

PAWA PRESS

Protected Area Workers Association NSW (PAWA NSW)

#1 June 2007

NEWS FLASH

JOIN UP!!!

JOIN UP!!!

JOIN UP!!!

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CALENDAR

The Thin Green Line world premiere
- 31st July 2007

Coming to Sydney... see inside!

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Welcome to the 1st edition of PAWA Press

Join the NSW Protected Area Workers Association Today!

Following lots of supportive feedback from my initial email towards the end of last year about forming an Association for NSW Rangers, Tegan Burton, Dave Burns, Michele Cooper, Chris Keyzer and myself have been beavering away between fires to get an Association up and running. We've spent many a long email and telephone discussion on topics such as how the group could operate, membership requirements, committee structures and finalising a constitution.

I'm glad to say we are there ! !

The Protected Area Workers Association NSW was incorporated on 27 February 2007. We have established a bank account and are now seeking members (see membership application form in this newsletter).

PAWA's objectives are;

- ✓ promote and enhance the professions that collectively manage the protected areas in NSW
- ✓ provide a forum for professional and social enrichment and foster professional exchange
- ✓ provide education and other training to develop and or improve the knowledge and skills of protected area workers
- ✓ provide a forum for the discussion of common concerns of protected area workers, to share knowledge and communicate with the public to promote greater public benefit from their work
- ✓ provide material assistance, education and improve the knowledge, skills, professional standards and the status of protected area workers in developing countries throughout the world.

For incorporation purposes, those of us mentioned above, have become the caretaker committee with the aim of getting the association up and running and organising the first AGM where all committee positions will be vacated and up for election. The caretaker committee strongly believes the Association should be inclusive of all people who directly work in the management of protected areas in their broadest sense and that membership should not be exclusive to Rangers in the NSW NPWS. The choice of association name was therefore very deliberate and our

constitution and membership criteria reflects this philosophy. The Association will be affiliated with the Australian Ranger Federation and the International Ranger Federation, both of which support this inclusive philosophy.

The association has quite an emphasis on professional development and includes an international focus, with major aims including providing training and assistance to Rangers in countries which can't afford the level of support we experience here in NSW and on improving member knowledge through exchange programs. As a result of contacts made last year at the 5th World Rangers Congress in Scotland, Tegan is already working on a proposal to assist the indigenous rangers of the Brazilian Amazon. She does require a lot of help though and we're looking forward to many of you joining in and lending a hand.

Other upcoming activities include the World Premier of the "Thin Green Line" on 31 July 2007, a documentary by a ranger, about rangers around the world. The 6th World Rangers Congress will be held in Bolivia in 2009 - great opportunity to meet rangers from all over the world and start making arrangements for an international job exchange !

I think this is the start of something exciting for us here in NSW. In our own way, we can do something meaningful for our ranger colleagues and ourselves, while having fun along the way. So sign up and get involved !!

Steve Woodhall
Ranger
Bathurst



what is
protected area
management to
you?

Images: T.Burton, G.Crombie,
K.Nowak, M.Cooper; P.Goldie,
various unknown

Message From the Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Group - Tony Fleming -



NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service

I was pleased when I heard that a professional association was being formed for and by the on-ground personnel that look after the states protected areas. I was also pleased when asked to be the patron of the association.

Through many years of involvement in protected area management it is clear as to the important role these people play in the long-term conservation of these valuable areas. It has also become clear that they can at times be working in isolation and in situations that are not without risks.

This was brought home to me at the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, where rangers from across the globe, under the banner of the International Ranger Federation, brought to the attention of the whole congress the situation, working conditions and plight of many of the worlds field staff and ensured that any resolutions from the congress also considered the people working on-ground.

I commend the objectives of the Protected Area Workers Association NSW, particularly in the opportunities that will arise from developing grass-roots communication networks and the potential to support their colleagues at an international level.

I encourage anyone working in protected area management in NSW to consider becoming involved in this association and I look forward to seeing the various projects and benefits that I have no doubt will be forthcoming.

Tony Fleming
Deputy Director General
Parks & Wildlife Group
DECC

CONGRATULATIONS BRAZIL

There were enormous trees, crowned with magnificent foliage, decked with fantastic parasites and hung over with lianas which varied in thickness from slender threads to huge python-like masses, were now round, now flattened, now knotted and now twisted with the regularity of a cable.

Richard Spruce on the Amazon, 1849



On 4 December 2006 the Brazilian state of Para announced a network of seven new protected areas in the Amazon region, encompassing as much as 15 million hectares! With destructive human activities such as logging, mining and development threatening tropical forests around the world, Conservation International (www.conservation.org) says 'Brazil's efforts to protect its forests place it at the forefront of worldwide efforts to preserve these critical landscapes'.

Conservation efforts in the Amazon region of Brazil are of great interest to PAWA, with one area of this region being home to the APITIKATXI. This is an association of indigenous Rangers who work to conserve the 4.2 million hectare indigenous protected area of the Tumucumaque mountains while living relatively traditional lifestyles in their Amazon rainforest homes. Given the high conservation value of the area and the dedicated efforts of these people despite minimal resources, we are establishing Project Amazon: supporting indigenous Rangers for conservation. Join PAWA and find out how you can be involved.



6 continents. 19 countries. 50 locations. 1 planet.

***** Simultaneous World Wide Premiere
on July 31st 2007 *****

The Story of 'The Thin Green Line'

This is the story of Park Rangers. A front line 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.

Sean Willmore, a Park Ranger from Warrigine Park in Victoria, Australia sold his car and remortgaged his house 3 times to make this film. In 2003 he met his ranger colleagues from across the globe at an International Park Rangers Congress at Wilson's Promontory National Park, near Melbourne. It was here that he developed his vision to document and bring to the wider community the real picture behind the postcards of international parks and reserves.

The selfless commitment of individuals who face the real prospect of death from poachers, wild creatures and other challenges. By filming rangers at work he wanted to open up a different way of looking at and communicating the wonders of our world and the daily threats to its very survival.

Sean spent most of 2004 filming the lives and stories of rangers on 6 continents and 19 countries. There were some incredible experiences: volcanoes, ascents by horseback in Chile and Argentina, a charging elephant in South Africa, drowning rivers in Costa Rica, Mountain Gorilla protection in volatile Virungas of Uganda, helicopter rescues in the Rockies, dangerous anti-poaching patrols and chases in South Africa, Galapagos, Uganda and India, and violent threats by rebel soldiers, antagonistic poaching communities, and protesting fisherman. Sean counts himself lucky to be alive. These experiences set the tone for the life stories and challenges facing the professional Park Ranger. Filming the journey inspired Sean to deepen his

belief in the devoted men and women who sometimes give their lives for their devotion to nature, people and conservation. The "Rangers' heart" helps them cope with corruption, poor resourcing, ignorance, politics and greed.

This documentary moves away from the cute, cuddly or dangerous animals seen in traditional wildlife documentaries. The animals themselves become the backdrop for the human face of conservation.

The aim of the film is to expose 'The Thin Green Line' in the hope that others will join Park Rangers to save what is endangered.

Each Ranger has threads to add to the story, from different locations, personal histories, cultural influences, and political environments. The making of this film has helped to unify rangers from many diverse backgrounds and cultures around the globe, all with the same inspiring goal: to try and save the planet.

Host your own Thin Green Line Premiere on July 31st 2007. Register your interest at the following website <http://www.thingreenline.info/> to buy a copy of the doco, then invite your friends around be part of the world wide premiere and raise some coin for Rangers on the frontline of conservation all over the world. You can be part of conservation history on July 31st 2007.

Remember: this is a not for profit project. 100% of the profits raised through documentary sales and sponsorships will be returned to support rangers, including the International Ranger Dependency Fund, which supports the families of Rangers who are killed in the line of duty, usually by poachers, or sometimes militias. They risk their lives for Nature, so we've got their back.

**Sydney Screening
Cammeray - North Sydney Leagues Club
31st July 7 pm
Bookings essential 9472 9300**

Take the **KOORI IQ TEST** - author of the test James Wilson-Miller, says the test is an example of a deliberately contrived culturally biased test. It was devised for use with Non-Indigenous university students and is not designed to be used with school children or Indigenous university students.

1. The late Mac Silva was famous for playing what?
 - football
 - tennis
 - drums
 - golf
2. If someone referred to you as "Bread", would it mean....
 - you're white
 - like a brother
 - you're a baker
 - you've got dough
3. If you saw a gungibal, would you be looking at a....
 - soldier
 - policeman
 - centrelink officer
 - gunsmith
4. Dr. Ruby Langford Ginibi is....
 - a Koori anthropologist
 - a film producer
 - a newspaper editor
 - an author
5. If you were called a Gubba, would it mean you were a....
 - white person
 - brother
 - Koori Elder
 - government official
6. Narwan is....
 - a narwhal
 - a political party
 - a football team
 - a mythical being
7. Which is the odd one out?
 - Wiradjuri
 - Thungutti
 - Womboin
 - Gomilaroi
8. A Koori's meat is....
 - a get together
 - a leg of lamb
 - sex appeal
 - a totem
9. Where does Nathan Blacklock come from?
 - Moree
 - Boggabilla
 - Tingha
 - Guyra
10. From what language does the word 'Munyarl' come from?
 - Yuin
 - Wonnarua
 - Bundjalung
 - Thungutti
11. Who is Owen Craigie?
 - a boxer
 - a singer
 - an NRL footballer
 - an education officer
12. If you were playing 'coon-can', would you be playing
 - a card game
 - the spoons
 - a children's game
 - a musical instrument made out of cans
13. What are munyas?
 - money
 - scabies
 - head lice
 - swollen feet
14. Deb Mailman is
 - a postal worker
 - an athlete
 - a news reader
 - an actor
15. Which colour is not on the Koori flag?
 - red
 - green
 - yellow
 - black
16. If a wahki caught you, what would have you?
 - an old man
 - a policeman
 - an evil spirit
 - a welfare officer
17. What would you do with a Wilcannia boomerang?
 - throw it
 - hang it on your wall
 - tackle it
 - paint it
18. Linda Burney is....
 - Chairperson of ATSIC
 - President of NSW AECG Inc.
 - Chairperson of NACCHO
 - Director-General of NSW DAA
19. What organisation funds CDEPs?
 - AEC
 - DET
 - ASA
 - ATSIC
20. Where is Dodge City?
 - near Singleton
 - near Texas, Queensland
 - near Brewarrina
 - near Wallaga Lake

answers see <http://www.sbs.com.au/australianeye/index2.html?id=88#>

WILDFIRES AND HELIBASES IN THE STATES

BY - JULIE VISSER

The beginning

With only 24 hours notice I had my bags packed and flew with 4 other aviation specialists from DEC to the Boise National Interagency Fire Centre at Idaho in the USA for several days of intensive training, including emergency fire shelter deployment. It was hard to keep our eyes open due to lack of sleep from excitement and jetlag! After being kitted out with all our fancy equipment and nomex gear we drove (on the other side of the road) to a small country town in the mountains called Garden Valley and parked ourselves at the Rattlesnake Fire helibase for two fourteen day shifts, with a brief two day R&R in the middle.

A job to do

The main Incident Command Post camp was 5 minutes drive away from the helibase. It was like a MASH camp, with blue johnnies (port-a-loos), caravan showers, greasy processed food (no supersizing for me) and tents everywhere. After a few days getting used to the local procedures, lingo and food we started to feel right at home. We slept in our own tents tucked away in a corner of the helibase, to the sound of wolverines howling every night.

The Americans were fantastic. They made us feel very welcome. I worked as helicopter manager - liaison between the government and the helicopter contractor making sure they met their contractual requirements (paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork!). I got trained and certified as helicopter crew member (daisy chaining cargo long lines, loading passengers, briefing crews). I was lucky enough to do some training to rappel out of helicopters (nothing short of fantastic) with the local hotshot crews. I also worked as a dipsite manager – ensuring the pumps and water tenders (trucks) kept the water up to the heliwells and pumpkins (buoy walls) and the area was safe for the cranes and sea-kings to snorkel out of. I also spent a bit of time as air base radio operator - our equivalent of something like an air traffic controller at the helibase. I was told that every time one of the Aussies talked on the radio they all stopped to listen, as they couldn't quite understand what we were saying but



wanted to hear our accents. I kept reminding them that we didn't have any accents they did. I had the chance to work with a huge variety of different machines from the lights to the heavies including llamas, longrangers, 412s, Sikorsky 58s, 54s and 64s (skycranes) and the handsome sea-kings or fire-kings as they called them. We also had the pleasure of meeting the Governor of Idaho and his entourage who arrived in a military blackhawk.

A day in the life of...

We stumbled out of our tents in the dark at 05:30 every morning, for our 06:00 briefing at base camp. We had our greasy processed brekkies, got supplies for the day, did a few emails, managed to squeeze in a bit of laundry at the local laundromat (which burnt down in the last week due to an electrical malfunction), attended the 08:00 helibase briefing, waited for the smoke and inversion to lift, tried to powerwalk around the helibase or play a bit of rugby to work off the heavy meals, and worked our butts off when the action was on. About 18:00 hrs was peak fire activity and by 21:30 we had our final briefing and were finishing up for the day by 22:00. Then we had dinner and crawled into our tents with three sleeping bags, long johns, beanie, four sleeping mats and 'cot'. Towards the end it got so cold it snowed, which pretty much helped to contain the fire.



But where's mama bear?

I saw my first black bear cub. I knew mama bear was close so we didn't hang around for long. While sitting in the car one day I was enthralled by a cartoon-like very large yellow and black bumble bee buzzing around the cab, until my crewie freaked out, stopped the car, and yelled 'Quick get out they bite!' So I jumped out of the car into the pine forest only to be confronted by the thought of bears chasing me. So I hopped back in the car. We saw chipmunks and deer everywhere, and a gorgeous gigantic horned owl one evening. If it was too smoky to fly we fed grasshoppers to the jay birds that followed us around, for something to do. Instead of the thwack thwack thwack of helicopters flying around we could hear the tap tap tap of woodpeckers in the pine and fir trees around us.

Fire behaviour

The ladder fuels in the trees were enormous, as the pine forest had been under a lot of stress from years of drought, so there were plenty of dead branches and consequently torching. I experienced my first collapsing smoke column. It was so huge it created its own weather above it until it collapsed filling the air with thick ash making visibility and breathing difficult. It was kind of eerie. Due to the steep terrain it was common to get 'torpedos' - fallen pine trees sliding lengthways down the mountains. We were at significant altitude at about 3,000 ft to 10,000 ft with incredibly steep terrain so fire behaviour was slightly different than fire fighting in Australia. Instead of the north westerly slopes being the driest it was the other way around over there because we were in the northern hemisphere. It was common to get thick smoke inversions resulting in such poor visibility that the helicopters were regularly grounded. The smoke also didn't help us get over our respiratory illness affectionately called 'Camp Crud' by the Americans.

The end.

Even though it was utterly exhausting due to lack of sleep it was a very memorable and enjoyable experience both professionally and culturally. The experience gave us a chance to share different ideas and fire fighting strategies. Of course I would do it all again in a heartbeat. I had a smile on my face everyday while I was in the States, and it's still there. I'm already looking forward to my next deployment whether on the ground or in the air.



WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL RANGER FEDERATION?

Founded in 1992, the International Ranger Federation (IRF) is a federation of over 50 different associations from national, state and territorial entities across the globe involved in protected area management. The goal of the IRF is to 'provide a forum for rangers from around the world to share their successes and failures in protecting the world's heritage and to promote information and technology transfer from countries in which protected area management enjoys broad public and government support to countries in which protected area management is less well supported'.



Just one of the IRF activities is the sponsoring of international congresses, with the 6th World Ranger Congress to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in March 2009. See you there!

For more information on the IRF see <http://int-ranger.net/>

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN RANGER FEDERATION?

Formed in 1996, the Australian Ranger Federation (ARF) is a professional body supporting Rangers and other professional officers involved in the conservation and management of our natural resources.



The organisation aims to advance sustainable management practices for the conservation and public enjoyment of our natural and cultural resources; by maintaining and enhancing bio-diversity, landscape enhancement and conservation, environmental interpretation, access and recreation-collectively described as natural and cultural resource management.

For more information on the ARF see <http://www.ranger.org.au/australia.htm>

Logo competition

Get your artistic side moving and send in an entry for the logo competition.

If you are the winner your logo will appear on ALL PAWA material including newsletter, letterhead, website and future promotional material!

Closing date - 10 August 2007 5pm

Entries must fit the following criteria:

- Name and/or acronym within the design
- Focus on the state of NSW
- Short explanation of your design
- Digital entries only, at least 300dpi
- Entries e-mailed to michele.cooper@environment.nsw.gov.au or via CD to PAWA

The winning entry will remain the property of the PAWA NSW, the artist may not be acknowledged at all times. The winner will be notified in writing, finalists will be showcased in the next PAWA Press.

Judging: PAWA Caretaker Committee

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.

PROTECTED AREA WORKERS ASSOCIATION NSW

Membership Application

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) _____	PAWA Press
(mob) _____	*Please nominate how you would like to
Fax _____	receive PAWA Press:
*Email _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email

Membership category		Cost
Ordinary membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00
Retired membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00
Supporting membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00
Student membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00
TOTAL PAYMENT		\$

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 _____

PROTECTED AREA WORKERS ASSOCIATION NSW

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: _____