

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

Vol. 6 No. 5 April - May 1969

Annual subscription to bulletin \$1.20, per copy 20c.

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical

Australian Conservation Foundation Symposium on

"The Future of the Great Barrier Reef"

All members are invited to attend this symposium to be held at Sydney University Union Theatre, Saturday May 3rd, 1969 at 10.15 a.m. There will be offered by T.A.A., special group airline concession fares. Registration forms will be available very soon.

Why a Symposium on the Great Barrier Reef? The conservation of the Great Barrier Reef is a national issue. Australia holds the reef in trust as one of the wonders of the modern world, and we are responsible to the world for its future.

The symposium falls naturally into three parts. The first deals with what the Reef is, both physically and in terms of its constitution, i.e. the law of the sea governing, or believed to be applicable to, the activities of governments.

The second part concerns what the Reef has to offer man in the way of renewable and non-renewable resources; and the third - the crux of the symposium - what can be done to ensure its present unique identity, and also how its management by man can be improved.

A list of the speakers and their subjects and other information may be obtained from our secretary, Isobel Dahl.

Quote from a British Columbia's publication "Wildlife Review":

"Man's mastery of the earth will pay him greatest tribute when he achieves the forbearance to leave some of it alone".

THINK!

NINE little nigger boys full of fun and joy
 One by one, the old tale tells
 They disappeared until there were NONE.

EIGHT bright Rosella dressed for carnival
 Who wanted just one wing to decorate a hat?

SEVEN solemn Wombats hunting in the dark
 Who set a trap, just for a lark?

SIX lazy Lizards sunning on the rocks
 Who was it caught one and let it die in a box?

FIVE Kangaroos resting in the shade
 Forced to run in panic from death man-made.

FOUR Black Swans noble and serene
 Oil upon the water brings death or sickness mean.

THREE furry Possums living in the tree
 Flames scorched the fur and eyes no longer see.

TWO superb Lyrebirds mated for life
 Who killed the songster and left a mourning wife?

ONE White Egret sailing on currents of air
 Who pulled the trigger by the lake so fair?

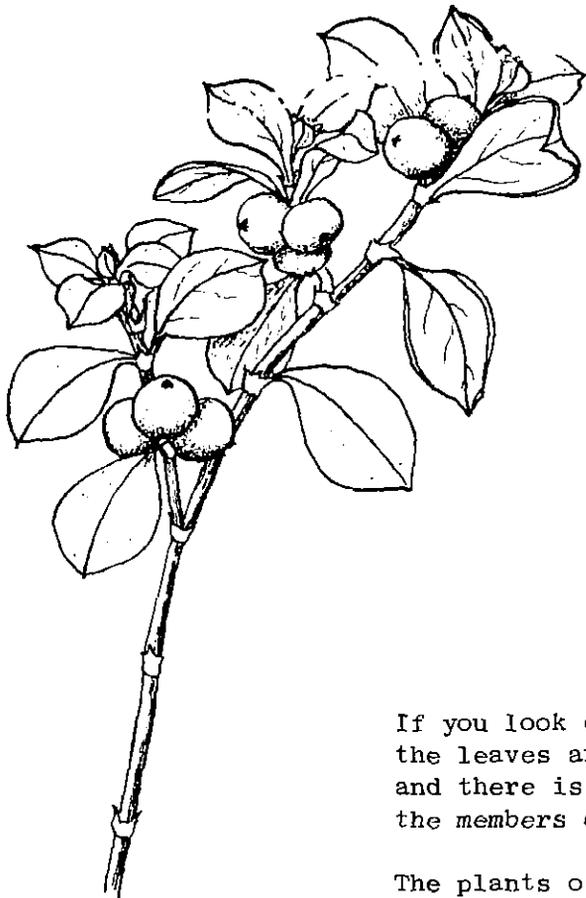
One by one they die - or disappear.
 Not harsh Nature's reddened tooth or claw
 But selfish willfulness of Man
 The Destroyer, they learn to fear.

N.T.B.

The following two paragraphs are from an address given by Allen A. Strom, entitled "The Voluntary Citizen Organisation in the Nature Conservation Programme" given to the Wildlife Preservation Society and N.S.W.N.P.A.:

"Maybe my reading and my experiences have been singularly unfortunate, but I have yet to encounter a circumstance in nature conservation where the effort to progress the programme has not been a battle against apathy, or selfrighteousness, or downright ignorance of the values of wildlife, natural environment and natural phenomena, as resources upon which rests much human welfare and happiness. That this regrettable situation exists over the whole world, more or less, does not in the least compensate for its eroding effects upon the much younger communities in Australia. Indeed, in this country, the so-called "spirit of pioneering" and the "last frontier against untamed nature" nonsense, continues to justify the exploitive bias of our land usage programmes and encourages thinking in terms of one large bonanza in our time, and to hell with the future. Apparently achieving adulthood as a nation means to most administrators and citizens, replacing diversity of environment with a monotony of urbanity and industry on the one hand, and on the other, continuous lines of fenced paddocks enclosing only man-made or man-influenced ecosystems".

"The Voluntary Citizen Organisations have caught up a stream of people who have been affected by naturalness in various ways. To some, the enjoyment of naturalness means a new interest, a new recreation or a new way of securing a release from routine and sophistication. Often the influence never goes further, but to others there comes a realisation that in receiving something from nature they have a grave responsibility to give something in return not because nature herself will benefit, but because the resource may continue to be available for use by succeeding generations".

EYES OR NO EYES NO. 31

The Currant Bush is a common shrub in our mountain areas. It grows in the forests of the upper slopes and is usually about two to three feet high.

The Plants are easily overlooked except when they are bearing the bright red or orange-red berries late in the summer months. The berries are a very attractive colour but not much good to eat. There is little flesh around the hard centre and the taste makes the mouth feel dry.

If you look closely you will see that the leaves are paired and opposite and there is a minute tooth between the members of each pair.

The plants of Currant Bush, which botanists call Coprosma hirtella, are of two kinds. One has female flowers and develops berries. The other has flowers which only produce pollen and are therefore called male or staminate plants.

Currant Bush is in fruit along the Mount Franklin Road - have you seen it?

N.T.B.

OUTINGSApril

Date : Easter Weekend - 4th-7th April
 Place : Proposed National Park in the A.C.T.
 Feature : (a) A base camp for day walks;
 (b) a three day walk through the area.

The base camp will be in a forestry area near Gudgenby. Directions as follows: through Tharwa to Naas, cross Gudgenby River, turn left off sealed road onto gravel road over a cattle grid (sign "Shannons Flat 25 miles"). After 9 miles cross Gudgenby Creek bridge and after 300 yards turn right onto old Boboyan Road. Travel on through two gates onto stock reserve. Cross ford, pass through two gates and at approximately 3 miles from turnoff turn left up forest track to huts in trees. (Map 50,000 Yauk ref. 19975844). There is a hut for shelter in case of rain and where a fire may be lit (no open air fires). Bring a water container as water will have to be taken from a creek, half a mile away. There will be short walks Friday and Monday and day walks to Mt. Gudgenby and Yankee Hat on Saturday and Sunday. Members may wish to attend single days only. N.S.W.N.P.A. will be attending this outing. Members and visitors will collect at base camp by mid-day. Anyone wishing to go on the three day walk please ring 4.3538 and their names will be passed on to the leader.

May

Date : Sunday, 25th May, 1969
 Place : Smokers Flat area which is the northern boundary of the proposed National Park.
 Meeting : Junction of Corin Dam Road and Tidbinbilla
 Place : Road at 10.30 a.m.
 Feature : A six mile drive from meeting place and then a walk along a jeep track until lunch time. Return to cars by 3.30 p.m.

MeetingsApril

Date : Tuesday, 15th April at 8.00 p.m.
Place : "The Playhouse", Civic Square
Feature : Our guest speaker will be the famous
Australian writer and conservationist
Judith Wright whose subject will be:
"CONSERVATION AS AN EMERGING CONCEPT".

Publicise this meeting as widely as possible.

May

Date : Tuesday, 20th May at 8.00 p.m.
Place : Institute of Anatomy
Feature : Film evening:
 "Offspring of Isolation"
 "Creatures of the Dawn"
 "Island of Birds"
 "Australian Coral Wonderland"

Visitors welcome.