



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

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President : Mr. J. Webb, 1 Lalor St., Ainslie (43661)  
Secretary : Miss M. Sexton, Box 457 P.O. Canberra City  
Treasurer : Mr. J.L. Schunke, 26 Cliaanthus St., O'Connor

Monthly Meeting - 4th Tuesday of the month

July was the beginning of this association's financial year, and subscriptions became due from that time. The subscription rate is as follows:-

Single members	\$2.00
Family Subscription	\$3.00
Junior members	60 cents

Send subscriptions to the Treasurer, Mr. J.L. Schunke, c/o P.O. Box 457, Canberra City. No receipts are sent, but acknowledgement is made in this bulletin.

The following subscriptions have been received for the year 1966/1967.

Family Subscriptions:

Mr. & Mrs. Webb; Mr. & Mrs. Hammond; Mr. & Mrs. Creaser;  
Mr. & Mrs. Baird, Mr. & Mrs. Davidson; Mr. & Mrs. Benn,  
Mr. & Mrs. Mims; Mr. & Mrs. Gourlay; Prof. & Mrs. Brown;  
Mr. & Mrs. Bornemissza; Mr. & Mrs. Maclean; Mr. & Mrs. Brand;  
Mr. & Mrs. Adams; Mr. & Mrs. King; Mr. & Mrs. Hodgkin;  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholson; Mr. & Mrs. Temple-Watts; Mr. & Mrs.  
Baker; Dr. & Mrs. Story; Mr. & Mrs. Hay; Mr. & Mrs. Harrison.

Single Membership

Dr. Mosley; Mr. Green; Mr. Hall; Mr. Wheelen; Mr. Mackay;  
Mr. Schunze; Mr. Stokes; Mr. Grant; Mr. Swann; Mr. Tait;  
Mr. Calby; Mr. McLeod; Mr. Winston; Mrs. Holt, Dr. Burbidge;

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Mrs. Dalgarno; Miss Aston; Miss Davidson; Miss Staemmler;  
Miss McFarlane; Miss Campbell; Miss Tillyard; Miss Curtis.

Junior Member: Clayton

New members are most welcome.

#### Christmas Cards

Once again, Christmas cards, depicting Australian scenes, have been produced by the N.S.W.N.P.A. for our association. There are several scenes to choose from. Each card with envelope costs 10 cents. Send your orders and payment to the Secretary, or purchase the cards at the next meetings and outings.

#### Recent Publications

Mr. Ian Grant has for free distribution the latest booklets "Wildlife Service" and "Wildlife Conservation" - both publications of the N.S.W. Fauna Protection Panel. The latest copy of the magazine "Wildlife", produced by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is now on sale for 40 cents. Mr. Grant also has copies for sale of Dr. N. Burbidge's "Wattles of the A.C.T." and "Eucalypts of the A.C.T."

#### Future Outings

The outing to Clyde Mt. will be of particular interest to us, as this association recently co-operated with the N.S.W.N.P.A. to retain for the present, an area beside the road at the summit of the mountain. A lease for a motel site was advertised, but this has now been withdrawn until the boundary of a proposed National Park in the area has been defined.

There will be a day outing in early December, and possibly a camping weekend during January at Jarvis Bay. Details of these trips will be given in the December-January Bulletin.

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"Wildlife Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"

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This slogan on a car window-transfer is now obtainable from Mr. Ian Grant or the Fauna Protection Panel, Chief Secretary's Department, 9th floor, Caltex House, 167 Kent St., Sydney.

An extract from the Victorian National Parks Association 15th Annual Report regarding proposed National Parks.

"The Association is very concerned at the long delay which always occurs between the time a proposal is made for the establishment of a new national park and the announcement of an official decision. Our concern over the delays stems not from the fear of neglect, or because nothing is being done, but from the knowledge that certain things are being done and done to the detriment of the integrity of the site or area we wish to see reserved. The monumental example of this is to be seen in the region of the Lower Glenelg River. In about a decade, 80,000 acres originally sought for a national park have been reduced to something like 20,000 acres. Most of the lost acres are now occupied by plantations of exotic softwoods, access roads and firebreaks. The regular burning which is deemed essential for the protection of the plantations continues to destroy the natural ground cover, and the wildlife inhabitants of what is left of the area we once envisaged as a truly magnificent national park. Another sector is, at this moment, under threat of alienation for farms. This great stretch of scenic countryside is being, or is about to be, utilized in the interests of a section of the public, instead of the whole community."

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During a year's residence in a tropical part of New Guinea, there was an opportunity to observe the local native fauna and its struggle for survival against a human community which must hunt and clear land to provide food for itself. The area we lived in is 90 miles inland from Wewak, which is the most northerly large town and port. Its centre is Maprik, a small "out station" built in the foothills of the Alexander Range. This range forms part of the northern boundary of the extensive Sepik River Plain, which stretches in width in some parts to 100 miles. The hill vegetation is tropical rain forest consisting of tall trees (teaks, cedars and softwoods, including balsa;) vines and dense undergrowth. However, it is difficult to find a very old stand of such vegetation, as the dense population cultivates the land extensively. As each garden's soil is exhausted after 2 years, a new area is cleared, thus resulting in constant clearing and regrowth. This of course, has had its effect on the animal population, especially the carpuls, sugar gliders and tree kangaroos. More numerous are flying fox, tube-nosed bats and pythons. The carpuls (cus-cus) are valued by the New Guineans for meat (a rare commodity except on special occasions when a domestic pig or fowl is killed;) and fur.

In the days when head-hunting was the common practice, a headband of cus-cus fur was worn by any man who had taken two heads. Some of the older men in the Maprik area still wear these headbands.

The great variety of birds includes kingfishers, sunbirds, honeyeaters, bee-eaters, the migratory spur-winged plover, snipe, egrets, goshawks, fork-tailed kites, sandpipers, cootes, fruit pigeon, parrots, owls, swifts, nightjars and New Guinea Friar birds. The cassowary's eggs are hunted for, and a young bird is often kept as a pet in a village until it is big enough to eat.

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The men use colourful feathers as head decorations on ceremonial occasions, and for decorating the giant yams in the annual yam festival.

The butterflies are really beautiful, the most common one being the turquoise and black Papilio Ulyssus Aulolytus. Many of this species were often fluttering round the hibiscus hedge. Not so common was the green, black and yellow Ornithoptera Priamis Poseidon. These two butterflies are depicted on the New Guinea postal stamps.

Living in the grasslands of the Sepik Plains are bandicoots, snakes, rats and the New Guinea pheasant. To make easy hunting, the grass is set alight and the animals are caught as they flee from the fire.

The people who live beside the river and its backwaters and swamps have a good protein diet by catching fish, prawns and ducks. The beautiful white egret and pied egret are common, as are cormorants. The crocodile is very important in tribal stories and rituals, and most canoes are carved with a crocodile's head at the prow. Since European influence, the crocodile has been hunted for its valuable skin. It has disappeared from the main rivers and now is only found in backwaters. As the people are still food gatherers and hunters, as well as cultivators, there are no laws to conserve native fauna. The Birds of Paradise are protected to the extent that Europeans must not kill, collect or export them, but the natives who use the feathers for ceremonial decoration are not prevented from hunting them.

As more and more forest lands are destroyed permanently for coffee tea and rice growing to allow the people to grow cash crops, the outlook for the survival of the fauna is discouraging. Although it is most desirable, it is difficult to foresee the growth of a national park concept and the understanding of the conservation idea, amongst these people, in the near future.

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M E E T I N G S

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October

- Date : Tuesday 25th October, 1966
- Place : Institute of Anatomy
- Feature : A speaker if possible, if not, films. Watch Monday 24th "Canberra Times" for a notice on this matter
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November

- Date : Tuesday 22nd November, 1966
- Place : Institute of Anatomy
- Feature : A talk by Dr. G. Mosley of the Geography Dept. A.N.U., whose subject will be "Conservation of Natural Areas - management problems and objectives."  
This talk will be illustrated.
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"Eyes or no Eyes" series will be continued next bulletin.

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"What is Wildlife Conservation?"

Firstly, we are conserving wildlife because it is symbolic of Australia. It is the remaining evidence of Australia's evolution through the countless years that lie behind us. Together with the physical conditions of soil, landform and climate, its wildlife distinguishes Australia from all other countries.

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O U T I N G S

October

- Date : Sunday, 30th October, 1966
- Place : Clyde Mt. - Mt. Budawang area.
- Leader : Mr. R. Schodde
- Meeting Place : 10 a.m. on top of Clyde Mt. before descent on cut-off section of old highway on left of new road. This is a sealed section, but veers away from the road, making a safe spot off the road.
- Feature : Study of rainforest vegetation.

November

- Date : Sunday 27th November, 1966.
- Place : Kangaroo Flats - Billy Billy Rocks.
- Leader : Mr. J. Webb
- Meeting Place : 10 a.m. at the corner of the Corin Dam and Tidbinbilla Roads.
- Feature : This is to be a fairly strenuous walk up from the Corin Dam Road (6 miles in all). An alternative smaller walk will be arranged for small children and less strenuously-minded. Stout shoes, portable lunches needed.

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