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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc. Phone 479538

MONTHLY MEETING - 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Members are asked to note several events of great interest which will occur in the next few months. The first event concerns Afternoon film viewings for Children. In response to several requests, and in an attempt to foster among the young an interest in nature, national parks and conservation, the committee has arranged two film viewings for children during the winter months. These will be held on Saturday, 30th May, at the Dickson Library, and on Saturday, 1st August, at the Curtin Library, at 3 p.m. on both days. The screenings in each case will last approx. one hour and films to be shown depict bird and animal life, including the brolga, echidna, lyrebird and koala. Other films feature the Great Barrier Reef and aboriginal rock carvings. There will be a different programme on each date. Younger children from about six to seven should enjoy these films as well as older children. Admission is free. We hope for a good attendance.

The second event is a Conservation Seminar, "The Processes and Problems of Seeking Conservation", arranged by the Centre for Continuing Education and our National Parks Association. This non-residential seminar will be held from Friday to Sunday, 26th-28th June, 1970. The fee for the seminar, including refreshments and lunch on the Saturday as well as copies of papers to be discussed on Saturday morning, is \$12. Applications should reach the Centre for continuing education,

A.N.U., P.O. Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600 no later than Friday, 5th June 1970, accompanied by a cheque for \$12 payable to the A.N.U.

- The programme includes: 1. A lecture by Mr Leon Peres, (Senior Lecturer in Political Science, University of Melbourne) "Working for conservation - a political scientist's analysis"; 2. Conservation case studies:-
- (a) "Colong Caves Reserve" by Mr Milo Dunphy (Hon. Sec. N.P.A. of N.S.W. and Hon. Sec. The Colong Committee).
 - (b) "South Western Tasmania" by Dr J.G. Mosley (Assistant Director, Australian Conservation Foundation).
 - (c) The Barrier Reef by Dr D.W. Connell (University of Queensland).
 - (d) The Myall Lakes Proposal by Mr Allen A. Strom (Adviser in Conservation, Department of Education, N.S.W.)
 - (e) The Black Mountain Reserve by Dr John Hill (Convener Black Mountain Committee).
 - (f) Pollution Legislation in Victoria by Mrs A. Lanteri (Faculty of Law, Uni. of Melbourne).

All sessions will be held in the Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre and adjacent rooms. The Seminar, through a series of case studies of conservation controversies explores the decision-making processes involved, and seeks to answer these questions:

Who is responsible for deciding whether conservation proposals should be favoured? How is inaccessible, or scientifically or technically difficult information translated and transmitted in such a way that the essential matters emerge? What paths are open for the citizen wishing to conserve his natural heritage and how is he most likely to achieve results? What is the position of the politician or administrator caught between the conflicting demands of economic interests and conservationists?

Please note that the April outing will be on 12th April instead of the last Sunday of the month.

BOOK REVIEW: Australia's National Parks, by Vincent Serventy. Angus & Robertson, 1969. \$8.50. (Reviewed by R. Schodde).

(Cont'd next page)

The last years of the previous decade of Australia's history are significant in the least for the marking of the acceptance of nature conservation by the community as a needful and respectable endeavour. Ten years ago the threats to the Great Barrier Reef and Little Desert would have been barely mentioned in the press, let alone be emblazoned in headlines and editorials as they are now. One of the more important reasons for this new-found awareness lies in the many recent colour-illustrated books on Australian wildlife written for the layman. Among the best of such books are those written by experienced naturalists who combine a popular style with factual and well-balanced information. The book under review falls into this category.

Not only is it copiously illustrated with black and white and magnificent full-plate colour reproductions of the spectacular scenery and wildlife found in the still too few National Parks in Australia, but it also gives an easily readable account of all such Parks, their position, their background, and their peculiarities or special features. The size of each Park is given in most but not all cases. Maps of Park locations, weather patterns and rainfall, and line drawings of particular natural history phenomena contribute considerably to put you in the picture with the Natural Australian environment and those parts of it which are preserved.

The Parks are arranged in the text under the States in which they occur. There is also a short useful bibliography introducing the layman to the more popular current texts dealing with the various fields of Australian natural history.

BLACK MOUNTAIN SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

As suggested by Mr Nixon, Minister for the Interior, a meeting was arranged with representatives of the Department of the Interior, the National Capital Development Commission and members of our sub-committee. The meeting was held on Thursday 12th March, with the official representatives being Mr C.H. Davis (Director,

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T.

SLIDE PHOTO COMPETITION 1970

(Incorporating a black and white
prints' section for juniors)

GRIFFIN CENTRE, CANBERRA,
JULY 16TH, 1970

JUDGES: To be announced.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: June 18th 1970.
Slides returned by
July 31st.

The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. invites camera enthusiasts to enter for its colour transparency competition, or, in the case of junior entrants, a competition for black and white prints.

An award will be made for the best transparency or print in each section below, and other merit awards will be made at the discretion of the judges.

All transparencies or prints must be taken in natural surroundings. Photographs depicting garden plants or domestic animals are not eligible.

Address all enquiries to Competition Secretary (G. LEWIS) 'phone 48-2475 (office) or 95-6937 (home).

YOUR RECORD OF ENTRIES:

CLOSE-UP
(Flora or fauna)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SCENIC
(Landscape)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

ACTION
(Personality)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

RETAIN THIS PAGE FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS

Please print your name and address in each section of this form to assist with return mail. Include sections 1 & 2 UN CUT with your entry. Section 3 may be used to mail your entry.

1. TRANSPARENCY/PRINT ENTRY FORM			
SECTION	TITLE		LEAVE BLANK
RECEIVED	ENTRY FEE	RETURNED	
NAME			AGE (Juniors only).....
STREET/SUBURB			
CITY/STATE		POSTCODE	
TO:		2. 3. TO: COMPETITION	
.....		SECRETARY,	
.....		NPA PHOTO	
		COMPETITION,	
		125 CARNEGIE CRES.,	
		<u>RED HILL</u> ACT 2603	
Contents: Competition		From:	
Photographs returned to		
owner: no commercial value.		
From: National Parks			
Association of the			
A.C.T.			

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Colour transparencies must be in cardboard mounts 2" x 2" (approx.) for projection.
2. All slides must be clearly marked with the entrant's name and address and spotted in the lower left-hand corner as viewed in the upright position.
3. Junior entries are restricted to persons under 18 years of age. Prints must be not less than 8" x 6", suitably mounted, and marked with the entrant's name and address on the back.
4. The entry fee is 50¢ for up to a maximum of 5 slides or prints per entrant, in any one or all three sections of the competition. Postal notes, money orders, or cheques are acceptable.
5. Address all entries (post-paid) and/or correspondence to the Competition Secretary using the cut-out label overleaf. Slides not claimed after the public display (16.7.70) will be returned by mail as soon as possible thereafter.
6. Both competitions are open to individuals only. Group or club entries cannot be accepted.
7. All care will be taken, but no responsibility will be accepted for loss or damage to entries.

Land Co-ordination), Mr C. Price (First Assistant Commissioner, N.C.D.C.), Mr D.W. Shoobridge (Director, Parks and Gardens), and Miss Hunter (Project Officer, Land Administration).

The Minister had stated in his letter that the need for a further road in the area was definite, but that it has not yet been sited; when the road was sited he would be in a position to declare a reserve. We had expected to learn the reasons for the necessity for this road, the Tuggeranong Freeway, to impinge on the area which could be Black Mountain Reserve. We were, in fact, asked where this road could be placed. As far as can be determined at present, this freeway may reduce the possible area of the Reserve by 20%.

The basic attitude presented to us was that the area of the Reserve cannot be decided until all development has taken place. We regard this as the exact opposite of a conservation outlook. The official representatives also stated that it was unrealistic to have natural bushland in the heart of a city.

There has been nine years of correspondence by the Association on this matter, with much development taking place on Black Mountain in that time. We feel that it is urgent that individual members of the Association express their views by letters to the Press, the Department, and the Minister. We have written to the Minister suggesting a meeting with him on the proposed Reserve where we can point out the threats to the Reserve. Service organisations have been contacted, and we hope that local groups will support our views; it is of interest that the Junior Chamber of Commerce has a national project of conservation this year.

It should be of interest for members to know of some extracts from published work concerning Black Mountain:

E.W. Pook and C.W.E. Moore, of C.S.I.R.O. wrote a paper "The Influence of Aspect on the Composition and Structure of Dry Sclerophyll Forest on Black Mountain, Canberra, A.C.T." (1966) and mention that Black Mountain "... provides one of the best examples of dry

sclerophyll forest in the Canberra District".

M. Gray and H.S. McKee, in a C.S.I.R.O. Publication (1969) wrote "A List of Vascular Plants Occurring on Black Mountain and Environs, Canberra, A.C.T.". They mention that the type of vegetation on Black Mountain is not very widespread in the A.C.T. and is especially vulnerable to clearing for softwood plantations, firewood purposes, rock quarries and marginal pastoral development. They state that destruction of the remaining stands will accelerate rapidly as increasing areas of country are taken up. Further, they mention that the flora on the Mountains is one of the richest in the A.C.T., with 36 species of orchids, representing more than half of the orchid species found in the A.C.T. Stressing the importance of the area, Gray and McKee write that the value of a natural forest in the centre of a city should be recognised from the aesthetic, cultural and environmental points of view; its value is further enhanced for science and education by its proximity to the A.N.U, C.S.I.R.O. and the Canberra Botanic Gardens.

R. Story writes in the C.S.I.R.O. report "Lands of the Queanbeyan-Shoalhaven Area, A.C.T. and N.S.W." (1969) that dry sclerophyll forest "... is continually shrinking because of agriculture, logging, burning, pasture establishment and the establishment of pine plantations, and very few protected areas exist. Those that do exist have several inches of trash on the floor - a protective blanket that is destroyed by fire".

L. Pryor, A.N.U., in a paper "Botany, Forestry and Zoology of the A.C.T. on an Ecological Basis" shows a photograph of Black Mountain over 20 years ago with "... dense sapling growth in the background...following exploitation and burning".

J.D. Ovington and C.D. Hamilton, A.N.U., wrote in their paper "The Role of Trees and Forests in the A.C.T." (1969) that the value of the present indigenous forests of the A.C.T. lies in uses which include preservation of native species and protection of soil against erosion. Similarly they state that forests are important for

educational purposes.

It is urgent that, if absolutely necessary, the Freeway be sited promptly so that official declaration of a Reserve can be made by the Minister. We urge strongly that no further development takes place in the area, and that Black Mountain be retained as a natural bushland for aesthetic enjoyment, recreation, scientific and educational research, and as a natural area of resistance to the air pollution which plagues many parts of the world.

MEETINGS

APRIL

Date : Thursday 16th April 1970 at 8 p.m.
 Place : Room I, The Griffin Centre, Bunda St, City.
 Feature : Mr L.W. Engledow, Dept of the Interior will give an illustrated lecture "Plans for and Development of Tidbinbilla Faunal Reserve".

VISITORS WELCOME

MAY

Date : Thursday 21st May 1970 at 8 p.m.
 Place : Room I, The Griffin Centre, Bunda St, City.
 Feature : Films, including the excellent "Birth of an Island", showing the volcanic eruption near Greenland during the 60's which resulted in several new islands being formed.

AFTERNOON FILM VIEWING FOR CHILDREN

MAY

Date : Saturday 30th May at 3 p.m.
 Place : Dickson Library.
 Programme : Animal and bird films.

ADMISSION IS FREE

OUTINGSAPRIL

- Date : Sunday, 12th April 1970.
 Place : Nursary Swamps - a proposed addition to the original area of the proposed "Mt. Kelly" National Park in the A.C.T.
 Meeting Place : Tharwa at 9 a.m.
 Feature : The leader, Miss Julie Henry will lead a walk of approx. 90 mins. through forest land, steep in places (no made track) to the long open valley where the swamp lies. After exploring the valley and eating lunch, the party will return to the cars in O Valley.

Please notify leader (ph.485130) or National Park Ass. (ph.479538) of intention to attend this outing.

MAY

- Date : Sunday, 31st May 1970.
 Place : Big Hole and Marble Arch.
 Meeting Place : Captains Flat at 9.30 a.m.
 Feature : An easy walk from the cars (approx. 2 miles) to the Big Hole. Carry lunch. Further walk for the energetic to the Marble Arch.

MEMBERSHIP

The association welcomes the following new members;

Mrs D. Anderson, Mrs A. Benjamin, Mr & Mrs I. Buckley, Mr & Mrs S. Comfort, Mr & Mrs I. Currie, Miss S. Davies, Miss M. Dawes, Mr & Mrs C. Hardware, Mr P. Logan, Mr & Mrs H. Schmedding and Mrs Schrambke.

Subscription Renewals:

Mr & Mrs R. Boden, Mrs A. Nicholson and Mr K. Paterson.