

# NPWS NEWS

## The National Parks of the Capertee and Cudjegong valleys



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

### SUMMER 2013

Welcome to the Summer issue of the NPWS newsletter for the Capertee and Cudjegong valleys. The last three months have seen us kept very busy supporting a busy hazard reduction burning season in the Blue Mountains in August and September, and an unseasonably hot, windy and dry October which led to some of the most extreme bushfires in over a decade.

NPWS staff from Mudgee Area have been involved in all the major fires in the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions, in a variety of roles including Incident Management Teams alongside the Rural Fire Service, on the fireground working from fire vehicles and in Remote Area Fire Teams (RAFT) who are winched into remote, inaccessible areas of the fires by helicopters.

Thankfully a significant amount of rain has fallen in the Blue Mountains which has reduced the risk of fire.

However the western side of the range, including the Capertee Valley and western Wollemi NP has received only a small amount of rainfall to date and the fire danger remains high in these areas.

Throughout September, October and November, Total Fire Bans were frequently declared across our region. During the most extreme weather this also included full closure of many of our national parks and reserves to ensure no-one was put at risk of fire. Thank you for your patience and co-operation during this period. All closures and fire bans in the area have now been lifted, however many closures still exist in the fire-affected areas of the Blue Mountains. Check the NPWS website for updates on closures before you plan a trip.

Most recently we had a small fire off Crown Station Rd west of Glen Davis bordering on Gardens of Stone NP. Thanks to the hard work and co-operation of the local RFS brigades and NPWS staff from Mudgee and Blackheath, this fire was quickly contained.

### WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK

The school holidays and October long weekend saw some of our highest ever visitation levels at Dunns Swamp and Coorongooba Camping Areas. Despite extreme weather and hundreds of people camping and visiting for the day in both areas, the holidays went very smoothly and a great time was enjoyed by all.

Southern Cross Kayaks returned to Dunns Swamp for the holidays providing kayak hire and tours on the beautiful waterway. They were kept very busy as visitors enjoyed a welcome relief from the hot dry weather on the water. John and Cindy will be back for the summer holidays – for more information and to make bookings check out their website: [www.southerncrosskayaking.com.au](http://www.southerncrosskayaking.com.au)

### MORE INFORMATION

Specific park and region brochures can be obtained in electronic or print form from Mudgee office:

Address: 27 Inglis St, Mudgee 2850  
Phone: (02) 6370 9000  
Fax: (02) 6370 9010

Email:

[mudgee@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mudgee@environment.nsw.gov.au)

(general enquiries)

[michelle.barton@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michelle.barton@environment.nsw.gov.au)

(enquiries regarding Wollemi NP, Capertee NP and Muggi Murum-ban SCA)

Information on NSW national parks can be found on the following websites:

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

Information on current closures, hazard reduction burns and fires affecting national parks and reserves can be found at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx>







Mount York Fire - Oct 2013

## CAPEERTEE NATIONAL PARK

The warm, windy weather of the last three months has left Capertee NP very dry, and parts of the Capertee River are currently not flowing above ground at all. However, despite the unseasonable conditions the wildlife are out and about in Capertee NP. The endangered Regent Honeyeater is back for it's annual nesting in the park, and has been sighted by many of our visitors, even from the verandah of the homestead! A very successful pig baiting program has vastly reduced numbers of this pest species, leaving the reserve for the kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies and wombats to graze in peace.

Recently Capertee NP was added to the new NPWS visitor website, and it looks great! If you haven't seen it, check out [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'Capertee'.



As mentioned in the Spring Edition, we have now completed the installation of some great new informative signage at Dunns Swamp, providing visitors with an insight into the Aboriginal and European history of the area.



Capertee Camping Area

Currently the reserve, the homestead and the cottage are featured, but keep checking the website as we add more attractions, photos and information about the reserve over the coming months.

Now that the new entrance gate has been installed on Port Macquarie Rd, the code for the combination lock has changed. Make sure you contact Mudgee Office on (02) 6370 9000 before you visit to get the new code.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the park and you are looking for a quiet getaway over the summer, Capertee NP might just be the place!

Camping is free, and you will need to be self-sufficient. The Cottage is fairly basic and sleeps up to 6 people from \$100 per night. Port Macquarie Homestead is a magnificent country house with four bedrooms and a studio for up to 14 guests, from \$150 per night (for 2 people).

## MUGII MURUM-BAN SCA

We have completed the installation of the gate on Genowlan Mountain as mentioned in the Spring issue. The Genowlan Mountain gate will remain open at all times except in the following conditions:

- After rainfall, which makes the road extremely slippery and unsafe for vehicles
- On days of very high fire danger or Total Fire Bans
- If a hazard reduction burn or wildfire is impacting the reserve
- If we are undertaking aerial pest control. or other management operations that may pose a risk to the public.

Much of our focus in the reserve lately has been on the endangered Genowlan Point Pea. The species (*Pultenaea sp Genowlan Pt*) is only found in Mugii Murum-ban SCA, and the population numbers have become very low over the last 20 years due to grazing by goats and wildlife, and damage by vehicles and people.

NPWS Mudgee, in conjunction with the Office of Environment and Heritage Threatened Species Unit, have developed a strategy to reduce any further threats to this species and hopefully encourage regeneration in the future. This strategy will involve a small area of the point fenced off to exclude wildlife and protect new seedlings that emerge, individual cages to protect existing plants, and research into the ecology of the species including it's response to fire.

In the next couple of months we hope to install some directional signage in the reserve, and formalise the Airly Camping Area off the Airly Gap Trail as a great base for exploring the park. The draft Plan of Management for the reserve has been progressing, and should be on public exhibition early in 2014.

Some of Coorongooba's local residents relaxing in the shade.

