



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

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month.

1968 has begun well for our association with well attended meetings and outings. Please note that the April meeting is on the 4th Tuesday of the month (23rd April) to avoid the 3rd Tuesday which is the day following the Easter holidays. Strong support is needed for the May meeting which will be held in the Hughes Community Centre in an attempt to gain new members from the area of Canberra.

The following is a preliminary announcement about our annual interstate guest speaker who will be Mr. R. Strahan, the Director of the Taronga Parks Zoo. He will speak in the Canberra Playhouse on Tuesday 25th June, so keep this evening free and encourage as many people as possible to attend.

Code of Behaviour on Outings.

As an association we stand for conservation and protection of our bushland and its wildlife. Members should endeavour to set a good example to children and non-members, by their behaviour in reserves and the bushland in general.

1. Firelighting. In fireplaces if provided or in carefully chosen rocky or sandy places with the area cleared of leaves and sticks. Extinguish fires with water or earth and rocks.

2. Dispose of rubbish in receptacles or the fire or prepared hole. "Burn Bash and Bury" is a good slogan.

3. Walk on prepared tracks if provided. Cutting corners leads to erosion of the tracks and surrounding area.

4. Look at but do not pick plants or remove objects or wildlife.

5. Never leave the group without informing the leader of your intention and destination.

6. As passed at the last general meeting, no domestic animals on outings. National Parks or reserves do not allow such animals to enter as they are a disturbance and danger to the natural wildlife.

Interstate News.

From the N.S.W.N.P.A. Journal (March, 1968) information about the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which has been established following the passing of the National Parks and Wildlife Act last year.

An outline of the establishment is as follows:-

Minister

National Parks and
Wildlife Advisory Council

Advisory Committee of
Architects

Director National Parks & Wildlife Service

Assistant Director
Wildlife

Assistant Director
Management

Assistant Director
Administration

The Wildlife Section is to be staffed with the following officers: Senior Field Officer, Reserves Officer, Field Officer Reserves, O.I.C. Wildlife team, 2 Field Officers - Wildlife team, 2 Field Officers - Law Enforcement, 4 Warden Rangers.

The Management Division will have two specialist bureaux, plus a line organisation of Operations Field Officers. The specialist bureaux are: Publicity and Education staffed with, Education Officer, Assistant Education Officer, Interpretive Officer.

Planning and Design staffed with Chief Planning Officer, 2 Landscape Architects, Civil Engineer, Draftsman, Museum Planning Officer.

The Operations organisation - Chief Operations Officer, Operations Officer-Protection, Operations Officer-Maintenance, Investigation Officer, Assistant Investigation/Biologist, Surveyor, Senior Draftsman, 2 Draftsmen.

The Administration Divisions will provide necessary clerical and Administrative skills including such special functions as accounts, Inspection, Purchasing, Records, Shorthand/Typing, and Office Assistance. Also there will be staffs of individual Parks grading from Secretaries and Superintendents through Chief Rangers to Park labour force.

4.

From the Queensland N.P.A. newsheet (March 1968) the following regarding "The Great Barrier Reef":

"Various bodies have been concerned with the future of the Great Barrier Reef in the last few years. Among these are the Great Barrier Reef Committee, the Wild Life Preservation Society of Queensland and more recently the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Australian Academy of Science.

A committee of the National Parks Association of Queensland has been examining the legal or National status of the 80 000 square miles of reefs, atolls and waters surrounding them. This was a first step to establish ownership, while considering whether the N.P.A.Q. was justified in extending its activities to seeking suitable areas as Marine National Parks. Such reserves would have to be in (1) territory forming part of Queensland such as three miles from the coast or around islands forming part of the Barrier as well as around continental islands such as Hook, Seaforth, Whitsunday, Hinchinbrook, Palm, Magnetic etc., or (2) on the seabed of the continental shelf which comes under the control of Commonwealth of Australia.

Aim No. One is the key to our many successful sub-missions for mainland and island National Parks and the council of the National Parks Association of Queensland considers that seabed areas suitable for reservation as Marine National Parks including submerged and exposed portions of the Great Barrier Reef come within the ambit of Aim No. One.

We need to locate several large sections of the seabed off the Queensland coast which are unspoilt and which contain variations of marine habitat including outstanding selections of the coral reefs.

It is not our practice to submit generalisations to the authorities nor does the N.P.A.Q. Council believe that the entire Great Barrier Reef should be reserved.

Under the sea, it is practicable to reserve a much greater percentage of unspoilt habitat than on the mainland. On the land, our National Parks occupy about one half per cent of the area of Queensland and it is problematical whether the existing reserves of 3,500 square miles can be more than doubled before changes in land form or destruction of habitat has occurred.

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Bulletin March-April 1968.

Aim No.1 reads - To preserve intact in their natural condition the existing National Parks of Queensland; and to secure the reservation of all suitable areas.

* * *

The following is an extract from an address given by Mr. A. Dunbavin Butchers of the Victorian Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to the Victorian Field Naturalist Club and published in their bulletin.

"Two quotations laid the foundation of this address on "The Philosophy of Conservation within the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife". The first was taken from editorial headed "Conservation" in "the Chicago Tribune" 1967.

"..... Conservation's best chance depends on the defence of the natural environment, by people with nothing more to gain than helping the earth remain habitable. We all depend on the world, which man did not make, and had better not pollute much further than he already has".

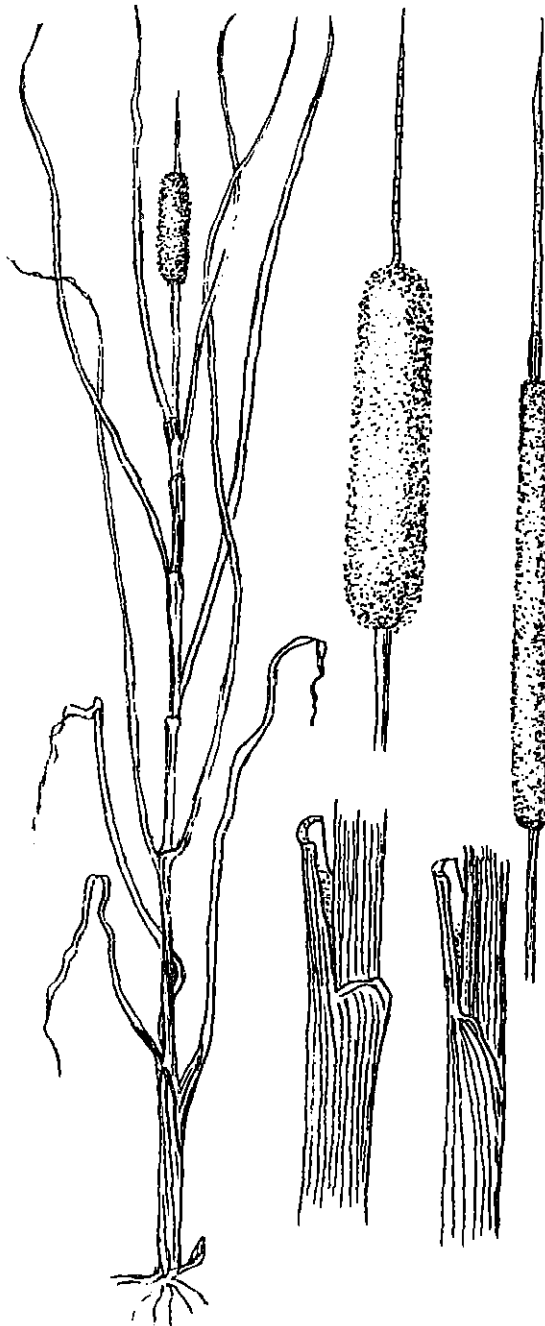
The second quotation was taken from a publication from the White House in America, entitled "Restoring the Quality of our Environment". This was a report by a Science Advisory Committee to the President "...Environment pollution is the unfavourable alteration of our surroundings, wholly or largely as a by-product of man's action".

The F. and W. Department today is moving more and more towards environmental work; because most of the things which have been done in the past, and which are still being done, will count very little indeed if something is not done about retaining the integrity of the environment.

If we do not succeed in the environmental field, the F.N.C.V. will not be worth retaining nor will the F. and W. Department have any further function. It is as simple as this.

A third quotation added weight to this, and was taken from the same publication from the White House as was the second. "...Carbon dioxide is being added to the atmosphere of the earth by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas at the rate of six billion ton per year. By the year 2,000, there will be about 25% more carbon dioxide in our atmosphere than at present. This will modify the heat balance of the atmosphere to such an extent, that marked changes in the climate, not controllable, could occur".

This is what is meant by environmental change. Most of us



Everyone knows about Moses and the Bulrushes but have you noticed that we have two sorts of bulrush growing around the margins of Lake Burley Griffin? If not then try looking along the shore across from the Yacht Club on Lotus Bay.

One kind has a chestnut brown spike like a thick sausage at the top of the stem and the tops of the leaf sheaths are broad and rounded (see sketch). The other has slender (usually longer) cinnamon brown spikes and the sheaths slope gradually into the leaf blades.

These mature spikes bear the female flowers. In the early stages there are male (pollen bearing) flowers forming an upper spike. Later these fall away leaving a bare point above the female part. Each female flower is surrounded by numerous very fine silky hairs and when, finally, the flowers break loose they are held in a fluffy mass which has even been used to fill pillows.

Bulrushes are found in many countries and from prehistoric times the leaves have been used for basket making.

N.T.B.

spend far too much time in worrying about things which anybody can recognize, while the really important matters are those that are overlooked - recognition is the first step towards solving a problem".

MEETINGS

April

Date: Tuesday, 23rd April, 1968 at 8 p.m.
Place: Institute of Anatomy
Feature: An illustrated talk by Mr. L. Carron "A Visitor in Japan".
Mr. Carron attended a forestry conference in Japan, last year, and while there, viewed forests, National Parks, and places of cultural interest.

May

Date: Tuesday, 21st May, at 7.45 p.m.
Place: Hughes Community Centre
Feature: In an attempt to gain new members or at least make people aware of our existence and the cause for conservation, this meeting will be held in a relatively new area of Canberra. The programme of films has been arranged by Mr. & Mrs. Hammond.
Films: "Into Your Hand"
"Birds that Never Fly"
"Parklands in Illinois U.S.A."
"Menura"
"The Case for Conservation"

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome to the association Mr. & Mrs. D. Emmerly, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Howlett, Miss C. Gillies, Miss I. Fleming, Miss M. Swift, Mr. J. Dick Mr. J. Webster.

Renewal Subscriptions: Mr. & Mrs. Horner, Mr. K. McGrath,
Mrs. Monahan.

OUTINGSApril

Date: Sunday, April 28th 1968

Place: Bungonia Gorge Reserve which is 25 miles from Goulburn.

Meeting

Place: The bridge in Bungonia township at 10.30. Please don't be late as there is a long day ahead.

Features: Our host for this outing is the Goulburn Field Naturalist Society. They have arranged two activities for us, to suit the energetic and the not so energetic.

Activity 1. A walk into Bungonia Gorge, to the junction of Bungonia Creek with the Shoalhaven River, then along Bungonia Gorge, through the Bungonia Blockup and a climb up the Gorge by way of Efflux Creek then back to Bungonia Reserve.

Activity 2. Members of the Goulburn Society will guide visitors round the various caves in the reserve and to the Lookouts from where very impressive views of the surrounding country can be seen.

May

Date: Sunday, 26th May, 1968

Place: Rendezvous Creek Area

Meeting

Place: From Tharwa, take the Boboyan Road which follows the Gudgenby River, to the new bridge over a side creek near Gudgenby Homestead.

Features: The leader, John Schunke has planned a walk of about 8 miles to the aboriginal paintings at Yankee Hat and Rendezvous Creek. For those who would like less walking they need only visit the first paintings or walk along the creek. For information ring 4 6828.