

## Community biodiversity survey manual launch

The Minister for the Environment, Pam Allan, recently launched the first edition of the *Community Biodiversity Survey Manual* at the Royal National Park Visitor Centre. The manual was produced jointly by NPA and the NPWS to assist community groups with conducting biodiversity surveys in their local areas.

The launch was held on ??, and speakers included Leanne Willis (from the NPWS) and NPA President Tom Fink. Around 60 people attended, from government agencies, catchment management committees and the NPWS. Previous participants in NPA biodiversity surveys were also present.

NPA has organised several community biodiversity surveys in recent years (see August NPJ). The surveys have involved volunteers working with scientific experts. They have not only proved to be a popular introduction to scien-

tific field work, but have also contributed to the knowledge of the areas surveyed. Project Coordinator Claire Carlton stated "... the surveys are conducted in areas under threat or requiring further investigation and they provide valuable information to decision makers and land managers."

Since the introduction of the community biodiversity surveys by NPA, several other community groups have shown an interest in conducting surveys. The manual

provides detailed information on organising and conducting surveying, as well as giving information on various survey techniques. Pam Allan commended NPA and the manual's editor and principal author, Claire Carlton, for the production of this valuable community resource.

The *Community Biodiversity Survey Manual* is available for \$25 from NPA Head Office. Phone Kristi on 02 9233 4660 for further details.

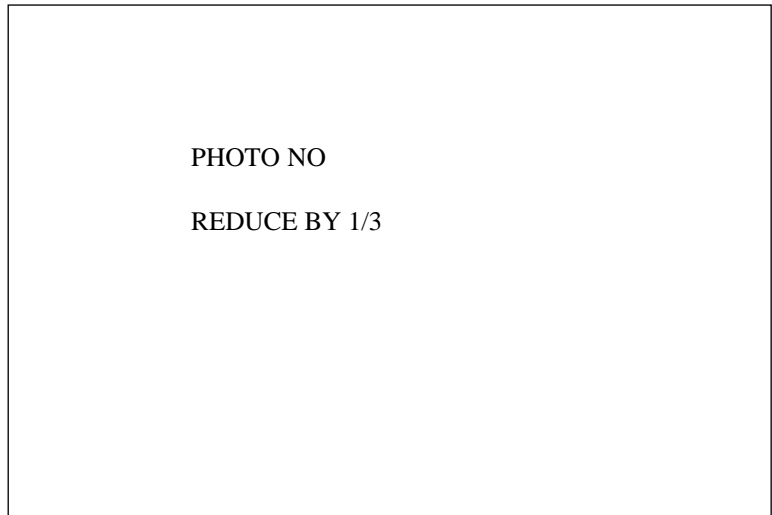
**Tim Carroll  
Macarthur Branch**

*The Biodiversity Committee wishes to extend a big thank you to Tim Carroll for his efforts in organising the launch of the manual.*

## Biodiversity surveys Where next?

The Biodiversity Committee would like to let all keen surveyors know that Claire Carlton, Biodiversity Survey Coordinator, is having a break for the second half of 1998 and there will be no surveys.

ALAN HOWSE



Claire Carlton, Patricia Meagher (centre) *et al* at the launch

## Western Project expands

NPA would like to extend its great appreciation to Visy and The Pratt Foundation for a very generous donation towards our conservation work. The donation will contribute to funding the western project (run jointly with World Wide Fund for Nature) to work with landholders to better conserve their wetlands. This may lead to nominations of significant wetlands in western NSW for protection under the Ramsar treaty.

Visy is a major paper recycling company, such as for producing cardboard [to be expanded]. The Pratt Foundation is a philanthropic institution with an interest in environmental work [check].

The Western Project also has a new part-time project officer, Vivienne Clare. She has been employed to expand expertise within the project and her work will include preparing a response to the Western Lands Act Review. Vivienne has lived in the mallee country, and has worked for the Victorian conservation agency.

JOHN CARLTON

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Tim Carroll, Claire Carlton & Beth Michie at the launch

Three Valleys Branch are planning a survey in July next year near Kempsey. Another is planned for the mid north-west, near the Queensland border, for possibly early next year.

Please contact NPA Head Office on 02 9233 4660 if you want to be put on the NPA Biodiversity Survey Mailing List.

**Claire Carlton**  
**Biodiversity Survey Coordinator**

## NPA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of NPA was held on Saturday 1 August 1998 in Sydney. There was some change in the State Executive and the current office-bearers are:

President: Tom Fink  
Senior Vice-President: Stephen Lord  
Junior Vice-President: Anne Reeves  
Treasurer: Kathy McCourt

The other Executive members are Mike Thompson, John Macris and Beth Michie. The position of Secretary is currently vacant.

## Tamworth-Namoi success

A Final Determination has been made for listing of the Ben Halls Gap National Park Sphagnum Moss Cool Temperate Rainforest Community. The Determination was made by the NSW Scientific Committee and the sphagnum moss community has now been listed as an endangered ecological community under Schedule 1 Part 3 of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The community is of a type that was previously widespread on the northern tablelands but is now considered to be rare. It also represents an unusual westerly location. Ironically, the area is considered to be under greater threat since its gazettal as a national park, due to the potential for greater visitation.

It is expected that the determination will lead to methods for protection being included in the plan of management, now being formulated. The Tamworth-Namoi Branch has been working hard for this determination, and is to be congratulated on its efforts.

# Join the NPA!

## NPA Membership Application

I/We would like to join the National Parks Association of NSW Inc. and agree to be bound by the rules of the Association.

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(block letters)

OTHER NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ P'CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

### Annual Membership Fee

(please tick appropriate box/es)

- ADULT \$43       HOUSEHOLD \$48
- CONCESSION \$23 Student/Unwaged/Pension  
(circle appropriate category)
- SCHOOL/LIBRARY \$50     CORPORATE \$200
- DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible)
- OPTIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION  
\$3 per person to Confederation of Bushwalkers  
Insurance Scheme

### Payment Options

I/We enclose cheque/money order for

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

being subscription for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s).

OR please charge my Mastercard/Bankcard/Visa  
(circle appropriate category)

No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept your first copy of the *National Parks Journal* as receipt of membership. A separate receipt will be issued for donations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please post this form, with payment, to:  
National Parks Association of NSW Inc.,  
PO Box A96, Sydney South NSW 1235.  
OR for credit card payments ring Kristi at  
the NPA Office on 02 9233 4660.**