bulletin**

**National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc.**



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**75c**

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T. INC.  
Inaugurated 1961

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- \* Promotion of National Parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features 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 by organized field outings, meetings or any other means.
- \* Co-operation with organizations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- \* Promotion of and education for nature conservation and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

Membership exceeds 300.

## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

It is never possible to say that a National Park is secure. The only guarantee for a park's protection is public support, and that is gauged by the membership and activity of associations such as ours.

With the recent surge of community interest in parks we are likely to take our gains for granted. But should that support lapse for a decade or a generation, we will have a different story to tell.

If the current emphasis has been on the promotion of new parks the future emphasis will be on their protection. This loss of glamour is likely to mean less members at a time when membership will be all the more important.

We need to be realistic. Those who love the pristine areas are in a minority. The reservation of wilderness does appear as a waste. Only a few appreciate the intricate ecology of the bush. Yet the conservationists have been able to win widespread public support.

Every time we watch an environmental film, purchase a nature book, attend a national park meeting, visit a park or teach our children about the bush we are indirectly encouraging public support. The resources of a nation become directed to the social activities and aspirations of its people.

If we as an association are not creatively conveying an enthusiasm for the treasures of our parks and are unwilling to meet a cost in time and effort we have no one else to blame if we lose them.

## ACCESS TO THE COTTER CATCHMENT

The Committee of the Association has been concerned that an increasing number of areas which have hitherto been available for recreation are being curtailed. The most recent has been the erection of a new gate on the Brindabella Range not far beyond the Ginini turn off. This means that access to the saddle of the Gingera ridge and the Arboretum below Gingera is now cut off.

Letters have been written to the Department of the Capital Territory requesting a statement of overall policy or the Department's reasons for the placement of the locked gates at the time this is done. It has been suggested that a map showing areas open to walkers, areas open to drivers and areas barred to both would be useful. An explanation was also requested that there are good reasons why we should not be allowed to ramble as and where we have done in the past.

The Department in reply stated that our letter would be discussed at the next meeting of the representatives of organisations involved in managing the Cotter Catchment and consider the publicity aspects in some depth. Some policy was stated and in general, limited recreational access is allowed to the Lower Cotter whilst access to the Upper Cotter (Bendora Catchment and above) is limited only to those who are benefitting catchment management in some way and have prior approval.

In reply to a later letter from the Association requesting approval to enter the Cotter Catchment, permission to walk to Coronet Peak was refused. The letter continued to state that no objection is raised to walks on the periphery of the Catchment but that Association members should stay out of the Upper Catchment, namely of the Corin and Bendora Dams, to the greatest extent possible.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Neighbours of National Parks Association

The formation of the N.N.P.A. took place on 24 May 1977 at 'Wermatong', the home of Mr and Mrs Max Harris. Present were a small group of Tumut and Brindabella landholders who feel they are suffering because of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's alleged inefficient management of certain aspects of Kosciusko National Park. The problems which appear to have been generated should be the concern of all responsible citizens and certainly users of national parks. It is for this reason that the attention of members of the N.P.A. is drawn to these happenings for them to consider and help if they can. The N.N.P.A. is particularly concerned that the image be changed that graziers and landholders are a destructive and irresponsible group who endanger the principles of conservation.

According to the N.N.P.A. the particular problems which have arisen here and close to other Parks (e.g. Blue Mountains) are: (1) the increased numbers of animals destructive to native wildlife and the native environment and to private land and domestic stock. These animals include foxes, rabbits, feral dogs, feral cats and feral pigs; (2) the spread of noxious weeds such as lantana, blackberry, St. John's wort, serrated tussock, and nodding thistle; (3) the extreme fire hazard which in recent years has come into being due to the absence of grazing and methodical burning off; and (4) the spread of pine trees beyond original plantation boundaries.

It also seems to be only fair for the N.N.P.A. to be represented when the possibility of extension of the borders of national parks is considered. Families who have held well-managed properties adjacent to national parks for many years can suddenly find them compulsorily acquired with little or no opportunity to appeal. Even if the properties are not actually taken over the threat of possible take over can be brought into being leading to a ruinous drop in the market value of the property.

When you next visit a national park in N.S.W. keep these matters in mind and your eyes open for evidences of mismanagement that could very properly be brought to the attention of those in control.

*A.J. Mortlock*

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party will be held at Woods Reserve (on Corin Dam road below Gibraltar Falls) commencing at approximately 4 p.m. on Sunday 10 December. Wine, cheese and biscuits will be provided. Bring your own evening meal and later Christmas carols will be sung.

There will be an earlier easy walk of 6 km to Gibraltar Rocks leaving at 9.30 a.m. from Woods Reserve.

\* \* \*

1979 marks the centenary of the dedication of the Royal National Park, south of Sydney. In 1879 it was known as The National Park, leading the way for other States to follow by similar dedications. Australia Post will commemorate the event by issuing six special stamps in April 1979.

PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S ENDANGERED FAUNA (Extract from talk given to the NPA August meeting by Dr Robert Boden, Assistant Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.)

It is clear from the fossil record that extinction is a natural phenomenon and an inevitable outcome of evolution. About two thirds of all animal species which have ever existed are extinct today. The advent of man has increased markedly the rate of extinction and it has been estimated that probably at least one species is disappearing every day in tropical rainforests alone. (N. Myers, The Sinking Ark). Since the arrival of Europeans in Australia it is estimated that at least seven mammals and two birds have become extinct and many others have become threatened directly as a result of man's activities.

There is need to distinguish between the terms rare, threatened and extinct. A species may be rare if it has relatively few individuals throughout its range. This may always have been the case and the species may not be endangered while ever the areas in which it occurs are protected. Some species may be rare and declining in numbers and therefore vulnerable. If such species are confined to one or a few locations with specific ecological conditions, environmental change is more critical and likely to threaten their survival. Examples are the Western Australian Swamp Turtle Pseudemydura umbrina and the Bridled Nail-tailed Wallaby Onychogalea fraenata which can be regarded as both rare and endangered.

Even common abundant species may be endangered if major habitat change or overutilisation occurs. For example the massive slaughter of seals last century rendered some common abundant species locally extinct. Although extinction is absolute, it is difficult to determine precisely when a species has become extinct particularly where it occurs naturally in inaccessible or uninhabited areas. Some Australian species have been regarded as extinct only to be re-discovered. With improved knowledge of their behaviour and ecology some have been found to be fairly plentiful. Typical of these are the New Holland Mouse Pseudomys novaehollandiae and Leadbeater's Possum Gymnobelideus leadbeateri. The Tasmanian Tiger, Thylacinus cynocephalus is one species where strongly differing views exist on its status. Fossil records and representations in Aboriginal art indicate that the Tasmanian Tiger was formerly present in mainland Australia and even in New Guinea. Live specimens have never been recorded by Europeans other than in Tasmania where it was relatively common and gained a reputation as a killer of stock. A Government bounty was introduced for the whole of Tasmania in 1888 and during the next 21 years bounty was paid on 2184 carcasses. The population seems to have declined rapidly by 1910 and the last animal was shot in the wild in 1930. The animal was thought to be extinct until 1957 when animal tracks and reported sightings suggested it still exists. Despite intensive searches no authenticated sightings have been made and the species must therefore still be classified as 'presumed extinct'. Those who argue the Tasmanian Tiger still exists are strengthened in their argument by the quotation from Charles Kingsley's Water Babies:

'And no one has the right to say that no water babies exist till they have seen no water babies existing, which is quite a different thing, mind, from not seeing water babies....'

The major pressures affecting the survival and possible endangerment of species are commercial exploitation, hunting, scientific research, pest control, alien invaders and habitat destruction.

The international smuggling of Australian native birds is a highly capitalised and organised activity involving land, sea and air operations and a network of contacts throughout Australia and overseas. It is a thriving commercial activity involving an annual turnover estimated by some to exceed one million dollars and by others to be several times that figure. The involvement of light aircraft and ocean going yachts is an indication of the extent of the high profits available. Australia's strict controls over the export of fauna and the existence of many unique native species have created a demand overseas and a strong incentive to smuggle. The range of profitable smuggling lines is extensive ranging from rare species to common varieties of birds and reptiles. Australian birds, especially parrots, are the most popular item in demand overseas. Conservative estimates of the prices of Australian parrots on the overseas market in 1974 ranged from \$100 a pair for Crimson Rosellas (Platycercus elegans) to \$3,000 a pair for the rare Golden Shoulder parrot (Psephotus chrysopterygius). There is evidence that the current value of a matched breeding pair of Golden Shoulder parrots is \$8,000 to \$10,000. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds conservatively estimates the world trade in birdlife at 5 million birds a year. But how many birds are maimed or destroyed in the process of providing the 5 million which are sold is not known. Studies at Heathrow Airport indicate that in certain groups the percentage death rates are as high as 40-70%. The Australian Bureau of Customs has estimated that at least 80% of birds smuggled out of Australia die before reaching their final destination.

Harvesting of both native species of Australian crocodiles was so great that concern was felt for their survival. Both species are now fully protected and there has been a total ban on export since 1972.

Hunting for sport and recreation has been a major factor in the decline of some species most notably the tiger, elephant and whooping crane. There are no proven examples of hunting resulting in extinction of Australian species although it has certainly assisted in the decline in numbers of some animals.

Whether scientific research alone has been the cause of decline of any species is unsure but it has certainly been a contributing factor. There is some evidence that student collections to meet the requirements of universities have led to local extinction of some plant species and clearly other ways of learning systematics than by collecting specimens are needed.

Indiscriminate attempts to destroy creatures regarded as pests have adversely affected some species. In some cases, pest control methods have been directed at the animal itself, in others it has been affected because control methods applied to pest species have been non-selective. The decline of the native tiger cat in the Canberra region was considered due to the affects of strychnine used to control rabbits and many people are concerned at the possible adverse effects on native Australian fauna of the use of 1080 for rabbit control.

Animals and plants introduced to new surroundings can eliminate native species by predation or competition. The dodo became extinct on the island of Mauritius because domestic pigs destroyed nests. While pigs are also responsible for

destroying crocodile nests in Northern Australia and the eggs of young waterbirds. Black rats introduced to islands have had major effects on many forms of island wildlife, a prime example being the destruction of defenceless hatchlings of the giant Galapagos tortoise. Dr John Calaby has reported that 24 mammals, 24 birds, 12 fishes, a toad and perhaps two reptiles have become established in the wild since European settlement. Some current work in streams and rivers near Brisbane indicates that many aquarium fish species are becoming established in warm waters areas. The greatest disaster to Australia's native fauna and flora came with the successful introduction of the rabbit in 1859. Within 50 years they had overrun vertically all of Australia south of the tropic of Capricorn. Naturally enough these experiences have led the Commonwealth Government to adopt extremely strict procedures in relation to the introduction of exotic animals and plants.

Recognition of the essential need for habitat conservation is found in the old English proverb:

The law goes hard on man or woman  
Who steals the goose from off the common  
But lets the greater sinner loose  
Who steals the common from the goose.

Loss of habitat is undoubtedly a major single factor adversely affecting species survival. Clearly it is possible for some species to establish individuals and even breeding colonies in zoological parks and botanic gardens and there are examples where such programs have ensured the survival of a species, e.g. Maiden hair tree, Arabian Oryx, but it should be considered a last resort only. Habitat change in the better watered areas of coastal Australia has been extensive and dramatic as far as plants and animals are concerned. Clearing for agriculture and grazing has seen a marked reduction in the area of woodland in south eastern Australia.

More recently urbanisation has usurped land converted to grazing and agriculture. In the ACT approximately 60 hectares are required for each 100 population increase and for topographic and engineering reasons the areas occupied are former native grassland and Yellow Box/Red Gum woodland. Whilst it would be incorrect to suggest that these species are endangered as individuals, there are few remnants of the associations protected in reserves. Occupation of the Limestone Plains by agricultural and urban man and the introduction of the rabbit have caused the extinction locally of species such as the plains turkey. A report by John Gale on his first visit to Canberra in 1855 reads 'On descending from the elevated vantage ground where the inspiration obsessed me that the site was well adapted for an Australian city, I noticed a little way in advance of the direction I was pursuing what appeared to be a flock of dun coloured sheep, but getting close to them, great was my surprise to discover that what arrested my gaze were not quadrupeds but bipeds - they were immense birds, the first I had seen of the huge plain turkey!' Later he refers to one bird being shot which then sufficed for forty men!

There is a remedy if we want it for each of the major adverse effects I have identified. The problem facing biologists, taxpayers and politicians is to decide how much of each remedy should be applied and where it can achieve greatest effectiveness. For example an enormous amount of money and professional

expertise has gone into increasing the Whooping Crane population from 39 to 129 in about 15 years, but is the whooping crane now safe or must the rescue programme continue? Should effort be applied to species on the brink or to those where a high degree of success is assured?

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for regulating overseas trade generally and takes a particular interest in trade in wildlife and wildlife products. For example no kangaroo skins or products may be exported from Australia unless the animals from which they have been derived have been harvested in accordance with an approved conservation management program. These programs are developed by State wildlife agencies to an agreed national plan which is designed to ensure that overseas trade will not adversely affect the survival of any species. Extremely strict controls are in force to ensure that endangered species are not traded.

Each State and Territory wildlife agency has regulations concerning hunting of native species and these are developed to ensure that hunting does not endanger species survival. Most native species are fully protected from hunting and those where hunting does occur, for example some duck species, are protected by the need for hunters to have permits which limit the number of birds which can be shot. Permits are not issued to hunt endangered species.

Little by little more scientific studies are being commenced to understand more about Australia's unique fauna and flora and where it occurs. The task is a long and difficult one because the work can only be done here and the results of overseas studies on overseas animals and plants are not readily applicable to Australian species. This is particularly the case with endangered species. Surveys are needed and are being carried out to identify habitats which need to be reserved and added to national parks and nature reserves. Surveys for rare and endangered species of wildlife are also being carried out to identify the areas where these species live so that they can be protected. A recent success story in this area relates to the rediscovery of the Bridled naitailed wallaby in western Queensland and the subsequent Commonwealth funding of the acquisition of land to protect its habitat.

Parks and wildlife agencies are concerned to foster public education about all Australian wildlife. The Endangered Species leaflets series produced by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service is a special program designed to create greater awareness and understanding of endangered species and how they might be protected.

It is recognised by Australia, and other countries, that international cooperation is needed in protecting the world's fauna and flora. This applies particularly to migratory species which spend parts of each year in different countries. Australia and Japan have therefore signed a special agreement on cooperation to protect birds which migrate between the two countries. Similar agreements exist between Canada and the United States, Japan and the USSR, and Japan and the United States. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was formulated in Washington D.C. in 1973 specifically to encourage international cooperation in controlling trade in endangered species. More than 40 countries including Australia are parties to the Convention and more are being encouraged to participate. The Convention

contains Appendices which list plants and animals classified according to the degree of threat they are under.

Large and important new areas have been dedicated as parks and reserves in all States and Territories. In the period 1965-75, 382 reserves totalling 7,136,000 hectares were added to the existing system. Now there are more than 25,309,000 hectares or about 3.3% of Australia protected as national parks and nature reserves.

Unfortunately there are still significant habitats not included in parks and reserves and there has not been adequate increase in management staff for the existing reserves. The selection of parks and reserves has often been based on criteria other than biological significance and there are many parks and reserves for which we have no adequate survey of resources. Clearly if we wait until full resource surveys are carried out the land may no longer be available and thus on many occasions we have to work on the basis of best available information.

What can we do as individuals to help Australia's endangered animals?

- \* use our influence as a citizen to slow down and prevent total destruction of wildlife habitat. This will give time to conduct surveys of our wildlife so that we can know what we have, where it is and how it can be protected;
- \* support local and national conservation groups. Local groups have a special role to play in acting as watch dogs against the alienation of fauna and flora reserves;
- \* join in survey work;
- \* ensure that parks and wildlife organisations are adequately staffed and financed;
- \* if we are farmers, try to leave some of our land uncleared and replant areas with native trees and shrubs;
- \* make full use of the land we are already using before having any more land cleared;
- \* do not buy goods made with the products of endangered species, particularly when visiting overseas. The tourist trade in some Asian, African and South American countries provides hunters with the incentive to kill rare species;
- \* keep pets under control. Do not release unwanted cats or dogs in the bush, or unwanted aquarium fish into lakes and streams.
- \* press for the establishment of more parks and reserves to ensure that we have an adequate and representative system.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Reg and Doris Alder, Terry and Lynette Annetts, D. and L. Balfour, R.J. Bird, Fiona and Morag Brand, Gene Butcher, Olive Buckman, Bill and Mary Elliott, M.F. Day, R. and J. Emerton, Louis and Marilyn Folger, Brian and Pat Hammond, Hansine Hanson, Darryl and Jan Hawke, Briget Hodgkin, John and Kath Holtzapffel, Reg and Cynthia Hook, Lynne James, Tom Longstaff, Mary MacDonnell, Joseph and Jean Marshall, Pat Michell, Donald and Susan Moss, Elizabeth Munro-Ashman, Gillian O'Loughlin and family, John and Lois Perry, Robin Rawson, Lyn and Betty Richardson, Ron and Margaret Russell, John and Babette Scougal, Jack and Andrea Slobbe, John and Rosemary Smart, Geoff and Maureen Snelgrove, Geraldine Spencer, Robert and Sybil Story, Bill and Edna Watson, Chris and Judy Watson, John Whitford, Mr and Mrs L.A. Whitfeld, Neville and Patricia Windeyer.

## PROBLEMS OF HEAT IN THE BUSH

In the bush, without the benefit of man-made structures for protection, walkers may be exposed to hotter or colder conditions than they are used to. At times these may reach the limits of the body's ability to maintain a stable internal temperature, and as well as the great discomfort involved, there is the danger of collapse and in extreme cases, death.

In Man, the normal body temperature is 37°C (98.6°F), and this refers to the temperature of the interior, that is the core temperature, and not the temperature of the skin. Normally the core temperature alters little due to the operation of temperature control mechanisms, which are coordinated in the brain. Heat is continually being produced in the body as a by-product of metabolism, or the chemical processes of life; heat is also being continually lost to the surroundings. It is the function of the temperature control mechanisms to balance heat production and heat loss so that body temperature does not alter. It is interesting to note that once the body temperature rises to about 43°C or 110°F, the rate of metabolism of body cells has doubled because the intrinsic effect of the heat itself is to increase the rate of the body's chemical reactions.

One of the most important organs affecting heat regulation in the body is the skin. In cold weather its blood supply is reduced, and the layer of sub-cutaneous fat acts as an insulator, slowing the loss of heat. In hot weather the blood supply to the skin is increased and the skin surface is cooled by sweating; this encourages heat loss. Obviously the presence or absence of clothing may considerably affect rates of heat loss. Exercise affects the rate of heat production; the increased production often promotes sweating even in cold weather.

### Conditions of excessive heat.

Although not common - I have not seen a case in my own bushwalking experience - it is well to know what to guard against in hot weather, especially as Summer approaches.

### Heat exhaustion.

The body loses heat in hot weather or when exercising by an increase in blood flow to the skin and by sweating. If exercising in hot weather the blood vessels to the skin may dilate so much that other organs, and especially the brain, get less blood than they need. This causes the symptoms of heat exhaustion.

An important factor in the development of heat exhaustion is the humidity of the atmosphere. If the air is completely dry and sufficient air currents are flowing to promote rapid evaporation from the body, a person can withstand several hours of air temperature at 93°C (200°F)! On the other hand, if the air is 100% humidified and evaporation cannot occur, the body temperature begins to rise whenever the surrounding temperature rises above approximately 34°C (94°F). Thus heat exhaustion and heatstroke are most likely to occur when exercising in hot and humid conditions.

Another factor of relevance is body build. The more obese person has a thicker layer of subcutaneous fat, and may find it more difficult to lose heat under such conditions than one who is thin. (However the boot is on the other foot in cold weather!)

In heat exhaustion, because of the decreased supply of blood to the brain, the victim feels faint and often nauseated; this may come on quite suddenly. The heart-beat is rapid - trying to keep up the supply of blood to the brain - and the profuse sweating makes the skin cold and clammy. The face may be pale.

Heat exhaustion forces a rest, which is its cure. The victim should lie down in the shade with the head low. The water lost by sweating should be replaced by small drinks taken often, and sponging with a wet cloth often brings relief. Tight or restrictive clothing, especially about the neck, should be loosened. As the diet normally contains ample salt it would be unusual for a serious deficiency to be present unless the person had been working in such conditions for several days. If salt is given care should be taken to drink ample water with it, and to avoid compounding the feeling of nausea. Salt tablets are probably the most satisfactory form in which to give salt.

When the victim feels recovered - usually in half-an-hour or so - any further exercise, if necessary, should be taken at a slow pace with rests and water as required.

#### Heat stroke.

This is more serious. It occurs when body temperature has risen to the point where the control mechanisms for temperature cease working properly. This happens when the core temperature is between 42° and 44°C (107° and 110°F). As temperature rises the body's metabolism speeds up, producing more heat. When more heat is produced than can be lost by sweating a vicious cycle is established, and unless the rise in temperature is checked artificially, death may eventually occur.

In heatstroke the victim runs a high fever and feels unbearably hot. Because the control system is not working he has often stopped sweating, so the skin feels hot and dry (not cold and clammy), and the face is flushed. Mental functioning is impaired and the victim may stumble, talk nonsense or ramble vaguely, become delirious or lose consciousness.

Under these circumstances rest alone is not sufficient. The victim must be cooled, and this is done by sponging the body all over with water or with ice if available. Placing the victim bodily in cold water is also effective, and the fanning of wet skin or clothes encourages heat loss. Massage of arms and legs may help to increase blood flow to the skin. Treatment should be continued until the victim recovers full consciousness and can talk rationally. Care must be taken to guard against recurrence.

Precautions against heat exhaustion and heat stroke include drinking plenty of water, supplementing the diet with salt if there is continued exposure, wearing a broad-rimmed hat in the sun, taking frequent rests in the shade and swimming if possible.

*John Hook*

## DOUSE THAT CAMP FIRE

Now that the summer season is with us again, two recent examples of the result of not putting camp fires out completely may serve as a timely warning.

Some campers on the Wollondilly River had gone off for a day's walk and returned to find the whole hillside ablaze even to the extent of being alight on the opposite side of the wide river. A very strong wind was blowing and about a couple of miles of riverside and hillside grazing property was burnt out. Their own personal loss was worse because before the fire jumped the river their panel van and possessions were completely destroyed.

Similarly in the Kanangra Boyd National Park a smouldering fire set alight tinder-dry tussock grass and destroyed a tubular framed tent, sleeping bags, chairs and other camping paraphernalia. The value may have been in the vicinity of \$500 and in this instance they were fortunate that the grass under their car was sparse and not sufficient to set alight the car.

The only safe fire is a completely dead and doused fire.

## PIALLIGO WETLANDS

The Pialligo wetlands cover a low swampy area at the eastern end of Lake Burley Griffin and contain various reed-beds, ponds, and water-channels. They result from the chance circumstance that the land between the Molonglo River and Jerrabomberra Creek was close to the filled level of the Lake. The area is bounded on the eastern side by the Dairy Road, and beyond this road are sewerage treatment works. The whole area attracts water birds from Lake Burley Griffin and further afield. These use the wetlands for assembling, feeding, breeding and moulting.

No other Australian city offers so close a wetland, and the standing committee on City Management has given consideration to the best use of the area (ACT Legislative Assembly, Report 44, Hansard 10 July 1978, p.105). There has been full appreciation by the committee of the need to maintain the wetlands as a bird habitat, and it is agreed that the area offers great potential for active and passive recreation, educative and scientific study, and tourist interest. The area could rank as one of the great bird sanctuaries of the world. They consider it imperative that (a) the Eastern Parkway be not routed across the wetlands, (b) that controls on water pollution be introduced, and (c) that the area be declared a park or reserve. They also suggest that walking trails be developed, and that it might be necessary to utilize controlled commercial sand-mining so that the necessary water-channels could be dug where required.

These last items struck me as being rather touchy and in need of further consideration. Otherwise it appeared that the Standing Committee was entirely on the side of the NPA.

*Cla Allen*

In parks always walk on formed paths, do not short cut. Trampling on plants and soil causes severe damage.

## NEW MAPS

Recently published maps within south-eastern New South Wales include the following:

### Central Mapping Authority 1:25 000 Topographic Series

A group of sheets covering much of the north-western portion of the Kosciusko National Park, comprising Laclamac, Blowering, Yarrangobilly, Ravine, Cabramurra and Courabyra. Also the adjoining Batlow sheet, which shows the Snubba walking track to Yellowin Creek (south of Blowering Reservoir).

Two sheets, Mittagong and Hanworth, in an experimental double-sided format.

### Eden Project Map

Published by the Forestry Commission of New South Wales, scale 1:125 000. Primarily shows State forests and reserves, but also shows road surfaces and various tracks and trails.

### Mount Jagungal and the Brassy Mountains

A second edition of the map by Tim Lamble, scale 1: 31 680.

### Northern Budawang Range and the Upper Clyde Valley

The sixth edition (March 1978) of the map by the Coast and Mountain Walkers Club, now partly metricated, scale about 1:42 000.

At the time of writing, all the above maps were available in Canberra.

If Association members should find errors in maps, the Division of National Mapping would be pleased to have this information. Map Correction Report forms are available from the Association Librarian.

## BOOKS ACQUIRED

Burbidge, Nancy J. and Gray, Max: Flora of the A.C.T., A.N.U. Press, Canberra 1976.

South West Tasmania Resources Survey: Interim Report May-October 1977: Steering Committee of S.W. Tasmania Resources Survey, Tasmanian N.P.W.S.

The Alpine Study Area: Comment on report of Land Conservation Council of Victoria and Recommendations for Use, Management and Administration of Public Lands, by the Committee on National Parks and Conservation of the Australian Academy of Science.

A Guide to the Preparation of National Park and Nature Reserve Proposals: National Parks Association of N.S.W.

\* \* \*

"The remoteness of Australia from the centres of civilization has caused it to become a cultural backwater." (Display in British Museum describing early Australia.)

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL

The Australian National Parks Council was inaugurated on 25 May 1975 and has as its objectives:

TO PROTECT, promote and extend national park systems within Australia

TO PROVIDE a means for member bodies to have regular and formal communications

TO CONSIDER matters of common interest and establish common policy

TO FACILITATE co-operative activities of members at a national level

TO ACT as spokesman on matters of policy

TO IDENTIFY priorities for promotion of national parks within Australia

TO CONFER and liaise with governments and international bodies interested in national parks

TO SPONSOR or engage in publishing, education and research in any field related to national parks.

The first report of the Australian National Parks Council for the period May 1975 to September 1978 has just been published. It is too long to publish in full in this bulletin but items of general and particular interest are:

**Classification:** Confusion exists in the use of different terms for various types of park and reserve in different States. Various definitions and classifications of national parks and reserves throughout the world have been collated and used as a basis for its own list of terms relating to different types of reserves as used in State legislation.

**Land tenure:** A report of the Commission of Inquiry into Land Tenure has been examined and recommendations made to governments where these are considered in relation to national park tenure.

**Victorian Land Conservation Council:** The LCC concept has merit but the ANPC recognised that it had yet to be tested in a major case (e.g. the alpine region). The NSW Government is investigating the feasibility of establishing a land conservation body.

**Kakadu National Park:** The Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service invited the ANPC President to attend a Park management planning meeting for Kakadu. The Kakadu region is of World Heritage quality and the ANPC submitted a statement to the Ranger Inquiry stating that uranium mining is incompatible with the wise use of the Alligator Rivers region.

**Fraser Island:** It was announced on 10 November 1976 that sand mining would cease and it is hoped that future additional areas of the island will be gazetted as national parks.

Myall Lakes: ANPC made a submission to the Myall Lakes Inquiry and was pleased with the final boundaries of the Myall Lakes National Park which extends to Smith's Lake. Sand mining is also to cease in all NSW national parks except the two phasing-out operations in the Myall Lakes Park.

Opposition to National Parks: Landowners with properties adjoining national parks may have certain problems but these can be rectified as more money becomes available for adequate park management. An organisation is proposing the English-style park but this is at variance with the Australian and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources concept.

Burning in National Parks: The ANPC urges caution in the burning of wilderness areas. The NPWS of NSW stated that the Basic Fire Plan Review called for cautious introduction of burn techniques into woodlands above 1370 metres in recognition of a situation where fuel levels could cause fires to become widespread and uncontrollable under severe conditions.... Introduction of fire in a responsible manner was planned in co-operation with the CSIRO.

Headwaters of the Dowell and Harrison Creeks: These creeks have their headwaters in NSW and flow into the proposed Croajingalong National Park in Victoria. The Nadgee River Catchment has been added to the Nadgee Nature Reserve to safeguard the purity of the water. The NSW Government refused a request to withdraw logging from the Dowell and Harrison Creek areas, claiming that the area had a significant amount of sawlogs which were becoming more difficult to obtain.

Grazing in Kosciusko National Park: Because of drought conditions grazing was permitted for six weeks in 1976. Only one grazier took up the option for 150 head of cattle.

Grazing in Cape York Peninsular National Parks: Grazing is being permitted for a short period since landholders had voluntarily surrendered holdings for national parks. The Minister considered light grazing for a short period since landholders had voluntarily surrendered holdings for national parks. The Minister considered light grazing for a short period ought to be acceptable as the areas had been grazed in the past and particularly if this was the only way of acquiring the land for nature conservation purposes.

UNESCO World Heritage Areas: ANPC supports the concept of the UNESCO World Heritage list and has written urging all State Governments to co-operate. A total of 14 areas has been submitted as of World Heritage quality. These are: Antarctica, Macquarie Island, Ayers Rock region, Lake Eyre and Channel Country, Arnhem Land and Kakadu, Lord Howe Island, Great Barrier Reef, Fraser Island and Cooloolo, Cape York Peninsula, Prince Regent River and Kimberleys, Shark Bay, Geraldton and Esperance Bay region, South West Tasmania, Central Highlands of Tasmania.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Alan Bellett and family, O'Connor; Kim Day and family, Kambah; Prof. Bruce and Ellie Glassburner, ANU; Ann-Marie Heard, Lyons; Peter Hawkes, Holt; Stephen Johnston, Red Hill; Will Reynolds, Burgmann College; Loretta Stirling, Fairbairn; Donald and Phyllis Spencer, O'Connor; Rich and Ellen Tulip, Waramanga; Jean H. Weber, O'Connor; Jacqueline and Ian White and family, Curtin.

## KAKADU PARK

Professor D.J. Mulvaney lectured on 'Art and Archaeology of the Alligator Rivers Section' at the September General meeting.

The Alligator Rivers region of Arnhem Land constitutes one of Australia's great heritages of Aboriginal activities and of natural environment. The name Kakadu is an incorrect rendition of one of the local tribes. It was popularised by the anthropologist, Sir Baldwin Spencer, who spent some weeks there during 1912. He stayed at Oenpelli with the buffalo shooter and Aboriginal welfare worker, Paddy Cahill. Cahill collected over 200 bark paintings for Spencer and they are today one of the treasures of the National Museum of Victoria. The paintings are in the 'x-ray' style, common in rock art in this region.

Spencer was the first person to direct attention to the art of the area. In 1948 it was photographed by C.P. Mountford. Even though most Australians remained unimpressed by the richness of the art, Unesco sponsored a lavish publication of the art in 1954.

Even since 1965, there have been statements that the area would be declared a national park. It is to be hoped that management plans are sufficiently imaginative to cope with the richness, magnitude and scientific and cultural significance of the region.

The first archaeological excavations were conducted in 1965. Since then, some hundreds of sites have been located. Radiocarbon dating has shown that seven rock shelters were occupied by man between 10,000 and 23,000 years ago. Evidence indicates that people took advantage of the rich resources of plants and animals in this region of alternating wet and dry seasons. Most sites cluster around the sandstone outliers from the escarpment.

Finds of major significance include stone axeheads, ground to a cutting edge and sometimes hammered or pounded to produce an encircling groove to assist fixing a handle. This constitutes the world's earliest evidence for the artificial grinding of stone. These same deposits include pellets of ochre. At one shelter, hearths 18000 years old covered a grindstone which was impregnated with ochre. Evidently it was used to prepare pigments.

A survey of painted rock shelters by Robert Edwards during 1972-73 recorded over 300 sites. Subsequently, many more have been recorded, largely under the sponsorship of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Sites contain a wide variety of motifs and styles, and represent some of the most lively art in Australia. On Mt Brockman and at several other localities, drawings of thylacines (Tasmanian tiger) have been identified. Present evidence suggests that this animal has been extinct for 3000 years on the mainland. Recently, a painting of a Tasmanian Devil was identified in the region; a 3000 years old jaw of Devil was excavated in 1965.

Tourism poses a threat to these sites, and protective measures are needed. Even elementary precautions would assist, such as erection of barriers to prevent vehicles driving into the sites and raising dust. Buffalo which rub against the art are a major hazard. In the wetlands also, buffalo and vehicles pose threats to the native habitat, by causing mts along which water courses and erodes. There is evidence that magpie goose breeding grounds have been drained because of the compaction and subsequent channel erosion, caused by

buffalo tracks. Buffalo also eat the water lillies and other plants in lagoons, muddying them and destroying their ecology. If uranium mining develops, one of the major necessities will be the control of vehicular access throughout the park. Attention must be given also to the control of domestic pets, especially cats and dogs.

Although few Australians are aware of the beauty and wealth of Aboriginal sites and the scenic grandeur of the escarpment country, there is no doubt that the region meets the criteria for listing under the World Heritage Convention, of which Australia is a signatory.

*D.J. Mulvaney*

#### DISPLAY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Display Sub-Committee is looking for people who take colour prints (not slides). We would like to select some suitable for enlargements. If anyone takes Kodacolor these can be blown up into posters (approx. 20"x25") for the cost of \$12.95 each. We would prefer the subject matter to relate to NPA ACT - Gudgenby, flora and fauna, people on official trips, etc.

There will be one exhibition at the Jewish Centre in conjunction with the Art Show on 24 and 25 November to be sponsored by the Environment Centre. The other exhibition will be in April 1979 in conjunction with other National Parks groups, to celebrate the centenary of national parks.

If anyone has suitable material would they please contact Gay Watt at home p.m. or weekends on 491631.

#### JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Association receives a number of interesting journals and publications from around the Commonwealth. These are available for members to borrow and will be found on the library table at monthly meetings for browsing or borrowing. We ask that you please sign for a journal if taking it home, and then return it the following month. Regular publications received are:

A.C.F. Newsletter  
Habitat - Journal of A.C.F.  
Australian Mining Review  
Colong Bulletin  
Environs - from Dept. of Environment, Housing and Community Development  
E.C.O.S. - C.S.I.R.O. Environmental Research  
Environment - Newsletter of N.T. Environment Centre  
Geological Society of Australia - Monthly Newsletter  
Illawarra Natural History Society - Circular  
IT - Canberra Bushwalkers Club Newsletter  
Kosciusko Huts Association Newsletter  
Queensland N.P.A. News Magazine  
S.A. Nature Conservation Society Magazine  
Smoke Signal - South Coast Conservation Society  
S.W.A.N.S. from W.A. State Wildlife Advisory News Service  
Tasmanian Conservation Trust Circular  
Victorian N.P.A. Journal - 'Parkwatch'  
Youth Hostels Association - Monaro Region Newsletter

If you are planning to visit National Parks in other states you may find valuable information in some of the past journals of the various groups - so just ask!

## LOCAL NEWS

NPA Sub-Committees. Conveners for 1978-79 of the standing sub-committees are:

Outings	Jan Kiek	Tel. 862140
Bulletin	Reg Alder	542240
Gudgenby	John Schunke	489828
Display	Glyn Lewis	956937
Black Mountain	Ian Currie	958112
Membership	Sheila Kruse	486104
Library & Publications	Cynthia Hook	959666

Three ad hoc sub-committees have been formed to plan the:

Nancy Burbidge Memorial - Ian Currie (Convener) and Past Presidents  
Constitution Review - Sheila Kruse, Helen Cumpston, John Banks  
Royal National Park Centenary - ACT celebrations? commemoration?  
Darryl Hawke (Convener)

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment & Conservation  
Inquiry into environmental Protection and Resource Management. Charles Hill and  
Neville Esau prepared the Committee's submission to the Inquiry which will be  
examining:

- (a) the availability of environmental data;
- (b) the development and application of national environmental policies;
- (c) the cost of environmental protection; and
- (d) the adequacy of existing legislative and administrative arrangements.

Australian National Parks Council. The Council held its Fifth Annual Conference  
in Melbourne in September, when it issued an excellent First Report covering its  
operations to September 1978. A copy of the report is in the NPA library. Darryl  
Hawke has completed his three years as Secretary and has been succeeded by Bruce  
Davis from the Tasmanian Conservation Trust. Paul Barnes, NPA of NSW, is again  
the President, and Keith Jarrot, NPAQ, the Treasurer.

Kosciusko Huts Association has commissioned a 16 mm colour film: "Huts of the  
High Country", to make a record of some of the huts representing the gold mining,  
grazing, SMA and recreation/conservation areas in the Kosciusko National Park.  
NPA, a member of KHA, donated \$25 to the cost of the film.

Save the Colo Wilderness Fund Appeal. The Colo Wilderness represents 25% of the  
total remaining wilderness area in NSW, embracing gorges and valleys of the  
Wollangambe, Colo, Wolgan, Capertee and Bylong Rivers. Its close proximity to  
Sydney means that the Colo National Park would cater for a major recreation and  
inspiration demand. The appeal is sponsored by the Federation of Bush Walking  
Clubs (NSW). NPA has donated \$50.

Rambles around Canberra. We have noted from recent ANU Press publicity that our  
Rambles booklet is now selling for \$1.95, a reduction of \$1. Also that two of our  
members, Allan Mortlock and Bernice Anderson, have co-authored Undiscovered  
Canberra, another in the ANU Press series Canberra Companions.

### KOSCIUSKO WILD FLOWER WEEKEND

Members interested in a weekend in the Kosciusko area the weekends of  
13-14 or 20-21 January should contact either Ian Currie (958112) or Betty  
Campbell (811771). Accommodation \$5.00 per night would be at  
Perisher Valley

NPA OUTINGS

December 3rd, Sunday  
Leader: Jan Kiek 862140(H)

Mt Boboyan, Hospital Hill: walk  
Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Gudgenby River Bridge (past Rendezvous Creek) at 9.00 a.m.

Another walk (approx. 10 km) in the proposed Gudgenby National Park, with excellent views of the valley and surrounding well-known peaks. The ascent and descent is quite steep with some loose scree slopes - not suitable for young children. Medium grade.

December 10th, Sunday

Christmas Party, Woods Reserve

Leader Christmas Party: Darryl Hawke 883763(H)

Leader Walk: Neville Esau 864176(H) Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Woods Reserve (Corin Dam Road before Gibraltar Falls) at 9.30 a.m.  
for walk, 4.00 p.m. for party.

An easy walk of 6 km from Woods Reserve to Pyramid and Gibraltar Rocks, for those who wish to work up an appetite. The Christmas Party will be held at Woods Reserve. Wine, cheese and biscuits will be provided. Following the evening meal Christmas carols will be sung, so come in good voice.

January 21st, Sunday

Pialligo Wetlands

Leader: Cla Allan 953824(H)

Ref. UBD Tourist Map

Meet: Dairy Road, about 100 metres south of bridge at junction of Dairy Road and Morsehead Drive at 9 a.m.

An easy walk around the area to view the birdlife.

January 27th, 28th, 29th,  
Saturday, Sunday, Monday

'Nadjongbilla': camp

Ref. Bega 1:250,000

Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926(H)

A camping weekend at 'Nadjongbilla' on the Turos River. Facilities are available and should the weather change there is a shed for camping. A day walk to Tuross Falls and some shorter walks in this beautiful area are planned. There is a limit of 25 including children. Camping fees are \$1.00 per person/day. If you wish to go contact the leader.

February 4th, Sunday

Bullen Range, Murrumbidgee River: walk

Leader: Nicholas Blandford 723933(W) Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Corner of Eucumbene Drive and Cotter Road at 9 a.m. or Murray's Corner at 9.30 a.m.

Starting from Murray's Corner, climbing the range, then descending to the Murrumbidgee River for a swim and lunch. The return will be via Paddy's River. A medium grade walk of about 10 km.

February 10th, 11th,

Green Patch, Jervis Bay: camp

Saturday, Sunday

Ref. Ulladulla 1:250,000

Leaders: Ian Currie 958112(H)

Jan Kiek 862140(H)

Meet: Green Patch Camp at mid-day. Take the Bateman's Bay road, turn left at Prince's Highway and proceed to Jervis Bay from the turnoff 21 km south of Nowra. Allow 3 and a half hours travelling time.

A camping weekend on the shores of Jervis Bay, with some short walks to places of interest in the vicinity and plenty of time for swimming. Please advise either leader of intention to come.

February 24th, 25th, Sat., Sun.                      Bungonia: camp  
Leader: Ian Currie 958112 (H)                      Ref. Caoura 1:31,680

Meet: Bungonia Lookdown at 10.30 a.m.

A weekend camp near Bungonia Gorge. Local walks to explore the gorge, caves and lookouts. Please contact the leader if you wish to go.

February 24th, 25th, Sat., Sun.                      Bungonia-Long Point: pack walk  
Leader: Neville Esau 864176(H)                      Ref. Caoura 1:31,680

The long-awaited Bungonia-Long Point pack walk is to be held. Those interested, please contact the leader. Transport from Long Point will be arranged.

February 25th, Sunday                                      Gudgenby area: walk  
Leader: Hela Lindemann 864926(H)                      Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Tharwa Bridge (west side) 8.30 a.m.

A walk in the Gudgenby area to view aboriginal paintings (about 40 individual paintings drawn by the Ngunawal tribe who lived in the area for about 1000 years). Mr David Kerr from the Department of Agriculture and Conservation will be the guide. The walk will take about 4 hours - easy to medium.

March 4th, Sunday    Sentry Box: walk  
Leader: John Webster 476769(H)                      Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Naas Creek on Boboyan Road at 9 a.m.

The walk commences at Sheep Station Creek and follows the ridge to the summit, a rise of 500 metres. Excellent views of the southern ACT are possible on a clear day. Total walking distance 15 km.

March 4th, Sunday    Ginninderra Falls: walk  
Leader: Cla Allan 953824(H)                      Ref. Brindabella 1:100,000

Meet: Charnwood Road, Macgregor, near Ginninderra Creek ford at 9.30 a.m.  
(see UBD Canberra Tourist Map).

A short scramble should lead to the top falls.

March 10th, 11th, 12th,                                      Wyangala Dam: Camp  
Saturday, Sunday, Monday                      Ref. Bathurst-Goulburn 1:250,000  
Leader: Les Pyke 812982(H)

Meet: Wyangala Dam State Recreation Area mid-day.

This lakeside resort (240 km from Canberra) has caravans and cabins available as well as camping facilities. Walks in this interesting open country (with large protruding boulders) are planned for the energetic, while those interested in a lazy weekend can enjoy the scenery as desired. (Don't forget to bring your bathers.) Please contact the leader no later than Monday 5th March.

March 11th, Sunday    Honeysuckle Creek: walk  
Leader: Hela Lindemann 864920(H)                      Ref. ACT 1:100,000

Meet: Tharwa Bridge (west side) 9 a.m.

An easy/medium walk proceeds from Honeysuckle Creek in a southerly direction following at first the valley floor and then ascending the local hill. Good views of Fritz's Hill area are possible from the summit.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

at 8.00 p.m. in Room 1, Griffin Centre  
Bunda Street, Civic

December: No meeting

January: No meeting

Thursday, 15 February:

Mr Jack Erskine, Superintendent, South East Region, National  
Parks and Wildlife Service, N.S.W.

"Management Problems in National Parks in the South  
East Region of New South Wales"

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINING OUTINGS

All persons joining an outing of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. do so as volunteers in all respects and as such accept sole responsibility for any injury howsoever incurred and the National Parks Association of the A.C.T., its office bearers and appointed leaders are absolved from any liability in respect of any injury or damage suffered whilst engaged on any such outing. Essential equipment on all walks is a first-aid kit, torch (2 'D' size cells), map, compass, matches, protective rainwear, warm sweater and footwear adequate for off-track walking. In winter above 1300m in the A.C.T. area warm windproof clothing with scarf or cap and gloves (socks are a substitute) are needed. Woollen material will retain heat even if wet but it must be worn in association with a wind-proof garment. Clothing should be easily taken off, as climbing generates heat even in winter. At least 300 ml of drinking fluid per person should be carried (double in summer). When walking on roads, keep to the right. Dogs are not allowed on walks. Extinguish all fires with water or soil. Leave camp and lunchsites clean and tidy. It is essential to give reasonable notice to a leader if you wish to join a two-day or longer outing. The leader is expected to ensure the safety and scheduled return of the party and may decline any person's request to attend. New members and visitors are welcomed on walks and many walks have little difficulty for the normal family group. Inexperienced persons should discuss the route with the leader before attending a walk classified as 'medium' or 'hard'. Full details of the intended route should be left by the leader at home or with some responsible person who will be aware if the leader is overdue. If the party is overdue the chosen person should notify in the first instance one of the senior officers of the Association and not the police or press. The Walks Secretary would appreciate a report on the walk giving such details as numbers attending (members and non-members), travelling time to pick up point, route taken, meal locations, condition of route, distance, time taken (include rests and meal stops), suggestions for improving route and grading of walk.

# National Parks Association outings summary

## DECEMBER

3 Sunday	Mt Boboyan - Hospital Hill	Walk
10 Sunday	Christmas Party and Gibraltar Rocks walk	

## JANUARY

21 Sunday	Pialligo Wetlands	Walk
27-28-29 Saturday - Monday	'Nadjongbilla' (Australia Day weekend)	Camp

## FEBRUARY

4 Sunday	Bullen Range - Murrumbidgee R.	Walk/Swim
10 Saturday	Green Patch	Camp
11 Sunday		
24 Saturday	{ Bungonia	Camp
25 Sunday		{ Bungonia-Long Point
25 Sunday	Aboriginal rock paintings - Gudgenby	Walk

## MARCH

4 Sunday	Sentry Box	Walk
4 Sunday	Ginninderra Falls	Walk
10-11-12 Saturday - Monday	Wyangala Dam	Camp
11 Sunday	Honeysuckle Creek	Walk
18 Sunday	Bramina Creek/Goodradigbee R.	Walk
24 Saturday	Whites River Area	Pack Walk
25 Sunday		