



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW  
*protecting nature through community action*

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NEWSLETTER NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC Autumn 2017, Edition 117  
**SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH**

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#### In This Issue:

- Branch activities
- Photographic competition
- Threat and Risk Assessment, Marine
- Wattamolla, a photographic essay
- Changes in NPWS

**BUSINESS MEETINGS** All are welcome to attend, have your say and hear what's happening in the NPA. Contact Peter on 95287341 or Gary on 95701813 for details

**BRANCH MEETINGS:** Come and meet other members from your local area, new members and friends are most welcome. These meetings are organised for you, are informal, informative and relaxing. An interesting evening is guaranteed and supper is provided. Now held on the 4th Wednesday night every second month. The next meeting is in April.

The venue for Branch meetings is the Multi-Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St) 3 minutes' walk from the railway station and with plenty of parking. All meetings commence at 8.00pm.

## Our Branch

The NPA offers members over 1000 free midweek and weekend activities a year including bush walks, canoe trips, bike rides, biodiversity surveys, bird watching, and family trips. Activities cater for all levels of fitness. Easy/short walks, day bushwalks, overnight bushwalks, week bushwalks, educational walks, conservation work.

### Walks

Now that autumn has arrived there are a number of activities to look forward to. Contact Brian Everingham at [brian.everingham@gmail.com](mailto:brian.everingham@gmail.com) for details.

Some of the activities led by Branch members include those listed in the next section on photography but also include:

12 <sup>th</sup> March	Curra Moors	Grade 2
18 <sup>th</sup> March Park	Olympic Park and Armory – Newington wetlands and Bicentennial	Grade 3
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Wentworth Falls – Darwin’s Walk – National Falls	Grade 3
27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> April	Kosciuszko National Park day walks based at Talbingo	Grade 3



## NPA Turns 60

Note that this is our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Yes, your NPA is turning 60 and we are celebrating. One such way is through a photographic competition. Those of you who are on our Facebook page will note that the photographing of nature is one of the passions of members of our Branch and in order to help in that photography theme we are running a series of special events.

The photographic competition page has been created on Flickr, and is being promoted through e-news (February onwards) and the autumn edition of the Nature NSW. In time there will also be a page on the NPA website.

Categories currently include:

- Wild Areas in NSW (National Parks or other areas)
- Underwater and Marine Photography (NSW only)
- Bushwalking or outdoor activities (NSW only)
- Animals and Wildlife (Australian wildlife only)
- Historic Photos Relation to Nature in NSW

The closing date will be 31 August, to allow plenty of time to attract images.

We have already received more than 100 images, including historic photos from bushwalks in the late 1960s. Check them out at <https://www.flickr.com/groups/3016363@N24>



Kamay Botany Bay National Park (photo taken from Bare Island by Brian Everingham)



Crested Tern begging (photo taken by Brian Everingham)

Photography walks being led by the Branch include:

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Yeramba Lagoon, Georges River National Park
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	South Head, Sydney Harbour National Park
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Costens Point, Royal National Park
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Garie Beach, Royal National Park
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Kurnell section, Kamay Botany Bay National Park
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bola Creek, Royal National Park
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Manly to the Spit, Sydney Harbour National Park
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Nielsen Pak, Sydney Harbour National Park
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bundeena to Marley Head, Royal National Park
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Seven Mile Beach National Park

## Have your say - Draft Statewide Threat and Risk Assessment for the NSW Marine Estate

NPA has received the following briefing from the Marine Estate Management Authority. Gary Schoer has already represented NPA NSW at a Sydney Workshop where he, with his discussion group advocated that the Threat and Risk Assessment should also include Legacy issues such as the occurrence of large swathes of Sea Urchin Barrens on shallow reefs in our Central Region (formerly Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion) and Southern Region. For what good is it to address future threats if the legacy of arguably past overfishing and water pollution has left these areas as virtual marine deserts. A strong international literature points to how Sanctuaries in marine parks can assist recovery of marine ecosystems. This NSW government has still not released the results, as promised months ago, to release the results of a Management Options Paper that compares community perceptions as to whether a new Sydney Marine Park or tweaking of a dozen or so small aquatic reserves is favoured. The overwhelming support for a marine park tabulated by a former Community Survey conducted as part of the formal consultation process would point towards the former. Any opportunity to enunciate for a new Sydney Marine Park within the chosen detail you submit would help to make the point that dealing only with future threats will not address the depauperate state that much of our local marine ecosystems are in NOW.

If you especially follow the link below <http://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/key-initiatives/threat-and-risk-assessment/threat-and-risk-assessment-tool> it will take you through an interactive tool to have your say on the Threat and Risk Assessment for Central Region. You can choose threatening activities in Estuaries or in marine coastal waters and see how your perceptions match with those of experts and government groups consulted to date. The Project manager especially would like to know of actual documented evidence for fresh insights into raised (or lowered) degree of threat conclusions: (Try searching on "Google Scholar" ...Google it!...using key words and locations to find appropriate scientifically valid references.)

You know your region better than many who have produced this draft document. If you have difficulty sending your responses using this tool, simply send them to [contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au) and note that it is a response to the State-wide TARA.

Closing date for feedback is March 31st

We know we are asking you to do more than tick boxes and sign a petition, but your individual responses will add far more weight to your informed opinions based on local knowledge, and will deny the temptation by bureaucrats to undervalue form responses, as done in the past.

Thank you.

Gary Schoer, Secretary, Southern Sydney Branch of NPA and Marine Education Facilitator, NPA NSW

## Wattamolla, a Photographic Essay

Why don't you join us on our next photographic journeys around our national parks!



Photo: Brian Everingham



Photo: John Prats



Photo: Gary Schoer



Photo: David Noble

## Changes in NPWS

Our new Branch Director (the new title) for Metro Branch of the NPWS, being the merging of the former Metro North East and the Metro South West Regions, is Deon Van Rensburg. He is very committed and competent. He comes from Ranger experience in South Africa, was Area Manager of our Newcastle Area and he masterminded and drove the Newcastle Wetlands National Park Plan of Management. That might be a useful skill, given that Kamay Botany Bay National Park and Royal National Park are both due to have new plans of management in the foreseeable future.

Naturally we are saddened to see our previous Regional Manager depart. Gary Dunnett was much loved and extremely competent and will be missed by all who worked with him. We wish Gary well in whatever he chooses to do and hope we can continue to have a close relationship with him if only through his blog (on wildlife) and his stunning photography.



Gary Dunnett is not the only departure. We also lost long term Regional Manager, Mike Patrick, and Area Manager, Kane Weeks. Kane goes to the South Coast as its new Branch Director and we wish him well.

Meanwhile by the time this arrives in your email box or postbox expect to see information about the new draft plan for Kurnell and for the entire Kamay Botany Bay National Park released by the Government. It will want you to respond. Go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/engagement.htm>



A relaxed Kane Weeks. Now appointed to Director, South Coast

## IUCN Freshwater

The WCPA Freshwater Task Force has been established to address a number of urgent issues relating to the conservation of adequate and representative areas of freshwater / inland waters habitats within protected areas so as to contribute to regional and international management and policy for freshwater ecosystems. See <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/freshwater>

The Task Force was appointed an important role for the next decade by the Stream 4 organizers of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress. The organisers noted it will be important to identify legal, institutional and social factors that produce a good synergy between protected area management and water security management. Examples of positive projects across organisations should be chosen, these should be documented, analysed, and the lessons communicated. The WCPA Freshwater Task Force should monitor and actively support progress on these sites over the next decade.

Within this overarching mission, the Task Force will continue working on several key goals.

To expand practical contributions which support application of IUCN freshwater Protected Area guidelines (e.g. via an annotated bibliography and other guidelines).

To support the programme of work on Biological Diversity of Inland Water Ecosystems under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), recognizing the role of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species. This includes recommendations in the face of climate change, promoting appreciation of environmental flows by Protected Area communities, and identification and designation of a representative network of Protected Areas, including their freshwater components.

To identify freshwater ecosystem priorities for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development target 6.6 focused on protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, and target 15.1 focused on the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services.

To support the implementation of the UN Watercourses Convention, specifically where it relates to the protection and preservation of ecosystems of international watercourses.

To endorse and promote the global freshwater assessment programmes, for example as lead by IUCN's Global Species Programme, GEO BON's Freshwater Ecosystem Change Working Group, and the Freshwater Working Group (FWWG) of the Society for Conservation Biology.

To promote integration of information with respect to freshwater components of Protected Areas. This includes working towards mapping of wetlands at different scales, and towards comprehensive Wiki-type catchment-scale information layers.

To remain involved with ongoing development of adaptive management and adaptive governance guidelines as they are released (e.g. CBD, SDG's, UN Watercourses Convention).

To produce guidelines and publications promoting connectivity in freshwater systems.

To promote increasingly representative and effective collaboration between people involved in management and policy of freshwater Protected Areas.

To distribute outputs from the Taskforce effectively within IUCN and more broadly.

To function as emergent expert/specialist panel on freshwater problems and solutions.

Given the pressures our Murray-Darling Basin are now facing, given that politicians are walking away from an-already compromised water allocation (see <http://www.mdba.gov.au/basin-plan-roll-out/basin-plan-amendments> ) we need this considered input and we need a clear vision if our rivers and wetlands are to remain healthy. It is worrying that the following amendments are being considered:

1. Water recovery target be reduced from 390 GLs to 320 GLs provided there are commitments from Australian, Queensland and New South Wales governments to implement a range of measures aimed at improved water management in the north.
2. At the time the Basin Plan was established, it was identified that there was a need to review the sustainable diversion limits (SDLs) of three groundwater areas.

The proposed amendments to the SDLs for groundwater are in these three areas:  
Eastern Porous Rock (New South Wales)  
Western Porous Rock (New South Wales)  
Goulburn–Murray (Victoria)

The proposed changes from the three reviews and some other minor changes in South Australia will see the SDL for the extraction of the basin’s groundwater increase from 3,334 giganlitres (GL) per year to 3,494 GL per year.





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