



INTERVIEW WITH JULIE HENRY

(NPA President 1970; Life Member 1973)

FIONA:- NPA of the ACT, Oral History Project program. An interview with Julie Henry, one time committee member and a President of the ACT National Parks Association. Interview on Thursday 30 January 1997 at the home of Fiona Brand.

There has been a very comprehensive statement made about Julie's life and involvement in the NPA and it is printed in the NPA Bulletin in 1985. It was in the 'Park Personality Profiles Series - Julie Henry' by Fiona Brand and that should be read alongside this oral history. [Note: Extract of NPA Bulletin article on Julie Henry appended to this transcript.]

FIONA:- Julie, do you remember if the natural environment was important to you in your childhood?

JULIE:- I don't think it was really, but the family home was in a farming area and you were aware of the importance of farming to the people in the valley and also the importance of floods.

FIONA:- Was this the Hunter Valley?

JULIE:- Yes. We moved from that area to Newcastle, I think, when I was about 10 or 11 and then I continued there until I went to work. I went to high school there. There was nothing definitive about the environment. Environment wasn't an issue in those days.

FIONA:- You do think that it did have an impact on you?

JULIE:- Oh yes, definitely.

FIONA:- You commenced bushwalking in Victoria in 1948 and then in Brisbane, Queensland until 1960. Do you remember feeling great concern for the environment then?

JULIE:- As we say in the profile, my first real introduction to bushwalking was under the tutorage and leadership of a member of the Melbourne Walking and Touring Club. We had a number of outings - we used to run day outings - and then 2 or 3 times a year we would have a weekend camp. We were really taught the ethics of camping according to the right way.

REG:- Was that the all women's club?

JULIE:- No, that was the all men's club: George was a member. That incidentally is the oldest continuous walking club, I believe, in Australia. There were earlier clubs, I believe, in Sydney but they faded out and they haven't got the continuity of the Melbourne Walking and Touring Club. There were a lot of members in the Association in the years that I was there who were members of that club; Bill Adams was and Charlie Hill was another.

FIONA:- So you were taught the right way, how to put your tent up and how to be clean in the bush and how to light a fire, etc?

JULIE:- Yes. Immediately after the war YHA started up again in Melbourne and I did join it and went out on a few of the walks with YHA. The last major walk I did was for the opening of the Wilson's Promontory area after the war. It had been closed during the war years. I've just forgotten which year it was, but it was some time after the war was over and finished. It was opened up for this Easter and just about every walking club in Melbourne converged on it for this occasion, but the weather wasn't terrible good to us. By this time I had my own tent and I remember I wasn't terribly good at pitching it and almost got blown away the first night.

FIONA:- How did you travel on these outings?

JULIE:- In Melbourne in those days, from memory, certainly during the war years, trains didn't go to the country areas on the weekends and if you wanted to go bushwalking the association or



whatever group was running it would hire a pantechnicon. At Flinders Street railway station on a Saturday morning or Sunday morning you'd see a whole series of pantechnicons waiting for their load of bushwalkers or whatever it was.

FIONA:- Well that's different, plank seats?

JULIE:- Some of them I don't think had seats. Anyway when we went to Brisbane, for a lot of our walks, for the first two or three years, none of the members - they were all young members with the exception of one older chap who was a carpenter and one who was a farmer - there was no transport. Young people back in those days didn't have their own cars and so we used trucks. A little bit later we'd use buses.

FIONA:- And were you walking in national parks or what areas were open to you in the 1940s, or crown land reserves?

JULIE:- I think they're mainly scenic areas, there was a limit to the distances you could travel as pantechnicons aren't fast vehicles.

FIONA:- So you'd go to the Dandenongs?

JULIE:- I'd say a fair number of the walks were done in the Dandenongs, some of them in the - I've forgotten the names - in other areas around Melbourne, not exclusively in the Dandenongs.

FIONA:- And was there any feeling that there should be a push to set aside land, or did you just feel it would always be there?

JULIE:- I don't think there was the concern there. I mean in areas you could reach, there wasn't the desecration and the spoiling of a lot of those areas obvious then which would awake you to the need for that sort of thing.

REG:- I don't think we worried much those days who owned the land because the owners didn't worry much about you coming onto their land because they welcomed you.

JULIE:- Well that's right, yes. The trip [*Wilson's Promontory*] really that was an eye-opener because we did manage to walk out as far as the lighthouses, then came back. But you see the army had had that area for so many years and I remember there was a lot of discussion about what should be done, you know what facilities should be made available and that sort of thing, which you had to give thought to. That was a national park ...in fact I don't know whether that's a correct statement, I'm pretty sure it was a national park, if not it was a special reserved area in any case.

REG:- It had been a reserve before and then the army took it over during the war years, and then it was returned back as a reserve or as a national park, I don't know which.

FIONA:- You came to Canberra just as the local NPA commenced and was soon involved with local issues. First of all, the national park proposal: 'A National Park for the National Capital'. What are your memories of getting that together?

JULIE:- Well, it all started with Nancy [*Burbidge*]. It was Nancy's idea and it was Nancy who came up, I think, with that quotation originally, if I remember. It's hard to know where we started. Nancy had already done a lot of thinking about this and she already knew the area that she felt we should look at, and that's what we did. Certainly, I can remember her and Bob and myself and a couple of others, I can't remember now who they were, going out which was my first introduction to the area and walking across the creek towards Mt Kelly. Nancy apparently was aware of that aboriginal cave and painting and we crossed the creek, going over to it we managed to stay dry. From memory the swamp there was a lot worse than I remember it being in later years so it must have had a very wet year or something. Anyway, we had a look at this area and I think we walked part of the way up Middle Creek. Coming back we had great trouble getting back, we didn't find the track that we'd gone over the creek on, and we all came out very damp and wet. Some of us were saturated. So that was my introduction to that area.



Then it was a case of just doing research and having a look at just what the land-holdings were in that area. I suppose, as often as we could, going to a different area, walking it either in a private group, whoever we could find to go out with us, or find somebody who happened to know the area and we'd go off and have a look at it and try and make some assessment of its value and its lack of degradation particularly. Then it was a case for the committee, I just can't remember, I know Sandy Brand and you [*Fiona Brand*] were on that first committee, Ed Slater, Nancy of course, and myself. I can't remember whether Bob [*Story*] came on later or whether he was on it.

FIONA:- Nancy seemed to recruit quite a number from the CSIRO to do surveys.

JULIE:- Yes, well what she did, this is where Nancy's influence on the whole thing is obvious, she knew the CSIRO's specialists in all fields, you know whether it was insects or animals or whatever and she virtually, well she probably recruited some of them and probably browbeat the rest of them into doing the surveys that were necessary on each of the various aspects of the park which we needed to look at.

FIONA:- Professor Brown did the aspect of geology.

JULIE:- I've forgotten these names in the intervening years.

FIONA:- Ed Slater had a hand in them to.

JULIE:- Ed Slater came on when Sandy Brand dropped out of the committee at some stage. I know Ed came into the committee and Bob [*Story*] came into the committee.

FIONA:- And you and Bob and myself did that walk to Kelly and just felt that had to be the centre of the Park, it was such a wilderness looking area, and that sort of confirmed all our thoughts that that was a very rich and beautiful area.

JULIE:- Yes, well I think it, as you say, confirmed our thoughts about it. Another person was John Shunky, he was on the edge of the committee, he wasn't actually involved with the committee but he became very important in the second stage of the committee. Now there was another matter which was very important in this and it was the Forestry Department. Very early in the piece Nancy heard rumours that the Forestry Department was interested in expanding their forestry work down into the Orroral and Gudgenby areas, so it was decided that we'd have a conference with Forestry. I must give Nancy her due, she was held in very high regard by so many people in the various departments and this was a tremendous help in all of this work. She had worked on the original committee that, I believe, was instrumental in getting the Nature Reserve.

FIONA:- Tidbinbilla!

JULIE:- Tidbinbilla. Certainly over the years that regard people had for Nancy was a big factor. So the meeting was arranged and Nancy and I and a third person who, I think, was probably the President at the time did go out to Forestry and have a conference with the forestry people.

FIONA:- She was President by then.

JULIE:- Was she!

FIONA:- Yes, Dr Nicholson was President for a couple of years, then Nancy became President and I became Secretary and that's when this was all going on.

JULIE:- I'm sorry, I just can't remember who this third person was, it may have been Bob Story, but I wouldn't be sure of that.

FIONA:- And you met up with Dr Jacobson?

JULIE:- Yes, and we did find out that they were planning this expansion into the area with pine plantations, and so we put our case to Forestry at that stage. The first presentation which we finally made was for, at that stage, a very modest area that we were asking for. Firstly, we felt



that if we ask for too much we wouldn't get anything, and there was not the community interest in conserving areas almost for any purpose, national parks or otherwise. Anyway, the outcome of the discussion with Forestry was we outlined the area we had in mind to present and request for provision of a national park, and the Forestry showed us their areas and it was agreed that, in fact, they would go ahead but they would stay outside the limits that we were going to request for the national park.

That was a major step probably. After that, having collected all of the various reports that Nancy had organised and had the maps drawn up, the next thing was to put it all together. That was quite a job. We didn't have all the facilities that are available today, computers hadn't been heard of.

FIONA:- Who did all the typing, was it Bob Story?

JULIE:- I've got to give Bob credit, I think, for the final drawing up. I think Bob got tired of me being too wordy so he took what was written up and he condensed it and put it perhaps in more scientific terminology. We put it all together, we had to make quite a number of copies. There are a tremendous number of people who we felt should receive copies.

FIONA:- You had taken photos?

JULIE:- Yes, I had forgotten about the photos. Yes, we compiled a group of photos to be included.

FIONA:- Maps?

JULIE:- Yes, maps.

FIONA:- We actually compiled it all in your room in Havelock House on your bed, I was a part of that, yes I do remember that.

JULIE:- What about the plane flight?

FIONA:- Yes, part of the survey we had a plane flight, do you remember that?

JULIE:- Oh yes, it was you and I and Sandy.

FIONA:- That's right, John Gray was the pilot.

JULIE:- We had a look at that area by air.

FIONA:- Yes, it was winter because the snow was on the mountains; yes we did an aerial survey.

JULIE:- Yes, well we just felt that we had to be familiar with the area, otherwise you were not in a position to discuss it and we wanted to be very sure of our grounds.

FIONA:- Which we were. It was a very, very good proposal, it was very scientific.

JULIE:- Well, it was finally all put together and the various copies sent out to the relevant people; you'd have to go to the records to find out now who they actually went to. Then we took a copy to Parliament. In those days the Commonwealth Government was responsible for the ACT. Now, I'm not quite sure why it was Mr Anthony.

FIONA:- Well, he was the Minister for the Interior.

JULIE:- Was he, well that's probably why. I've just forgotten what his responsibilities were and he received us very pleasantly, he had many comments to make; said that it would be looked at and considered.

FIONA:- [Jocular] Yes, but we have no money to spend.

JULIE:- It was Nancy and Bob and I who had that task. And then we sat back and waited and waited and waited. In the meantime, other organisations had developed in Canberra and one was the walking club, Canberra Walking Club with Geoff Moseley was then in the process of doing a PhD - his actual subject was Tasmania - but he was very interested in this whole question of a



national parks environment and what was happening. I do recall that within that club they, Geoff did a lot of work and they made a presentation. Then I think the local Boy Scouts apparently became interested in this as an issue, and they put in a request to the Department of Interior. By this time reference to the actual presentation must have been referred on to the Department of Interior because by then they were concerned, and anything to do with the park or the suggestion of a national park was going through the Department of Interior. I had gone to the university to finish off a degree and hadn't been so closely involved but there had been no development at all up to this stage. Probably around 1967/68, the Department of Interior asked a number of public bodies to indicate their interest in the practicability or the possibility of a national park and a whole number of organisations made submissions.

It was at this stage that the Association realised that these groups were interested in a larger area than our original submission and it was decided - in fact, I'm not quite sure as I was out of the committee at that stage, still at uni - but I do know that Nancy more or less took on the responsibility for revising the original submission. I know that she and John Shunky virtually put the expanded proposal together. I think John took Nancy out to that eastern area so Nancy could familiarise herself more with that area and give her an in-depth knowledge of it which she hadn't had previously. Anyway, they put up the proposal and it was approved by the committee and that went forward as our amended proposal. Then virtually things progressed from there. We waited again. Then the Canberra College people, they had a section ...

FIONA:- Was that the Margules report?

JULIE:- Yes, I think. Wasn't his report commissioned?

FIONA:- Yes, the Department of Interior commissioned a report from Margules and he presented an even bigger area and that's when all that Mt Clear area came into it from memory, the southern part was added to our proposal which we hadn't included because it had freehold land.

JULIE:- Well, Nancy in the second proposal did include it; it was included in our second proposal, but certainly not in the first.

FIONA:- It just meant that we had to keep presenting the proposal to every new Minister for the Interior that we had, until finally we got it passed.

JULIE:- Who was that Parliamentary Senator who became interested, he always expressed an interest; he was a Labor Senator. I know we always seemed to get a letter from him when any proposal had gone in?

FIONA:- I'd forgotten that. Yes, it was Tom Uren, it was in the time of Tom Uren that we actually got the national park.

JULIE:- No, this was a Senator.

FIONA:- Another big issue that you were involved with, Julie, was the Black Mountain affair, the putting of a tower on top of a nature reserve. We lost that battle, but what are your memories of that? There were court appearances and so on.

JULIE:- Actually, there were two fights over Black Mountain and towers. The first one was very early in the 1960s when there was very little public interest when the PMG put up their first tower. The protests were unsuccessful in that case, but the main one was when they wanted to put the major building up there when TV broadcasting came in. Now by then there was a tremendous interest in the effect it would have on Black Mountain, the effect it would have on even the plans that had been drawn up originally for Canberra with the idea that the mountains were going to be left without buildings on them. There was tremendous public interest in this. It went first to a Parliamentary sub-committee hearing. There were a number of organisations involved. I think it took two days, from memory, and we naturally put in quite a large submission. It was put together by myself and Bill Adams, Brian Hammond, Chris Watson and there was someone else,



again my memory is not as good as I would like it to be on names. We had to present ourselves before the Parliamentary sub-committee.

Incidentally, Chris and I actually presented our case which meant reading through our submission and then subjecting ourselves to questions. I might add that we weren't terribly impressed by the, I'll use the word intelligence, of a number of the Senators and Members of Parliament. It was obvious from their questions, they had absolutely no comprehension of what we and so many other groups were trying to present to them. There was one particular parliamentary person, however, who did ask very sensible questions and he was the only one who really impressed us. The ironic part of that was, the PMG needless to say, had quite an army of people representing them and taking notes and whatnot. The member of the PMG who was the head of that group happened to be my director at the post office when I was in Queensland. So we had quite a discussion afterwards, and his remark was that he knew it was wrong to ever let me go to Canberra. Anyway, we finished our case and I can't recall what Parliament had actually decided but the case itself went on for quite some time and some of the organisations did make a court case out of it.

FIONA:- You have mentioned Nancy Burbidge, but I just wanted you to say any personal memories you have of her and her contribution to the Association as most members now, of course, have never known her, she's just a name.

JULIE:- Yes, well it was Nancy's enthusiasm and her knowledge through her work, as one of the chief botanists in CSIRO, of the importance of having areas preserved in their natural state. Her enthusiasm for her work and for the Association really provided the impetus that got it off the ground and kept it rolling in those early years. I've mentioned, I think, earlier, the tremendous respect in which she was held personally by established people in Canberra. My memories of Nancy: I can remember her quite clearly on this particular trip going down, I think, to Mt Kelly on that occasion or it may have been Orroral and on the way, as it must have been a good flower season: every time Nancy saw on the verges a group of flowers the party would stop, everyone would hop out and we'd have a lesson in the recognition of our own wildflowers and whatnot. Nancy bending over, showing us, telling us and identifying the flowers, that's what she'd always do. Her affinity with the environment generally was something really that you very seldom see, even today, in some of the enthusiasts because what went with it was this real understanding.

FIONA:- The outings at that time, our monthly outings were excursions where you really did look at plants.

JULIE:- Plants and insects. Remember we went out and had identified or were shown Bogong Moths and that became quite a regular trip, also being taken to see the little gold and black frog, Corroboree Frog. We had experts; Nancy could draw on experts and encourage them.

FIONA:- The outing was an instruction day, you just didn't go out and have a bushwalk, you went out to learn and therefore in learning to know more about your environment and to value it even more. Now the last question brings us to the present and just your thoughts on environmental issues today?

JULIE:- Well, that's a hard one, Fiona, a very hard one. I think what's happening to the environment is the biggest issue that people in today's society really have to become aware of and do something about. National parks in themselves are not enough, all they can do is, hopefully, preserve a small area in its natural state and to be there as a reference to what has been and, hopefully, what is continuing. Also, to have that area as a reference to compare with what's happening outside national parks. I mean what's happening to water supply, and it doesn't matter whether it's in Australia or anywhere else in the world, what's happening to the changing environment and what it's doing to the climate, over-population, all of these things are problems which today's people really have to be aware of and begin to do something about. I despair a bit on what could happen, and will happen, if in fact people don't recognise all these problems and governments



aren't prepared to put time and money into trying to find a solution, a real solution. Some of them pay lip service and then tend to ignore the results of any research which they do sponsor.

FIONA:- Yes, that's true.

JULIE:- That's about the sum total.

FIONA:- The future of national parks now that eco-tourism is, I think, posing a threat to our national parks.

JULIE:- It's not the eco-tourism, it's what our politicians decide to allow. I think there is still a fight ahead to protect the sanctity of our national parks. I mean, if they are going to allow buildings and you know tourist residences and whatnot in national parks, well, they are going to downgrade, they are going to destroy sections.

FIONA:- It happened in Kosciuszko National Park.

JULIE:- Yes. I mean we've just got to fight to maintain the national parks, at least, to the standards that we have got for our national parks now.

FIONA:- Yes, it's a bit of a gloomy picture, it's not a time of hope as it was back in the sixties when we first set out on the adventure of the National Parks Association.

JULIE:- Well, I suppose we can at least say there's a lot of other support groups now, there are a lot of people who do recognise the importance that we must give to the environment and what's happening in it, not necessarily national parks, but to the whole environment. We see the national parks as part of that solution really, a small part of that solution.

FIONA:- Well thanks, Julie, for taking part in this project.

JULIE:- Thank you.



PARK PERSONALITY PROFILES - JULIE HENRY

Extract from NPA Bulletin, September 1985

Written by Fiona Brand

As the Draft Plan of Management for Namadji National Park is about to appear, it seems appropriate that a story about Julie Henry, one of the principal architects of a 'National Park for the National Capital', should be written.

To follow Julie Henry's long career in conservation and environmental groups is to experience wonderment at her energy, that is, until you remember her great love for the bush and her determination to inspire others so that they would 'cherish it and protect it fiercely'.

Julie's outdoor career took off when, with the help of a Melbourne Walking and Touring Club member, she organized a walking club within the Social Club of the Department of Supply in Melbourne in 1943. Then in 1947, she became staff welfare officer in the Brisbane Postmaster General's Department and joined the Queensland National Parks Association. Julie became a councillor of that association, and says; 'As a councillor I came under the influence of Romeo Lahey, long time President of the Queensland NPA who had succeeded in having Lamington National Park declared and has been fighting for National Parks in Queensland ever since'. Within weeks of her arrival in Brisbane a public meeting was called to establish the first bushwalking club in the State. About six months after the inception of the Brisbane Bushwalking Club, Julie took on the position of secretary followed by a term as president, serving seven years in these positions. These two organisations were to absorb most of her spare time for the next twelve years until leaving Brisbane in 1960.

The early years of the Brisbane Bushwalking Club were frenetic and exciting. The first necessity was to find suitable walking areas, and one of her greatest pleasures was the exploration of new areas and then to introduce walkers to them. There were so many areas in south-east Queensland that were unfamiliar to walkers, even though many were declared national parks, such as Mt Barney, Mt Ballow and the main range from Mt Mistake to the NSW border. The last named quickly became her favourite. In 1949 the Club's Outings Committee organised their first extended trip to Fraser Island, followed by visits to Carnarvon National Park (Central Queensland) and Hinchinbrook Island National Park (North Queensland). In the early 1950s the Queensland National Parks Association began their program of annual extended trips.

Since that time nearly all her holidays have been camping/walking holidays, mostly in national parks, with either the Bushwalkers or the Association. In later years the Queensland NPA branched outside Australia and she went to New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Nepal and Patagonia/Galapagos islands with them.

Another activity with which she was actively associated for ten years was the setting up of the Club's Safety and Training Committee and the organisation of its programs.

Julie feels that complete enjoyment of the natural environment and particularly of wilderness areas comes only when one is able to relate to it confidently and happily. The Committee developed techniques and planned search and rescue practices drawing on the experience of southern States and New Zealand as there were no other models. The development of a formalised State search and rescue organisation was still years away.

The need for development of more sophisticated safety techniques was brought home when a member of the Club died in 1954 as the result of a climbing accident. Formal climbing groups had not yet developed in Australia and there were no local sources of information. South-east



Queensland offered good areas for rock climbing and up to that time free climbing had been followed. Fortunately Bill Peascod, a noted English climber, was then a lecturer in the Wollongong School of Mines and accepted an invitation to assist the Club. This was a very happy association as Bill visited Queensland two or three times a year after that. Those privileged to climb with him had the responsibility of passing on the techniques learnt and adapting them for general safety. This was a new and exhilarating outdoor experience for Julie and it was her one regret that she had not been introduced to it earlier.

In 1960 Julie completed a Diploma in Public Administration and joined the staff of the Public Service Board in Canberra. She was immediately caught up in the activities of the recently formed National Parks Association and so began a long and happy association.

In the early 1960s major conservation issues were beginning to emerge and were to mushroom in the years ahead. Fortunately the conscience of the general public was starting to stir with the growing awareness of the problems. New organisations were set up to fight environmental issues and already established groups had a greater involvement.

Julie joined the Committee of the Association in 1961 and altogether had nine years, including a term as President, working on the Committee. Her main work was however accomplished on special issues and working committees. She had the pleasure of exploring and opening up new areas for walking and was involved with the outings program until retirement. In 1961 the Canberra Walking and Touring Club was revived and Julie became a member of their Safety and Training Committee and was later to join their Conservation Committee. Except for some time taken out to complete a part-time Bachelor of Economics degree at the ANU, which she completed in 1968, her spare time was again absorbed in the activities of a national parks association and a walking club.

Dr Nancy Burbidge, the first Secretary of the NPA of the ACT, set the objectives for the Association. This brilliant woman, botanist/conservationist, was to have a strong influence on Julie's approach to conservation and was to provide a driving force within the Association until her death in 1977. The first objective was the exploration of the ACT for suitable areas for declaration as reserves and the preparation of a case for a national park in the southern area. The second was to have the outdated legislation that applied to parks/reserves, flora, fauna, land use etc. in the ACT brought up to date.

The huge task of preparing a proposal for a reserve of land of national park status in the ACT was undertaken by a sub-committee of which Julie was Convenor. A year was spent in exploring for and compiling a proposal, three copies being carefully stapled and covered in Julie's little room in Havelock House. The proposal for a national park in the Gudgenby-Mt Kelly region was thus submitted in 1963 and is a constant reminder of Julie's worthwhile organising ability. However, it was not until Environment Day 1984 that the Minister, Tom Uren, declared the Namadgi National Park - a much larger park area than the original proposal of the committee of 1963. During the years of Julie's time on the Committee of the ACT NPA and as President, the areas of concern were Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie, Jervis Bay, the National Park proposal, Googong Dam, control burning and the development of a Conservation Ordinance for the ACT. Julie was also very involved in the Black Mountain Reserve issue.

Black Mountain's status was changed to that of a Nature Reserve in July 1970. This was just ahead of the announcement by the Postmaster General's Department that the two towers then existing on the mountain were to be replaced by a single massive TV/radio tower. Unfortunately the first battle for Black Mountain was lost when approval was given for the erection of the original towers and the building of a road to service them. In the early 1960s the conservation ethic was only in its infancy and there was no great public outcry, the Association and two or three other interested bodies alone protested. Ten years later when the second battle against the tower on the mountain was launched it was a different matter.



In 1971 Julie appeared in support of Dr Burbidge in the presentation of the Association's submission before the House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation. In June 1972 it was her turn after helping to prepare the Association's case on the Black Mountain tower and to present it. Supported by Dr Chris Watson it was given at a public hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. In spite of the tremendous public interest, the strongly expressed opposition and the number of cases presented, the battle was lost and the tower subsequently built. The Association has been left with the responsibility to see that no further infringements are made on the reserve status of Black Mountain.

After 1973 Julie found that she was unable to continue as a committee member of the NPA but continued to help the Outings Committee and to lead walks - particularly in the alpine areas in summertime. Summing up her own thoughts about her contribution to the conservation cause, Julie says 'Looking back perhaps my best contribution to outdoor groups and the conservation movement has been in the administration - formal club organisation, committees, constitutions, preparation of manuals and brochures and particularly the establishment and overseeing of safety and training practices. In later years it has been in the preparation and presentation of case papers and a willingness to battle for environmental principles. What I have put into my outdoor activities has been more than repaid by what I have got back in return over forty years - the good and bad experiences, the successful and unsuccessful forays against government, the pleasure of countless walking trips, but above all the friendships made with the "outdoor people" - they are a very special breed.'

'On my second visit to New Zealand recently I found the following words of John Muir on a display panel at the Mt Cook Visitor Centre and I copied them down. They so aptly express what I have personally experienced.

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their freshness into you and the storms their energy. While cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

I have been rewarded if I have been able to introduce at least a few people to the wonderful therapeutic powers and the enjoyment of our natural environment, and through that experience been able to inspire them to cherish and protect it fiercely.'

As a fellow NPA committee member, as a walking companion and as a friend, I can assure Julie that her energy, her organising ability, her strength, her love of the natural environment have influenced the development of the ACT NPA greatly and we welcome her continued interest and visits when she returns to us from Sydney from time to time. Julie Henry along with Nancy Burbidge, both Life Members of NPA, have left their mark as great spokeswomen and campaigners for the conservation causes of Australia.