

TRIBUTES TO DR GRAEME WORBOYS AM

6th May 1950 – 28th September 2020



Arkaroola 2012. Photo: P. Figgis

Dr Kathy MacKinnon

Chair IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) UK

WCPA will remember and honour Graeme as a dedicated and passionate conservationist, inspiring champion, mentor and teacher, always willing to share his knowledge and expertise to promote protected areas. He epitomised all that is best in a volunteer network like WCPA – we have lost a very good friend”.

In the many tributes which have come from all around the world, colleagues and friends have remembered Graeme as gentle unassuming, and always polite, but those who know him well also reflect on his driving commitment and motivation, undeterred and unflinching to achieve the outcomes he so passionately believed in. Our thoughts go out to his family Bev, Patty and Andrew and their families and the grandchildren in whom he delighted.

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas wish to pay tribute to one of the most dedicated of WCPA Commission members, DR Graeme Worboys, AM.

Graeme epitomised the nature of those who are committed to conservation, and to serving the cause of conservation as a selfless volunteer. A career protected area manager, he stayed the course, working as a ranger, superintendent and senior manager in protected area authorities in Australia, and contributing to the science of governance and management of protected areas internationally through his contributions to the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. He had an abiding interest in mountains and connectivity conservation and mobilised resources and people to study and develop guidance on these topics, notably through some engaging meetings in Ecuador, Nepal and other workshops which many had the pleasure of attending. He also contributed his skill and expertise to the evaluation of prospective World Heritage Sites.

He was awarded the IUCN WCPA's Fred Packard Award for outstanding service at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i in 2016, which carried the citation:

"In recognition of Dr Graeme Worboys, for outstanding dedication to the vision and mission of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. As Vice Chair for the Mountains and Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group of WCPA, Graeme has been an outstanding champion of the importance of connectivity for conservation across landscapes globally. With enormous drive and dedication, he has consistently built a body of knowledge and advice to promote connectivity conservation initiatives around the world, and in the process, has developed a suite of publications and a committed cadre of protected area professionals to carry out this work.

Graeme was a remarkable man, a 'doer' who not only campaigned constantly to strengthen management in Australia's protected areas, and especially his beloved Kosciuszko National Park but responded to the need to building expertise for conservation management more generally, through his prodigious efforts to publish guidance for protected area management. He recognised the need to develop freely available learning resources for this global community, and through his quiet persistence and determination motivated hundreds of professionals to contribute voluntarily towards the "state of the art" publication Protected Area Governance and Management, launched at the World Parks Congress in 2014. The Protected Area Governance and Management Book has since been translated in its entirety into Spanish and French and is available to protected area managers and students worldwide. Through this and other major publications on Connectivity Conservation, Graeme has left a lasting legacy that continues to make a significant contribution towards the education and professionalization of protected area governance and management.

Despite his health issues of the last few years Graeme continued to write, teach and mentor colleagues and students through his work with WCPA specialist groups and Australian universities. He not only finished his book on Kosciuszko National Park, but also campaigned tirelessly in the highly contentious and political battle to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko and to ward off other threats to its integrity over tourism development, serious fire damage and the building of a vast new Snowy 2 hydro project.

In a fitting acknowledgement of his service, on Australia Day 2020 this fine life of contribution was acknowledged by his nation when Graeme was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).
Written by Kathy MacKinnon, Penelope Figgis & Trevor Sandwith.

Penelope Figgis, WCPA SC, VC Oceania, Australia

Graeme was always an unassuming man who was polite and pleasant in all circumstances. Yet he had a passionate soul and dogged determination when it came to working for the beloved landscapes and wildlife of his own nation, and many other countries. He loved all nature, but the mountains were his special places, and of all the mountains his most beloved was Kosciuszko, for which he continued to fight, even when very diminished.

We feel very glad that despite the medical demands of the last few years Graeme saw wonderful moments, such as the soaring numbers in the downloads of the vast global guide to Managing Protected Areas and its translation into Spanish, thanks to WCPA and Parks Columbia. Another major triumph was finishing the writing of the long and unflinching story of the creation of Australia's iconic Kosciuszko National Park, with colleague Deirdre Slattery, which was his legacy document to all the conservationists and professional park managers whose work and commitment have continued, through many trials, to protect Kosciuszko. Then this year on Australia Day he and his family were very proud when Graeme was awarded the high honour of being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Covid delayed the formal ceremony to have the honour bestowed, but fortunately this took place at government house in Canberra just a few weeks ago.

Vale to our dear mate and colleague.

Nigel Dudley and Sue Stolton, WCPA SC, UK



The news was expected of course, but very, very sad. Such a nice man. And as so many have noted already, leaving a huge legacy. Graeme showed a lot of personal kindness to Sue and I, showing us remote bits of Australia and welcoming us into his and Bev's home. He was always a pleasure to work with. Best wishes to all and farewell to Graeme, travel well.
Nigel

Nigel with Bev and Graeme.
Photo: Nigel Dudley

Roger Crofts, Former WCPA SC, UK

What a privilege it has been to have known and worked with this very fine man for so many years; to share work time and play time in many interesting places and to get to know what makes him tick. One word describes Graeme to me "dedicated".

Graeme was dedicated to conservation at all scales from the largest connected corridors to the smallest sites. He led with distinction the production of the valuable tome *Connectivity Conservation Management: a global guide*, published in 2010, as well as leading the Connectivity Group in WCPA. He had a lifelong dedication to the protection and management of Kosciuszko National Park. He was delighted to read the reaction to the brilliant book he co-authored with Deirdre Slattery *Kosciuszko: a great national park*.

I treasure the copy he sent me and most especially the insights it contains. This book is the epitome of Graeme's dedication to conservation and his special protected area. It is authoritative. It is insightful. It is so comprehensive in its treatment of every aspect of the national park, its natural and cultural history, its management successes and failures, the scientific underpinning of conservation and management. It tells the human stories in their many variations. And it reflects on the past and looks forward to the future. Without doubt it is the model for others to follow in telling the inside

story of nature's special places. It will be the benchmark to follow for decades to come. As he said to me recently "Kosciuszko is a great national park ... and must stay this way ... it is important to have this record which serves as a baseline of fact when so many opportunists are willing to employ romanticism and alternative facts to further unsavoury futures they would prefer for this park."

It is of no surprise to all who knew him, that Graeme was dedicated to campaigning against injustice to nature whenever and wherever he felt that change was needed. To the end, for example, he campaigned vigorously against feral horse damage in the Kosciuszko National Park, and on many other issues, as his Australian friends will testify.

Graeme was dedicated to working partnerships in his Australian and his international work, both in collective groups and with individuals. He was tireless in supporting the mountains work when taking over from the redoubtable Larry Hamilton. He gave his insights and wise advice to us in the setting up of the Geoheritage Specialist Group. Indeed, despite time differences, he was always ready and willing to have a chat over the phone to help move matters forward.

Graeme was dedicated to the highest standards throughout his work. This is obvious to us all in working with him on the *Protected Areas Governance and Management* book. Meticulously organised, great at communicating with all participants, supportive and gently nudging everyone forward and providing a helping hand when needed. That's how Graeme worked to get the best from colleagues and to produce outcomes that are of inestimable benefit to everyone involved in protected areas activity.

As we all know, Graeme was dedicated to communicating best practice and making sure when the practice was not up to scratch. Hence, the 4 books that I have the good fortune to have as my bibles on conservation management practice.



And he was dedicated to Bev, his delightful wife, and to their children Patty and Andrew and the grandchildren. Graeme was practical, serious and good humoured, mildly self-deprecating and action orientated. It was a delight to spend time with him in the field with his penetrating questions and insightful discussions. His camera, 'Nicy' as he called it, a high spec Nikon, was a treasured possession. The results were of the highest order as we have seen in his authored publications.

He showed remarkable perseverance through the years of treatment for the rare Uveal Cancer since 2014, with the dedicated support of Bev, his wife and the technical team in Sydney. He was positive to the end feeling that there was no point is not being. What an amazing person! We owe so much to Graeme Worboys, we mourn his loss, but will forever remember and honour the contribution he made to the serious work of conserving nature.

Graeme with Roger Good in China. Photo: Kyung Sik

Dr Stephen Woodley, WCPA SC, VC Science and Biodiversity, Canada

I remember Graeme as such a passionate man about so many things. He once held me spellbound for several hours explaining the geology of World Heritage site and its implications for understanding the history of life on earth. He could speak with equal passion about trail surfacing innovations from his days as park manager. He was also passionate about mountains, ecological integrity, connectivity and indeed the WCPA family.



At the mouth of the Murray. Photo: S. Woodley

I am very pleased he lived to see the publication of "Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors," a subject he spent many years nurturing. My thoughts are with Bev and family.

Jo Hopkins, WCPA SC, VC Health and Protected Areas, Park Victoria, Australia

A sad loss of one of the great conservationists, he leaves an incredible legacy and body of work behind for us all to continue learning from.

Dr Marc Hockings, WCPA SC, VC Science and Management, Australia

Such sad news. Graeme will be greatly missed. You have summed his character up so well – quiet and unassuming but with a vision and a commitment that is second to none. I can think of no one else with the determination and the capacity to bring together the three major books on protected area management that he conceived, cajoled authors to contribute to and brought to fruition. Having used all three books as a basis for teaching the next generation of protected area professionals, I am forever grateful for these labours of love that he undertook. Best wishes and rest peacefully Graeme.

Julia Miranda Londono, Director Parks Colombia, Deputy Chair, WCPA



Photo: Julia Miranda Londono

Thank you for your message and for the great idea of writing, sending photos and remembering the extraordinary person that Graeme was in every aspect of his life! For me, he was a kind teacher of many things, like the geological characteristics of the amazing mountains of South Africa, or the evolution of the Galapagos Islands, or the extraordinary park Plitvice in Croatia where he dreamed to go since he studied it when he was young. Geology student and he learned its geological and chemical characteristics. And we went there together!

So much to learn from his last book about his beloved Kosciuszko National Park! The Book of Management of Protected Areas, a very ambitious dream, was another opportunity to learn from him, his academic rigor, his capacity to convince many people to write and his determination to finish it successfully. The Book is now in the hands of thousands of people that work for the protected areas around the world!

I miss Graeme! I miss his kind smile, his intelligent and interesting conversation, his inspiring love and enthusiasm for nature and for the knowledge behind every natural phenomenon because he loved to know, to do the research and find the cause of the many and diverse subjects that interested him; and his discipline to study and write.

We have all lost a great friend, but his legacy is enormous and his testimony of love for life, for his family and for nature will be always an inspiration for us! Warm regards to his family and all dear friends in this sad moment. Julia

Dr Rahimatsah Amat, Member Transboundary Specialist Group, Sabah

Please convey my condolences and sympathy to the family of the late Graeme Worboys. It was indeed fun to have met him the last time at WPC in Australia.

May his soul rest in peace, and surely he will be missed by all of us from WCPA. Rahim

Kevan Zunckel, Chair, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group, South Africa

Thank you for passing this extremely sad news on to us. On behalf of the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, I offer our condolences to Graeme's family and heart-felt wishes that they will be strengthened in the knowledge that there are many who deeply feel his loss and wish them well. We recognised and hugely appreciate the legacy he has left behind and trust that his wisdom will continue to be embraced and applied by conservation practitioners around the world. Kindest Regards, Kevan



Krkonoše National Park for WCPA Steering Committee with Penny Figgis and Kathy MacKinnon 2016.
Photo: M.Hosek

Prof Dan Laffoley, former WCPA SC VC Marine, UK

I was so sad to hear this news. We had such fun on all those trips. I will always remember staying at Graeme's some years back now and the two of us visiting Kosciuszko as well as getting up before dawn to be shown my first platypuses! V fond memories of a great man. Dan

Sonigitu Ekpe, WCPA Mountains SG, Nigeria

It's really with a heavy heart we received this news. We pray Almighty to grant him a peaceful rest. Our sincere sympathy to the family.

Dr Mike Lockwood, WCPA Member, Australia



Graeme and Mike present their co-edited book *Protected Areas Governance & Management* to Prof Yoshida Masahito and DR Kay Sakota from Tsukuka University.
Photo: Mike Lockwood.

Very sad news at the loss of a great friend, colleague and champion for protected areas. Hard to adequately express what he meant to me and the profession. I wrote this profile which covers some of his immense achievements.

Over a period of approximately 50 years, Associate Professor Worboys has worked in protected area management as a park ranger, senior manager for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, executive member and section leader for the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), university teacher, private consultant and author, and honorary researcher at the Australian National University. His work in these contexts constitute a nationally and internationally significant contribution to protected area management, education and advocacy.

Through his leadership in the WCPA, Graeme has shaped international and national policies on the establishment and management of parks and reserves, particularly in relation to innovations in connectivity conservation and mountain protected area management. He has led assessments of World Heritage nominations and has been a key advisor in relation to the nomination of the Flinders Ranges as World Heritage. His passion and commitment have inspired others to come on board with his vision of scientifically informed, economically prudent and socially inclusive protected area governance and management.

As well as numerous influential papers, reports and media appearances, Graeme has co-written and co-edited four books that have had a major impact nationally and globally, and which remain the primary sources of authoritative guidance for students and practitioners on protected area governance and management.

As well as these foundational texts, Graeme has made important direct contributions to the education of conservation practitioners. To give one of many examples, over a fifteen-year period Graeme inspired and informed University of Tasmania students through field studies, workshops and lectures. Student feedback on his teaching has always been hugely appreciative of Graeme's willingness and capacity to share his knowledge and experience.

At a regional level, he had recently co-authored the seminal text on one of Australia's, and the world's, great national parks – Kosciuszko. His past and current research and advocacy for sound management of Kosciuszko is a key contribution towards maintain the globally significant values of this park.

Peter Jacobs, Chair IUCN/Leader WCPA Mountains Specialist Group, Australia



Worbs doing what he loved best talking about Kosciuszko. On an Alps workshop 2008. Rams Head Range in the back.
Photo: I Pulsford

It is with a heavy heart that we hear the news that we have lost a gem and a rock of the mountains. Graeme Worboys died last night after battling a long illness. Graeme was our senior advisor but more than that he was an inspiration and backbone of the WCPA Mountains Specialist Group.

The WCPA Mountains Specialist Group is one of the longest serving groups in the WCPA. Along with Larry Hamilton, who we also sadly lost 4 years back, Graeme drove that group and served the WCPA at high levels being the Vice Chair for Mountains and Connectivity on the WCPA Steering Committee for many years.

Graeme was friend, mentor and respected colleague to many on the Mountains Committee and we are a legacy of his hard work and commitment. I am sure the mountains around the world took a sigh when Graeme passed on and embraced his soul. Just last weekend as Graeme was resting, his beloved the Australian Alps had the biggest snow fall for the season, unseasonably so late...

It is incumbent on us now to continue Graeme's commitment and work to strive for the effective and adequate protection of mountains around the world. There is lots of unfinished business...some close to his home and his treasured Kosciuszko National Park, and his global commitment to protecting mountains; as he used to say; the water towers of the world. We will dedicate the next Mountains Update to Graeme. All the best for his wife and family, my heart is with them.

Rod Atkins, WCPA Member, Australia



Thanks for sending the message about Worbs. I had heard earlier today through the Alps network. Shouldn't have been a shock but it still is. I have many fond memories of working with Graeme on Australian Alps projects and WCPA Mountains

and Connectivity workshops too. The photos remind me of a number of other good people who have passed away. Photo: Rod Atkins



Bruce Leaver, Andy Spate, Roger Good and Graeme, mountain mates at Falls Creek 2007. Photo: I. Pulsford

Andy Spate AM

I first met Graeme around 1974 when we were establishing the Yarrangobilly Research Group – he became an enthusiastic supporter. This was not long after his arrival at Kosciuszko (as it was known then) as a Ranger Naturalist. His conduct matched that title – he became enamoured with all aspects of Kosciuszko’s natural environment – and maybe to a lesser extent, its cultural aspects.

The next time I encountered Graeme in a more substantial way was in 1981 when I joined the Service to look after NSW’s caves. The summer of 1981/82 was spent in developing the ‘best’ plan of management for KNP yet seen with Graeme, Adrian Davey, Joss Davies, Bruce Leaver, Roger Good, and many others. I recall, fondly a night when several of us lay on the lawn at The Lodge at Waste point where Graeme and Bruce pontificated about the stars and constellations. Maybe there were some beverages involved? I also recall staying with Graeme and Bev in East Jindabyne one night – we went fishing and I caught a large salmon – Graeme nothing ...

Graeme became my boss in Queanbeyan for a term or two – no better manager. He moved onto bigger and better things than Southern Regional Manager, but I am sure that his heart remained at Kosciuszko. How much better is this demonstrated by the recently published book by Deidre Slattery on Kosciuszko – a more than remarkable piece of work!

His work around the globe and in Australia was seen as a towering achievement recognised by his award as a Member of the Order of Australia earlier this year. Graeme was so dedicated to his work – perfect gentle man and gentleman with a great sense of humour and with a great sense of family and friends. His memory will live for a very great time. Andy

Deidre Slattery, co-author of *Kosciuszko: A Great National Park 2020*

Thanks for your very moving and accurate professional tribute for Graeme. I just wanted to say to you personally that I was very privileged and grateful to have Graeme as my close colleague for the last five years. I won’t be able to participate in the funeral next week but I hope that there may be some public tribute down the track in which I can participate and will look out for that.

John Watson, WCPA Member, Australia

Sad news indeed... I first new Graeme through the early days of ACKMA (early 1980's) and Tasmanian cave management visits 70's & 80's ... then through Larry Hamilton's 1991 *Parks, Peaks & People Mountain Environments* consultation in Hawaii. We also had a shared interest in connectivity and Australian biosphere reserve network...

Stuart Chape, WCPA Member SPREP, Samoa

Thank you for sharing the sad news about Graeme. I haven't seen Graeme for many years but fondly remember our conversations when I was more engaged with IUCN protected issues, including on a hike in a national park in Finland during a WCPA Steering Committee meeting nearly 20 years ago. He and Michael Lockwood kindly contributed a chapter from their book *Protected Area Management: Principles and Practice* for the *State of the World's Protected Areas* book that I produced for UNEP-WCMC when I worked for them.

Graeme made a huge contribution to protected areas governance and management and will be sorely missed. My condolences to his family and friends.

Valerie Batselaere, Previous Staff member IUCN GPAP, France

My most sincere condolences for Graeme's passing. It was a shock already a few years ago to hear that he wasn't well, and now that he has gone... I feel privileged to have known him and worked with him, one of the most passionate WCPA members and deeply committed to his work in all its dimensions. I respect him deeply and he will stay in my memory forever!

Brent Mitchell, WCPA Privately Protected Areas Specialist Group Leader, USA

Thanks for sharing this sad but not unexpected news. Keeping Graeme in memory this morning. It occurred to me that he lived by what I am learning is the best instruction for life — work hard and be kind to people.

Harvey Locke, WCPA Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force Leader, Canada

Dear All, I will remember Graeme as a man who loved his country with a deep passion and who also embraced the world.

He was a pioneer of connectivity conservation and helped coordinate the fledgling global connectivity movement with the late Larry Hamilton. He was a driving force behind the Alps to Atherton Initiative that became the Great Eastern Ranges. He initiated what became the book *Connectivity Conservation: A Global Guide* while here in the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor and was the book's lead editor. That project took us from meetings in Canada to Ecuador and Nepal. Graeme also led the first draft and co- authored the IUCN WCPA ecological connectivity guidelines that just came out in July.

Graeme and Bev kindly hosted us in Australia and I remember his passionate affection for a photo of gum trees in the subalpine zone of Kosciuszko, clearly his favourite place in the world. He lent me the City of Parks guide he created to explore the national parks around Sydney (which guide I understand was a bit controversial as he just grabbed the bull by the horns and did it, one of his most endearing characteristics).

He took Marie-Eve and me to the coast of NSW and through the South East Forests National Park that he helped create. His love of country oozed from his pores. This is a sad day for our community but we have his legacy to celebrate. Nature is better for Graeme Worboys' passage through life.
Harvey

Bob Debus AM, Chair, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, Australia



Graeme and Bob at Arkaroola 2012. Photo: P. Figgis

I met Graeme Worboys first in 1983 when he became the manager for the Blue Mountains District of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of New South Wales and I was a new member of parliament in that locality. He was supervising the expenditure of funding from a national job creation program for large scale improvements in the Park and his competence and selfless ambition for conservation were immediately obvious. Graeme's unbreakable determination, his quiet courage and his capacity for lasting friendship became more apparent over the passing years.

I recall him talking of the loss of the great temperate rainforests of eastern Victoria where he grew up but also of his idea for a continuous string of national parks from the Blue Mountains 600 kms south along the Great Divide to the Victorian border. Forty years ago the idea of connectivity and the Great Eastern Ranges conservation corridor were already stirring in his mind. Twenty years later he had become an international leader in connectivity conservation and I had become Minister for Environment in New South Wales. Graeme and Ian Pulsford came to me with their proposal for the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative to cover no less than the entire arc of eastern Australia. Fifteen sometimes difficult years and several iterations after that the GER is flourishing and Graeme's support never lagged for a moment.

The seminal IUCN publication *Protected Area Governance and Management*, of which Graeme was lead editor and author, captures the logo of Great Eastern Range Initiative, in his words, "on the cover and every chapter of the book". Graeme completed work on that book under the shadow of his illness. His ambition was boundless but it never interrupted his fierce commitment to the task at hand.

Onerous medical treatment did nothing to prevent his next publishing enterprise, a definitive and brilliantly illustrated 400-page book on Kosciusko National Park written with Deidre Slattery. It did not stem his passion for geology or his work with the South Australian Government to prepare submissions for the nomination of the geological monuments of Arkaroola for World Heritage -- or much else besides. We have lost a brave friend and one of Australia's greatest champions of nature.

Jason Irving, WCPA Member Manager, National Parks and Protected Area Program South Australia

This brief article in its conception was not intended to be written as a memorial to Graeme. But when we achieve World Heritage Listing with all of the contributions and commitment from so many people, we will look back and fondly remember that we would not have achieved it without him.

At the World Parks Congress in Sydney in mid-November 2014, I met with Dr Graeme Worboys, a good friend who was not only a World Heritage assessor, but a globally recognised leader in conserving mountains, and a former park manager of iconic Australian parks like Kosciuszko National Park. What's more, he was a geologist by training – a rare combination of skills and experiences to find in one person! I had spent several years working on the protection of Arkaroola in the Northern Flinders Ranges, learning so much from Marg and Doug Sprigg, and geologist Steve Hore, and working with Graeme to tease out its special values. Over coffee that afternoon, we were reflecting on Arkaroola and I asked Graeme: did he think we could achieve World Heritage Listing for not only Arkaroola, but the broader Flinders Ranges as well? The answer was yes – he intuitively knew that its

geology was without parallel and could withstand the intense scrutiny of a World Heritage process. On that day we started on the long road of developing the World Heritage nomination.

Through three workshops, numerous field trips, and many more discussions with many outstanding geologists and palaeontologists from across Australia and overseas we reached consensus on a compelling World Heritage narrative for the Flinders Ranges. With his thirst for knowledge, steady eye on the World Heritage goal, and ability to build consensus and respect, Graeme was able to craft a narrative that is compelling, and work with this team of experts to identify those locations across the Flinders Ranges on both national parks and pastoral leases that give best expression to the narrative.

The proposed Flinders Ranges serial World Heritage property will present the dawn of animal life on Earth. It is a 350-million-year major stage in Earth's history between the Neoproterozoic and Phanerozoic that is represented by a single, highly accessible stratigraphic sequence recording Earth's changing climates and environments and three attempts at the emergence of animal life. The emergence of animals included Neoproterozoic, interglacial enigmatic spongiform animals; a major radiation event during the Ediacaran Period with over 80 life forms, including complex animal body-plans; and, animals emerging with the Cambrian explosion of life that includes many ancestors of Earth's modern animal species. The nomination will outline the reasons why it is the only place on Earth where such a near-continuous stratigraphic sequence and record of past climates and environment conditions interplaying with the emergence of animal life exists. There are other places on Earth that preserve some of these events as individual sites; but none are as extensive, comprehensive, interconnected, well exposed, and accessible as found in the Flinders Ranges.



Graeme with colleagues, Arkaroola. Photo: P. Figgis

This geological story will also recognise and celebrate the deep and continuing connection of the Adnyamathanha People to their country, and their history, culture and story. Working with the broader Flinders Ranges community, we are finding the opportunities for local people that will come from World Heritage Listing.

Graeme spent a number of years fighting cancer, but never faltered in working on the nomination. Such was his passion for the Flinders Ranges, his excitement working with the researchers who could reveal the depth and uniqueness of the World Heritage story, and his deep respect for the people who lived on the land, that he continued to work on the nomination right up until barely a week before his death on 28 September 2020.

Karen Keenleyside, WCPA SC, VC People and Parks Canada

I will personally remember Graeme as a kind and knowledgeable mentor who, during my early involvement with the WCPA, helped me understand some of the intricacies of protected areas management in an international context. His passion for conservation was, and continues to be, and inspiration for me. We will all miss him. Hugs, condolences, and warm wishes to you, his family and friends.

Thora Amend, WCPA SC, VC Governance, Germany

I am sure that so many of us have fond memories of Graeme - and were inspired by his enthusiasm and tons of experience in nature conservation. The seeds of knowledge and enthusiasm he laid in many young (and not so young) conservationists will continue to grow and flourish all around the world best wishes to all. Thora

Vance Martin, CEO Wild Foundation Co Convenor, WCPA Wilderness Specialist Group, USA

We salute a fine man who had an exceptional and (thankfully) 'wild' wicket. I was privileged and am a better conservationist and person to have been in Graeme's orbit. All love and strength to the family. Vance

Gary Tabor, WCPA Leader, Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group, USA

Dear Friends...I am devastated by news we lost Graeme. I am so sorry to hear this news. More than ever, I am very mindful of the responsibility I inherited when he recruited me to be his Connectivity Conservation SG successor. I am grateful to work with him for over two decades. Before COVID, Ian Pulsford, Graeme and I had a wonderful adventure visiting Mt Kosciuszko National Park...a real treat to see him in his habitat. In sadness, Gary



Australian and NZ Connectivity Conservation meeting for Gary Tabor's visit in March 2018

Ana Tiraa, IUCN Oceania Councillor, Cook Islands

It's always sad to lose an environmental warrior from this world. May his star shine brightly to guide and inspire those with whom he came in contact. Condolences to his family. Kindness, respect and love, Ana

James Hattam, WCPA Member and Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Australia

Very sad news. Graeme was a true champion of conservation and will be very much missed.

Dr Rebecca Koss, WCPA Member and Global Executive Macquarie Bank of Australia, Australia

It saddened me to read about Graeme's death. Although I didn't work closely with him, he was a much respected person in our conservation sector. He always supported Young Professionals and had time to listen to our passion, concerns and energy to make things happen.

He will be dearly missed by many. I wish his family a long life, filled with beautiful memories of Graeme's tireless efforts to be one of Australia's greatest environmental stewards.

Birandra Singh, WCPA, New Zealand

Please pass my sincere sympathies to the family as I have lost a long term mate, mentor and friend. I served with him on WCPA and CNPPA for many years. Lost for words at this loss of another stalwart of conservation.

Kristina M. Gjerde, Senior High Seas Advisor IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme, USA

We are grateful for the contribution that Graeme made to nature in Australia and around the planet. I am sure he could not have done all that he did without the steadfast support and love of his friends and family. With hugs, Kristina



At the 2016 World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, Graeme receives WCPA's prestigious Packard Award with Jon Jarvis, Head of US Parks Service, Kathy MacKinnon WCPA Chair, Trevor Sandwith, Head IUCN Protected Areas and Julia Miranda Londono, Director of Parks Colombia.

Mike Wong, WCPA SC, VC North America, Canada

It is very sad to have received this news to start the day. I am not sure what to say in the face of such a loss. The sharing of thoughts of this remarkable person and his incredible life amongst the WCPA family shows the impact Graeme had on all of us. No doubt, his legacy will continue to have huge impact on the current and new generation of conservationists.

Mariasole Bianco, WCPA VV Young Professionals, Italy

What terrible news, I'm so sad for this huge loss for the protected areas community, for his family and for his lifetime friends in WCPA.

Anna Spenceley, Chair WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas SG, South Africa

That is really terribly sad news. He was such a fantastic chap, and your sentiments are spot on.

Mike Appleton, WCPA SC, VC Capacity and Development UK

That is sad news in a year full of bad news. I will remember Graeme as a wise, encouraging and patient teacher and lifelong learner who leaves a valuable legacy in his achievements, writings and those who he inspired. I particularly admire that he started at the grass roots of protected area work, as a ranger, and carried that experience and his commitment to parks and the people who work in them throughout his career.

Even when things are as bad as they are now, everything that Graeme and his like achieve in their lives provides more options, capacity and hope for the future. Can't do better than that. Mike

Kyung Sik, WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group, South Korea

It was a great shock to me when I heard the news from you. We (just Graeme and myself) published one paper together dealing with geological monitoring in the international journal recently.

I met Graeme when I carried out the IUCN field evaluation for China Danxia in 2009. We really had a wonderful time together and has had a close relationship since then. He helped me very much to initiate the Geoheritage Specialist Group in IUCN WCPA and proposed the idea of a new potential IUCN programme 'Key Geoheritage Area'.

What a wonderful gentleman! We all will miss him for good. With best regards, Kyung Sik

Spike Millington, WCPA Connectivity SG, USA

So sorry to hear this. Graeme was a man of great humility and humour, always encouraging and supportive. He will be greatly missed.

Marcelo Lima, WCPA Connectivity SG, USA

Indeed Sad, I had the opportunity of working briefly with him, fantastic, helpful and cheerful person. Conservation biology owes a lot to him. With my respects Marcelo

Jessica Brown, WCPA Specialist Group Leader, Protected Landscapes and Seascapes

I am deeply saddened by this news. Conservation has lost a champion of protected areas, a scholar and a teacher. As many have noted already, Graeme has left behind an incredible legacy in his contributions to the field. And it was always such a pleasure to work with him.

My thoughts are with his family and friends. Hugs, Jessica

Lloyd Gardner, Former SC, Parks Caribbean, US Virgin Islands

Graeme's death is a great loss to the conservation community, and WCPA in particular. His warmth always made you feel welcomed. Please convey my condolences to his family. Lloyd.

Gary Howling, CEO Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

GER is very saddened by the loss of Honorary Associate Professor Graeme Worboys AM who passed away last week after a long illness.

Graeme was one of the true giants of conservation in Australia, with an unrivalled presence in the national parks, World Heritage and connectivity conservation arenas here and overseas.

As one of the instigators of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative his tireless enthusiasm for the GER vision inspired so many of us from the earliest days of the initiative, lending advice, encouragement and insight that was invaluable during the many ups-and-downs.

We have lost a brave friend and one of Australia's greatest champions for nature. The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative will stand as a permanent testament to the remarkable legacy that Graeme leaves behind.

On a personal note, Graeme was an immense source of encouragement and support to me from the earliest days of my own involvement in GER. We shared many discussions in which I learned so much from his extraordinary knowledge and wisdom.

Graeme will be sorely missed, but his legacy will continue to live on in the landscapes and endeavours he so richly inspired.

Our full tribute to Graeme is available on our website at: <https://ger.org.au/a-tribute-to-dr-graeme-worboys/>

Our thoughts and sympathies are very much with Graeme's family and closest friends at this time. In sadness, Gary



The Blue Mountains part of the Great Eastern Ranges. Photo: P. Figgis

Olivier Chassot, Former WCPA SC and WCPA Chair candidate.



I would like to pass on my most heartfelt feeling to Graeme's family.

Sadly a giant of global conservation, Dr. Graeme Worboys, has passed away after courageously fighting a long illness. Graeme is widely recognized for his tireless dedication to nature conservation in his beloved Australia and worldwide.

I met Graeme in 2009 at the WILD9 Congress in Merida, Mexico. I was introduced to him (and to other conservation giants such as Nigel Dudley, Brendan Mackey, Charles Besancon, Larry Hamilton, Cyril Kormos, Harvey Locke, Vance Martin, Pedro Solano, Nikita Lopoukhine, Nakul Chettri, and Stephen Woodley) by my good friend Eduard Muller. WILD9 was a defining moment for my career, and it showed me a path that changed my life. I had joined the WCPA a bit before and helped Graeme to re-shape the then Mountain Biome Specialist Group with a distinct connectivity conservation approach.

Many people have helped me personally and professionally over the last two decades. However, Graeme is someone that I genuinely consider a mentor, one of these very special souls that Life generously put in my path and shaped me as an individual. I was fortunate to visit him in Canberra in 2011, where Beth, Graeme, and his lovely family welcomed me like a son.

As soon as I had landed in Canberra on my way back from New Zealand, Graeme took me to a small protected area, practically in his backyard, as he would put it. We saw koalas, emus, kangaroos, wallabies, and echidnas. I was in awe! We spent pleasant evenings at his lovely house, with friends visiting. The conversations were great, and the company unforgettable. Graeme then went along to show me the Greater Blue Mountains Area (where he knew all the park rangers). But before that, he sent me to his beloved Kosciuszko National Park (with Ian Pulsford, another great Australian conservationist) to have a closer look at the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor. After a few beautiful days in Jervis Bay with Rob Dunn, then Manager for the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, my tour of Graeme's world ended in Sydney, where Penelope Figgis kindly hosted me at the Royal Botanic Garden for a meeting and presentation to members of the IUCN Australian National Committee.

The impacts and achievements of Graeme are enormous. For everyone involved in protected areas, his legacy will last forever, particularly through "Protected Area Governance and Management", the immense work that he led and co-edited in 2015

We were all extremely fortunate to be amongst Graeme's friends and to be able to learn continuously from him, not only because of his immense talent, dedication, emotional intelligence, and restless drive but also because of his delightful character, humbleness, gentleness, and extraordinary capacity to get along with everyone. Graeme was a quiet and decisive leader that moved ideas and teams of people with confidence, tranquillity, and patience. Graeme will always be a great example to all of us. There is not a single day when I do not think about the WCPA with Graeme as a fatherly and benevolent presence.

Kevin Frawley, Australia

This is a great shock, though I knew Graeme wasn't well. He leaves a great legacy of work to protect the natural places of the world and close to home Kosciuszko NP. So glad he was able (with joint author Deidre Slattery) to see the completion and recent publishing of the book: *Kosciuszko A Great National Park*. RIP Graeme.

Prof. Steve Dovers, Emeritus Professor FASSA Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU

When Graeme Worboys approached me to become an affiliate at the Fenner School at the ANU, I gladly accepted – an accomplished protected area professional with a recent PhD in park management: why ever not!? Graeme proved to be many things at once, and here's my "the five P's of Graeme Worboys". He was passionate, about the value of nature and the role of protected areas. But he was equally principled, never arguing beyond the evidence, always backing his argument with empirical data and always willing to listen to the arguments of others. He was persuasive, too, capable of bringing together groups of people in a common cause, a great believer on collaboration. The power of his vision, commitment and energy harnessed many of us to many projects. Importantly, he was personable, ever polite, deeply interested in other people's concerns and situations. Finally, he was unbelievably productive, even in the face of illness, producing rigorous reports, sharp opinion pieces and globally important books seemingly in endless procession. It was and always will be an honour to have worked with Graeme and to have counted him as a friend. I still can't recall how my agreement to administratively host the (wonderful) global protected areas book project turned into me leading authoring a chapter, but that's persuasive Graeme, and I thank him for that!

Alec Marr and Virginia Young

Graeme was a rare treasure. His personal integrity, warmth and kindness never waned. Neither did his passion and commitment to ensuring the survival of Wild Nature.

His work promoting a contiguous National Park through the coastal escarpment and ranges south of Sydney helped inspire our journey on Connectivity Conservation and contributed to developing the WildCountry vision adopted by The Wilderness Society in 2000.

Graeme's knowledge and wisdom reached many corners of the globe and left a lasting legacy to guide Protected Area and World Heritage management. And, for those of us lucky enough to call him a friend, leaves lasting memories of his unflinching good humour and sense of fun. He was one of Nature's true gentlemen. We will sorely miss him.



Graeme had a core theme of passing on knowledge and worked for many years lecturing at the University of Tasmania.
Photo. Mike Lockwood

David Shephard, Former Head IUCN Protected Areas Programme, Australia

WCPA SC Australian crew together South Africa 2008 Photo: P. Figgis



We have lost a champion for protected areas and I've lost a good friend, as have so many other people around the world who count Graeme as a mentor, guide and friend.

My time with Graeme goes back a long way, to when I was a graduate student in Canberra in 1981 undertaking a survey of visitors to the top of Mt Kosciusko in New South Wales, and Graeme was a Ranger Naturalist in the Kosciusko National Park. I was only a humble student and yet Graeme treated me like a king, as he did for everyone he met. Two things struck me then which still strike me: the enthusiasm and passion of Graeme for nature and people and his love of mountains and the Snowy Mountains in particular. I then had a long and productive relationship with Graeme, firstly working with him in the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from 1983 to 1990, and then working closely with Graeme through my roles with SPREP and IUCN, after 1990.

In the NPWS Graeme was known as a whirlwind for conservation, (to quote Peter Shadie), he was always pushing for conservation results, and with such a positive and infectious enthusiasm. In the 1980s NPWS had a very supportive political environment, with Bob Carr as our Minister (later Premier) and Neville Wran as Premier and there were many positive wins for national parks and conservation across the State during this time. And Graeme's fingerprints were on many of these conservation wins, either working behind the scenes with key people like Peter Hitchcock, or working up front with the media to passionately push the conservation case. I remember a quote from Gregor Manson at the farewell for Graeme when he was leaving the position of Superintendent of the Blue Mountains National Park to take up the position of Regional Manager of the NPWS South-East Region. To quote Gregor: "there are two types of people in this world, those that talk about doing things and those that just do them: Graeme is the perfect example of the latter, he is someone who gets things done for nature conservation". What set Graeme apart was the way in which he achieved results in such a positive, energetic and friendly way, his enthusiasm rubbed off on all he worked with, he inspired others to do more and to "lift their game" to achieve more for parks and conservation.

At IUCN Graeme also left a major mark. He was passionately involved with WCPA, first as a stalwart support to Larry Hamilton in the Mountains Theme and then taking over the leadership of this theme. He communicated his knowledge and passion about mountains and connectivity conservation to a global audience, all who met him were inspired by his expertise and the way in which he would relate to and communicate with people from all walks of life. From political leaders to the most junior ranger, Graeme was always interested in what everyone had to say, and he would

listen to them, and encourage them to put nature first and to achieve results for conservation. He has inspired people all around the world. His legacy will live on through his landmark books on Managing Protected Areas - my well-thumbed copy is sitting in pride of place in my bookshelf behind me as I type, as it is also sitting on bookshelves of people interested in protected areas around the world. We were all very proud, and in the deepest admiration, of Graeme for his latest publication "Kosciuszko - a Great National Park" which was recently launched at a time when this iconic park is facing significant challenges, including those coming from a lack of political leadership.

Throughout it all Graeme was friendly, kind and always interested in the views of others. He was a dedicated family man and his loss will leave a gaping hole in the lives of Bev, Patty and Mark, Andrew and Jess, and their grandchildren. The world has lost a conservation champion and we will all be in awe of his achievements and a life well lived. RIP Graeme Worboys. David

Dr Patrizia Rozzi, WCPA Mountains SG, Italy

This news is so sad, a very great loss for conservation. Graeme was an extremely competent and very experienced professional and a very nice and beautiful person. I met him for the first time in Melbourne in 1995, together with my "twin colleague" from Mercantour, Marie Odile Guth, at the occasion of a meeting on transboundary parks organised by Larry Hamilton, so we became members of the great "mountain family". Later, when he came to Italy for an IUCN expertise, he went to visit Alpi Maritime Nature Park, and it was a pleasure to show him my region and to present him our achievements, receiving congratulations and advice. Very beautiful memories also about the Mountain Dinner in Sydney, for the World Parks Congress in 2014. Last time I heard from him was in March, when he sent me an email asking about the situation in Italy, one of the first countries affected by the pandemic: he seemed to be ok at that time, even if concerned about his health. I will always remember his kindness and smile. I would like to express my deepest condolences to his family and to all those who like me have had the privilege to know him and to share with him a piece of his life journey.

Nik Lophoukine, Former Director Parks Canada & Chair IUCN WCPA, Canada

It is truly a sad day and it underlines how 2020 is the worst year ever.

Graeme was a stalwart. His dedication to conservation was unparalleled. I met Graeme the first time while he was on a study tour of parks in North America and I was still with Parks Canada. Over beers, we dissected the rights and wrongs of management, politicians and citizens alike.

Then, upon my election as Chair of WCPA, I had the good fortune to have Graeme join the Steering Committee. His insights were always aimed at improving and contributing to our work. When he took on the leadership on the mountain theme, he brought his style of conviviality, enthusiasm and inclusivity. I marvelled then (and still do) how he managed to produce two volumes of insightful tomes on protected areas. His inimitable style encouraged the most relevant to contribute.

We corresponded most recently on a recent win re feral grazing. Fighting to the end! Rest in peace good friend! Nik

Maja Vasiljević, M.A., Former WCPA SC, Croatia Vice Chair, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group

Yesterday I was moving with my family from Croatia to Norway where we will spend a year or longer. It was an exciting positive day that turned also to be very sad after reading such a shocking email.

Graeme was one of the nicest people I have ever met. I have known Graeme for nearly 20 years, he was always professional, extremely kind, gentle person with smiling eyes. I remember after the WCPA Steering Committee meeting in the region, he visited Zagreb with his lovely wife and me and my husband had a privilege to spend a wonderful relaxing evening in a traditional restaurant with both of them. Soon after, he sent me a beautiful monograph "Nature of Australia" showing the most wonderful natural spots of the country. Graeme was truly a genuinely nice man and I would like to express my deepest condolences to his family. Kind regards, Maja

Nakul Chettri, ICOMOD WCPA Member, WCPA Mountains SG, Nepal

Sorry and shocked to hear this very bad news! This is indeed a great loss for conservation community in general and connectivity conservation in particular. We meet in 2004 in Bangkok during the IUCN Congress and since then had wonder relationship most on mentoring and sharing my learning! May his soul rest in peace! Nakul

Yuri Badenkov, Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences WCPA Mountains SG, Russia

Dear colleagues, friends, sad news came from Australia - Graeme Worboys has died. A huge loss for all of us, and especially for the "mountain" people. He has played a pivotal role in promoting in IUCN the connectivity conservation philosophy. I remember our first meetings on the Big Island, Hawaii (1990) and the last - in the center of Eurasia, in the Altai Mountains and Moscow (2011). We will always remember him, his reliability and smile. Condolences to family and loved ones.



Papallacta Ecuador Workshop 2006, a seminal meeting on Connectivity conservation. Photo: C. Chester

**Paulina G. Arroyo, Program Officer, Andes Amazon Initiative
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, USA**

This is profoundly heartbreaking news. I met Graeme many years ago in Ecuador when we co-organized a mountain protected areas workshop in the Ecuadorian Andes. I was at The Nature Conservancy so we organized a workshop in the mountains with Graeme and IUCN colleagues to prepare a guide for management effectiveness for mountain protected areas. Graeme was always generous with his time and wisdom, and even though we only saw each other every few years, it was as if we had just seen each other the week before. He generously provided advice for my master's thesis when I used his Protected Area Governance and Management publication as the conceptual framework. Thank you all for sharing pictures that I can keep in memory. My deepest condolences to his family and to the entire global conservation community.

With sorrow, Paulina

**Prof Fausto O. Sarmiento, Professor of Mountain Science, University of Georgia
WCPA Mountains SG, USA**

I sum my sympathy for the passing of this giant of mountain conservation. His enthusiastic defence for mountains at large, and the needs of including the connectivity conservation perspective, introduced me to him when Larry Hamilton organized the Papallacta Declaration and the book of proceedings. We kept working on mountain conservation and his ability to lead a global effort for the publication of his Opus Magnus gave me the real tally of his commitment to Mountain Conservation. Rest in peace, Graeme! Fausto

Barbara Lausche, WCPA Connectivity SG, USA

I am so sad to hear this news. Graeme deeply understood the importance of science and policy in conservation, always willing to review one of my drafts (especially on protected areas, and connectivity and law). He inspired me to keep working on projects, even when almost overwhelming, because he was totally dedicated to sharing and advancing knowledge about conservation on the ground, and encouraging new thinking and inclusion, including with marine conservation and connectivity. He will always be a bright light for me; I will always remember his twinkling smile and, for me, he will always be the father of the new IUCN Guidelines for conserving connectivity. He has left us a legacy we must continue.

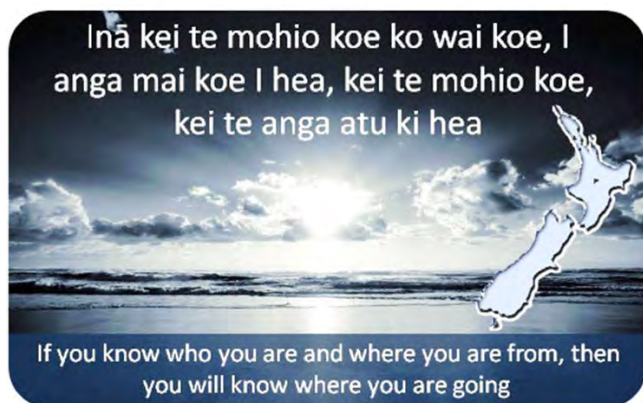
Bruce Jeffries, WCPA Member, New Zealand

Many people have provided inspiration to me during my career but none more so than Graeme. I tried hard to convince him to come on a trek to Sagarmatha NP after a workshop in Kathmandu a few years ago and still regret that we weren't able to share that experience.

Like David, his work takes pride of place on my bookshelves – what a LEGACY Graeme left for us to follow.

He was a good bugger (apart from his affinity to the Wallabies) and definitely a leader and friend of the highest order. A message from your NZ Friends and colleagues

Kia Kaha Bruce & Marg



Dr Ian Dutton, USA

My heart sank when I read your emails this morning. Worbs was a huge influence and inspiration for a long part of my career. From daring to think we might manage Jervis Bay (yes he did descend to sea level occasionally !) on an integrated basis, to mentoring so many of our discovery rangers and graduates, to helping TNC teams prioritize protected area investments from Australia to China, Graeme both grounded us and challenged us to go that one step further and then one more!

His legacy lives in all of us and will shape the nature of this planet far into the future. My deepest condolences to his family. Ian Dutton

Dr Brian Martin, WCPA Member, Australia

Please convey our sympathy and best wishes to Graeme's family. I worked with Graeme quite a lot over the years. Kind regards, Brian and Helen Martin

Peter Shadie, World Heritage, IUCN

We knew Worbs was crook of course but this still comes a huge shock. I'm having trouble coming to terms with his loss, like many others I'm sure. I've known him for more than 40 years and he was one of my first bosses in Kosci in the early 80s. I was in awe of him then and still am – unfathomable reserves of energy, he was a whirlwind for conservation and an influential figure worldwide. Please pass on my condolences to Bev and the family.

Proud to be one of the unruly Australians in the photo in South Africa! Peter

Dr John Woinarski, WCPA Member, Australia

My sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues. Graeme made an outstanding contribution to conservation in Australia, Oceania and the world, was a great communicator, an original thinker, and passionate and resolute about conservation. I respected him very much. The world is better for the life he lived.

Prof. Ross Dowling, WCPA Member, Australia

Really sad news. A great loss.

Professor Catherine Pickering, Griffith University, Graeme's PhD supervisor, Australia

The news about Graeme is heart breaking, and although it's been several years now since the diagnosis, and knowing the treatment options had run out this year, the news still is shocking and so very, very sad. As you say, he was passionate, caring and always generous. I had not heard about the



AM and delighted that such formal recognitions of his contribution to conservation was able to happen even this year.

I was lucky enough to 'supervise' Graeme for his PhD, although I use the term lightly considering his depth of knowledge and experience coming into the PhD. I have also had the opportunity to learn from him, share with him the love of Kosciuszko, and also some of the sadness over the last few years when so many of these gods of the mountains have passed away or been affecting by illness.

Graeme and Bev celebrate the Conferral of PhD 2008. Photo: C. Pickering

He was also very generous with his time with my more recent PhD and honours students, meeting with them and me to talk about their work inspiring yet more people here and globally to contribute to conservation including in the mountains.

Dr Graeme Kelleher AO, WCPA Emeritus Member, Australia

Dear All, I strongly support the lovely words about Graeme below (Bruce Jeffries tribute).

I have worked with Graeme for decades and although we have concentrated on different biospheres, we have shared the approaches that really work for nature.

Nick Connor, Chair: Theme on Economics and Local Economies, Communities and Nature Specialist Group, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, Australia

Sad to hear about Graeme. I first met him in 1996 when I joined NPWS and we were working on the SE Forests Regional Forest Agreement, and of course numerous times in IUCN-related work, including on Mountain PA guidelines (inspired by Larry Hamilton and Dave Harmon) and catchment management. What can you say, an outstanding and admirable individual.

Janet Richardson, WCPA Member Ecotourism writer, Australia

I was so very saddened to read your email with the news of Graeme Worboys' death. I first met Graeme thirty years ago when I was spruiking the need for an ecotourism association and he was with national parks. Our early discussions focussed on using ecotourism to soften the historical conflict between tourism and conservation in protected areas. I followed Graeme's career with great interest and no-one was more deserving of receiving an AO.

Please pass on my condolences to his family, they won't know me, I'm just one of the many hundreds if not thousands of friends and colleagues who held Graeme in high regard over many decades.

Chris Haynes, WCPA Member, Australia

I didn't see Graeme all that often but whenever we did catch up it was as if we spoke every week. Aside from his unfailing good manners and kindness he was always able to engage with whatever I was talking about and showed a sharp interest that demonstrated grasp of the whole width of conservation management.

I last saw him in December and then he seemed to be so full of beans that it was hard to take in his self-described being on borrowed time. I will hold on to that memory. I'm sure others will have their own treasures Graeme shared with them.

Doug Humann AM, WCPA Member, Director Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration

I met Graeme first through the Alpine National Parks (me a Victorian and he a New South Welshmen) in the 90s. Again in the naughties, when he was scheming more widely for the Greater Eastern Ranges, we both ended up in a NSW Minister's office doing a briefing, and then in the last decade, through work on protected areas in Australia and Asia and the Pacific, through the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration where we overlapped at different times in Australia and the Pacific.

Graeme was a complete gentleman, never pompous or self-important and always with a smile, a good word and a gem of principle and purpose serving to achieve something better for the planet. He was a founding father and guiding light for the Collaboration, but also a colossus when it came to national parks and protected areas, and seeking to achieve world's best practice in their management. In his support of the Collaboration and its objectives he was wise, deliberative, visionary and always encouraging and supportive.

I would call him occasionally to give updates and check his progress after the onset of his cancer; inevitably his conversation would quickly avert to possibilities and praise given; always looking outward and for opportunity. On my own behalf for the friendship and support he showed me through my journey, and on behalf of the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration and protected areas in Australia and abroad, my deepest condolences to Beverley, Patty & Andrew and Graeme's grandchildren. Graeme will be incredibly missed and has left an abiding legacy in his works, deeds and relationships. Doug



Graeme's beloved mountains – the Main Range. Photo: G. Worboys

Reclaim Kosciuszko Campaign, Australia

This week we received the saddest news; it is with a heavy heart that we share the news of Dr Graeme Worboys' passing. Graeme was a dear friend of the mountains, particularly his beloved Kosciuszko. In the early years Graeme worked as a ranger with NPWS and over his lifetime Graeme became globally respected as a protected area management and world heritage specialist.

In 2018 Graeme co-convened the Kosciuszko Science Conference, highlighting the scientific evidence of the threat of horses in protected areas. And just this year, published 'Kosciuszko: A Great National Park' with co-author Deirdre Slattery which celebrates the formation of Kosciuszko and in Chapter 11 tells of the ongoing battle to protect Kosciuszko from feral horses.

We will be forever grateful for the kindness and dedication Graeme showed to the mountains and to all he encountered. Our thoughts are with Graeme's family, friends and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



The sculptural snowgums of the high country - a favourite subject - a favourite subject for the keen photographer. Photo: G. Worboys

Lorraine Cairnes, WCPA Member, Former NPWS 'Green Machine', Australia

Graeme (Worbs) was campaigning for our planet right up until the end of his life.

I first encountered him when we were members of the NPWS 'Green Machine', responsible for new area investigations in NSW. I was impressed by his unflagging energy, cheerfulness and thoroughness. He was one of two 'geo' experts in a team of mainly botanists, zoologists and ecologists, led by the legendary Peter Hitchcock AM. Mike Williams was the other 'geo' specialist.

As years went by, we each followed different career paths, and Worbs and I stayed in touch.

His strategies for conservation of Protected Areas always involved inspiring and organising teams of like-minded people, and making sure that campaigns were based on facts, the best scientific advice, and were focussed on practical solutions.

When the NSW government passed the extraordinary legislation to protect feral horses in the Kosciuszko National Park in 2018, Graeme conceived and led a major gathering at the Australian Academy of Science, *Feral Horse Impacts – The Kosciuszko Science Conference*, attended by nearly 200 scientists and protected area managers, produced a volume of abstracts of papers, and a strong statement from the conference, *The Kosciuszko Accord*, expressing outrage at the government's action.

Recently, I was honoured when he invited me and some others to review early drafts of his last major work, a fifty-page essay titled *Australia: Defending Nature's Gifts*, which he completed only last April. It is an important contribution to stimulate discussion, debate and an improved future for our nature's gifts. The essay draws on the words of our national anthem "our land abounds in nature's gifts", which, he says are no longer true.

There is a strong personal thread running through the essay, from his boyhood in South Gippsland, not far from magnificent remnants of the Mountain Ash forests, his grandfather Albert's struggles as a returned WW1 soldier trying to make a success of farming a dry Mallee block, and his father Harry in the depression years, living in a tent.

The grand sweep of vision in this essay generously acknowledges the history of Australia's conservation heroes with the emergence of ecological thinking, bemoans the loss of national leadership including the demise of the Register of the National Estate. And, as always with Worbs, suggests very practical tactics and strategies needed for a *Nature's Gifts Defence Strategy*, which, he says, will need unprecedented co-operation and new partnerships.

His last email to me about this essay in April this year said "I guess I will have to consider this finished... I am not sure how much more I will be able to do on the manuscript... but it would be good to see it contribute to improved futures in a strategic way..." This inspiring essay is one of Worbs' last gifts to Australia, and worthy of our attention.

Up to the very end he stayed on the activist trail, exposing the nonsense of ill-advised government plans: he was a signatory with an eminent group exposing the environmental and economic fallacy of the Snowy Hydro 2 which would create a permanent and unrepairable scar in Kosciuszko National Park; and joining with Bob Debus and the Colong Foundation to analyse the NSW government's plan for a "Special Activation Precinct" promoting yet more unneeded development which would damage the natural values of Kosciuszko National Park.

Graeme has been an unflagging inspiration – this human dynamo crammed into his all-too-short lifetime a huge legacy, and our planet and our country is richer and wiser because of him.

Ian Pulsford, WCPA Member, Former NPWS 'Green machine', Australia

So many thoughts flood to mind when thinking about the life and extraordinary achievements of Honorary Associate Professor Graeme Worboys– or 'Worbs' as he was widely known. Graeme was a loyal friend and truly extraordinary colleague during the 35 years that we worked, socialised with our families and professional colleagues, and explored 'nature's gifts' together in Australia and overseas.

I met Graeme soon after I joined the 'Green Machine' in the Head Office of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1979. This wonderful group, established by Peter Hitchcock, had the enviable task of exploring the most pristine places in NSW and making a case for natural areas to be added to the system of national parks and reserves. Graeme, who by now was a Naturalist in Kosciuszko National Park, had completed a secondment to the 'Green Machine', and his prodigious capacity to produce meticulous and voluminous reports became a benchmark for us young newbies to achieve. I remember that there was an awful lot about Geology – a love of rocks and earth processes. This knowledge and passion played a significant role in shaping his agenda during a life-time of quite extraordinary achievements - not as a geologist for companies digging up minerals for export to China, but as a passionate lover and protector of the earth, nature and people.

He went on to become a consummate park management expert who then developed a global reputation for visionary leadership while working and volunteering with the IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas and as visiting fellow at the Fenner School at the ANU. He created a prodigious legacy of achievements both in Australia and internationally. Graeme's humbleness, integrity, sparking smile, energy, sheer determination and life-long commitment to protecting 'nature's gifts' inspired his many colleagues, students and friends to do better wherever he worked.



Worbs with good friends and colleagues Rod Atkins and Ian Pulsford. Photo: I. Pulsford

Mike Williams, WCPA Member, Former member of the 'Green machine' 1977-1986, Australia

In the mid 1970's, early in Graeme's long dedication to nature conservation, he was part of an extraordinary team within the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW NPWS). It was an opportune time to accelerate nature conservation – a new progressive State Government with strong leadership from a new Premier and a supportive Minister for Environment. Graeme was a Ranger Naturalist – a prized position within NSW NPWS. Graeme had started with the NSW NPWS in 1973 in his beloved Kosciusko National Park as a graduate ranger and in 1977 won a position as one of the few new Ranger Naturalists. They were the first field-based scientists in the NSW NPWS. He along with a small, but enthusiastic bunch of Ranger Naturalists from across the State were seconded to work with a small scientific team within the NSW NPWS – the New Area Investigation team that became known as 'the Green Machine'. Based in Head Office in Sydney and led by the late Peter Hitchcock AM – a legend of nature conservation in NSW and then in Tasmania and the Wet Tropics of Queensland – the team investigated and documented lands of high conservation value and shepherded these highly valued areas through the exacting process of State Government to ensure their dedication as National Parks or Nature Reserves. Graeme was a key part of this wonderful team to whom we owe great gratitude. Think of many of the great National Parks of NSW and the story behind their reservation can be traced back to this dedicated bunch of which Graeme was a significant contributor.

Graeme went on to become the NSW NPWS Regional Manager of the south-eastern part of NSW 1990-1998 – an area that included Kosciusko National Park. RIP Graeme



The early years – from left to right some of the wonderful people and colleagues of Graeme's in the National Parks NSW in the late 70s – The 'Green Machine' New Area Investigation team: Anne Conway, Chris Kowal, Chris Wheeler, the late Peter Hitchcock AM (seated), Lorraine Cairnes, Greg Roberts and Graeme Worboys AM. Photo: courtesy Mike Williams

*Farewell our good friend and colleague;
the conservation community and the natural world thank you
for a lifetime's contribution.*

