



NATIONAL PARKS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF THE A.C.T.  
BULLETIN

Vol. 3 No. 8 June-July, 1966

Annual Subscription 60 cents

Per Copy 10 cents.

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical.

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A. C. T. Inc.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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(phone 491427)  
Secretary : Marie Sexton, P. O. Box 457, Canberra City  
Treasurer : Ian Baird, 9 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin  
(phone 71644)

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Monthly Meeting, 4th Tuesday of the month, Institute of  
Anatomy Lecture Room

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We welcome the following new members to the  
Association:- Mrs V. McFarlane, C/- Canberra  
Community Hospital; Mr Gerald Hill, P. O. Box 153,  
Queanbeyan; Mr & Mrs G. J. Hall, 1 Miller St. O'Connor  
Mr F. Swann, 8 Leichhardt St. , Kingston.  
Mr & Mrs Kennedy, 65 Rivett St. , Hackett.

Renewals of Subscriptions - Mr Ia. Mackay;  
Dr & Mrs Bornemissza; Mrs N. T. Sexton.

In the first progress report of the Australian  
Conservation Foundation, Dr F. N. Ratcliffe, the Director  
of the Foundation, listed the progress that has been made  
to the middle of April this year. This is summarised  
briefly here.

The result of an appeal for finance to establish  
and equip the Foundation's headquarters and the initial  
expenses involved in this, was disappointing. The result  
of the appeal was that \$18,500 was donated, with only  
\$14,500 being immediately available in the current year,  
far short of the estimated target of \$90,000. Perhaps one  
major reason for lack of donations was the Commonwealth  
Government's failure to allow these as Income Tax  
deductions.

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The Foundation's most pressing need is judged to be personnel for there is a great deal of unobtrusive work of the foundation laying kind to be carried out, before the Conservation Foundation can stand on its feet in public, and pronounce or produce.

As there was such a poor financial response, the Executive Committee was unable to appoint a full time officer, but a suitable part time candidate for the position is being sought. Three sub-committees have been set up to deal with (1) Finance and Membership, (2) Headquarters Administration, (3) Cape Barren Goose. Others to follow will be (4) Publications and Publicity, (5) Education and Training, (6) Relations with other bodies, (7) Targets (Objectives), (8) Public Issues.

Office accommodation was a problem, until a temporary building for this purpose, was offered by the C. S. I. R. O. Division of Entomology, A. C. T.

The Foundation has supported a number of projects. One of these is to sponsor the publication of a book on Australia's system of National Parks and Reserves in the next few years. Together with this the collection of basic data on national parks and reserves (which must cover plans and needs in addition to achievements) will be an essential and important part of the functioning of the Foundation as a reference centre for conservation information. The Nuffield Foundation was approached for a grant to enable Dr J. G. Mosley to accept a part time A. N. U. lectureship and continue his studies on our national parks and reserves. It is hoped he will help establish a reference and records system in the Foundation's Headquarters, and to complete, as a personal study, a section of the Australia-wide survey which the Foundation plans to carry out.

It was also hoped to obtain a special grant that would enable Mr Graham Pizzey and Mr Robin Hill to complete the Field Guide for Bird Identification within a couple of years with the desired high standard of accuracy in the text and illustrations. This was unsuccessful, but the committee is to consider ways and

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was to suggest areas that should be set aside as reserves in a region where a unique vegetation and its associated wildlife has already suffered wholesale reduction (mostly by clearing for sugar farming), and is now under threat of virtually complete elimination, due to technical advances that have simplified the problems of clearing, draining, and the use of fertilisers. As a result. of the survey, the selection of twenty specifically defined areas have been recommended for gazetting as reserves (or National Parks).

The rainforest and its associated plant communities in that part of the world can be classified into a variety of types within a framework set by differences in soil fertility, depending on parent rocks, and soil moisture relations. His twenty recommended reserves would safeguard for the future, samples of practically all the distinctive major vegetation types occurring in the tropical lowland belt, and their gazettal would be a very important step in the conservation of the highly specialised tropical rainforest fauna.

Although the initiative for this survey did not come from the Foundation, it provides an example of the approach the Foundation would unquestionably adopt in implementing its policy of working for a more adequate national system of reserves. This is a much sounder approach than the more usual ones of local pressure for the reservation of an area without any serious attempt to compare it with other possible examples of that particular type of country. It is hoped that Dr Webb's report and recommendations will be published in the near future.

It is hoped members have found interest in reading this summary, and it has clarified their thoughts on the aims and objects of the Conservation Foundation, and has answered questions that have come up from time to time at meetings about the Foundation.

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## Notice of Motion to Amend Constitution

7.

At the Annual General Meeting on the 26th July a motion will be put to amend the wording of the Constitution slightly to conform with our obligations under the Incorporation Ordinance -

1. Alteration of Honorary Auditor to Auditor
2. All references to £. s. d. to be replaced by decimal currency.

## 1966 School Science Awards

This year we have sponsored a section of the School Science Awards. Entries have been requested as essays on any aspect of plants or animals that exist or have existed in the A. C. T. A Selection of the entries will be displayed in the Monaro Shopping Mall from June 20 to 24th.

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## MEETINGS

### JUNE

Date : Tuesday 28th June, 1966, at 8 p. m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy  
Feature : Dr J. Carnahan of Botany Dept. A. N. U. will give an illustrated address on -  
"Some New Zealand National Parks".

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### JULY

Date : Tuesday 26th July, 1966 at 8 p. m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy

Annual General Meeting : Election of Officers for ensuing year. Members are requested to bring along colour slides of any past outings for screening at completion of business. Please see Dr Story at the meeting if you intend to bring along slides.

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