Welcome to the Christmas edition of PAWA Press

Beechwood Cottage, The Basin, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Beechwood Cottage (pictured above) where the first PAWA AGM was held this year (see inside for more information).

Merry Christmas to you all. Hope you have been good all year and Santa rewards you with some extra special gifts.

It has been a big year with the launching of PAWA and the amazing Sean Willmore’s mammoth project, the Thin Green Line (see inside for more details).

A big thank you to all of you who joined up in 2007, we would like to see more memberships to PAWA in 2008 including ACT memberships, so get talking, print out PAWA Press and leave it in your office, in the coffee room, at the local library, your local university... TAFE....it all helps to spread the word.

This Christmas edition is jam packed, including information on the PAWA committee, with some bio’s on who’s who in the zoo. Our new Chair, Dave Burns gives a bit if an insight into the direction of PAWA and Tegan Burton provides us with an update on the Amazon Project. Lots of work has been done on this project with Tegan taking off to Brazil next year, so get those donations in. Second hand or new, we will take it!

Read on and find out about the new Aboriginal Tour Guide Training Manual developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The training is at introductory level to help expose Aboriginal people to the tour guiding business. NPWS staff are encouraged to promote and role out the training in their local communities.

There’s also an article on a Rogaing event and some fauna surveys conducted in Sydney.

Keep the articles and any interesting pickies coming in and don’t forget we still need a logo!!!
Hello PAWA,

I’m very humbled to have been elected the first Chairperson of PAWA NSW.

PAWA was first conceived at Wilsons Prom during the 4th IRF Congress, some growth occurred in the preceding years, but it wasn’t until the 5th IRF Congress at Stirling in Scotland, 16 months ago, that saw real progress made. It has been a long gestation, but one worth it when I see the enthusiasm of our committee and members and the ideas which are already taking shape.

This first year has been very much a stop start one. It began with the interim committee drafting and agreeing to a constitution and then actually formalising the incorporation of the Association, creating bank accounts and all the one hundred and one other ancillary mechanisms that goes into getting something like PAWA off the ground. It’s been a very steep learning curve, with a few bumps along the way, but a rewarding journey nonetheless and I’d very much like to give my wholehearted thanks to Steve, Tegan, Michele and Chris for their patience and diligence that without which we probably wouldn’t have a PAWA now.

All the preceding hard work culminated in the AGM at The Basin on 22 September, which can, I think, rightly be considered our date of birth when we now have a duly elected committee to take the association into the future.

In the forth coming year I’d like to see some progress being made towards our identity becoming better known and recognised in the industry and PAWA’s presence on the internet.

I’d like to congratulate the rest of the committee, Duncan Scott-Lawson, Tegan Burton, Steve Woodhall, Michele Cooper, Chris Keyser, Travis Roberts and Sheen Mohekey for their election and hope that we can all make PAWA into a strong and unifying association that can truly further the lot of the protected area worker in NSW and make some meaningful difference to our fellow workers in other parts of the world that can benefit from our experience and good fortune.
Camp-out and AGM

From Tegan Burton...

On an overcast and cool Saturday in September, members of the recently formed Protected Area Workers Association of NSW met at The Basin, Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Sydney for the inaugural Camp-out and Annual General Meeting.

I think everyone would agree the first meeting that afternoon was a marathon effort, at four hours, but it WASN’T all admin and resulted in some great outcomes. Some of the highlights include:
- voting in of the first PAWA committee
- thanks to Tony Fleming for his support in establishing PAWA
- endorsement of a project of support and skills exchange with indigenous Rangers of the Brazilian Amazon
- PAWA to sponsor a Ranger from a developing region to the IRF 6th World Congress in Bolivia 2009, funds permitting – let us know where you think we should start looking
- PAWA to sponsor teams in outdoor endurance events held in protected areas (eg NavShield, Trailwalker) – put in a proposal if you want PAWA support
- WE NEED A LOGO!

Other things we need to look at – recruitment!!! Fundraising!!! Get in touch with a committee member with your ideas.
  Dave Burns (babaji@aanet.com.au), Duncan Scott-Lawson (duncan.scottlawson@environment.nsw.gov.au)
  Steve Woodhall (dunnart@tpg.com.au), Tegan Burton (tegan.burton@environment.nsw.gov.au),
  Michele Cooper (michele.cooper@environment.nsw.gov.au), Chris Keyzer (chris.keyser@environment.nsw.gov.au),
  Travis Roberts (travis.roberts@environment.nsw.gov.au), Sheen Mohekey (deadpell@internode.on.net)

Future meetings, so you can book them into your diary . . .
  Next general meeting – 29/30 March Southern Highlands
  Next AGM – September 2008, with details to be confirmed June 2008

Members can access the minutes on the PAWA Google Groups discussion page at http://groups.google.com/group/pawa-nsw, or contact the secretary Tegan Burton at tegan.burton@environment.nsw.gov.au

Many thanks to those who were able to attend, and we look forward to seeing all our members at the next meeting.

Congratulations to the PAWA Committee of October 2007:

Chair: Dave Burns
Vice-chair: Duncan Scott-Lawson
Treasurer: Steve Woodhall
Secretary: Tegan Burton
Extension Officer: Michele Cooper
Committee Members: Chris Keyzer, Travis Roberts, Sheen Mohekey
Public Officer: Steve Woodhall
Hi, my name’s David Burns and I’ve been asked to give up a bit of a bio to let you know who you have as a Chair. After a full and varied existence on life’s road, I found myself at Charles Sturt Uni in 1989 studying Parks and Recreation where I had the great pleasure in meeting many people who had already knew the pleasure of working in protected areas in Australia. And it was through one of these that I heard about a temp job going in Sydney. I started with NPWS in early 1992 as a Temp Park Worker building a walking track in Sydney Harbour NP. Over the next four and a half years I had some 10 temporary positions in and around Sydney, including a stint at Hurstville, doing whatever I could to learn what this jobs all about. I finally managed to get a permanent position as Ranger in Grafton in 1996 where I worked in southern Yuragir NP for 3.5 years before heading west for six years looking after Malleefowl in Mallee Cliffs NP and visitors at Mungo NP. Three years ago I moved again, this time to Braidwood in the southern tablelands to work in the escarpment parks of the far south coast.

I’ve been a member of the ARF since 1996, but regretfully didn’t get to an IRF congress until Wilsons Prom in 2003 when the stories and personalities of the 350 odd Rangers from around the world truly were inspirational...I decided that I had to do more. Certainly puts your life into perspective when you hear about the life and death struggle that is the working life of many of the worlds Rangers.

It was at the following congress in Scotland that there was enough other NSW people to be equally inspired that has resulted in the creation of PAWA, and that I have had a small part in getting the Assoc off the ground, I am pleased........the hard work now begins.

Hi everyone

I went through a not so misspent youth growing up in Castle Hill on the edge of Sydney when it was all market gardens and horse paddocks instead of McMansion central as it is now. I developed my interest in the outdoors through years of camping, rock climbing and caving as a kid.

Working as a park ranger started appealing to me after I saw a tv interview with Marg Bailey when she based in Ku-ring-gai NP. So when I left school in the late 70’s I did an associate diploma in land management at Mitchell College of Advanced Education in Bathurst. I started with the NPWS in 1984 doing temporary and contract work at the Wilberforce office working on the Plan of Management for Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Kanangra Boyd National Parks. In late 1984 I scored a permanent position as the Technical Assistant at Koscuiszko NP which was a great eye opener on park management and a lot of fun.

My career as a snow hound was cut short when I scored a permanent Rangers job in Grafton in 1986. So I swapped the cold and snow for the beaches, waves and dolphins of the north coast (a fair trade I think). After nearly 5 years of working in an understaffed district on the north coast, I moved to Bathurst (another understaffed district) in 1990, just in time to miss the north east forest decision process and associated expansion in Service staffing levels (timing hasn’t been one of my greatest life assets).

Part of my rationale for moving to Bathurst was so I could finish my degree which I finally did in 2005 (there’s no point in rushing these things). During my years in Bathurst I’ve had a lot to do with off park conservation, fire management, weeds and fencing. I presently look after a state conservation area, a karst conservation reserve, a nature reserve and an historic site.

Over my working career I’ve been kept sane by taking overseas backpacking holidays every few years. I’ve been lucky enough to travel to some lovely (and not so lovely) parts of the world and see some truly wonderful national parks. These trips have sparked my interest in the international ranger movement. I have been to the last two world
Ranger Congresses in Wilson’s Promontory and Scotland and am busily saving some pesos for the upcoming congress in Bolivia in 2009. I hope to see you there as well!!

Steve Woodhall
Ranger
Macquarie Area
Western Rivers Region

For the past quite a while I’ve been a Ranger in northern Sydney, with the enviable patch of Marramarra NP, Muogamarra NR, Wisemans Ferry and Maroota HS’s and Maroota Ridge SCA. Never heard of them? That’s exactly why if you’re going to be a Ranger in ‘Sydney’ this is the place to be!

So I’ve been playing here for a little longer than I expected, and before that I spent time both as a Field Officer and in the temporary Ranger ratrace. Great way to see a whole range of different places around the state, but it would be a nightmare these days, when you’ve got to put kids on daycare waiting lists two years before you need the care.

Aside from my glorious parks and my gorgeous boy, the thing that keeps me going right now is the challenge of drawing together and supporting my ‘Ranger’ colleagues in NSW, in Australia, and across the world. Yep, that’s it, participating in PAWA and pulling together a project to support indigenous Rangers in the Brazilian Amazon. It’s going to be great working with you all.

Cheers, Sheen

Sheen Mohekey - Committee Member

I joined parks as a fieldie late 98. Wore the company chook for the first time at Ku-ring-gai Chase NP, Basin camp ground. Went from there to the Echo point track crew Bleakheath, Bents Basin, Cumberland Sth and on to Yango then onwards to CC/HR, Yango area where I was made permanent *Yay*. So apart from work my main interests are my handsome little man, hitting people in the head with swords and riding my two wheel death trap...

Cheers, Sheen

Sheen Mohekey - Committee Member

Duncan Scott-Lawson - Vice Chair

For the past quite a while I’ve been a Ranger in northern Sydney, with the enviable patch of Marramarra NP, Muogamarra NR, Wisemans Ferry and Maroota HS’s and Maroota Ridge SCA. Never heard of them? That’s exactly why if you’re going to be a Ranger in ‘Sydney’ this is the place to be!

Travis Roberts - Committee Member

Born in Oz and raised in NZ, with a Japanese husband born in Brazil I am currently getting used to being a stay at home mum with a 5 week old son who will learn to speak kiwi, ozzie, portuguese and japanese.

My uni background involved being deep inside limestone caves for a year or so while I beavered away on a masters. I have worked for Greenpeace and have been with the NPWS for over 13 years working in various roles across the state. I have settled in the North of Sydney as a Neighbour Relations Ranger, with the best colleagues and the best reserves.

Wanting something special before the pikinini, I recently spent 6 months as a volunteer in Vanuatu where we travelled to remote villages, bulding houses and water tanks, teaching youth about HIV Aids awareness and assisting the Fred Hollows Foundation with corrective eye surgeries. Something i recommend everyone to do at some stage in their life.

I am looking forward to a very successful PAWA and achieving many goals including helping people and advancing protected areas.

Ale tata

Chris Keyzer - Committee Member

Tegan Burton - Secretary

Michele Cooper - Extension Officer

Michele Cooper - Extension Officer

Duncan Scott-Lawson - Vice Chair

Travis Roberts - Committee Member

Sheen Mohekey - Committee Member

Chris Keyzer - Committee Member
A new initiative by DECC is the release of the Aboriginal Tour Guide Training Manual

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) first conducted this project in the Hunter Region in 2006. NPWS determined a need for non-Aboriginal people to gain good quality information from the traditional land owners, & Aboriginal people had expressed a desire to be involved in tour guiding. Sixty-five people were trained across the Hunter Region in NSW in a series of two-day programs combining theory & practical learning. The training prepared guides for possible jobs in private tour companies & national parks programs. A positive outcome of the project was that some trainees have gained employment as a result of the program. The project was a major step forward in engaging the wider community in understanding the importance of traditional linkages with the land & respect for the environment.

Funded by the Environmental Trust, the Aboriginal Tour Guide Training Manual 2007 builds on the Hunter project. Incorporating lessons learnt from the this project the Manual has been expanded to include new modules such as a section on the environment & working on NPWS estate.

The aims of the project are to empower local Aboriginal communities building capacity to undertake tour guiding, interpreting their cultural values & highlighting the importance placed on maintaining the environment on NPWS estate & co-managed lands.

The training is structured to suit the needs of the trainees, & contains face to face interpretation methods & principles. A two and half to three day training program has been developed to support these materials.

Participants will learn about: tourism, communication skills, face to face guiding, the National Parks, researching & sharing cultural information, risk assessment, interpretation & local environmental heritage. The training emphases practical skills & is built around field-based learning & simulated tours, thereby providing ‘real’ situations for practice.

The manual also contains an extensive appendices with materials specifically related to Aboriginal tourism & business. Participants will receive a manual & appendices. At the end of the course a certificate of participation will also be awarded.

The Hunter & the 2007 training programs have produced numerous benefits including employment for the trained guides (private sector and within NPWS), stronger working relationships between the NPWS & local community groups & Land Council & Elder groups have expressed an interest in running their own tours in the future. Participants who undertook the training have experienced positive outcomes for their self esteem & personal development.

Secondly, interpretive & educational programs run by local Aboriginal communities ensures authenticity. Stories shared must be the stories of the local people & told by approved local people.

The Aboriginal Tour Guide Training Manual 2007 is an introduction to tour guiding on NPWS estates. The training is a ‘bridge’, introducing people to the tour guiding world. NPWS is currently liaising with Tourism NSW, TAFE, the Department of State and Regional Development & the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to develop the training further, specifically in the areas of accreditation & tourism business development in remote communities & co-managed parks.

Every NPWS local office will receive a copy of the manual in the new year. NPWS staff are encouraged to make contact with local Aboriginal groups and communities to deliver the training. Likewise the NPWS encourages local communities, groups and organisations to contact their closest NPWS office to find out more about the training & use the opportunity to run the course.

“Who better to interpret our environment for tourists than Indigenous People who have developed an understanding & knowledge of their country which can never be duplicated by non-indigenous tour guides.” Lowitija O’Donoghue CBE AM (Successful Tourism at Heritage Places 2001).

Contact Michele Cooper for more information.
Just in case you haven’t heard already, The Thin Green Line is ‘the story of Park Rangers. A frontline story of the human spirit fighting to save what is precious and rare. A story about the future, inspired by hundreds of Park Rangers from around the world, working on the frontline of conservation.’ It is a not for profit documentary filmed and produced by Victorian Ranger Sean Willmore with the aim to ‘expose “The Thin Green Line” in the hope that others will join Park Rangers to save what is endangered.’

The worldwide premiere was held on 31 July 2007, with 315 screenings in 35 countries across the globe including Kenya, Nigeria, Uruguay, Romania, San Francisco, and the Canadian Yukon. NSW had it’s fair share, with public screenings held in the Blue Mountains, Cammeray, Carlingford, Darlinghurst, Gordon, Parramatta, Port Macquarie and Ultimo. PAWA hosted the screening at North Sydney Leagues Club, Cammeray, raising $670 with 63 people attending.

A screening organised by PAWA member Duncan Scott-Lawson at The Edge Cinema at Katoomba was a significant affair, where ‘over 270 people attended the event with over $3000 dollars raised; we were successful in raising the profile of the conservation struggle faced by Rangers throughout the world’. Duncan adds ‘I would like to make special thanks to the Blue Mountains businesses that provided donations, such as Great Tastes at Echo Point, Blackheath Newsagency, NPWS Heritage Centre at Blackheath, Summit Gear at Katoomba, Scenic World and Jenolan Caves, I would also like to thank Aunty Carroll and Lincoln Hall for providing excellent introductions to the screening’.

On other screenings close to home, well, South America actually, 130 kids saw The Thin Green Line in Uruguay and wrote about what a ranger is. In Macapa, Brasil, 25 participants attended an event of presentations followed by the screening, where ‘the film helped the audience to better understand Park Rangers work (risk, services and problems faced in the field).’

If you missed a screening near you, or you would like to host a screening yourself, big or small, PAWA has 2 copies of The Thin Green Line DVD available for loan – just contact PAWA secretary to arrange. The only request is that you use the opportunity to raise funds for The Thin Green Line Foundation Fund, supporting the families of rangers killed or injured in the line of duty, and other ranger support projects . . . as per Sean’s wishes.

More information on The Thin Green Line . . .
www.thingreenline.info
Following our inaugural meeting in September, PAWA is seeking donations of equipment, or funds to purchase equipment, to support the work of indigenous Rangers in the Brazilian Amazon - read on to find out what it’s all about and how you can be involved.

Through Project Amazon, PAWA is working with the Amazon Conservation Team Brazil (ACT Brazil) and the Associação dos Povos Indígenas Tiriyó, Kaxuyana e Txikuyana (APITIKATXI) to build capacity within indigenous communities in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest, supporting the protection of their lands from external threats and sustainable management into the future.

The communities of the Tiriyó and their neighbours live relatively traditional lifestyles in the Parque Indigena do Tumucumaque, a 42 million-hectare reserve in the Tumucumaque mountains. These lands are under constant threat from poachers, drug and weapons trafficking, and illegal mining and logging. With more than 25% of the remaining Amazon being in Indigenous lands (compared to 5% represented in government managed national parks), the active participation of indigenous people is essential to international rainforest conservation.

Initial contact was made at the 5th IRF World Congress (Scotland 2006). Ongoing communications have established a list of equipment needs and also an opportunity for information and skills exchange through a visit to the Brazilian Amazon in September 2008. PAWA is now seeking donations of smaller items, or funds to purchase larger equipment, to support the work of the indigenous Rangers in the Indigenous Park of Tumucumaque.

Importantly, all of this equipment has been specifically identified by the communities, so we know it will actually be used and will provide crucial support for their management activities.

Need to get a chirssy pressie for the person who has everything?

The Christmas gift that gives twice... following Oxfam’s lead. We encourage you to donate some ‘essentials’ for Christmas pressies to the Amazon project. PAWA will send an e-mail informing the recipient of the gift that gave twice.

**Essential equipment:**
- Radio communications – base stations and portables
- Laptops
- Solar panels
- Outboard engines
- Uniforms

**Additional useful equipment:**
- Digital cameras
- GPS units
- Compasses
- Binoculars
- Outboard fuel and avgas

Contact Tegan Burton for more information.
Brazil update (cont from previous page)

PAWA have received feedback from Brazil re-iterating the usefulness of second-hand equipment . . . in their own words:

‘used things, materials, field clothes, are welcome. Used things are easy to transport from one country to another. And here people don’t have problems with used things. Everything is so important for survival in the forest and to do the protection job. ‘Used things can make a great difference, when you have nothing and no clear possibilities.’

Have a look around your workplace or home and see if you have anything that you might not be using any more but that could make a great difference somewhere else . . .
Discovering Wildlife

- Tegan Burton

I have always been more of a plant person. They don’t move – you can find them, pick them, photograph them and look them up. More importantly, without plants there are no animals! (Although a geologist would probably say the same about the rocks and the soil.) More recently, I’ve had an insight into the beauty and excitement of wildlife.

We’ve got a new reserve which even came with a little bit of money, so first job in the list was to find out more about what was in it. Although we contracted the fauna survey out to the Information and Assessment, Department of Environment and Climate Change, I managed to tag along for a couple of field trips, which turned out to be worth so much more than the time it took me away from other things.

We even invited some of the park neighbours to join us for a spotlight. They didn’t see much beyond a microbat (caught earlier and waiting for release) and a Giant Burrowing Frog (which I was really excited to see), but they seemed glad they came along all the same and it was a great opportunity to build some neighbourly relations.

Finally came the opportunistic surveying – traipsing from ridge to gully to ridge to gully across an area of the park without trails and which I might never have otherwise had the opportunity to explore. It was there that we found Red Crowned Toadlets, tiny creatures that they are, occurring in natural damp gullies rather than along our management trails where we usually find them! We also stumbled across a few management issues I wouldn’t have seen otherwise, such as isolated weeds and old water pipelines, now added to the list of things to deal with.

The final result of the survey was 129 vertebrate fauna species recorded, including seven threatened species and the potential for another seven threatened species, all in a 260 ha reserve on the north-western outskirts of Sydney. To me that makes for a pretty diverse little patch, and it’s great just to know what’s in there.

While certainly not my first encounter with ‘wild’ wildlife, the experience was something different this time around, and the enthusiasm has persisted. I recently went out with a volunteer over two nights doing owl playbacks. Hearing a Masked Owl call within 50 m has got to be a highlight. The next attempt will be Yellow-bellied Gliders, last recorded in the reserve in 1996, and I’m also hoping to resurrect and old harp net to do a bit of trapping in one of our other reserves.

I love feeling like I’ve learnt a decent amount about a few things (plants, weeds and historic heritage are my strengths), but I also love being able to participate and learn a little amount about a multitude of things (wildlife, fire, visitors, interpretation, aboriginal values, catchment processes . . .). Isn’t that what the job is all about? And trying to make a difference, of course.
PAWA has had some recent successes raising funds for the Amazon through auctioning items on Ebay.

Short sleeve shirt, handmade, from Africa: this unique pattern shirt was made by the widows of Park Rangers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has a very neat collar and press-stud closures. It has never been worn. The shirt has no tags, but appears to be made of cotton print fabric and appears to be size XL. Shirt dimensions can be provided on request.
Sold for $50 plus postage

Flowers of the Amazon Forests: the botanical art of Margaret Mee: Natural Wonders Press in association with The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published 2006, hardcover, 167p, RRP $49.95. Please note this copy does not have a dust jacket
Margaret Mee was an intrepid explorer of the Brazilian rainforest and an outstanding botanical artist, acclaimed by botanists and art critics worldwide. Containing text taken from the diaries she kept whilst travelling in the Amazon from 1956 to 1988, this work illustrates more than sixty of Mee’s major works with additional sketches painted whilst in the forest.
‘In more than one respect, Margaret, the quiet unostentatious voice of the wilderness can be credited with one of the loudest voices for conservation.’
Professor Richard Evans Schultes, Director Emeritus, Botanical Museum of Harvard University 1988
Sold for $8 plus postage

Suspected rebels kill ranger
By Sofia Bouderbala, AFP Published:Oct 31, 2007

KINSHASA - Suspected Rwandan Hutu rebels have killed a park ranger patrolling in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC’s) Virunga national park, conservation officials announced, the latest in a series of such attacks.
The attack came as the European Union’s (EU’s) special envoy for the region said that the violence in eastern DR Congo was on a scale with the carnage in the Darfur region of Sudan.
“A park warden was killed and one of his colleagues badly wounded by armed men at the entrance to the central part of the park,” the head of the National Institute for Conservation and Nature, Alexandre Wathaut, told AFP. Other rangers said the patrol was ambushed on Saturday in an attack they blamed on a Hutu group, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).
The incident occurred about 80 kilometres north of Nord-Kivu’s regional capital Goma, which lies on the Rwandan border. The Virunga wildlife reserve, in the far east of the country, is famed for its rare mountain gorillas but lies in the heartland of the conflict.
And at the end of a 13-day visit, Roeland Van de Geer, the EU special envoy for the Great Lakes region issued a stark warning about the worsening crisis in Nord-Kivu.
“We were struck by the gravity of the humanitarian crisis.”
Officials running three of the six displaced persons camps at Mungunga, 15 kilometres from Goma, “have complained of the rape of women in the camps or outside when they go to fetch water or wood,” he said.
“The displaced accuse the FARDC (regular army), which is around the camps and sometimes goes into them at night,” he added.
“There is an urgent need to settle the crisis and to tackle its underlying causes,” he said.
Nord-Kivu is the focus of conflict between a number of armed groups and operations by the regular army. The region has already been the subject of several recent reports on appalling atrocities and human rights violations.
Rebel fighters from several movements have been reported in the mountain park in recent weeks.
The violence has led to the displacement of 350,000 people in the province this year alone, of a total of 800,000.
FACT SHEET: RANGERS

Labor’s Indigenous Rangers Program

A Rudd Labor Government will create up to 300 new Indigenous ranger jobs to work on their environment and stimulate enterprise in carbon trading as part of Labor’s Indigenous Ranger Program.

Australia’s Indigenous Protected Areas and other Indigenous owned or managed land cover 120 million hectares or roughly 16 per cent of Australia’s land mass, much of it in remote parts of the continent. Indigenous land is a key to providing a sustainable economic future for many remote communities, with some 700 Indigenous rangers already working across Australia.

Together with emerging carbon market opportunities, biodiversity benefits created by Indigenous land management services also have the potential to be a commodity in Australia and markets overseas. Management of those natural resources sits alongside other land based industries offering huge potential for these communities, like sustainable timber productions, tourism, horticulture and pastoral work.

Some 40 existing community ranger programs in the Northern Territory alone provide ecosystem services, including contracts with parks, mines, customs and quarantine, fisheries, road corridor maintenance.

While there has been greater acknowledgement of these services in recent years, the capacity of Indigenous Australians to manage and protect their lands has been severely compromised by the Howard Government’s decision to discontinue CDEP, which has provided a base wage for hundreds of land and sea rangers across the remote territories of Australia, at least 400 in the Northern Territory.

1. Expand the successful Indigenous Protected Areas program

A Rudd Labor Government will provide a major funding boost to a total of $50 million over five years to expand the successful Indigenous Protected Areas within the national reserve system and pay proper wages for people working in these areas. Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) are Indigenous owned lands that form a crucial part of Australia’s national reserve system. They are managed under agreements with the Federal Department of Environment and Water Resources and are approved by the Minister.

Indigenous Protected Areas contain some of Australia’s most important natural and cultural heritage, including some of the world’s largest contiguous areas of land and sea managed for biodiversity conservation. There are currently 23 IPAs, covering a total of more than 18.5 million hectares, which constitutes around 2.41 per cent of Australia’s land mass.

A 2006 review of the IPA program described it as the nation’s “most successful innovation in Indigenous conservation” and found it is highly cost effective. It provides significant economic, social and cultural benefits to Indigenous communities and creates proven pathways to meaningful jobs looking after land and a framework for skills development.

Labor’s significant funding boost will allow for the inclusion of larger areas of environmentally significant Indigenous lands under new IPAs, the expansion of existing IPAs and the effective ongoing management of these precious areas. It will also help move rangers off CDEP funding into paid employment. Federal Labor will also work closely with States and Territories, private sector and non-government organisations to seek greater support to increase the total size of IPA funding and deliver greater outcomes.

2. Indigenous Rangers Scheme

A Rudd Labor Government will provide $90 million over five years to employ up to 300 additional Indigenous rangers on Indigenous lands and waters to undertake environmental services specialising in...
noxious weed and feral pest eradication, fire management, fencing and vegetation restoration and the protection of endangered species. These will be a mixture of full time and part time positions. Training will also be provided for these rangers using a nationally accredited land management qualification, supported by local knowledge.

This Scheme will focus on supporting and assisting Indigenous communities to manage and conserve the natural features of their lands, outside of Indigenous Protected Areas. This Scheme will incorporate and build on funding under the recently established Working on Country scheme.

Funding will support Indigenous employment, including rangers and land managers, undertaking such natural resource management and conservation work, including noxious weed and feral pest eradication, fencing and vegetation restoration and detection of illegal fishing. Sixty percent of mines are situated near a remote Indigenous community – there is enormous scope for Indigenous enterprise and jobs in rehabilitating mine sites. Federal Labor will forge partnerships with the mining sector and tourism industries in particular to ensure that training leads to jobs.

PAWA members on top the table in Annual Rogaining event.

- Duncan Scott-Lawson

The renowned Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue ‘NAV Shield’ event was held in the picturesque yet rugged protected areas of Yengo National Park and in the Polkobin State Forest, near Broke in the Hunter Region. The NAV Shield is an annual navigation/Rogaine event held each year in July in protected areas with rugged bush terrain. Participants include; State Emergency Services, Police, Military, Fire Brigades, Bushwalker Rescue, Volunteer Rescue Association, Ambulance and RFS teams, all battling through the bush for either 11hrs or the long haul of 29hrs. Further information on the event can be gained from www.bwrs.org.au.

General information on rogaining events can be obtained from www.nswrogaining.org.

A total of 34 teams entered the 11hr event, including three NPWS teams. Two of these teams had members from the recently formed PAWA of NSW. The PAWA members of Jules Bros and Duncan Scott-Lawson both lead there teams to the 1st and 3rd places respectively in the 11hour event. The team leader for the first place team Jules Bros said ‘it was an eventful course that took in rock scrambling up ‘Mt Dalton’ and ‘Daltons Defence’ plus a cooling swim across the Wollombi Brook’. Jules added ‘It is a very enjoyable event, you don’t need to be competitive and enjoy the walk with familiar minded people. The event is held each July on the first full weekend so any interested parties should don their running shoes and get out there, well done to all that entered’.

This event is well known and respected throughout the rescue industry in NSW. It is a great opportunity for PAWA to elevate its professional standing within the NSW community and we encourage PAWA members to be involved in this event.

We are looking to register PAWA teams next year, and are canvassing for interested peoples. Should any PAWA members be interested please contact Jules Bros or Duncan Scott-Lawson on 02-6336 1972 to illustrate your interest for the 2008 event. Should PAWA members embrace these types of events, we may look at entering PAWA teams into other events held in our protected areas of NSW.
PAWA LOGO...

Folks, we need a logo / identity. Below are some suggestions for your consideration, please post feedback on the PAWA web ‘discussions’ page to let us know what you think.

Remember we need something that says who we are that may be the size of a billboard, a print on a t-shirt or the size of a pin.

Here are some entries below, more variations can be viewed on the PAWA web page. Please post feedback or your own submission on the PAWA Google Group ‘Suggestions for PAWA logo’ page http://groups.google.com/group/pawa-nsw/web/suggestions-for-pawa-logo

To receive future copies of PAWA Press - join up now!

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please e-mail text to michele.cooper@environment.nsw.gov.au and forward images on a cd to M.Cooper, PO Box 3031, Asquith, NSW 2077.

PAWA Press is the newsletter of the Protected Area Workers Association NSW (PAWA). It will be produced several times per year.

Editor/Layout: Michele Cooper. All photos and artwork supplied by authors of articles. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the PAWA. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is accurate at time of printing, PAWA does not accept responsibility for errors or omissions.

e-mail: michele.cooper@environment.nsw.gov.au for newsletter details, additions and editions.
The Protected Area Workers Association (PAWA) NSW aims:

“to advance sustainable practices for the conservation of our natural and cultural resources. Natural and cultural resource management includes but is not limited to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, culture and heritage, landscape enhancement and conservation, environmental interpretation, access and recreation.”

☑️ A Protected Area Worker - is a person who works in a field operations position, or who supervises or supports the work of people in field operations positions in NSW protected areas.

☑️ PAWA is a non-profit professional organisation.

☑️ Ordinary and retired members have full voting rights.

☑️ Supporting and student members do not have voting rights.

☑️ Membership fees and travel costs to meetings and functions are legitimate tax deductions.

☑️ Membership of PAWA also includes membership of the Australian Ranger Federation and the International Ranger Federation, and receipt of their newsletters, 'Paperbark', 'The Thin Green Line' and 'Guardaparque' as well as our own 'PAWA Press'.

**Contact details**  *Required fields*

*Name _________________________________  Agency __________________________

*Postal address ________________________________          Location __________________________

Phone (BH) _________________________________

(AH) _________________________________

(mob) _________________________________

Fax _________________________________

*Email _________________________________

*Please nominate how you would like to receive PAWA Press:

- [ ] Mail
- [ ] Email

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ordinary membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting membership</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student membership</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Membership categories**

- Ordinary member - person employed as a protected area worker.
- Retired member - person who has been employed as a protected area worker but is now retired.
- Supporting member - any person who supports the objectives of PAWA.
- Student membership - person studying a course relating to protected area employment.

Signature _________________________________  Date __________________________
Payment methods (please tick your choice of method)

- **Direct Deposit**
  Pay direct by internet or phone banking to the PAWA NSW St George Bank Account
  BSB 112-879  Account Number 483395544
  Please ensure you include your name and location in the transaction description so we know you have paid.

- **Payroll deduction**
  Contact your employer to organise regular payroll deductions. Members must pay at least monthly to retain voting rights.
  DECC (NPWS) employees can use ESS on the intranet or SC-PS23-Payroll Deductions Form.
  Use the ‘Other Deductions’ section, tick ‘Professional’. The fortnightly amount is $2.00 and specify the name of the Association.

- **Cheque**
  Make all cheques payable to "Protected Area Workers Association NSW"

Please post this form and any cheques to:
PAWA NSW
PO Box 3031
Asquith NSW 2077

Contacts
For further information please contact:
Steve Woodhall 02 6332 9488 (wk)  Dave Burns 02 4842 1426 (wk)
Tegan Burton 02 9472 9322 (wk)  Michele Cooper 02 9472 8945 (wk)

Office use only

Date form received: ________________________________
Received by: ________________________________
Date funds received: ________________________________
Receipt number: ________________________________
Membership number: ________________________________