

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



BULLETIN

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

" A National Park for the National Capital"

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Subscription Rates: Family \$5.00; Single \$3.00
Payable in July each year.

The Association welcomes the following new members:

Dr. & Mrs. Armarego; Miss J. Buckie; Mrs. H. Forster; Miss S. Kruse; Mr. & Mrs.
C. Macdonald; Mr. & Mrs. V. Makepeace; Dr. C. Watson.

Membership Renewals:

Mr. I. Grant; Prof. Koch-Emmery; Mrs. M. Murray; Mr. & Mrs. D. Reid; Dr. & Mrs.
R. Schodde; Mr. & Mrs. E. Vandermark; Prof. & Mrs. D. Walker.

You will have noticed that the Bulletin has a "new look". Many thanks to Miss Norma Price and our publisher, Mr. Chris Fowler, for designing the cover. They have incorporated the Association's badge which was designed several years ago by Mr. Ed. Slater. The Kangaroo and Emu "footprints" symbolise the two animals in the Australian Coat of Arms - placed either side of a shield spelling out A.C.T.

This Bulletin is also the last for the Association's year as the July Meeting is the Annual Meeting. The Committee always needs willing workers, so nominations will be happily received by the Secretary during the next few weeks.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Notice is hereby given that the Committee will recommend that the following changes be made in the Constitution, at the Annual General Meeting on 15th July 1971:

1. Membership

That the following be inserted after "Annual Subscriptions"
"Corporate membership shall be open to local government and statutory bodies, clubs, organisations, companies and firms under the same procedure as ordinary members.

Corporate members shall receive all reports, notices and publications sent to ordinary members; and may take part in all activities, through a representative, notice of whose appointment must first have been received by the Secretary including the right to debate and to one vote at General Meetings".

2. Subscriptions

That the following be inserted after "Family - \$5.00 (including \$1.20 for single copy of Bulletin)"

"Corporate Subscription shall be the same as that for Family Membership".

3. Subscriptions

That the following be deleted:

"Junior - \$1.20 (plus free copy of Bulletin on request)".

BOOKS"INSPECT" Report

The Inquiry into the State of Pollution and Environmental Conservation by Thoughtful People has just been published under the title "Bad Luck, Dead Duck". *Inspect's* research work and "teach in" was held during 1970. *Inspect* involved High School students and began with talks in the school by visiting speakers, teachers and fellow students. Following these talks, students selected problems and commenced research into subjects such as conservation, waste disposal, air pollution, noise, pesticides, water pollution, traffic and packing.

The results of the research were presented at a teach-in following an opening by Ronald Strahan.

The report is edited by Roger M. Gifford and Peter Ellyard for the Society for Social Responsibility in Science (A.C.T.), published by Dalton Publishing Company, and sells for \$1.25 at Dalton's Bookshops.

The title is from a poem, submitted by Nicholas Davey. The prizewinning poem is also published - "Pollution Cycle I to IV, by Sarah Brasch.

Inspect will hold another enquiry during this year and the report will no doubt be as interesting and thought provoking as this 1970 report.

"WHAT CAN I DO?" Guidelines for Citizen Action on Environmental Problems. Published by the Society for Social Responsibility in Science (A.C.T.). Available for 25¢ from the above Society, P.O. Box 48, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601.

The booklet informs the ordinary citizen what he can do to lessen air pollution, the effects of pesticides and noise. The other problems mentioned are litter, pollution, water conservation and the disposal of solid wastes.

This is a very valuable book, produced at a time when thinking people are asking "Well, what can I do about the pollution of our environment?"

Advance Announcement

Our Association's own book about wildlife in the A.C.T., and printed by the Department of the Interior will probably be available for sale in July. The Committee hopes to have one copy placed in every school library in the A.C.T.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation

Our President, Miss Julie Henry, and Past President, Dr. Nancy Burbidge, gave evidence to the above Committee early in May. Their evidence was extensively reported in the "Canberra Times", (Tuesday, May 4th). A detailed report will be available to members at a later date.

"Britain Wages Unceasing Pollution War". by Anthony Tucker, Science correspondent of "The Guardian", London.

Early this year the Information Service of the British High Commission in Australia issued an article under the above title. Here are some extracts.

"Britain was the first country in the world to enforce environment pollution control by passing the Alkali Acts in 1863, 1874 and 1881. However the British Clean Air Act of 1968 grew out of London smog and the demonstration on a national industrial city scale that there was a strong correlation between filth in the air and death through bronchitis and other allied ailments.

With the support of Government grants for conversion to smokeless heating appliances, many large authorities rapidly took up the opportunity for improvement. London and Manchester became examples of what could be achieved. City parkland areas which over the years had steadily declined until they were semi-denuded and had become black areas of feeble grass and unhealthy trees began to burgeon. The insect population rose and over 150 species of birds returned.

Reclaiming Rivers and Lakes. In the mid 19th Century, the Thames was dead and stinking in its London reaches. At time of low water flow its condition was so bad that through its emanation of hydrogen sulphide, sittings in Parliament had to be suspended. Plans following the stench finally led to the adoption of downstream discharge points and ultimately to the chemical treatment of a large proportion of city sewages. The result during the 1890's was that a river which had been dead for half a century began to come back to life. Yet by 1960 the fish had gone again. In the early 1960's the then London County Council set in motion a plan to extend and modernise the treatment plant at one of its two main outfalls. Now since 1967, 50 species of fish have been found.

However, there is a growing concern about the coastal pollution caused by the discharge of raw sewage, about the increasingly polluted state of the North Sea, and about the fragmented structure of Britain's water authority and river authority system. Pollution matters long before systems become blocked, for it renders fundamental natural processes inefficient. If British experience teaches us anything at all, it is that controls are best applied early, and in earnest.

NO ROOM FOR BEARS IN GERMANY'S NATIONAL PARK

Reprinted from "New Scientist", October 29, 1970

West Germany's first national park, covering more than 30,000 acres in the north of the Bavarian Forest parallel to the Czech frontier, was officially opened earlier this month. The establishment of such a national park was first proposed in 1966 by Professor Bernhard Grzimek, Director of the Frankfurt Zoo, to provide a haven for the rich wild life of central Europe, much of which is rapidly becoming extinct. That the opening ceremony has now been performed only four years later gives little indication of the intervening struggles behind the scenes between preservationists, forestry officials, local authorities and land owners.

In the form envisaged at present the national park will be divided into three distinct zones. On the highest land along the frontier, adjoining the almost impenetrable Bohemian forest, will be the true reservation, devoted entirely to preservation and research. Here the animals will be able to live undisturbed in their natural environment, and zoologists will attempt to reintroduce a full range of species native to this region, especially those threatened with extinction. A broad strip farther south will be provided with a well planned network of paths open only to hikers, cyclists and those travelling in horse-drawn coaches or sleighs. In this region a number of large enclosures will allow the public to observe certain animals in their natural surroundings. The first two, already open, contain bison and lynxes. Wide-ranging information about the wild life will be readily available, and the authorities are to provide extensive facilities for educational "safaris". The most southerly strip will be a more conventional recreation area, and the planners hope that a healthy tourist trade will contribute to the success of the whole project.

It will be some considerable time before the park assumes its ultimate form. The region has been largely devoted to forestry in recent years and must be "re-converted" to a mixed forest with clearings and undergrowth so that the entire range of natural foods will be available. Recent "stock-taking" surveys have encouragingly revealed that many more types of animals are already happily in residence in the comparatively remote northern region than originally suspected. Among the first species due for reintroduction are wild cats, marmots and elks. In the interests of safety, however, it has been decided not to reintroduce bears, although several people have already donated money for this purpose.

by courtesy The National Parks Journal.
May 1971

"Wilderness" - What is the future of wilderness, considering human nature and the world as it is constituted today? My answer is that it is only as encouraging as concerned individuals working together can make it, through the instrumentality of an organised collective effort bringing political pressure to bear currently on a national scale and ultimately of global dimensions."

This statement is the concluding remark of Col. Gordon Wallace, A.B.C.
Guest of Honour, 7.3.1971. (from National Park's Journal May 1971)

MEETINGS

JUNE

DATE: Thursday, 17th June, 1971 at 8.00 p.m.
PLACE: Griffin Centre, Room I, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
FEATURE: Guest Speaker to be announced in the "Canberra Times", Saturday, 12th June, 1971.

VISITORS WELCOME

JULY

DATE: Thursday, 15th July, 1971 at 8.00 p.m.
PLACE: Griffin Centre, Room I, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
FEATURE: The Annual General Meeting. Election of office bearers for 1971-72 and Reports.

SHOWINGS OF NATURE FILMS FOR CHILDREN

Miss Margaret Aston, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Lewis have arranged the following two film showings.

DATE: Saturday, 5th June, 1971 at 3.00 p.m.
PLACE: Dickson Library.
FEATURE: A selection from the following titles:
"Water Birds of the Inland"
"Appointment at Seal Rocks"
"Mallee Fowl"
"Koala"
"Coral Kingdom"

DATE: Saturday, 31st July, 1971 at 3.00 p.m.
PLACE: Hughes Community Centre.
FEATURE: A selection from the following titles:
"For the Love of an Eagle"
"Carnarvon"
"Marloo - Red Kangaroo"
"Egretta"
"Introducing Insects"

OUTINGSJUNE

DATE: Sunday, 27th June, 1971
PLACE: Blue Range
MEETING PLACE: Uriarra homestead at 10.00 a.m.
LEADER: Dr. Nancy Burbudge
FEATURE: A short walk through Lyrebird country. Bring a packed lunch as we will climb up to the ridge and listen to the lyrebirds calling.

JULY

DATE: Sunday, 25th July, 1971
PLACE: Murrumbidgee Gorge
MEETING PLACE: In Michelago village at 10.00 a.m.
LEADER: Mr. Laurie Adams
FEATURE: Easy walk over paddocks, then a steep descent through scrubby area to the river. Carry a packed lunch.
