



**National Parks Association of the ACT, Inc.**  
**Report to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on  
Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity.**  
**19 June 2022 Esther Gallant PhD, President**

Founded 1960 to lobby for an ACT national park, now approximately 400 members.

**Goals:** to promote environmental awareness and protection in the ACT and Region.

**Landcare:** Work done at the request of land managers includes:

- planting, weeding (including small tree removal), removal of over 5.5km of old agricultural fencing, and surveys, i.e. locating rabbit warrens, invasive plants or horse droppings.
- Monthly work parties throughout the ACT and in the wider region average 500-600 hours per year pre-covid. Only 7 in the last fiscal year for 260 hours.

**Citizen Science:**

- Studies of the behavior and ACT distribution of Rosenburgs Goanna now starting 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- Supported by 3 annual ACT Government grants and our generous donors.
- Dozens of volunteers and several scientists contributing thousands of hours per year.

**Education:**

- Publication of 5 guides to ACT flora & fauna, a book on Namadgi NP and our Bulletin.
- Monthly meetings open to all with lectures on topics relating to the environment.
- Annual sponsorship of an honours student at ANU Fenner School.
- Local nature (flora & fauna) and cultural (Indigenous and European) walks.

**Advocacy:**

- Our initial 24 year campaign for a national park in the ACT!
- Meetings with MLAs and invitations for them to speak at our meetings.
- Tours for MLAs to raise awareness of critical issues such as feral animals and unsafe park roads (attached).
- Letter writing and submissions on government proposals for development and or environmental protection.
- Participating in demonstrations – recently at Lawson Grasslands.
- Collaboration with ACT Conservation Council and other environmental groups both locally and nationally (attached – Bluetts Block/Piney Ridge).

**Outreach (attached):**

- A semi-annual U3A course presenting the opportunities for environmental engagement.
- Cultural & nature walks at ACT Heritage Festival.
- Occasional multiday seminars on regionally relevant topics such as bushfire management.
- Social media environmental post followers, FB: 4,925, Twitter: 1,124, Instagram: 1,715.

**Outdoor activities:**

- 1-3 weekly bush walks from short strolls to strenuous all-day events.
- Camping trips either back country or car camping, snow shoeing and kayaking.
- Semi annual art week in Namadgi's Gudgenby Valley with the results exhibited annually at the Visitor Centre.

Online: <https://www.npaact.org.au/>