

MEMBERS' NEWS

JUNE 2007

- **Conservation**
- **Recreation**
- **Community Inclusion**

**COUNTRYSIDE
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

www.countrysidemanagement.org.uk

A quick word from the secretary

By Mike Anderson

Those of you who attended our AGM in 2006 will recall that there was some confusion regarding the CMA's constitution. This document sets out how the CMA should be governed and it has always just sat in the background, with the running of meetings etc being 'verbally' handed over through the succession of officers on the Council.

As a result of the 2006 AGM we agreed with members that the National Executive would undertake a review of the whole constitution to ensure that we had a workable set of clauses that would be fit for the Association. Following independent advice it became apparent that it is essential to form a new company as soon as possible and the main reasons have been set out in a letter to you from Mike Woods. The registration of a new company will not just tidy up how we run things, but also limit our liabilities and protect our assets. So, we're not doing it because we want to (I'm busy enough without the massive workload that's coming with this matter) but because we need to protect the long term interests of the CMA and its members.

Talking of members, the new membership categories have involved a lot of hard work by the Review Panel, for which we are grateful. We all do this work because we want to improve things for members, potential members and the public and what we are trying to achieve is set out in the three year plan. So, if you want to make a difference get involved - maybe write an article for Ranger or offer your services at a regional/national level - just don't throw your toys out of the pram if we, in good faith, do something you don't agree with.

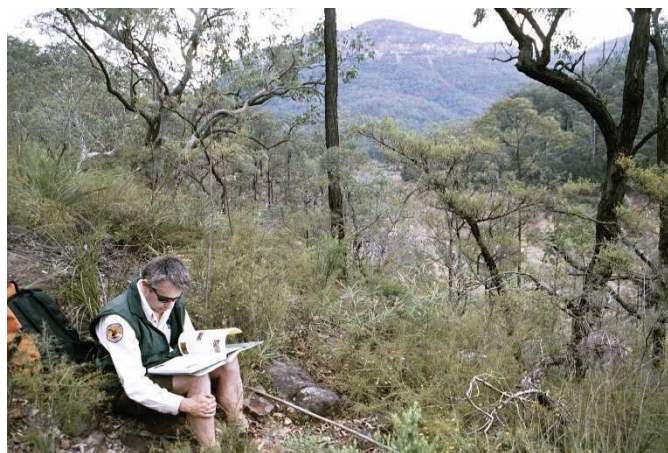
Interested in an exchange with an Oz ranger?

By Duncan Scott-Lawson

I am trying to establish if there is any interest in a Ranger Exchange between Australia and Britain or Ireland after the IRF Bolivia congress in 2009.

I am interested in such an exchange with a UK based Ranger and I will be in Europe from late Sept to mid November this year and happy to meet with anybody that is serious with undertaking an exchange. My supervisor and

employing agency have given verbal approval for me to commence establishing contacts and possible programs.



I am 32 and based at Oberon, Blue Mountains in New South Wales 200km west of Sydney. I am involved in managing the parks that immediately surround Lake Burragorang/Warragamba Dam, which is the water supply for Sydney's drinking water. The Parks include Blue Mountains National Park, Kanangra-Boyd National Park, and Yerranderie State Conservation Area. Field work includes surveys for existing and new noxious weeds and vertebrate pests, threatened species, assisting and supervising field staff in undertaking land management programs, undertaking law enforcement/surveillance patrols, and incident response such as wildfire suppression and search and rescue operations.



Further information can be found at:

www.oberonweb.com.au

www.bluemts.com.au

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

www.sca.nsw.gov.au

Please contact me if you are interested.

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European Rangers' Training Seminar

The International Rangers' Federation and the Romanian Rangers Association are organising the first European Rangers' Training Seminar 2007, which will be hosted by the Retezat National Park in Hunedoara, Romania from the 17th to 21st September 2007.

The main goals of the seminar will be to share experiences and to learn from each other, to inspire and gather motivation in the protection of nature and to offer the opportunity to experience the natural and cultural heritage of Romania.



Retezat National Park is the first national park of Romania, created in 1935 to preserve the beauty of the mountains and to protect rare and endemic plants. It is located in the Southern Romanian Carpathians and includes beautiful glacial lakes, mountain streams, ravines and gorges.

The historical city of Hunedoara has the most important Gothic-Style secular building in Transylvania; Corvin's Castle. It's impressive size and architectural beauty sets it among the most precious monuments of medieval art.

The exciting program for the event includes visits to walking trails and a field trip to Gemenele Scientific Reserve and covers such working topics as Education and Interpretation,



Management and Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Tourist Activities.

Since all the activities will take place outdoors, minimal hiking equipment is needed such as hiking boots, waterproof jacket and sunglasses.

For further information, booking, costs and a full programme of events please contact rangers_training@retezat.ro

Getting the most out of your Country Park

By Andy Maginnis

Since their inception in the 1968 Countryside Act, Country Parks have provided the opportunity for people to enjoy a countryside experience in a safe, welcoming environment. Originally intended to protect valuable agricultural land and sensitive conservation sites from the increasingly mobile and affluent masses as much as for altruistic purposes, Country Parks have proved to be an enduring success with the public. Despite this, the close of the twentieth century saw many Country Parks suffering from a lack of investment both in terms of funding and political support. Having re-assessed the value of Country Parks, the Countryside Agency advocated a renaissance in their fortunes as ideal venues for contributing to health, social inclusion, biodiversity and environmental awareness agendas. This reappraisal of Country Parks led to the formation of the Country Parks Network (CPN) which provides a forum for sharing best practice and a channel

for championing the value of Country Parks with key decision-makers.

Worcestershire County Council which manages two Green Flag Award-winning Country Parks is hosting a seminar aimed at helping managers get the most out of their Country Parks on Tuesday 2nd October at Worcester Woods Country Park. The programme will include a brief history of Country Parks followed by an introduction to the new CPN Country Park criteria before focusing on specific projects at Worcester Woods Country Park covering community engagement (including visitor surveys, working with volunteers, and health walks), income generation (including a café tenancy, room and BBQ hire and timber sales), biodiversity (including woodland and grassland management, grazing and orchard restoration), information and interpretation (including guided walks, interpretative panels, leaflets, plasma screen TVs and interactive multimedia) and getting recognition for your Country Park (including Green Flag, Local Area Agreements and making links with the Lyons Report). The programme will include a guided walk round the park and refreshments and lunch are included.

The cost of the seminar is £30 but Countryside Management Association and Country Parks Network members will receive a £5 discount. For more information, please contact Kate Mustard or Rachel Datlen on 01905 766155 (kmustard@worcestershire.gov.uk or rdatlen@worcestershire.gov.uk). For more information about the Country Parks Network see WWW.countryparks.org.uk

CPD and Annual Subscription Reminder

The final deadline for membership subscriptions and CPD forms is 31st July 2007.

Regional Round Up

Home Counties & East Anglia Region

By Gary King

A meeting was held on the 23rd May at Irchester Country Park in Northamptonshire where I fed back what had been happening at the National Council meeting and discussed new membership categories and the forthcoming annual conference. Also some training was run looking at an old established Country Park and a newly created one, along with the issues of zoning of sites.

The regional AGM is on the 2nd July at Stockgrove Country Park, Bedfordshire. Beforehand there will be a study day looking at dealing with horses, dogs and bikes. Please attend if you can.

South West Region

By Richard Eales

Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd May at Crickley Hill Country Park (thank you Sarah Gibbs) where the committee welcomed Liz Nether and Robert Nicoles. Liz is a Sites Officer for South Worcestershire and joins us as County Rep for Worcestershire. Robert works for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and joins us as Wiltshire County Rep. If members need to contact them their details can be found in the front of the Sou'wester.

The 2007 training plan was agreed at our previous meeting and Dave Ellacott (Training Co-ordinator) will be assisting people in organising and promoting their training. Five training days were booked for 2007 plus the National AGM.

Please take time out to attend the Regional AGM on the 9th July (see enclosed advert). It is totally free and in the idyllic location of Lanhydrock in Cornwall, so please put in an appearance, there are plenty of South West members names that I cannot put faces to. Members from outside of the South West Region are also welcome to attend.

Lanhydrock is a magnificent late Victorian country house with extensive servants quarters, gardens and wooded estate.



Lanhydrock House, Bodmin, Cornwall. © NTPL / Rupert Truman

We are still short of County Representatives for Cornwall, Somerset and Oxfordshire. Please contact me on 07973 727473 if you are interested in taking on one of these roles.

Sarah Gibbs (Gloucestershire County Rep) organised a Social event at Slimbridge which was very well attended.

Unfortunately the **Boscastle – Recover Restore and Rewild; after the Boscastle Flood**, training event had to be cancelled due to a lack of bookings. This was a rare opportunity that we as CMA members were privileged enough to have been invited to and I was embarrassed at the lack of support for this event that had National News coverage when it happened.

However, the **Training and Supporting Volunteers** day at Worcester Woods Country Park was well attended and I have received some very positive feedback. Not only did attendees widen their knowledge of volunteering but also exchanged ideas on engaging volunteers.

Other upcoming training events include:

Orchards – Past Present and Future – 20th September 2007

Looking at the new Biodiversity Habitat Action Plan for orchards and how Herefordshire County Council has developed a traditional orchard at Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve (includes a tour of a local award winning cider press).

Fungi Identification for Countryside Managers – 17th October 2007

To be held at Knighthayes Court, National Trust Property, Tiverton, Devon.

Navigation Training – November 2007 (Date TBC)

To be held at Dartmoor National Park.

Keep an eye out in the Sou'wester and on the website for further training details.

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<p>countryside-jobs.com</p> <p>to find and advertise countryside and environmental jobs and a lot more besides...</p> <p>Email: ranger@countryside-jobs.com</p> <p>CJS, The Moorlands, Goathland, Whitby North Yorkshire YO22 5LZ</p> <p>Tel: 01947 896007 Fax: 01947 896474</p>		
	<p>The Scottish Countryside Ranger Association and the Countryside Management Association</p>	
<p>endorse the CJS and are supported by a percentage of CJS income</p>		
<p>An ethical small business publishing free and low cost information to promote UK countryside careers and environmental conservation worldwide</p>		