

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

Vol. 7 No. 1 August-September, 1969

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T. INC.
 "A NATIONAL PARK FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL"

President : Dr. Nancy Burbidge
 Secretary : Miss I. Dahl, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City
 Treasurer : Mr. J.L. Schunke, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City (48-9828)

Monthly Meeting : Third Thursday of the Month

To commence the 10th year of N.P.A. in the A.C.T. the association is moving its meeting place and night of the week: monthly meetings will now be held on the Third Thursday of the month in Room 1 of the Griffin Centre. This room is easily found as it's the first door on the left, upon entering the building through the main door. It is hoped that Thursday night is as convenient to members as the previous meeting night.

The July meeting was the annual meeting of the association and the following office bearers were elected to carry on the work of the association during 1969 and to July 1970.

President : Dr. Nancy Burbidge
 Vice President : Miss J. Henry
 Secretary : Miss I. Dahl
 Ass. Secretary : Miss M. Aston
 Treasurer : Mr. J. Schunke
 Publicity Officer : Mr. L. Adams
 Committee : Miss N. Price; Mrs. C. Slater; Mr. K. Green; Mr. G.M. Chippendale; Dr. B. Creaser; Mr. G. Lewis.

Constitution Amendment

At the annual meeting an amendment to the constitution was passed to the effect that an "affiliation fee of 50c per adult will be paid by non-members attending an outing. Children will be free".

Membership

Annual subscriptions are now due, \$3 single membership, \$5 for family membership. Please help the Treasurer and the association by renewing your subscription as soon as possible.

The association welcomes the following new members: Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Hill; Mr. F. Lawrence; Mr. J. O'Brien; Miss D. Wills.

Subscription Renewals: Mr. & Mrs. Adams; Miss M. Aston; Dr. N. Burbidge; Mr. & Mrs. Chippendale; Miss N. Dunn; Miss I. Fleming; Mrs. K. Gilmour; Mr. & Mrs. Hammond; Miss V. McFarlane; Mr. & Mrs. McLean; Mrs. E. Martin; Mr. & Mrs. Slater; Mr. R. Tait.

Book Reviews

It is very pleasing to publish reviews about books written by members of the association. The reviews are as follows: "Wildflowers of Central Australia" by Thelma M. Chippendale, published by Jacaranda Press. Price \$1.95 at most bookshops. This is one of a series of wildflower guides. It includes coloured plates of fifty fairly common wildflowers of Central Australia. Facing each illustration are brief details of habit, habitat, description, and some general notes, with scientific and common names. The book is suitable for the tourist in Central Australia, or for the general interest of wildflower lovers.

"Eucalyptus Buds and Fruits" edited by George M. Chippendale, published by the Forestry and Timber Bureau. Price \$2.00 from some bookshops, or from the Forestry and Timber Bureau.

Drawings of the buds and fruits of all except two of the described species of eucalyptus are given, together with a list of all specimens from which the drawings were made. Hybrids are not illustrated. Many of the sketches are from J.H. Maiden's "A Critical Revision of the Genus Eucalyptus", but 259 new sketches are included, including some species not previously illustrated.

Essay Competition Results

The association sponsored a section in the recent Essay Competition, which was organised by the Science Teachers' Association, amongst school children in the Canberra High Schools. One hundred and fifty essays were received for our section and \$78 worth of prizes were given to winners in this section. The juniors were asked to write on the topic "Why do we need National Parks"? The winners were:

First Prize	: Stephen Ryan, St. Edmunds College
Second Prize	: Alison Wise, Canberra High School
Highly Commended	: Anne Coston, Narrabundah High School
	Michael Tuite, St. Edmunds College
	Leslie Wise, Canberra High School
	Robyn McDermott, Catholic Girls' High, Griffith

The senior's topic was "The Effect of Civilization on the Balance of Nature" and the following are the winners:

First Prize	: Jan Carney, Catholic Girls' High, Griffith
Second Prize	: Aira Blums, Deakin High School
Highly Commended	: Elizabeth Burdon, Deakin High School
	Bruce Atkins, Deakin High School
	Chris Simmonds, Deakin High School

Many thanks to the judges, Dr. Burbidge and Dr. A. Costin, who had a difficult task selecting the best from so many good entries.

The winning entry of the Senior Section was very highly praised by the judges and is here printed for all members to read.

The Effect of Civilization on the Balance of Nature - by Jan Carney

A study of history, even a cursory examination, can have a fairly sobering effect when considering man and his environment. Primitive man was merely a part of the eco-system and in accord with it. His progress from this simple state to a complex civilization can largely be measured by his capacity to manipulate the physical conditions of his environment.

The results of this interference are two-fold. Without doubt many benefits have accrued, but at the same time these changes do not occur in isolation and have profoundly affected the balance of nature. The equilibrium imposed by the interdependence between climate, soils and all living organisms is a delicate one, and, if disturbed, is difficult to re-establish. Natural selection acts as a control in the evolutionary system and greatly expedites adaptive change, but can only operate over a long period of time. It is a feature of civilized areas that the balance of nature has not only been greatly disturbed but the persistence of the process makes it impossible to return to any previous state of equilibrium.

How has this come about? To increase his food supply, man has shown great ingenuity in utilizing the earth's resources. He has harnessed water supplies, propagated new types of plants for crops, multiplied certain species of animals to cater for his needs of meat and fibres for clothing, and waged a continuous battle to protect these sources of supply. This has inevitably intruded into the traditional habitats of many forms of wildlife with a catastrophic effect on most species. In many countries only the enforcement of special legislation has prevented the complete extinction of vulnerable types of wildlife.

Even a small alteration of the system can have far-reaching effects on the balance of nature. Rachel Carson, in her book "Silent Spring", cites many examples of this and illustrates the spiralling effect of particular methods of insect eradication. The introduction of chemical and biological controls such as DDT or myxomatosis, while effective at first, inevitably results in the natural selection of the more resistant strains in the adaptive process.

Australia can provide classic examples of how the balance of nature, built up over long periods of time in comparative isolation, can be disturbed by an introduced civilization. Rabbits were brought into the country as domestic pets, but in the absence of natural predators, reached plague

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

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1969

Accumulated Funds	466.52	Commonwealth Savings Bank	410.91
Balance 1.7.68	695.63	Cash on Hand	4.74
Deficiency 30.6.69	<u>229.11</u>	Stock on Hand, at cost	93.42
Subscriptions in Advance	76.00	237 Badges	73.32
Members	54.40	20 Maps	7.00
Bulletin	<u>21.60</u>	25 Books	7.14
Sundry Creditors	8.00	72 Xmas Cards	<u>5.96</u>
		Equipment	41.45
		Display Stands	75.38
		Depreciation written off	<u>33.93</u>
	<u>550.52</u>		<u>550.52</u>

J.L. SCHUNKE
Hon. Treasurer

The above Balance Sheet has been compared with the books and records of the Association and is, in my opinion, drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the affairs of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. (Inc.) as at 30th June, 1969.

STEWART G. EAST, F.C.A.
Hon. Auditor

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 30th June, 1969

Cost of maps sold	2.30	Subscriptions	514.10
Cost of old edition maps	1.50	Members	363.80
Cost of badges sold	.93	Bulletin	<u>150.30</u>
Cost of books sold	2.86	Sales	36.18
Cost of Xmas cards sold	28.98	3 Badges	1.50
Printing and stationery	17.62	7 Maps	2.80
Advertising	137.47	10 Books	4.20
Printing Bulletin	146.65	350 Cards	<u>27.68</u>
Subscriptions	11.00	Bank interest	22.78
P.O. box rent	6.00	Xmas party	16.84
Postage	29.39	Deficiency for year	229.11
Essay prizes	74.00		
Depreciation - Stands	11.31		
Hire of meeting halls	177.78		
Donations	25.00		
General printing	18.57		
Travelling expenses	100.15		
Name tags	14.25		
V.I.P. Supper	11.65		
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>1.60</u>		
	\$819.01		<u>\$819.01</u>

proportions. Prickly pear, at first a garden plant, thrived in the Australian sub-tropical environment, free of the ordinary controls of its natural habitat, and soon took complete possession of millions of acres of fertile country. This latter case is also an example of how scientific research can intervene to restore the natural equilibrium by artificially introducing a biological control.

Yet civilization has not only created disturbances in the natural balance but has also aggravated factors already operating. These include fire and destruction of soil fertility by erosion and other misguided forms of land use, and have had serious consequences in some areas.

Perhaps the most potentially dangerous aspect of modern man's impact on the environment is the increasing contamination of air, earth, rivers and sea with industrial and chemical products. Such pollution has a cumulative effect and has even been claimed to be endangering the very nature of life by creating adverse genetic mutations in living tissues. This is now recognized as a major menace in most countries of the world and is receiving serious consideration by such international bodies as the Food and Agriculture and World Health Organisations of the United Nations.

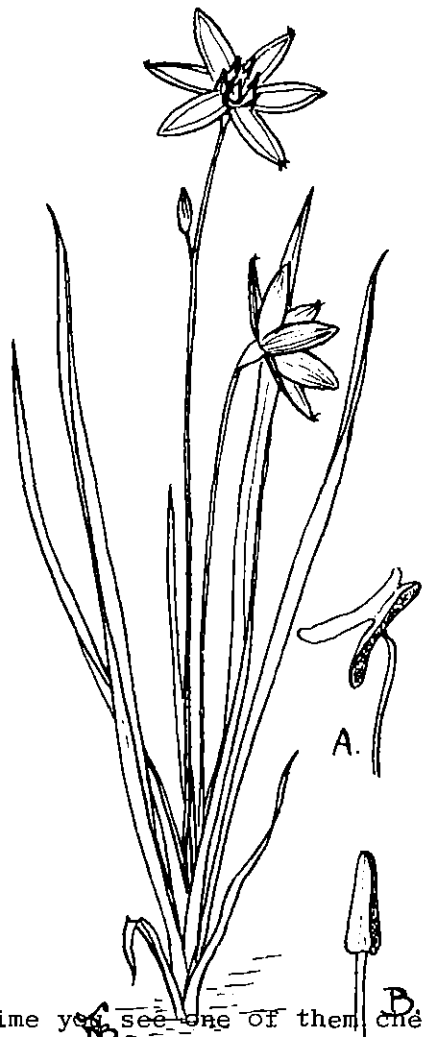
Change is inevitable and continuous. It is imperative, however, that civilized man attempts to control the changes he initiates in relation to the resources in the ecological environment and to minimize disturbance of the natural equilibrium. A civilized society must develop means of reaching and maintaining a balance between the needs of the present and the demands of the future. Unless he does this, man not only threatens the basic resources of the earth but ultimately endangers his own health and life.

Specific References:

- Russell L. Hamm, Larry Nason : An Ecological Approach to Conservation
 J.G. Crawford, M. Ec. : The economics of Conservation
 David Morgan, ED, et al : Biological Science : The Web of Life
 Various publications of the Wildlife and Conservation. Sections of the
 C.S.I.R.O. Reports of the Rural Reconstruction Commission 1-6.
 Rachel Carson : Silent Spring

EYES OR NO EYES NO. 33

One of the first of our spring flowers is Early Nancy with each of its white petals marked by a purple band. This was described in an earlier number of the NPA Bulletin so here is another plant which also grows in damp swampy places.



The plant shown is Golden Star, though in some places it is called Star of Bethlehem. The six golden yellow petals are in two series. The outer three are slightly narrower and more green on the outside. They each have a minute tuft of erect hairs at the tip.

There are two kinds of Golden Star in the A.C.T. The most common one is Hypoxis hygrometrica (see drawing) and if you look closely at a flower you will notice that the cells of each anther spread apart at the base (see A.). In the other local species, Hypoxis glabella, the flowers are smaller and the anther cells do not spread apart (see B.).

Golden Stars flower in late spring and summer. At high elevations, such as mountain valleys it is possible to find them as late as March so they have a long season.

Next time you see one of them check the anthers to find out which species you have.

N.T.B.

NOTE : MEETINGS NOW HELD THIRD THURSDAY, AT THE GRIFFIN CENTRE

August

Date : Thursday, 21st August, 1969 at 8.00 p.m.
 Place : Room 1, the Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, City
 Feature : The guest speaker will be Mr. Elzo Vandermark, who is a Research Officer with the Urban Research Unit at the Australian National University. Mr. Vandermark's topic will be: "Cities and Space"

September

Date : Thursday, 18th September, 1969 at 8.00 p.m.
 Place : Room 1, the Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, City
 Feature : A varied treatment of the subject "Lake Burley Griffin in Springtime". Short talks, viewing specimens and photographs, coloured slides.

"WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES IN INDIA"

- An extract from a booklet printed by the Department of Tourism, India

In wild life conservation, India follows the internationally accepted principles, adapted to local conditions. Because of these conditions, India's wild life sanctuaries differ in some respects from those in other countries. Firstly, the sanctuaries, even national parks, where they exist, are under the jurisdiction of State Governments and not under that of the Union Government Secondly, the sanctuaries are mostly under the control of the Forest Departments of the States, for they are mainly situated in or near Reserved Forests.

Thirdly, some sanctuaries provide total protection only to wild life and not to the vegetation. This is because the Forest Department must utilise the timber and other forest produce.

OUTINGSAugust

Date : Sunday, 31st August, 1969
 Place : Mt. Tennent
 Leader : Mr. Alex Brand
 Meeting Place : 9.30 a.m. at the junction of the Naas
 Road and Honeysuckle Creek Tracking
 Station road.
 Features : A climb of 1½-2 hours on a rough track
 up Mt. Tennent. Lunch at the top.

September

Date : Sunday, 28th September, 1969
 Place : Yass district - geology
 Leader : Professor A. Brown
 Meeting Place : 10.00 a.m. at Derringullen Creek which
 is 3 miles past Yass on the Hume Highway.
 Features : Members will be shown many features of
 geological interest including silurian
 fossil bearing rocks.

October Long Weekend

Date : Saturday 4th-6th October, 1969
 Place : Budawang Mountains
 Leader : A combined outing with N.S.W.N.P.A.
 and Milton N.P.A.

For details of this outing ring 4.3538.

Visitors welcome on all outings. An affiliation fee of 50c will be
 charged for each non-member attending.
