

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

INFORMATION FOR WALKS LEADERS

At a meeting of the Activities Committee of the Central Region of the N.P.A. of N.S.W. held on 19th September, 1974, it was decided to circulate the major decisions reached to walks leaders.

1. PERIOD OF WALKS PROGRAMS

The committee decided to program walks over periods of three months, coinciding with the seasons of the year.

2. FORM OF ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

The committee proposed that the Activities Program should be published in the form of a supplement to the N.P.A. Journal, and included in alternate journals. The degree of detail to be published in the supplement will be intermediate between that in the familiar six months Activities Programs of the past and the detailed write-up in the Journal. Exceptions will be made when necessary, i.e. extended trips.

Because of the shorter period covered by the programs, and the method of presentation proposed, it will not be practical to cater for activities outside the program, except in special circumstances.

3. ACTIVITIES BOOK

The committee decided to make an Activities Book available at all General Meetings of Central Region. Leaders attending these meetings will be able to enter details of intended walks directly into the book, thus obviating the need to return the Walks Forms.

4. EASY FULL PACK WALKS

The committee noted the need for more easy full pack weekend walks to cater for the transition from day walking to full pack walking, and it appeals to leaders for activities of this type. Some areas suggested as suited to this grade are:

Myall Lakes, Blue Mountains National Park, Royal National Park, Heathcote State Park, Morton National Park, Beecroft Peninsula.

5. GRADING OF ACTIVITIES

The committee decided that it was desirable to try to achieve a degree of standardisation in the grading of activities. It prepared a tentative guide which follows. Leaders are asked to assess the grading of walks submitted to the program according to this guide where possible. In cases where the guide does not apply, i.e. bicycle trips, canoe trips, ski touring trips, the leader should use his own discretion as to grading. Activities should be graded on the most difficult section.

GUIDE TO GRADING

DAY WALKS

Easy Grade: Distance 10 - 12 km, mainly on tracks across relatively flat terrain. Suited to most people.

Medium Grade: Distance up to 15 km, mainly on tracks, or shorter distances through trackless, open bushland.
Suited to persons of average fitness.

Hard Grade: Distance up to 30 km over relatively easy terrain, or shorter distances over more difficult, trackless or rugged terrain.
Suited to fit persons with walking experience.

FULL PACK WALKS (2 or more days)

Easy Grade: Distance up to 10 - 14 km per day over relatively easy terrain. Suited to persons with some experience of day walks of medium grade.

Medium Grade: Distance up to 14 - 20 km per day, and may involve a few large ascents and descents.
Suited to fit persons with experience in full pack walking, or medium day walks over trackless terrain.

Medium-Hard Grade: As for Medium Grade, but includes rougher terrain, i.e. heavy scrub, rock scrambling or rock hopping.
Suited to fit persons with recent experience in Medium Grade full pack walks.

Hard Grade: Strenuous walks involving long distances or many steep ascents and descents. or over very difficult terrain.
Suited only to very fit persons with a wide experience in bushwalking.

Walks of an exploratory nature in rugged country should be graded hard.

Where applicable, the leader should indicate the suitability or otherwise of the activity for children, first-time walkers, etc.

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

257 High Street,

LISMORE HEIGHTS. N.S.W. 2480

12th January, 1973.

Miss F. Graham,
Hon. Secretary,
Central Region,
National Parks Association of N.S.W.,
77 Peacock Street,
SEAFORTH. N.S.W. 2092

Dear Miss Graham,

Thank you for your letter of the
28th November.

We discussed your letter at our last meeting in December and we note Central Region Committee's comments concerning our Rules. I am sorry that these Rules do not meet your requirements but you will observe that they are based on the Rules of the Milton Branch and we felt that all that was required was a working set of Rules to provide for our meetings and our financial arrangements. In drawing the Rules I did include the objects of the Association but this is the only substantial amendment to the Milton Rules. I would comment on your proposed amendments as follows:-

1. There is nothing in the Milton Rules which refers to the Branch as a Branch of Central Region.
2. The wording of our Rules was designed to overcome the clumsy language in the Milton Rules.
3. There is no such provision in the Milton Rules and the Milton Branch could therefore alter its Rules by a simple majority of its members.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

257 High Street,
LISMORE HEIGHTS. N.S.W. 2480

4th October, 1972.

Miss F. Graham,
Hon. Secretary,
Central Region,
National Parks Association of
New South Wales,
77 Peacock Street,
SEAFORTH. N.S.W. 2092

Dear Miss Graham,

I refer to previous correspondence and advise that a public meeting was held on the 20th September and I enclose a copy of the Minutes of the meeting.

All twenty five persons present at the meeting indicated their willingness to become members of the proposed Branch but I suggest that I will defer forwarding you a list of names and addresses until I receive their membership fees. In this connection it might be noted that we are anxious to keep fees to a minimum and I note from your letter of the 21st August that capitation fees are 50c each member with a charge of \$3.00 each member for the journal. It is our intention to send monthly bulletins to each member of the Branch and accordingly our own cost to run the Branch would be at least \$2.00 per year making the cost to each member on the foregoing basis \$5.50 each year.

We feel that there are some people who may be deterred by this expense and accordingly you might advise whether some members may elect to forego their copy of the journal so reducing their fees to the Association by \$3.00. Whilst the journal contains many matters of considerable interest you will appreciate that a considerable part of the journal is taken up with activities which would be quite impossible for us to attend. You might be good enough to let me have your advice in this connection.

I enclose draft Rules for approval by Central Region Committee and you might be good enough to advise me on the foregoing before our next meeting on the 23rd October.

Yours faithfully,

ENCL.

G.S. MORTON
HON. SECRETARY

National Parks Association of N.S.W.
CENTRAL REGION

77 Peacock Street,
SEAFORTH, NSW, 2092,
~~1st November, 1972.~~
16th Nov 1972

Mr. G.S. Morton,
257 High Street,
LISMORE HEIGHTS. NSW. 2480.

Dear Mr. Morton,

Thank you for your letter of 4th October, reporting on your successful meeting, and I am sorry I have not been able to get a reply to you before your meeting on 23rd October.

We have not had a committee meeting since receipt of your letter, but I have consulted with some of the executive on the question of the cost of the Journal to your members. The Journal is the official organ of the NPA, and we feel it is the Association's major cohesive unit, being the only means of communicating with all members and letting them know what the Association is doing and thinking. Branches are encouraged to contribute material regularly for publication in the Journal, and we suggest that you might like to consider having your monthly bulletins incorporated into the Journal as a regular contribution. This might solve your problem and work to the advantage of all of us.

Material for the Journal needs to be in the hands of the editor (48a Malton Road, Beecroft, 2119) not less than three weeks before the Journal comes out. The deadline dates for next year are -

19th January for February Journal (no Journal in January)
16th February for March Journal
16th March for April Journal
20th April for May Journal
18th May for June Journal
15th June for July Journal
20th July for August Journal
17th August for September Journal
14th September for October Journal
19th October for November Journal
16th November for December Journal.

Your programme of activities should be included in our six-monthly programme, as is done with Berrima District Branch, with details of each activity as it comes up being published in the appropriate Journal.

Our next committee meeting will be on 27th November, and we will then consider giving formal approval to the rules you have submitted, so that the Far North Coast Branch of the N.P.A. may be officially formed.

Yours sincerely,

Flora Graham.
Hon. Secretary,
Central Region, N.P.A.

National Parks Association of N.S.W.
STATE COUNCIL

5 David Avenue,
CARINGBAH. N.S.W. 2229

16th November 1972.

Mr. Geoffrey S. Morton,
257 High Street,
LISMORE HEIGHTS. N.S.W. 2480.

Dear Mr. Morton,

I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the State Council of the National Parks Association of N.S.W.

Correspondence prepared ready to go to you from Miss Flora Graham, Secretary of Central Region, was very kindly forwarded to me for noting. (By the way, this explains the altered date at the head of Miss Graham's letter)

State Council welcomes the news that you and a group of your colleagues are about to form a Branch in the northern part of the State, and wishes you well in your future work for the National Parks, Nature Reserves and other natural areas of your locality.

We concur in Miss Graham's remarks to you, and do hope that you see your way clear to join forces with us under the normal terms and subscriptions. I believe most sincerely you will find N.P.A. Journal a valuable organ for all members.

There is also the hope that in due course a member of your Branch may be elected to a seat on State Council, the top policy making body of the Association.

As a matter of great interest to you and your members I can reveal (in strict confidence) that, at a recent meeting of the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, it was resolved: "That as soon as possible the Service give consideration to the many apparent and spectacular National Park proposals which could arise on the Northern Tablelands and the eastern escarpments between Barrington Tops National Park and Mt. Warning State Park". The implications for a Branch of the N.P.A. located at Lismore are both obvious and exciting.

With kind regards and best wishes for the future of your group,

Yours sincerely,
NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

Paul H. Barnes
(P. H. BARNES) State President.

Dedicated to the welfare of National Parks of to-day and to-morrow

1924

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National Parks Association of N.S.W.



CENTRAL

REGION

77 Peacock Street,
SEAFORTH, 2092,
28th November, 1972.

Mr. G.S. Morton,
257 High Street,
LISMORE HEIGHTS. NSW. 2480.

DEar Mr. Morton,

Further to our previous correspondence, Central Region Committee at its meeting last night was very pleased to hear of the progress made in the formation of your Branch. Our President, Mr. Paul Barnes, told us of his telephone conversation with you when you were in Sydney recently.

The Committee considered the rules submitted, and has approved, subject to some minor amendments, which are set out hereunder:-

- (1) It was considered that there should be some mention of the fact that the proposed Branch is to be a Branch of Central Region, and so it was suggested that another heading be inserted after your Rule No.1, as follows:

Rule 2. Organisation.

The Far North Coast Branch is a Branch of Central Region of the National Parks Association of N.S.W.

If this is acceptable to you, then we further suggest that the word "organisation" in Rule 1 be changed to "Branch".

It will then, of course, also be necessary to alter the numbers of the remaining rules.

- (2) With regard to your Rule 8, Finance, (under the new numbering if adopted it would be Rule 9), it was suggested that the wording of the last sentence was not clear and should preferably read: "... shall be signed by any two of the President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer".
- (3) With regard to your Rule 9, Amendment to Rules, (with the new numbering it would be Rule 10), it was considered that a clause should be added - "provided that any such amendment be not operative until ratified by Central Region Committee".

When you have had the opportunity to consider these suggestions would you please let us know whether you find them acceptable.

We would be very pleased if it were possible for a representative of your Branch to attend our Committee meetings as an observer if the meeting date happened to fall at a time when you or some other member was in Sydney. So that you will know when the meetings are held, I am enclosing a copy of the current directory of office bearers and meeting dates.

With best wishes for the future of the Branch,

Yours sincerely,

Flora Graham.
Hon. Secretary, Central Region,
National Parks Association of NSW.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

- 18th April Monthly Meeting. To be held in the Conference Room, Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, Keen Street, Lismore at 7.45 p.m.
- 20-23rd April Easter Camp. Girraween National Park. The Park is reached by turning off the Tenterfield-Stanthorpe Road at Wyberba approximately 20 miles north of Tenterfield. For further information contact the leader, Peter Mylrea.
- 29th April Mt. Warning National Park. An easy one-day walk. We meet at the foot of the mountain at 10.00 a.m. We will walk to the summit for lunch and explore the environs. Private transport. Leader, John Tozer.
- 6th May Wiangarie State Forest. A one-day excursion to investigate the area. We will visit Bar Mountain or Lomax Lookout depending on the weather. We meet at Cawongla Post Office at 10.00 a.m. Private transport. Leader, Ross Dicker.
- 13th May Mt. Nardi. A one-day walk in the Nightcap Range. We meet opposite the hotel in Nimbin at 9.30 a.m. Private transport. Leader, Graeme Fraser.
- 17th May Monthly Meeting. To be held in the Conference Room, Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education, Keen Street, Lismore at 7.45 p.m.

WIANGARIE STATE FOREST

The forest is located in the Tweed Range 54 road miles from Lismore, approximately 50 miles by road from Murwillumbah and 35 miles in a direct line from the Coast. It can be reached from the east by a logging road through Lillian Rock on the Kyogle-Murwillumbah Road but this road can only be negotiated by two wheel drive vehicles in dry weather. This road leads to Bar Mountain where logging activities are presently taking place. The main access road is through Wiangarie on the Kyogle-Woodenbong Road and this road leads directly to the forest. It is an all weather road leading to a point known as Lomas Lookout about 14 miles from Wiangarie.

The northern boundary of the forest is the Queensland-New South Wales border joining the Lamington National Park. The eastern boundary is the escarpment of the Tweed Range.

Byway of general description the topography and vegetation is very similar to the Lamington National Park and the description of Lamington given by Morcombe in National Parks : The East and the photograph with the description fairly accurately describe the forest.

The flora is mainly wet sclerophil below 2000 feet and above 2000 feet temperate rain forest. A singularly unique rain forest is found above 2000 feet and mosses, lichens and orchids occur in profusion. For a full description of the flora see the paper by Saur referred to in the reference list.

Nothing is known of the fauna apart from the bird population which consist of the forest species referred to in the enclosed bird list. It is understood that Dr. J. Kikkawa of the University of Queensland has made out a survey of the area.

The geology of the area is significant and unique. Magnificent views can be obtained from the escarpment of the old Tweed volcano and Tweed Valley to the ocean.

Further descriptions of the forest can be obtained from the enclosed papers and articles. It will be noted from the photographic copy of the Forestry records that the Minister's contention relating to regeneration and damage to the forest by logging is not correct and for a detailed analysis and the effect of logging in rain forest and the species to be found in the Wiangarie which in fact

exceed those of any other rain forest, are to be found in Baur's paper. It is suggested that this paper be carefully studied.

The Commission proposes to continue Bar Mountain road and it is suggested that the provision of roads in the forest is greatly detrimental. Roads because of the terrain and high rainfall are expensive to make and maintain and the quarry shown in the photograph is used for the purpose of road making materials. The roads lead to further erosion and facilitate the taking away of orchids. It might be observed that the Forestry Commission does not permit logging within two chains of its roads and therefore persons driving along the roads gain an entirely false impression of the logging operations which are taking place in the forest.

There is no doubt in the minds of the members of the Far North Coast Branch that the forest should become a National Park and as quickly as possible. The reasons are not only because of the unique nature of the rain forest ecosystem, the scenery and the geological interest of the area, but more importantly because there are no national parks of any magnitude in the North Coast area. The small National Park at Mt. Warning is being rapidly destroyed by over-use. A bitumen road leads to the foot of Mt. Warning and an easy graded track of about three miles in length leads to the summit. The walk to the summit is extremely popular with tourists from the nearby coastal resorts and many people, by not keeping to the track, are rapidly destroying the vegetation. There is obviously demand for other recreational areas and if these were provided at Wiangarie the traffic at Mt. Warning could well be reduced.

References:

Nature & Distribution of Rain Forests in N.S.W.
by G.N. Baur.

Aust. Journal of Botany 5, 190 (1957).

Rain Forest Trees of Australia,
by W.D. Francis.

(Wildlife Conservation. Report from the House of
Representatives Select Committee, pages 31-37.)

Maps:

1:63,360 Murwillumbah, Mt. Lindsay, Bonalbo, Nimbin.

1:50,000 Nimbin, Etrick, Tyalgum, Grevillia.

N.R.M.A. Far North Coast.

THE BORDER RANGES PRESERVATION SOCIETY

This Society was formed at Bar Mountain on the 25th January 1973 by Messrs. Maslen, Brown, Gasteen and Meek. Maslen, an Honorary Ranger and member of the Native Orchid Society was asked by Brown to accompany him to the forest to investigate the reported taking of orchids. Brown invited two visitors, Gasteen and Meek to accompany them. Whilst on the mountain they observed logging operations and decided to form the Society.

Maslen has since dissociated himself from the group. Gasteen is a retired farmer who once owned a farm on the Tweed, Meek is a very elderly gentleman and Brown is the Health Surveyor of the Mullumbimby Council. Brown appears to have some local followers but the Society does not have any rules, there is no list of members, there are no books, formal meetings are not held and no minutes are kept.

AREAS WHICH NEED INVESTIGATION

1. BUSBY'S FLAT:

300 acres of Red Gum forest to be set aside as a nature reserve. Crown Land.

2. PADDY'S FLAT:

An area of approximately 20,000 hectares on the Upper Clarence, having a frontage to the Clarence River. This area is one of the last remaining having a river frontage and it consists of Red Gum alluvial flats and an open forest comprising Silky Oak and Iron Bark. The area is renowned for its water birds. It has a frontage to the Clarence River and Tooloom Creek, comprising Dry ~~Sc~~ sclerophil forest with dry rain forest and provides one of the few points of public access to the river in a natural state. It would be an excellent area for camping and walking. The area also has an historical value as it is part of the Tooloom Gold Fields and has archaeological value by virtue of aboriginal rock carvings. It is presently Crown Land, but private applications are pending.

3. ANGOURIE:

Includes Digger's Camp and Minnie Waters.

4. JERUSALEM CREEK:

To include the Iluka Rain Forest.

5. WIANGARIE ESCARPMENT:

The Escarpment from the Tweed Pinnacle to Limpenwood adjoining Wiangarie State Forest. It is vacant Crown Land.

6. LEVERS PLATEAU:

Adjoins Wiangarie and includes Rosebery State Forest and part of McPherson Range.

7. WALLABY CREEK:

Tooloom.

SMALLER AREAS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Boat Harbour | 8. Blue Knobb 1. |
| 2. Davis Scrub | 9. Night Cap Range 2 |
| 3. Booyong | 10. Whian Whian State Forest |
| 4. Moore Park (near Broken Vale) | 11. Uralba State Forest |
| 5. Tuckean Swamp | 12. Boundary Creek |
| 6. South Ballina | 13. Broken Head (extension) |
| 7. Newrybar Swamp | |



Telephone: 660.0975

New South Wales Environment Centre,
263b Broadway,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2007.

26th November, 1974.

The Honorary Secretary,
Far North Coast Branch,
National Parks Association of N.S.W.,
257 High Street,
LISMORE HEIGHTS. N.S.W. 2480.

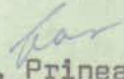
Dear Sir,

I enclose for your information a copy of this Association's recent proposal for a Jerusalem Creek National Park.

It has become the policy of the National Parks Association to circulate copies of its proposals to interested bodies including our local branches in the hope of enlisting wider interest and support for these proposals.

If you have any questions, criticisms or suggestions, we should be pleased to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,


(P. Prineas)
Executive Secretary