

## LAST MEETING.

The last meeting of AFA, held at the Braidwood Services Club on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March and was well attended.

## National Parks Management Meeting with Access For All



Pictured above L to R, Terry Hart AFA, Tim Shepherd NPWS, Garry Gowan AFA, Reg Webb AFA, Catherine Lawler AFA, Tony Baxter NPWS, photo by Peter Smith AFA.

The discussion at the meeting covered a diverse range of topics including wild dogs, road damage by vehicles using the Dampier Fire Trail to Bendethera, defying the notice prohibiting trailers. It was noted that trailers are permitted access from the Moruya side to Bendethera. AFA stated our support for NPWS policies in that regard.

There was discussion regarding suitable gating on the track leading from Back Creek to the Berlang Picnic Area and the Big Hole. Low barrier posts instead of gates become dangerous if covered by long grass and can cause major damage to unsuspecting vehicles. Tony Baxter agreed to look into the situation.

AFA was told of major proposed restructuring and consolidation of NPWS regions, whereby there will be

amalgamations resulting in only half the number of regions. Far South Coast, Kosciusko and Bombala may form one region. The new encompassing region will possibly have its headquarters at Merimbula. Our fear with such consolidations is that it could result a lack of sub-regional focus.

There was agreement that there would be track maintenance with NPWS and AFA on the Corn Trail on 12<sup>th</sup> May followed by work on the Shoebridge Track in spring.

We were told that the monitoring of the bridle tracks was progressing well. The Shoebridge Track, W.D.Tarlinton Track and Georges Pack Track are being assessed according to the criteria set down. Park management could not see any problems arising and all was on track, so to speak for the trials to be finalised by the due time in April/May 2016. Hopefully this will result in continuing access by horse riders on these tracks passing through wilderness areas.

## Historic Bridle Tracks Oral History meeting

The meeting with AFA was followed by a meeting with interested parties as to the progress of collecting and collating oral history regarding the bridle tracks in the southern region. Previously NPWS had commissioned Susan Dale Donaldson to record individuals with knowledge of the tracks. The interviews are almost complete except it was decided to add two more, Beryl Schaeffer and Myrtle Collett. Unfortunately interviewing Myrtle is currently not possible.

Further historical research is to be undertaken by NPWS on the W.D.Tarlinton Track by Rob McKinnon using the State

Library and archives. The ultimate aim is to seek funding to publish the work.

It was stated that the two year program for horse riding in wilderness areas has now passed the half way mark. Monitoring from the four trial state wide locations currently underway is being collated and analysed against the thresholds set during the workshop process. Workshops were conducted in Hurstville, Narooma, Jindabyne and Armidale and assisted by the University of Melbourne facilitators.

In accordance with the OEHL scientific rigour statement, the peer reviewed data will be made publically available on OEHL website at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/policies/HorseRidingTrial.htm>

The release of information on the OEHL website including the University of Melbourne threshold report is scheduled for the end of May 2015. Further information on the pilot program for horse riding in wilderness areas is available from the OEHL website including a survey for people using the tracks and trails in the trial locations.

## Sad News regarding Myrtle Collett, one of our stalwarts

On 17<sup>th</sup> May Myrtle suffered a massive stroke and was admitted to Canberra Hospital. There has been a slight improvement but the road to recovery will be hard and long. AFA extends our best wishes to Myrtle and her family.



Myrtle Collett at Rankins Camp in 1965

### Web Site.

If any member with email facilities has not registered their email address with AFA they should do so now by sending their details to [info@accessforall.asn.au](mailto:info@accessforall.asn.au). By doing so you will receive regular updates.

**THE PERPETUAL CALENDAR**- featuring places of local natural beauty- Now available at \$15 each, from AFA and selected outlets in Braidwood and Moruya. This is a 'must have' for everyone who appreciates the beauty of the Australian bush.

The book, **THE DEUA RIVER TRACK**, is available at Kings Highway Diner in Braidwood, at meetings or and can be ordered through a Committee member, or by post to Access For All, Locked Bag 10, PO BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622. The cost is \$22 plus \$1.40 postage.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Family \$20.00. Pensioner \$5.00. Individual \$10.00. Corporate \$100.00 includes GST.

Memberships are now due for renewal.

**AFA WEBSITE:** <http://www.accessforall.asn.au>  
**E-MAIL INFORMATION:** [info@accessforall.asn.au](mailto:info@accessforall.asn.au)

**NEXT MEETING:** **SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015**, (yes Sunday) 10am at Moruya Golf Club, cnr Evans and Murray Streets, Moruya.

This meeting will also include the Annual General Meeting and election of officers for the coming year. . Please make the effort to attend and consider standing for a position on the committee. We welcome your input.

Thereafter, the following meeting will be on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015, venue TBA

### **AFA 2014 – 2015 COMMITTEE**

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