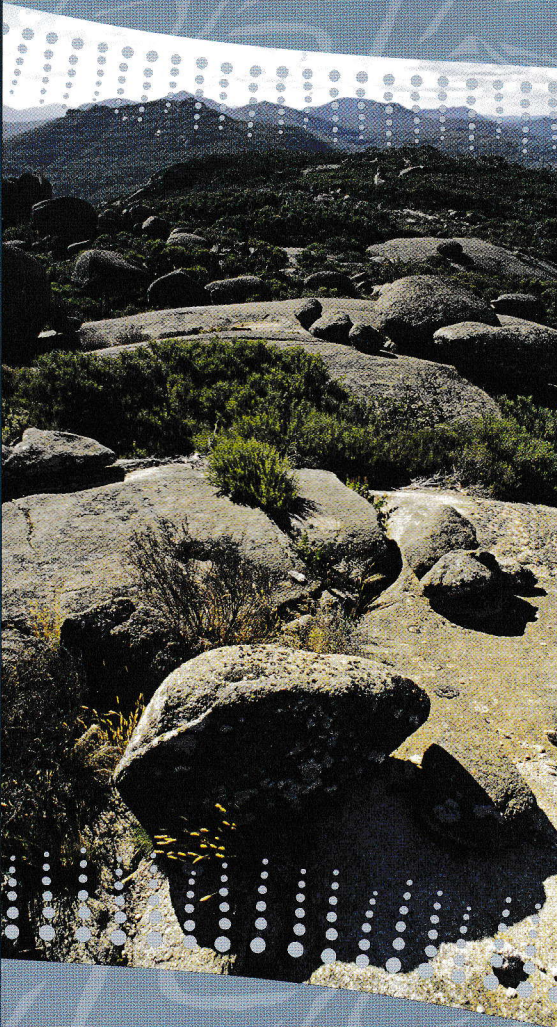




Ngunnawal people
welcome you to
namadgi national park

namadgi



A brief guide



ACT
Government



The ACT's National Park

Named after the Aboriginal word for the ranges in the south-west of the ACT, Namadgi National Park was declared in 1984 and covers 106,095 hectares. There are many reasons to visit Namadgi. It has:

- the highest peak in the ACT—Bimberri Peak is 1911 m;
- beautiful campgrounds and picnic areas;
- remote wilderness experiences;
- over twenty walking tracks;
- a wide range of natural environments;
- an abundance of native wildlife;
- Aboriginal and European cultural heritage sites; and
- Easy access and within 20-60 minutes drive from Canberra.



Yerrabi Track

The Australian Alps National Parks

Namadgi National Park is at the northern-most end of the Australian Alps. Alpine environments are rare in Australia, covering a tiny 0.15% of the continent. Park agencies in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth Government work together under the Australian Alps national parks banner to manage 1.6 million hectares of the alpine region in recognition of its significance as a single biogeographical region. Website: www.australialnaps.environment.gov.au

Bimberri wilderness

The Bimberri Wilderness comprises the western third of Namadgi National Park (28,900 ha) and an adjoining area in New South Wales. It includes some of the Alps' most beautiful scenery. You can easily view this rugged area from Hospital Hill Lookout on Boboyan Road, Mt Ginini, Mt Franklin Road or from the Yerrabi Walking Track. The Bimberri Wilderness can be accessed on foot from the Mt Ginini car park and the Orroral Valley. Camping permits apply.

Namadgi and people

Aboriginal Australians have had a long association with Namadgi. As traditional custodians, the Ngunnawal people have obligations to both their ancestors and descendants to participate in the management of their Country, in particular sites of significance like Yankee Hat. Ngunnawal people welcome others onto their traditional lands and ask that visitors be aware of, respect and acknowledge Ngunnawal cultural traditions, laws and customs. There are many Aboriginal heritage sites in Namadgi including rock art, stone tools, quarry sites, stone arrangements and campsites—reminders of the traditional Aboriginal lifestyle that still retains meaning. You will also discover reminders of European history at Namadgi including the pastoral era, ski clubs, forestry and even the space industry at the former space tracking sites at Honeysuckle and Orroral.



Yankee Hat Rock Art is interpreted to a group of park visitors

Wild Things

Habitats range from broad, grassy plains in the valleys. Alpine Ash forests on the slopes, to Snow Gum woodlands and subalpine meadows on the mountain peaks. Within a short distance, vegetation and wildlife can change dramatically. Namadgi also has a special type of wetland called a fen which consists mainly of sedges. Nursery Swamp is the most well-known fen in the park. The park also features unique sub-alpine Sphagnum bog ecosystems which can be seen on the Mt Gingera walk. The Ginini Wetlands has been listed as a Ramsar site, (a site of international significance) as it provides habitat for Latham's Snipe, an international migratory bird and the Northern Corroboree Frog.

Mountains of water

Catchments in Namadgi National Park supply up to 95% of Canberra's and Queanbeyan's water. Water that falls on the mountains is filtered and purified as it passes through Sphagnum Moss bogs, forests, woodlands and grasslands into our dams.

Picnicking

There are many picnic areas in and near the park. Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve also has picnic facilities. All picnic areas have tables and toilets. Please do not feed the wildlife and take your rubbish home.

Camping

Car-based tent camping in Namadgi National Park is permitted only at the three designated campgrounds—Orroral, Honeysuckle Creek and Mount Clear. You can also camp at Woods Reserve, Blue Range and the Cotter which are close to the park. Bookings are essential except at the Cotter campground where an honesty box system applies. Book online www.bookings.act.gov.au, phone the Namadgi Visitor Centre: 6207 2900 or Canberra Connect: 13 22 81. Honeysuckle campground is suitable for small to larger groups and features spaces

Safety in the mountains

- The weather can change suddenly and dramatically. Be prepared for freezing conditions and a longer stay than planned.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back. Put your details in the walks register in the park and inform visitor centre staff if doing an extended overnight walk.
- Plan ahead. Be sure to have suitable equipment, carry water, cold and wet weather clothing, repair gear and a first aid kit.
- Road conditions can be hazardous. Drive carefully.

Fire

- Please protect Namadgi's sensitive environment by observing all fire regulations and obeying fire danger signs. All fires in the ACT, including campfires, are regulated by law.
- No fires are allowed in the Cotter Catchment area of the park. However, fuel stoves may be used. Fires are only permitted in officially constructed fireplaces located in campgrounds and picnic areas. Firewood is not provided so please bring your own.
- **Total Fire Bans** prohibit all fires including fuel stoves and gas barbecues. Fire danger signs indicate what fire restrictions are in place. Installed barbecues are turned off during Total Fire Bans.
- Walkers and picnickers are encouraged to use fuel stoves instead of lighting a fire. Leave bush wood for habitat and to renew soil.
- Solid Fuel Bans may apply periodically. These ban the use of wood, briquettes, tablets and other solid fuels but allow gas and electric heating and cooking. Contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information.
- Supervise fires and extinguish them when you leave.

Leave no trace



Leave your pets at home. Domestic pets are prohibited.



Carry it in, carry it out. There are no bins so please take your rubbish home for disposal or recycling.



Leave animals, plants, rocks and wood where you find them—It is illegal to remove them from the park.



Use a fuel stove.



Got to go? Carry a small trowel to dig a hole and bury human waste. Choose a site at least 100 metres from water. Where possible, use toilets.



Respect heritage. Do not collect, deface or damage Aboriginal or European cultural heritage artefacts or sites.



Stay on track—even if it is boggy.



(above left) Swamp Wallaby, (right) Hoary Sunray, (front cover) view from Mt Gudgenby. Photos: M. Maconachie

Further information

Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre, Naas Road, Tharwa ACT, 2620

Phone (02) 6207 2900

Email: namadginationalpark@act.gov.au

Canberra Connect: 13 22 81

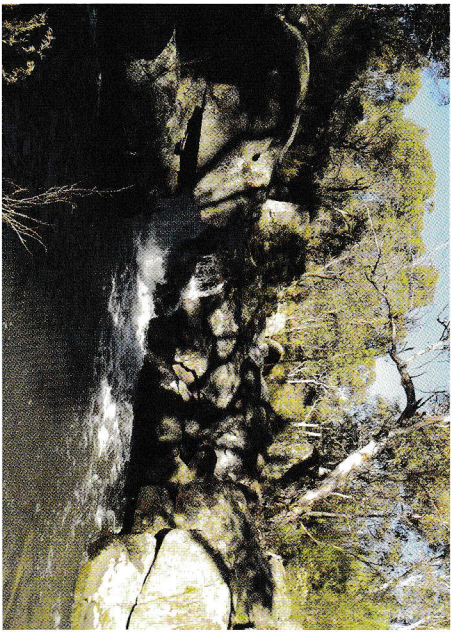
Website: www.tams.act.gov.au

Australian Alps National Parks website: www.australionalps.environment.gov.au

Namadgi Map and Guide available for sale from the Namadgi Visitor Centre

2013

for campervans and trailers. Orroral campground provides a bush setting for camping and some caravan sites. Mount Clear is the most remote campsite with very basic facilities and is accessed via an unsealed road. Camping is prohibited in the lower and middle portions of the Cotter Catchment and allowed by permit in the upper catchment. No permit is needed for pack-based camping outside the catchment.



Rendezvous Creek. Photo: J Evans

Bushwalking

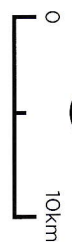
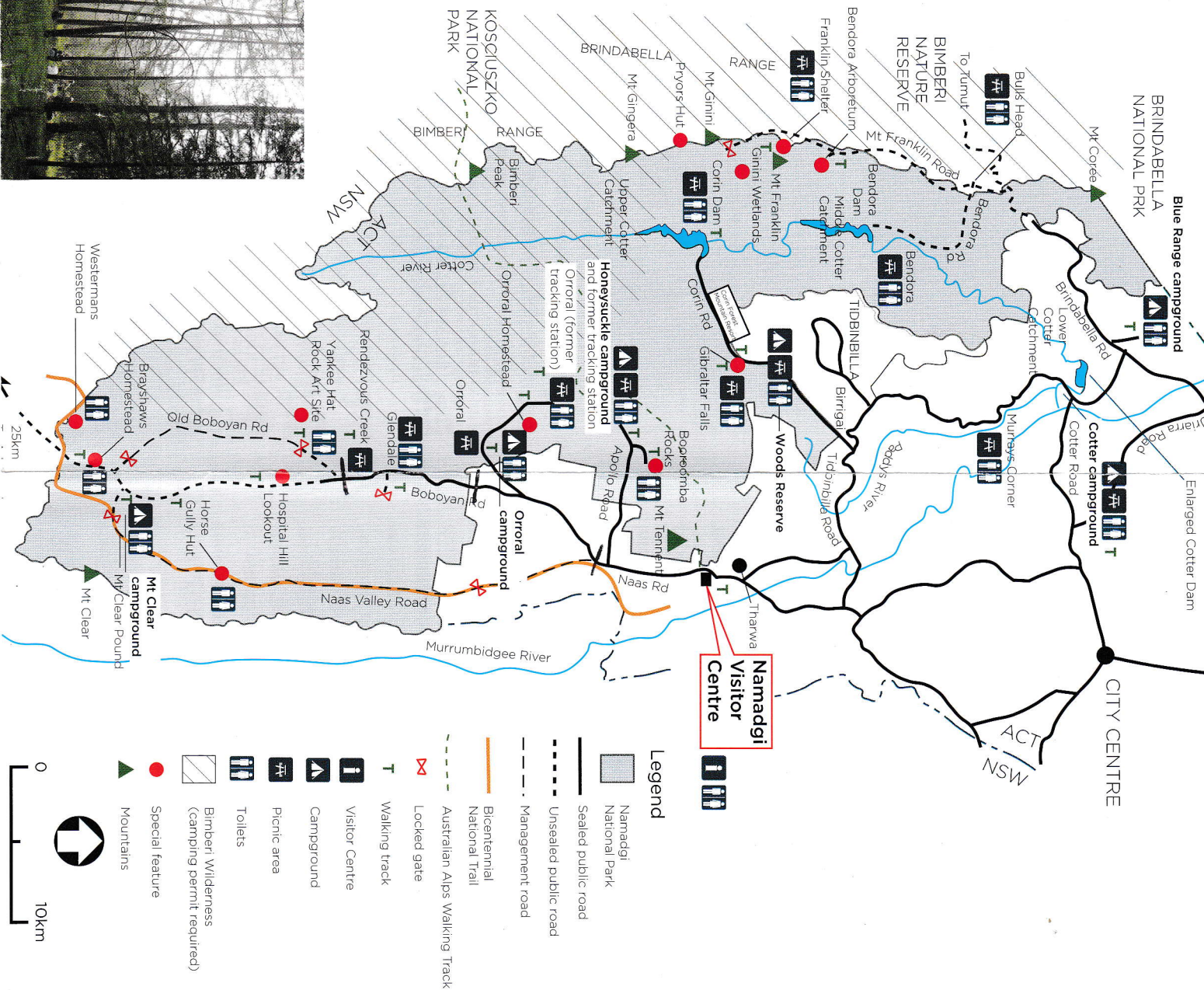
Much of Namadji's beauty lies beyond its main roads and picnic areas and walking is the most popular way to explore. There are over 170 kilometres of marked walking tracks. The **Namadji Map and Guide**, available from the Namadji Visitor Centre, provides more detailed information.

Walking off marked tracks

Well-prepared walkers who venture into remote parts of Namadji reap some of the park's greatest rewards. All remote area walkers should record the details of their trip in the bushwalking registers located in the park (see Namadji Map and Guide for their locations). Walking off marked tracks requires expertise with a map and compass and warm and waterproof clothing as mountain weather can change unexpectedly at any time of year.

Mountain biking

Tharwa area covered hundred kilometre of scenic mountain



management roads within the park, except those in the Upper Cotter Catchment/ Bimberli Wilderness south of Mount Ginini car park and west of Orroral Valley. Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks or off the formed roads.

Scenic driving and motorised biking

Public roads within the park pass through majestic mountain country, providing access to nature for everyone. The unsealed roads are narrow and can be slippery when wet or frosty. Roads may be closed because of snow, floods and Total Fire Bans. Petrol is available in Canberra, Tharwa and Adaminaby but not in the park. Registered trail bike riding is not allowed off public roads in the park or past locked gates.

Enjoying the snow

Snow can fall over any part of the park but is most common on the Bimberli and Brindabella Ranges. The Mount Franklin Road is open as long as snow conditions allow and, if accessible, the area beyond may be suitable for snow play. The Brindabella, Boboyan and Mount Franklin Roads can be hazardous in winter and help may not always be available. Chains may be required. Contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information on road conditions.

Fishing

Pick up a Recreational Fishing in the ACT brochure from the Namadgi Visitor Centre or online www.tams.act.gov.au. Fishing is prohibited in the Cotter River catchment upstream of the Bendora Dam wall, the Cotter River and reservoir up to the junction with Condor Creek, and the Orroral River upstream of the Honeysuckle to Orroral management road. Fishing is allowed in all other streams (classified as trout waters) from the beginning of the long weekend in October to the end of the long weekend in June. Gear/bait restrictions and fish size/bag limits apply. Only artificial fly and lure fishing is allowed as live bait could lead to the introduction of alien species.



Orroral Homestead

Horse riding

Horse riding is permitted on management roads east of and including the Old Boboyan Road. The National Bicentennial Trail passes through Namadgi National Park on the Naas Valley management road. Before riding, contact the Namadgi Visitor Centre for information and to arrange access and use of yards and camping area at the Mount Clear Pound.

Namadgi Visitor Centre

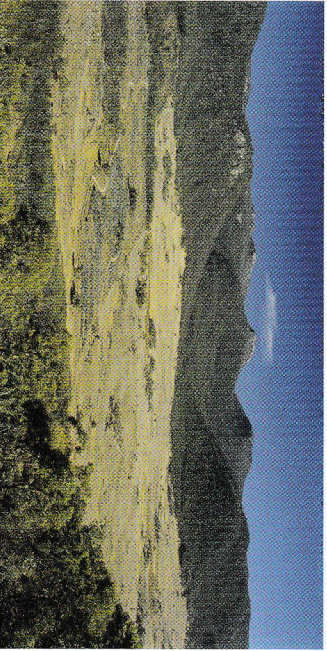
Visit the Namadgi Visitor Centre to get expert advice and see displays and audiovisuals. Maps, books, posters and gifts can be purchased from the shop including the **Namadgi Map and Guide**.

Open: 9 am–4:00 pm weekdays;

9 am–4:30 pm weekends and public holidays

(closed Christmas Day)

Where: Two kilometres south of Tharwa on Naas Road.



Gudgenby Valley and Bimberli Wilderness from Hospital Hill Lookout

Campgrounds and picnic areas

	Flushing toilets	Composting or pit toilets	Showers	Shelter	Gas barbecues	Wood barbecues (BYO wood)	Water available (treat or boil)	Campervan sites (no electricity)	Tent sites—large groups	Tent sites—six or less people
Campgrounds										
Honeysuckle		♿		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Orroral	♿			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mount Clear		•								•
Woods Reserve	♿			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Blue Range		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cotter	♿		♿	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Picnic areas										
Bulls Head		♿		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bendora Dam						•	•			
Corrin Dam					•			•		
Former space tracking station (Orroral Valley)		♿			•			•		
Orroral River		•				•	•	•		
Glendale		•				•	•	•		
Murrays Corner	♿			•	•	•	•	•		
Gibraltar Falls				•	•	•	•			
Woods Reserve				•	•	•	•	•		
Cotter Precinct	♿			•	•	•	•	•		

In Namadgi, car-based tent camping is permitted only at the three Namadgi campgrounds—Honeysuckle, Orroral and Mount Clear and a three night limit applies. Generators are not permitted at campgrounds. Dogs are allowed at Woods Reserve, Blue Range and Murrays Corner as these areas are not in Namadgi National Park. Refer to the 'Murrumbidgee Corridor map and guide' for a more detailed list of picnic area facilities for the Cotter Precinct. Advance bookings apply to all campgrounds except the Cotter. Fees apply.

Phone Namadgi Visitor Centre: (02) 6207 2900, Canberra Connect: 13 22 81 or book online www.bookings.act.gov.au

No wood is supplied for fireplaces. Please bring your own wood.

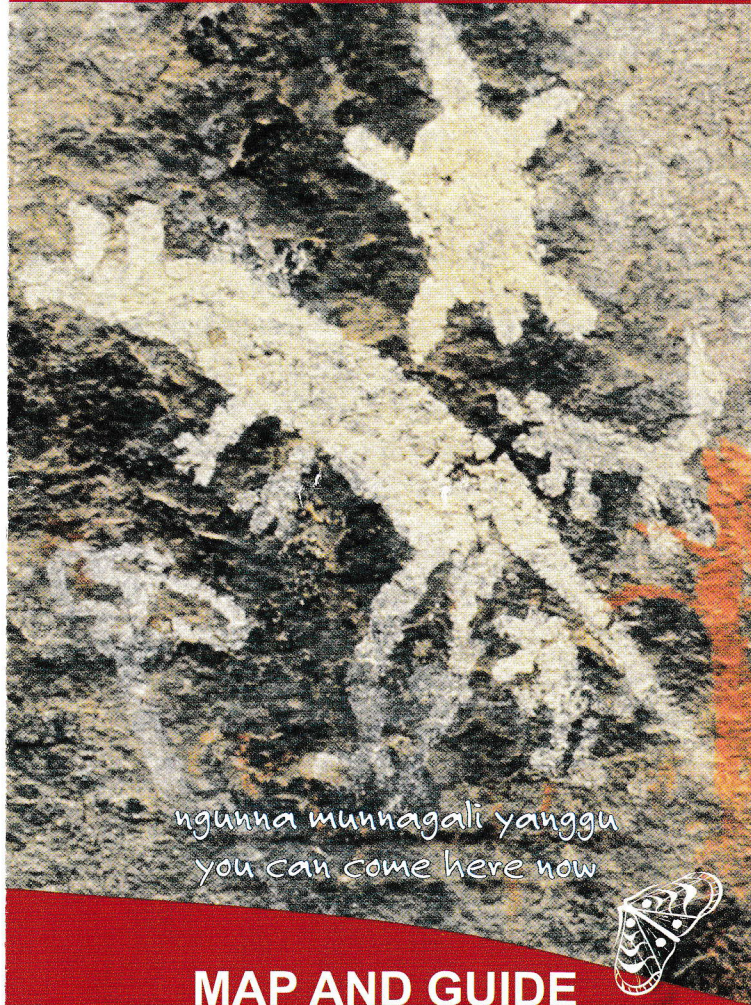


♿=wheelchair accessible facility.



Ngunnawal people welcome you
to namadgi national park

Yankee Hat



*ngunna munnagali yanggu
you can come here now*



MAP AND GUIDE



ACT
Government

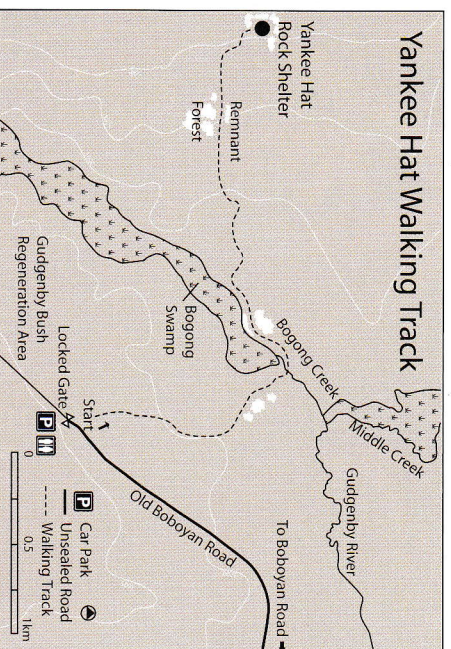


The original custodians and caretakers

The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the Canberra region. The region was also a significant meeting place to neighbouring clans including the Ngarigo, Wolgalu, Gundungurra, Yuin and Wiradjuri people. Ceremonies, trading and inter-marriages took place during gatherings.

Aboriginal people regard themselves as custodians and caretakers of the land. Caring for Country involves looking after the values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations of an area (Country), including the processes of spiritual renewal, connecting with ancestors as well as practices to maintain the natural resources.

There is evidence that Aboriginal people have lived in the Canberra region for at least 25,000 years. Their descendants still live in the region today but not in the same way as their ancestors did.



Yankee Hat Walk 6 km return (2 1/2 hrs) Easy

Stroll through expansive grasslands dotted with kangaroos, to the Yankee Hat Shelter to view Aboriginal rock art. Beautiful mountain views.

Yankee Hat

The only currently known Aboriginal art sites in the ACT occur in Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The Yankee Hat art sites are located within Namadgi in the Gudgenby Valley, (approximately 30 km south-west of the township of Tharwa or 90 mins drive from the centre of Canberra) in a complex of boulders situated at the foot of Yankee Hat Mountain. Carbon dating of the camp-site deposits in the Yankee Hat rock shelter show that Aboriginal people began using the shelter more than 800 years ago. Evidence from nearby sites suggests that people were camping in the area, and presumably painting, as long as 3,700 years ago.

The rock

The shelter at Yankee Hat is a granite boulder which has been rounded off and under-cut by weathering. The rounding effect is sometimes called 'onion-skin weathering' caused by repeated heating and cooling. The painted surface can crumble—one important reason not to touch it. The cream coloured streaks on the rock are feldspar deposits washed down by rain. The black to grey deposits are probably organic in origin which may in future allow a more precise dating of the paintings.

The paint

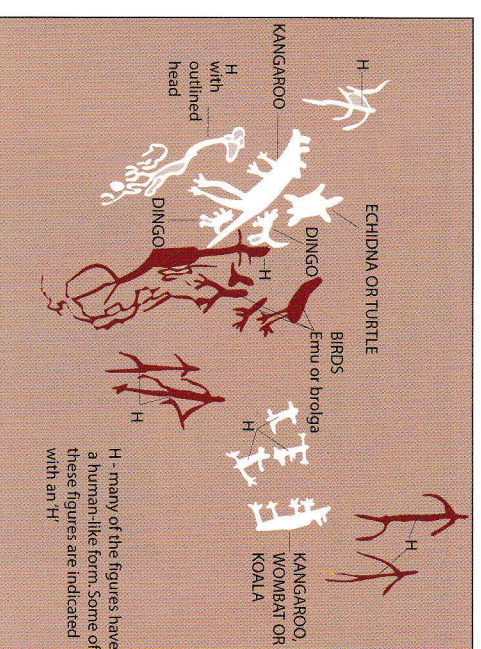
The rock art site is protected from regular surface water flow by the high roof overhang. The white paint used at Yankee Hat is clay. The red paint is based on iron oxide or 'ochre'. The nearest known ochre quarries are at Michelago and Gungahlin. The different shades of red in the paintings may be the result of paint weathering or may have been deliberately caused by mixing some white clay with the ochre. Clay and ochre were normally mixed with a binding agent such as water, sap, blood or animal oils.

The art

The paintings at Yankee Hat are well preserved and contain the first prehistoric (meaning before recorded history) drawings identified in the ACT. Some of the Yankee Hat figures represent animals but there are many abstract and human-like figures. Their meanings may have varied according to the viewer's level of initiation into tribal tradition.

Some figures were painted in groupings which may describe relationships between the different figures. One example comprises the four white figures on the left resembling a kangaroo, a turtle and two dingoes.

The figures were painted over a period of hundreds or possibly thousands of years. The earliest paintings are faint dark red/brown. The most recent are the well-preserved white and orange/red ones. The names on the figures are based on the work of modern researchers, not on direct information from the people who painted at Yankee Hat. Traditional lifestyles in the Namadgi area were destroyed in the mid 1800s when European settlers took over the land and introduced diseases.



Art in the region

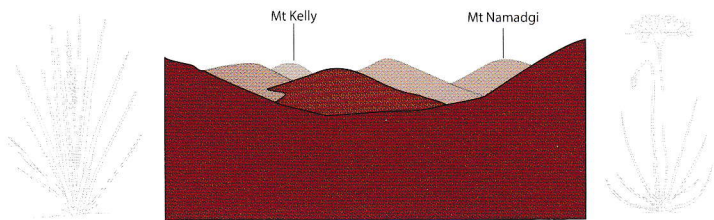
We will never know the precise meaning of the paintings but we can be fairly certain that they were not random works of individual expression. The strict conventions in style over a very long period of time and across all sites in the area indicate great cultural importance attached to the art. Rock art sites are culturally significant to Aboriginal people as they provide evidence of the importance of the site to their ancestors.

The rock art sites are representative of a unique type within the ACT and within the Southern Tablelands region as a whole. They are therefore invaluable at both a popular and academic level in understanding Aboriginal history and culture in the region.

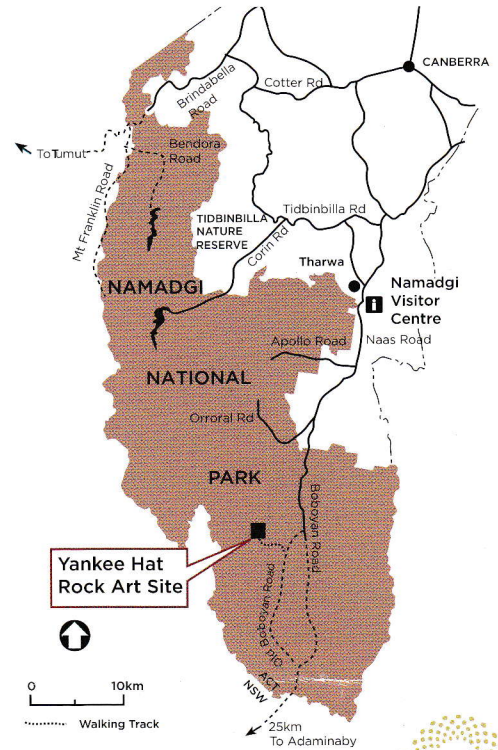
Aboriginal rock art style is consistent throughout the Southern Tablelands and is similar to sites in central western NSW.

Protect our heritage

The Yankee Hat rock art is vulnerable. Make sure that you do not touch the art or the rock surface as oils from your skin will damage the painting. Please respect all heritage sites. It is an offence to damage, disturb or destroy Aboriginal heritage places including objects, whether registered or not.



Yankee Hat Rock Art Site



Canberra Tracks

For more insights into Aboriginal history in the ACT, take the self drive Ngunnawal Track or the Limestone Plains Track. Information is available from the Canberra Visitor Centre or www.canberratracks.act.gov.au

Ngunnawal people ask that others respect the cultural protocols that they have developed for Namadgi. We all have an obligation to care for our country with our neighbours.

Further information

Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre, Naas Road, Tharwa ACT 2620
Phone (02) 6207 2900
Canberra Connect: 13 22 81
Website: www.tams.act.gov.au
Email: namadginationalpark@act.gov.au
Produced by Parks and Conservation Service, Territory and Municipal Services Directorate.

2013