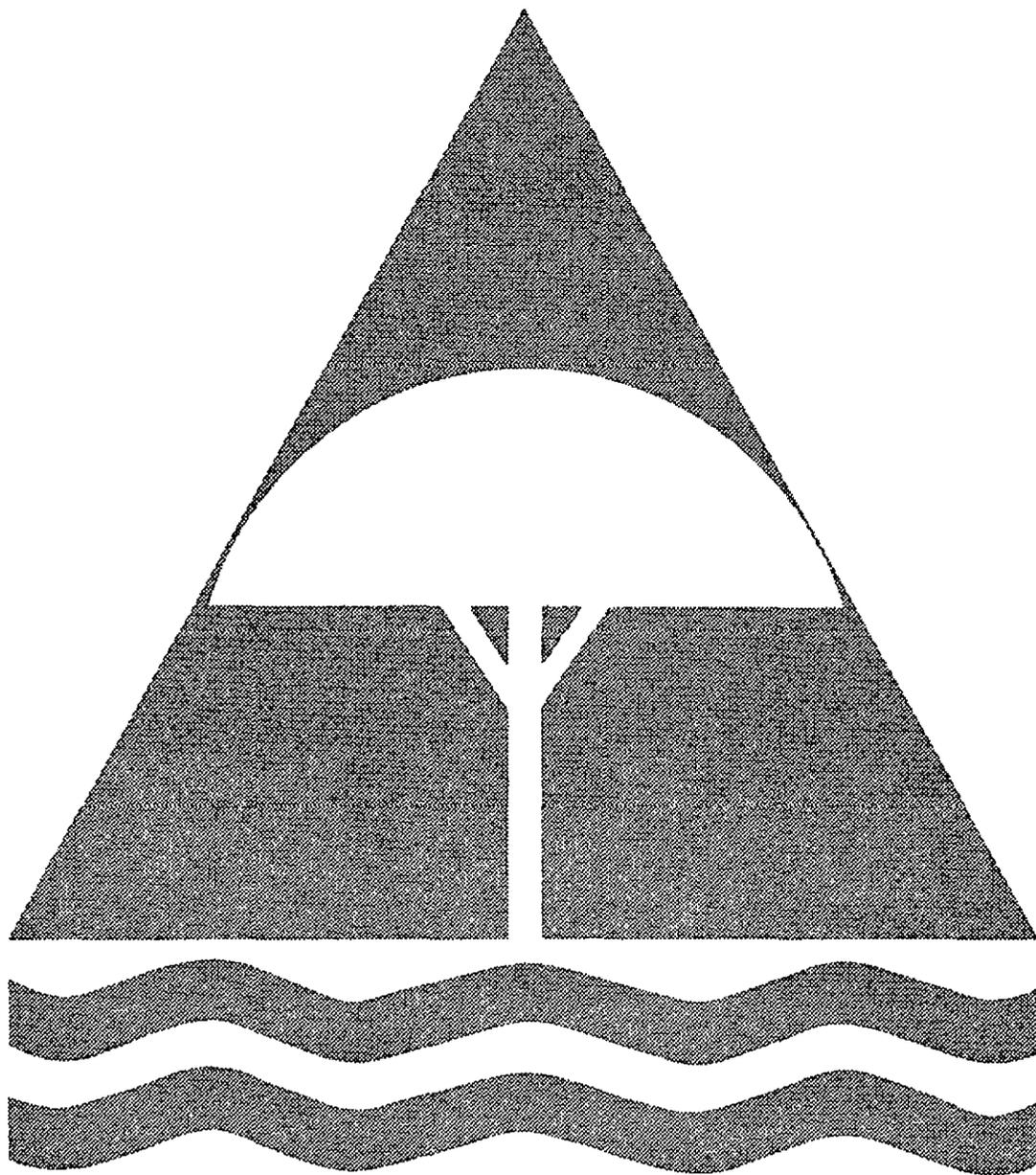


NPA Bulletin

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



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EDITOR'S NOTE

As we pass into a new financial year there is a feeling that things are on the move. For this we must particularly thank Bill Watson. During his 2½ years as President of the NPA he steered the Association into making a number of initiatives that now, in the fullness of time, are bearing fruit.

A meeting in Melbourne last month of the Australian National Parks Working Group resulted from one of these. This Group recommended the formation of an Australian National Parks Council. The Council should be formed early in the New Year, and must surely increase the effectiveness of the National Parks Movement.

Then there is the unusual feeling of confidence within the Association engendered by the grant from the Committee of Enquiry into the National Estate. Work is already progressing rapidly on the production of a pocket guide book of easy rambles near Canberra, and a number of other projects referred to later in the Bulletin are well in hand.

In addition, with Ian Currie as our new President we know that our Association is in good hands. We must thank him for taking on this time consuming position.

Incidentally, this is the last issue of the Bulletin that I will be producing. As from the next issue Bruce Ward will be sitting in the hot seat. I wish him the best of luck, and trust that the Association will give him the support that he deserves.

GRANT FROM DURD

We are using the \$5,000 grant from the Committee of Enquiry into the National Estate for the following purposes:

- publication of a guide book of short walks and rambles around Canberra

- production of a display for Australia '75 Festival

- survey of potential national park areas in southeastern N.S.W. A workshop of conservation societies in the region will be called, and a report will be produced

- land use studies in the A.C.T. with emphasis on Kelly/Gudgenby and the upper Cotter areas

Plans for the guide book, the display, and the workshop are progressing well. Allan Mortlock and Gillian O'Loughlin are collaborating to produce the guide book. It will be small enough to fit into your pocket and contain 15 or so walks which will be written up by NPA members. Allan and Gillian have set the ambitious date of November 1 for receiving the written descriptions of the walks, and the guide book should be out in the first half of next year.

Some walks still have to be allocated a writer. Anybody feeling like helping out should contact Allan as soon as possible.

Ian Currie

PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL

On October 10, 1973, the Committee entertained Dr. Moss Cass, Dr. D. McMichael and Dr. P. Ellyard to luncheon at the home of the President. A wide range of topics were discussed. Special emphasis was given to the role of voluntary organisations such as the National Parks Association in conservation and environmental matters. It was suggested that it could be helpful in decision making to the government if a Federation of National Parks Associations be formed. The Association adopted this suggestion and wrote to the Australian Conservation Foundation and other National Parks Associations suggesting that a National Parks Working Group be formed within the Australian Conservation Foundation. The response was generally favourable, and a first meeting was held at ACF Headquarters, East Melbourne on Saturday July 27.

Delegates from each State NPA or equivalent body attended with the exception of the Northern Territory where no such body seems to exist. I represented the National Parks Association of the A.C.T., and Dr. Mosley the ACF.

Briefly the Working Group recommended that an Australian National Parks Council (ANPC) be set up. Its function will be to increase and extend the effectiveness of the State NPAs, not to dictate policy to them.

The important parts of the minutes of the Working Group follow.

The need for and the functions of a continuing Australian National Parks Working Group.

Discussions began by considering the minimum form of co-ordination needed between National Parks Societies, and then advanced to the most feasible arrangement bearing in mind the low budgets of some member societies.

It was agreed :

that the area of concern of the meeting was National Parks and nature reserves of all kinds;

that there was a need at the national level for a body representative of the State and Commonwealth Societies concerned with national parks;

that there should be appointed representatives who correspond with one another on matters of concern;

that a need exists for a federal secretary;

that the bodies should finance one delegate to attend a meeting once a year;

that more frequent meetings than once a year would necessitate some transfer or infusion of finances;

that one of the State Associations which have received Commonwealth grants for secretarial services, or any other State which volunteers to do so, be responsible initially for the secretarial support for this body and

that it might be advisable that the venues for successive meetings rotate between member societies.

Purpose:

The purpose of the body shall be to increase and extend the effectiveness of the State and Australia-wide societies: the body shall not in general be a policy forming body, but shall implement policies commended to it by its Member bodies.

Provision of Secretariat

ACF offered to provide secretarial services if necessary.

The meeting finally accepted that Mr. Peter Prineas, Executive Secretary of the NPA of NSW, should act as interim secretary to the working group.

Name and representation of an Australian National Parks Council

The meeting recommended to constituent societies, trusts and foundations that an Australian National Parks Council be set up.

Representation

It was agreed that the Council shall consist of one delegate from each of:

National Parks Association of Queensland
National Parks Association of New South Wales
National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory Inc.
Victorian National Parks Association
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc.
Conservation Council of Western Australia, or their Nominee
Environmental Council of the Northern Territory

or such alternative representation as the majority of the Council shall determine.

It was further agreed that the meeting recommend to their Associations that the ACF should also be invited to represent the Australia-wide interest in national parks.

Role of the Australian National Parks Council

The following proposed functions of the Council were agreed to:

- (a) To communicate and exchange of information and experience between State NP societies;
- (b) To consider of any matters common to two or more States, e.g. Wiangarie - N.S.W. and Q'ld; Nadgee/Mallacoota - Vic. and N.S.W.;
- (c) To confer when necessary with the Australian Government and State Governments at the request of the State concerned;
- (d) To co-ordinate public relations and public education campaigns;
- (e) The ANPC should assist all National Park Societies, and all members of State National Park Societies to contact, liaise with, and obtain service from any State Government National Parks' Service or Department. This would mean for example,

that, as NPA of NSW liaises closely with NPWS of NSW, it could pass on through ANPC the fruits of this liaison to help all NPA members all over Australia;

- (f) At an appropriate time in the future, ANPC should consider producing a journal or suitable periodical publication or newsletter;
- (g) To identify priorities for promotion of national parks in Australia;
- (h) To meet regularly, preferably at least once a year, to further the aims of the Council - the expenses of such meetings should be shared equally among the members;
- (i) To liaise with international organisations concerned with national parks.

Each Society will be asked to nominate one delegate to the initial meeting of the Council, and it was agreed that any number of observers would be permitted at meetings of the Council.

Brian Lee

WRITING ON THE WALL

'A few years since this country abounded with wild animals; now the Emu is banished to a long distance, and the Kangaroo has become scarce; to both the English greyhound is utterly destructive; it may be a long time before these animals are altogether exterminated, but their doom is fixed.'

This extract has a familiar ring. It came from the diary of Charles Darwin, and was written 138 years ago in January 1836 at Wallerawang sheep station about 10 miles west of Lithgow, N.S.W.

B.L.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE AGAIN

Subscriptions for the NPA are now due. Anyone who hasn't paid by the time the next Bulletin comes out won't receive one.

KNOW YOUR FLOWERS



The plant shown is Golden Star, though in some places it is called Star of Bethlehem. The six golden yellow petals are in two series. The outer three are slightly narrower and more green on the outside. They each have a minute tuft of erect hairs at the tip.

There are two kinds of Golden Star in the A.C.T. The most common one is Hypoxis hygrometrica (see drawing) and if you look closely at a flower you will notice that the cells of each anther spread apart at the base (see A.). In the other local species, Hypoxis glabella, the flowers are smaller and the anther cells do not spread apart (see B.).

Golden Stars flower in late spring and summer. At high elevations, such as mountain valleys it is possible to find them as late as March so they have a long season.

Next time you see one of them check the anthers to find out which species you have.

Nancy Burbidge

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brian,

I read your editorial in the last Bulletin, and the comments of your President, Bill Watson, with considerable interest. As I understand it, the dilemma is whether your Association should concentrate its activities within the A.C.T. or attempt to exercise some influence on decisions taken within the State of New South Wales. Please be in no doubt that if your Association chose the latter course, the move would be widely welcomed by the National Parks Association of New South Wales.

Our Association has spread its work throughout the State and in recent years has prepared several proposals for National Parks on the South Coast, some of which (for example, Mimosa Rocks) have been successful. However, what we have been able to do is trivial compared with what needs to be done, or could be done by our two societies in liaison. In fact there is probably an urgent need for the various N.P.A.'s in Australia to draw more closely together in order to advise the Federal Government on lines of action in relation to disbursement of Federal funds throughout the country as a whole. We are very grateful that your Association has taken the lead in this regard.

Using the grant of \$7000 recommended by the Task Force on the National Estate, our Association has recently appointed a young lawyer as Executive Secretary. He will operate from an office in the Sydney Conservation Centre established by the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales for liaison and communication between conservation societies in New South Wales.

You can readily appreciate that the appointee (Peter Prineas) will be operating on a very tight budget and that any arrangements between our two Associations that would lead to mutual assistance would be worthwhile. It is true that the voice of the nation's capital may have little impact in Macquarie Street, but there is of course a number of ways to achieve the same end, which you may well be able to exploit by way of a man on the spot. Maybe you have need for research within the corridors of the State Government Departments in Sydney?

Might I suggest that we kick this idea around for a few months to see if anything worthwhile should emerge?

Yours sincerely,

David Tranter

Honorary Secretary

National Parks Association
of N.S.W.

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS IN N.P.A. LIBRARY

Report on the problem of the crown of thorns starfish.
Parliamentary paper No. 34.

Report on wildlife conservation. House of Representatives Select
Committee, Canberra, A.G.P.S. 1972.

House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation.
Conservation and commercial exploitation of kangaroos.
Canberra, 1971.

Report of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife
Conservation (Fox Report) 1972.

National Parks Committee, Report of N.S.W. Sub-Committee Australian
Academy of Science.

Proposal to establish a biological survey of Australia : a report.
Australian Academy of Science.

Bad Luck, Dead Duck: report of INSPECT 1970, edited by Roger M.
Gifford and Peter Ellyard, Dalton, 1971.

Black Mountain A.C.T. Post Office Tower.
Environmental impact statement. Australian Post Office.

Black Mountain Reserve.
Preliminary Development and Management Plan.
Dept. of Interior Conservation Series No. 1, 1972.

Costal Development Seminar, Coff's Harbour, N.S.W., 19-21 June 1970.
Publ. jointly by the University of New England, Department of
University Extension and the National Trust of Australia. (N.S.W.)
1970.

Vegetation mapping in relation to ecological interpretation and
management in the Kosciusko alpine area. D. J. Wimbush and A. B.
Costin.
CSIRO Division of Plant Industry,
Technical paper No. 32. Melbourne, 1973.

A.C.F. Conservation Directory, 1974.

Kosciusko National Park - Draft Plan of Management.
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney, 1973.

Black Mountain Reserve: preliminary development and management plan.
M.A. Elliott and J.S. Douglas. Department of the Interior conservation
series No. 1. A.G.P.S., Canberra 1972.

Tropical Queensland : a natural history of Australia vol. 1
S. & K. Breeden, Collins, Sydney, 1970.

Australia's South East : a natural history of Australia vol. 2
S. & K. Breeden, Collins, Sydney, 1972.

Canberra Botanic Gardens.
Dept. of the Interior, Canberra, 1970.

Wildflowers of the Australian Capital Territory.
T. & G. Chippendale,
Jacaranda Pr., Milton, Q., 1972.

Australian Conservation Foundation Special Publication No. 6
Parkville, 1970.

Field-List of the Birds of Canberra and District.
2nd ed. Canberra Ornithologists Group, Canberra, June 1971.

Australian rain-forest trees. 3rd ed. W. & D. Francis
A.G.P.S., Canberra 1970.

Nature Conservation in Victoria.
Judith Frankenberg.

Pictorial encyclopaedia of Australian wildlife.
H. & C. Frauca. Periwinkle, Melb., 1970.

Discovering Monaro:
W. & K. Hancock. Cambridge 1972.

Australian birds.
R. Hill. Nelson 1970.

Proposed plan for the Preservation and Development of the
Kosciusko State Park.

Lake Pedder - Why a national park must be saved.
Lake Pedder Action Committee (Victoria Branch) 1972.

Landscape Architecture in Conservation : Institute of Architects,
Biennial Conference, 2nd, Adelaide S.A., 1971.

Molonglo Parkway - Canberra.
National Capital Development Commission, Canberra 1973.

Molonglo Parkway Environmental Impact Statement.
National Capital Development Commission, Canberra 1973.

Australia's Wildflowers.
M. Morcombe, Lansdowne, Melbourne 1970.

Mountain Slopes and Plains : the fauna and flora of the
Australian Capital Territory.
Dept. of the Interior and N.P.A. (ACT), Canberra 1971.

Urban America : the expert looks at the city. Voice of America
Forum Lectures. May 1970.
Ed. D.P. Moynihan.

Proceedings of National Conservation study Conference, Nov. 1973.

National Parks and Man : A Symposium,
Cunningham's Gap July 1970. N.P.A. of Q'ld., Brisbane 1970.

Wildflowers and native plants protection act, 1927.
New South Wales Parliament.

New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1967.

Proposal for a Northern National Park, N.T.

- (1) Report of Planning Team
- (2) Plan of Management, N.T.

Notes on a proposal for a National Park in the Alligator River area of the North of the Northern Territory. Alice Springs, 1972.

Process and Problems of Selective Conservation : A Seminar, Centre for Continuing Education.

The fight for the forests. R. & V. Routley, A.N.U. School of Social Sciences. Canberra 1973.

Shame of Western Port : Speculator's dream, environmental nightmare. The Save Western Port Coalition, 1971.

Tweed Range and Levers Plateau for National Parks, by the Border Ranges Preservation Society.

Summary Report of Australian Delegation to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm 5-16 June, 1972.

Nature protection in Europe. Leonard Webb, Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, Sydney.

OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

See separate insert.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Contributions for the next issue of the Bulletin should reach Bruce Ward by November 1.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following - Mr. & Mrs. A. Painz, Prof. J.D. Ovington and family, Mr. & Mrs. S. Doyle and family, Mr. D. Balfour, Miss A. Cooper, Mr. C. Pavich, Dr. Burch, Miss J. Skinner, Mrs. J. Holden, Mr. & Mrs. N. Bancroft and family, Miss C. Bradfield, Mr. & Mrs. W. Seeger, Miss B. Stallybrass, C. Campbell-Smith.

KAKADU AND URANIUM

In 1964 the Woolwonga Wildlife Reserve was established east of the South Alligator River, and a much larger adjoining area of 3,250 sq km was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1972. In 1971 two areas totalling 333 sq km were declared reserves from mining. In 1965 the Northern Territory Reserves Board proposed the establishment of a national park of about 5,180 sq km in the Alligator Rivers region, and in December last year the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention to establish a national park there called Kakadu. It will cover about 3,750 sq km immediately west of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve. Two years ago, in May 1972, the Government and the mining industry agreed to jointly sponsor a wide-ranging scientific study of the area. The Department of the Northern Territory and the Australian Mining Industry Council have now distributed a review report of the study, which is not widely available.

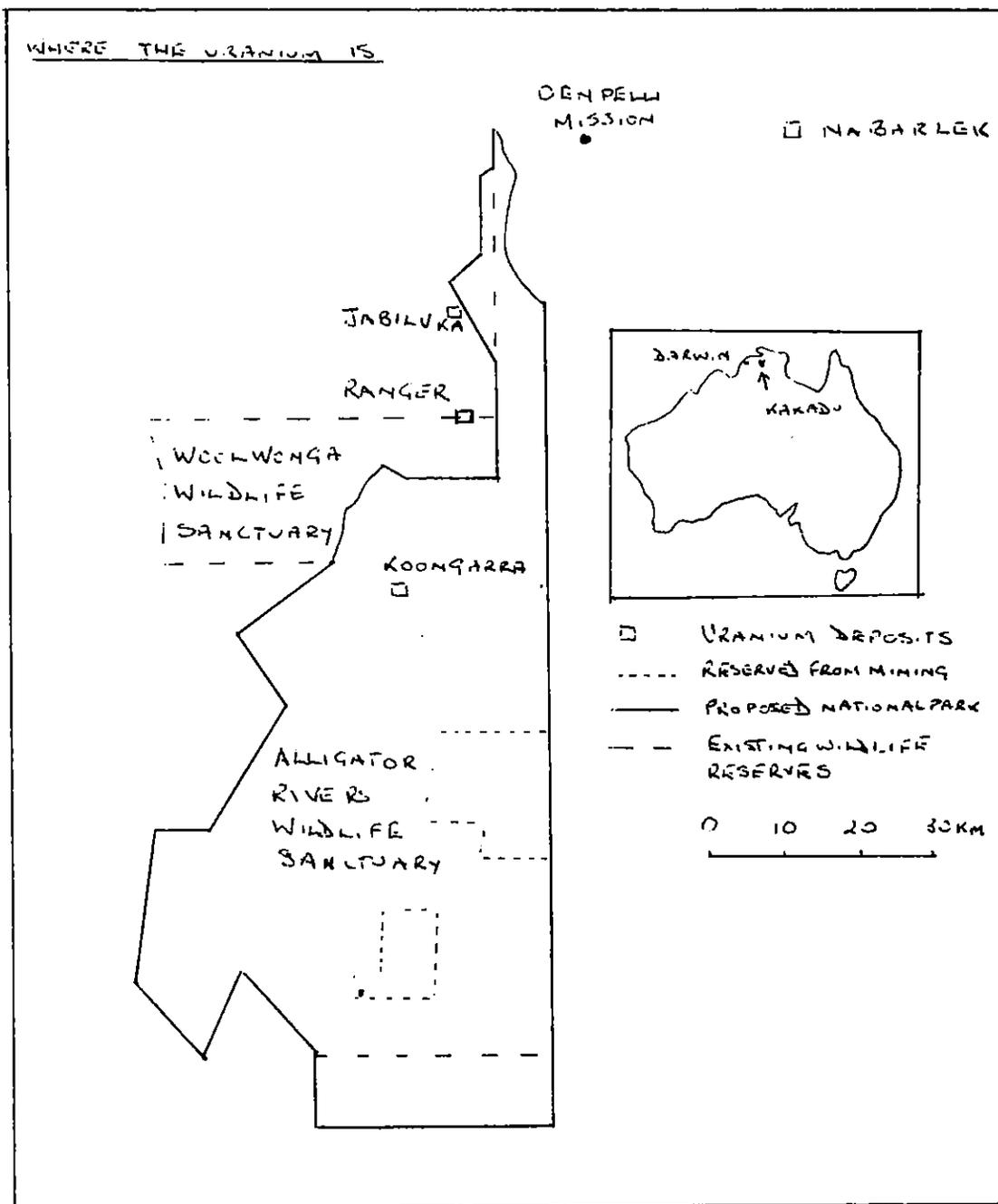
The four major Uranium discoveries in the region, and their stated reserves at the time the report was written, are:

*Nabarlek, about 270 km east of Darwin in the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve, held by Queensland Mines Ltd., stated reserves 9,400 tonnes of U_3O_8 in exceptionally high-grade ore

*Ranger, about 65 km south-west of Nabarlek, held by a joint venture of Peko Mines N.L. and Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Australasia Ltd., stated reserves about 80,000 tonnes U_3O_8 (possible reserves could boost this figure).

*Koongarra, about 24 km south-south-west of Ranger in Wildlife Sanctuary, held by Noranda Australia Ltd.; the company has not issued any assessment of reserves but considers the deposit viable

*Jabiluka, about 24 km north of Ranger, held by Pancontinental Mining Ltd., stated reserves about 3,400 tonnes U_3O_8 ; drilling 500 m east has encountered a new large deposit.



The report points out that its task was not 'to make judgments between economic, cultural or aesthetic values'. It says: 'The study committee considers that the information obtained by the Environmental Fact Finding Study is adequate for general regional environmental assessments and land use policy making. In terms of government policy, each significant project involving the use of land, be it tourism, mining, pastoral development, conservation, town site or highway construction or power distribution, will need to be the subject of detailed environmental studies. A continuing monitoring of some physical and biological parameters of the eco-systems involved will be needed for many development projects.'

The preceding paragraphs came from an article entitled 'The Uranium Province prepares for development'. It will appear in the first issue of 'Ecos', CSIRO's new quarterly environmental magazine. This will appear at the end of August, and the NPA will automatically receive a copy.

B.L.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: Western Arnhem Land escarpment - a dominating feature of the proposed Kakadu National Park. Photo: Bob Story

Bottom: Harney's marsupial mouse - known only from the Western Arnhem Land escarpment. Photo: Ed. Slater

NPA OUTINGS

SEPTEMBER

7th, 8th, Saturday, Sunday
Dingo Flat
Camp at John Schunke's Property
Walks and general activities in the area.
Meet at Uriarra Homestead at 10.30 a.m.
Leader - John Schunke 489828
(Contact John or Ian Currie re conditions Friday 6th)

15th, Sunday
Devil's Peak
Medium level walk to summit.
Meet at Uriarra Homestead.
Leader - Lyn Richardson 480666
Pat Jeffress 818765

21st, 22nd, Saturday, Sunday
Bundanoon
Camp at Bundanoon
Walks in area to look at wildflowers.
Meet at Bundanoon railway station at 11.30 a.m.
Leader - Ian Currie 958107
Julie Henry 708539

28th, Saturday
Black Mountain
Afternoon walk in reserve to look at flora.
Meet at Belconnen Way entrance to reserve at 2 p.m.
Leader - Edna Watson 816601

OCTOBER

5th, 6th, 7th, Saturday, Sunday, Monday
Mount Clear
Camp at Mount Clear
Walks to Explore area.
Meet at Honeysuckle Creek turn-off on Naas Road at 11 a.m.
Leader - Bill Watson 816601

OCTOBER (continued)

13th, Sunday

Billy Billy Rocks

Hard walk to Billy Billy Rocks from Tidbinbilla reserve.

Alternative easy walk provided for.

Meet at Tidbinbilla information centre at 9 a.m.

Leader - Garry Madaris 488003

19th, 20th, Saturday, Sunday

Araluen Valley

Camp at Keith Green's property.

Walks around valley and along creek.

Meet at North Araluen at 10.30 a.m.

Leader - Keith Green (phone) North Araluen 2R

Andrew Fordham 818500

26th, Saturday

Black Mountain

Afternoon walk in reserve to look at flora.

Meet at Belconnen Way entrance to reserve at 2 p.m.

Leader - George Chippendale 812454

NOVEMBER

3rd, Sunday

Big Hole, Braidwood

Easy walk to look at Big Hole and Marble Arch.

Shoalhaven river has to be crossed by a ford.

Meet at Braidwood war memorial at 10.30 a.m.

Leader - Bill Adams 487584

9th, 10th, Saturday, Sunday

Mount Kelly

Pack walk to Mt. Kelly, camping overnight at summit.

Alternative day walks provided. Camping at forestry hut at Gudgenby.

Meet at crossing of Gudgenby river near homestead at 10. a.m.

Leader - Bill Adams 487584

NOVEMBER (continued)

23rd, 24th, Saturday, Sunday
Budawangs
Camp at Cockpit Creek.
Medium walks in area.
Meet at Braidwood war memorial at 10 a.m.
Leader - Bob Story 812174

31st, Sunday
Cotter dam
Walk around slopes bordering the Cotter dam.
Meet at Cotter Kiosk at 12 noon.
Leader - Ian Currie 958112

DECEMBER

7th, 8th, Saturday, Sunday
Kiandra
Medium walk to Nine Mile Diggings. Overnight camping.
Camping equipment will be transported from Kiandra in a
4-wheel-drive vehicle.
Meet at Kiandra (No time yet available).
Leader - Pat Jeffress 818765

14th, Saturday
Christmas Party
At Blue Range Hut again. Sheet music will be provided.
Meet at Blue Range Hut at 3 p.m.
Leader - Ian Currie (if sober) 958112

GENERAL MEETINGS

At 8 p.m. Griffin Centre, Room 1

SEPTEMBER

19th, Thursday

National Parks of New Guinea

Mr. N. Gare

OCTOBER

17th, Thursday

Ayers Rock

Dr. M.T. Tanton

NOVEMBER

21st, Thursday

Forestry caught in the crossfire

Dr. D.A.N. Cromer



National Parks Association outings summary

SEPTEMBER

7	Saturday	Dingo Flat	Camp
8	Sunday		
15	Sunday	Devil's Peak	Walk
21	Saturday	Bundanoon	Camp
22	Sunday		
28	Saturday	Black Mountain	Walk

OCTOBER

5			
6	Long weekend	Mount Clear	Camp
7			
13	Sunday	Billy Billy Rocks	Walk
19	Saturday	Araluen Valley	Camp
20	Sunday		
26	Saturday	Black Mountain	Walk

NOVEMBER

3	Sunday	Big Hole, Braidwood	Walk
9	Saturday	Mount Kelly	Camp
10	Sunday		
23	Saturday	Budawangs	Camp
24	Sunday		
31	Sunday	Cotter Dam	Walk

Members of the public are welcome. Many walks are suitable for people with families. Anybody interested should phone Ian Currie 958107 (work) or 958112 (home).