



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

Vol.5 No.4 February-March 1968 Annual Sub. to Bulletin 60¢
Per copy 10¢
Registered in Australia for Transmission by post as a periodical.

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President: Mr. A.J. Brand, 11 Dyson St., Lyneham (4 3538)

Secretary: Miss M. Sexton, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City

(4 5795 after working hours)

Treasurer: Mr. J.L. Schunke, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City (4 6828)

Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month.

A happy and prosperous New Year to all members and the hope that the cause of conservation will be furthered by our association amongst the citizens of the A.C.T.

Nineteen hundred and sixty seven's activities of our association ended with an evening lake cruise which was most enjoyable for the 37 members who attended. However the organising committee were disappointed that more members didn't support this outing. A delicious meal, accompanied by wine was served and there was music for dancing while the boat cruised up and down the lake. Many thanks to Keith Green who did the greater part of the organising.

Congratulations to one of our members, Mrs. Syble Story who with a party consisting of 3 other women (two Canberra bushwalkers), 2 men and sherpas recently climbed to a glacier, almost 18,000' up the side of Mt. Everest. The party spent six weeks in India and Nepal. Congratulations also to another member, Mr. Andrew Wood of the Forestry Department, A.N.U. who received an M.B.E. in the recent New Year's Honours List.

For Your Library.

Now available the revised edition of "The Wattles of the A.C.T." Dr. Nancy Burbidge. This excellent book is well illustrated with photographs and drawings. Price: \$1.20.

"Possum Moods" by Paul Redpath. Delightful photographs and text. The price is \$2.95. Half the proceeds from this publication go to the "Conservation Foundation".

The following review is from "Queensland N.P.A. News".

Harry Frauca's "Birds from the Seas, Scrubs and Swamps of Australia", is now on sale. In its 122 pages, is a wealth of photographs, research and a satisfactory index. The excellence of the photos, both black and white and colour (12 pages) is a

tribute to Mr. Frauca's patience in the field. Price is \$5.00.

The following reviews from the "Illawarra Natural History Society" circular.

"Explorations in Natural Science". This excellent 128 page book is written by John W. Gammage of the Wollongong Teachers College and is profusely illustrated by well-known local artist Tuk Caldwell. The author is also a valued member of our own society.

This book has been primarily published to supplement the new school syllabus for 3rd class to 2nd year schoolchildren. The four sections of the book deal with 1. The Variety of Living Things; 2. Characteristics of Living Things; 3. Energy and Forces which has chapters on force, pressure and machines, heat electricity and magnetism and light and sound; 4. Earth and Universe which covers such details as weather, atmosphere, the earth's crust, the solar system, the universe and time.

"Australian Birds in Colour" by Keith Hindwood describes 52 species of the Australian birds. Twelve of the 52 magnificent colour plates are the work of the Illawarra ornithologist and photographer Ellis McNamara.

Interstate News.

In the light of the recent controversy in Sydney about the granting of land from a nature reserve for bowls greens, the following statement by Queensland N.P.A. is pertinent.

"National Parks are established primarily as wilderness areas with the intention that they would remain intact but at the same time they should be available for public visits. National Parks can and do provide quiet recreation for visitors. They were not intended for sport or games. Their small size in Queensland has rightly restricted access to walking paths with roads terminating at their boundaries. Ample space and vast suitable areas surround our National Parks for activities such as playgrounds, for sport, for accommodation, for carousels for golf courses, for outdoor entertainment on a large scale."

4.

N.S.W. N.P.A. "The National Parks Journal" (December 1967)

STATEMENT ON COLONG CAVES RESERVE MINING LEASES

The statements in the Press, and the many letters to the Minister for Mines have not succeeded in influencing the Government to intervene and prevent granting of limestone mining leases in Colong Caves Reserve. The Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. has therefore sought legal advice on the matter and has written to the Minister for Mines through its solicitors requesting that he order an enquiry into the situation, in a Mining Warden's Court, before granting the application for Mining Lease No.46 within the Reserve. It has also given notice that it intends to lodge an objection to application for any mining lease which might follow the granting of prospecting leases over adjacent areas.

The Council realises that since the time for objections to be formally lodged has expired for Mining Lease No.46, any decision to hold an enquiry is up to the Minister for Mines. However, since we feel that this application is in fact a test case, with deep implications for the future of all of our National Parks, we hope that the Minister will see fit to hold the enquiry.

The time for lodging a formal objection to the granting of the other mining leases has not expired, and so the Council can expect to be a party to a hearing before a Warden's Court some time in the future, probably in the middle of the new year.

We will need funds to meet legal expenses involved in this hearing, and we hope to have the support of both individuals and societies affiliated with the Council. The Council believes that the only effective way it can make its case known to the Government and to the public at large is to present the case for conservation at a properly conducted court hearing of this type.

For the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
B.R. Grant,
Hon. Sec.

FOR NATURE LOVERS

ANGER or anguish when we see
 BLOCKHEAD shooting at a kangaroo
 CARELESSLY leaving it to die
 DOWN in pain among the grasses.

EASY to boast of a "bag" of ducks
 FILCHED from a swamp out of season
 GIVING no thought to the fledglings
 HIDDEN but dead among the sedges.

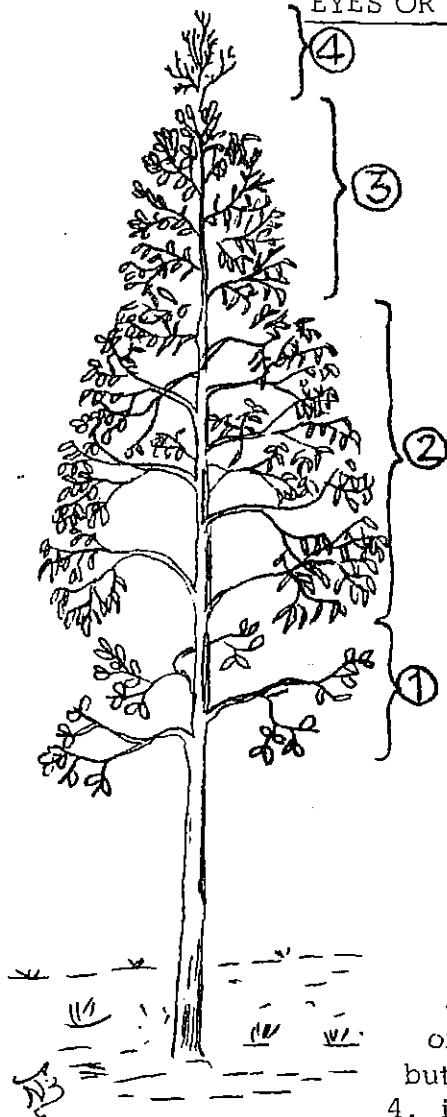
IT would be better to watch them
 JUST see them move, fly, live
 KNOWING no fear of human enemies
 LIVING their span in freedom.

MANY people used to walk in Spring
 NEAR the creek bank seeking flowers
 ONCE upon a time not now because
 PICKED flowers died in someone's hand.

QUERY must we always destroy
 RATHER than cherish what we love?
 SLAY, fell, pluck, trap, defile
 TURN beauty into barren ugliness?

UNDERSTAND what's lost is gone forever
 VACANT is the nest, dead the ferny forest.
 WILL we be strong to guard what lives?
 X the unknown moment of final chance
 YET even now
 ZERO hour is striking.

EYES OR NO EYES No.



Along many Canberra streets and in the forests gum trees now have young shoots at the ends of the branchlets. This surge of growth is to be seen every year though it usually occurs later in summer. It follows the shedding of old dry leaves - you will have noticed these falling in forests on hot still days.

In saplings, which still have a cone-shaped canopy and a main stem, the growth is mostly at the apex. It is first seen as a slender cluster of tender and apparently leafless shoots. The elongation of these shoots is rapid. Later there is a more gradual development of the young leaves. Because of this system of elongation followed by leaf expansion it is often possible to recognise seasonal growth in a sapling canopy.

Stage 1. of the diagram shows a few branches with some persistent "juvenile" leaves. In Stage 2. the leaves are at the ends of the branches because an earlier series has been lost. The leaves of Stage 3. are the same age as those in 2. but grow to the base of the branches. Stage 4. is this year's growth and as it expands there will be some new growth on the ends of the branches in 2. and 3. Thus the canopy consists of a series of cones, the youngest covering the top and sides of the previous one each year. In an older tree the same pattern is repeated on each main branch but is less easily recognised.

N.T.B.

MEETINGS.February.

Date: Tuesday, 20th February at 8 p.m.
 Place: Institute of Anatomy
 Feature: Mr. Keith Wade will speak about the "Vegetation and Animals of the Highlands of New Guinea" and show slides to illustrate.

March.

Date: Tuesday, 19th March at 8 p.m.
 Place: Institute of Anatomy
 Feature: Mrs. Syble Story will tell of her "Travels in Nepal" and show slides of this fascinating country.

Remember visitors are always welcome at our meetings and outings, so bring your friends.

Membership.

We welcome to the association the Bishoff family and Miss N. J. Price.

Renewal Subs. Dr. Day, Miss Watt, Dr. Mosley and the Morley family.

OUTINGSFebruary.

Date: Weekend outing 24th-25th February, 1968

Place: Jervis Bay - a camping weekend

Meeting Place: The Caves Beach campsite on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. After pitching tents we will conduct a further survey of this Federal territory, with its great variety of scenery, plants and birds. Of course there will be time off for swimming and surfing.
For road directions ring (4 3661)

March.

Date: Sunday, 10th March, 1968

Place: Molonglo Gorge

Feature: Members will gather at the lower end of the gorge at 11.30 a.m. - road to gorge well signposted. Lunch will be eaten - (there are fireplaces and tapwater) then the walk up the gorge will commence along a well made track.

March.

Date: Weekend outing, 23rd-24th March, 1968

Place: Hoskinstown Braidwood area

Meeting Place: Hoskinstown Post Office at 10.30 Sat. Town is 25 miles from Canberra. The party will then proceed 8 miles along a rough dirt road, suitable for all cars except low slung cars (i.e. Austin 1800), to the camp site. There will be a walk after lunch along a bush track through a forest area.
Sunday morning - a climb of 1,000' up a nearby mountain. Proceed home later in the day via Braidwood and main road. Round trip is 100 miles. Please notify leader of intention to attend by Friday 22nd March (Robert Story - Home 81 2174 Work 4 0455 Ext. 661).
