

**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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The Association welcomes the following new members -

Mrs. J.A. Adamson; Mr. D.G. Brooker; Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Butler; Miss E. Ganom;
Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Grainger; Mr. & Mrs. F. Hennig; Miss E.E. Hills;
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Membership Renewals -

1971/72 Dr. & Mrs. B.P. Moore; Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Thompson; Mr. N. Semple.

1972/73 Mr. J.P. Baker; Dr. N.T. Burbidge; Mr. & Mrs. G. Chippendale;
Miss I. Fleming; Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Harrison; Mrs. J.A. Holt;
Mrs. M. Murray; Miss N.J. Price; Lady Raggatt; Mr. J.L. Schunke;
Mr. J.R. Tait; Mrs. H. Temple-Watts.

Editorial

The new year began for our association with the election of a new committee, to run the society's affairs.

The office bearers are as follows:

- President: Mr. Bill Watson. Vice-President: Mr. Ian Currie.
- Secretary: Miss Sheila Kruse. Asst. Secretary: Miss Thea Exley.
- Treasurer: Mr. Bruce Mitchell. Publicity Officer: Mr. Glyn Lewis.
- Committee Members: Miss Gay Watt; Mr. John Schunke; Mr. John Baker;
Dr. Chris Watson; Mr. B. Lee.

There are several sub-committees as well, for outings, the bulletin, conservation matters, so if you feel that you can assist please contact any committee member.

Please note the annual subscription is now due and has risen to \$6 for family membership and \$4.00 single membership. See back page for details and a renewal form.

It was a great pleasure for all members at the annual meeting to acknowledge our first honorary life member - Dr. Nancy Burbidge. Nancy has been a "main stay" of the association, since its beginnings in 1959. She has held the offices of President, Secretary and committee member over the years and has always been available for advice and help in all matters of conservation.

The first major event of our new year was the poster competition for primary and infant school children. Shirley Lewis did all the hard work of organising, helped by members in the collection of the posters and judging the posters. As over 1,500 posters were submitted, the judges, Gay Watt, Ian Currie and Ed. Slater had a difficult task. However such a good response surely shows a continued interest by teachers and children, in matters of conservation. Hope that you saw the winning entries which were displayed in the Mall during the month of August.

The nature films, showing for children in two centres were well attended and the association's thanks go to Margaret Aston and Merle Bailey for organising these each year.

All outings advertised in the last bulletin were very well attended and most enjoyable.

The only camping weekend, which was held over the June long weekend, attracted 23 members to Pebbly Beach. The days were perfect - sunny and clear, but the two nights were cold - very cold in fact with a frost on the second night. The walk northwards to the next sandy beach, a distance of 3 miles each way was the feature of the weekend and accomplished with apparent ease, by the youngest member, the 3 year old son of the Evans. The lyrebirds sang to us each day and the Curries were fortunate enough to see one scratching about in the forest litter.

This area is such a beautiful one, the sooner it is declared a national park, the better for us and future generations.

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Bungonia Gorge

Dr. Chris Watson, one of our Committee members is very interested and concerned about the ultimate fate of this gorge, and submits the following, hoping to arouse your concern also.

N.P.A. Talk and Trip to Bungonia. During September and October there will be two

opportunities for you to find out what is happening at Bungonia.

Firstly on Thursday Oct. 19th, our regular meeting night, Prof. Joe Jennings of the A.N.U. Department of Geomorphology, will speak, (with slides) about this magnificent limestone gorge. These formations are his speciality and he has made numerous visits to the area. He is very disturbed by the growing mining scars and in fact gave evidence at the recent case before the Mining Wardens Court in Goulburn. (Surely an antiquated tribunal for land-use matters!)

Then on Sunday Sept. 24th, a day's outing to the Gorge. Details in the Outings list.

The following is the letter this association sent to the Minister for Mines. The Minister for Mines' (Wal. Fife) reply assured us that he "will bear in mind the points that have been raised when I receive the Warden's recommendation".

"The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. is very concerned at the increasing impact of mining on the natural beauty of Bungonia Gorge. From the main vantage point, Bungonia Lookdown, one cannot help be dismayed by the growing scars on the gorge rim opposite and by the large quantities of spoilage that have been allowed to flow down almost to Bungonia Creek itself.

We regard this area as one of great scenic worth, and it can indeed be dubbed "Australia's Grand Canyon". This limestone canyon and its cave formations are regarded as unique.

The area is less than two hours' drive from Canberra and regular excursions are arranged by this Association and like groups. The Gorge is not only a readily accessible recreation resource to the growing Canberra population but also to the other large urban areas of Wollongong and Sydney. Moreover, Goulburn and other nearby towns could well expand in future decentralization along the Hume Highway axis.

It is tragic that mining has been allowed along the rim of the gorge, with resultant deleterious effect on the grand views from Bungonia Caves Reserve. One would have assumed that at least the northern slopes of the gorge would have remained sacrosanct, being designated Public Reserves (R2755, R2263 and R31526). This was their status until their part revocation in the N.S.W. Government Gazette on 5.11.71. In their stead we now have mining applications covering the same areas. We are appalled to find that Application 558 extends right down to Bungonia Creek. Mining and spillage in these areas will desecrate the gorge very severely indeed.

This Association therefore urges you to disallow Application 558, and also ML32, on the grounds that these areas, previously public reserves, are vital to the preservation of this magnificent Gorge for posterity."

A BLACK CENTENARY FOR BUNGONIA

J. G. Mosley on the Fight to save Australia's "Grand Canyon"

Originally published in the "Australian".

As zero day approaches for Lake Pedder the eyes of nature conservationists

throughout Australia are turned to the people of Tasmania in the hope that they will request help to save the lake from an apparently sympathetic Commonwealth Government.

How many of these anxious people, I wonder, are aware of another desperate fight which is taking place to save Bungonia Gorge, a feature which in terms of uniqueness and grandeur easily ranks with Lake Pedder and Ayers Rock as one of the great natural wonders of Australia.

Bungonia Gorge is a 1300 ft-deep side-valley of the Shoalhaven about 18 miles east of Goulburn in New South Wales and easily accessible by road.

Within the valley there is another - Bungonia Canyon - which has 900 ft-high, sheer-sided walls formed where Bungonia Creek has notched its way down through a band of limestone.

Quarry

It is this feature, marked on Lands Department maps as the "Grand Canyon", which makes the scenery unique in Australia, but there are also interesting fauna and flora and Bungonia Gorge is really only a corner of a much larger spectacular natural area.

Most visitors to the vantage points at Bungonia focus their attention on the canyon.

The canyon inspires awe because of its monumental scale but the view is enhanced by the wild character of the immediate and more distant environments. Visitors to Bungonia include field naturalists, bushwalkers, speliologists, and rock climbers, so that recreational activity is by no means confined to the lookouts.

Unfortunately the scene visible from the most popular viewing place, The Lookdown, is far from pristine.

A quarry, which is perched high up on the edge of the plateau, and two massive spoil areas spilling down right to the bottom of the gorge, occupy the centre of the scene, and the noise can be heard for miles.

In spite of this, the view of the canyon and the great jumble of house-size boulders near its mouth known as The Block-Up would be worth travelling hundreds of miles to see.

Man-Made

At a Mining Warden's Court in Goulburn recently the cement company APCM released details of a development it plans to go ahead with if granted a lease which it has applied for, extending down to Bungonia Creek.

The model which was presented in court showed a quarry 3000 ft. long and 1000 ft. deep, and a new road into the gorge to deal with continuing spillage of stone.

The western boundary of the lease application extends right to the mouth of the canyon and runs through The Block-Up.

The effect of the proposed development would be to extend the quarry down into the gorge, destroying the capacity of the canyon to inspire awe by dwarfing it with a man-made work.

The plan for this giant quarry represents the first attempt to break the legal barriers which have protected the gorge for a hundred years.

The initial public recreation reserve was created in 1872, the same year as Yellowstone was set aside as a public park or pleasure ground. Later a complex of reserves for public recreation and against leasing for mining was developed on the north side of the gorge, the site of the present lease application.

But for the development of limestone quarrying in the area, Bungonia Gorge and the nearby Barbers Creek would undoubtedly have been included in the nearby Morton National Park already.

Trump Card

Limestone quarrying at Bungonia-Marulan began in a small way over 50 years ago. By the 1950s there were two companies on the deposit, Metropolitan Portland with a cement works at Maldon and Southern Portland Cement.

When Metropolitan experienced financial difficulties it sold some of its most valuable plateau limestone land to SPC. In 1960, Metropolitan was acquired by APCM (a subsidiary of the British Blue Circle group) which set about outlaying \$28 million on the plant at Maldon and then began to look for a long-term source of limestone.

It first turned its attention to Mt. Armour, near Colong, where the State Government twice renegotiated leases for APCM.

However, conservation opposition to the use of the Colong leases proved so strong that the company then promised to re-examine the prospects for expansion at Marulan near Bungonia. The present application by APCM is the result of the survey.

Its trump card is the possession of the Colong lease. Both the companies hope to take advantage of Colong to get the maximum possible limestone and dumping space at Marulan.

APCM has been careful not to discuss repurchase of limestone land with SPC since this would weaken the case for the applications for new leases which the two companies have made.

The conservationists, in suggesting Marulan as an alternative to Colong, were very careful to state that any increased use of Marulan should be confined to the plateau.

Both APCM and the Minister for Mines have misrepresented the conservationists on this point, claiming that in opposing APCM's new application they have gone back on their word.

Spoil

Probably the most ironic aspect of the whole affair is that APCM has presented its giant quarry plan as a move to preserve the beauty of the area.

The company argues that if it does not obtain the new lease it will be forced to work existing higher lying leases which would spoil the view from Adams Lookout at present relatively unaffected by quarrying.

It is interesting that APCM hopes to succeed with an application which would have little chance of success in Britain, the home of Blue Circle, the parent company. In such a location in Britain the maximum retention of the valley side as a natural screen would be required.

Still, this is Australia and the company must be more than encouraged by the attitude of the Government which has done everything possible to smooth it's path.

Reserves against mining were conveniently revoked after discussions with the company, and the boundary of a proposed extension of Morton National Park was moved back from the area applied for as a lease.

Wreck

Ultimately, the limestone industry will have to move from Marulan.

What is to be decided this year is whether its life is to be limited by that is necessary to preserve the natural scenery of the gorge. Granting of the present lease application would wreck the area for ever; a black centenary event for the Bungonia reserve.

If proper heed is paid to the community interest as against the company interest the gorge will be included in the Morton National Park and New South Wales will have to obtain its cement from farther afield a few years earlier than it otherwise would.

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Book Review by Mr. Reg. Alder.

"Walking the Flinders Ranges" - C. Warren Bonython. 231 p.p. Rigby 1971.

Five years ago and on the wrong side of fifty, Warren Bonython became imbued with conception to walk the full length of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. As the crow flies it was only a distance of 291 miles but to complete his objective he covered some 632 miles in 9 stages over a period of 74 days during 19 months.

He made extensive preparations before starting off and developed a series of standards in short walks in the Lofty Ranges by carrying various loads over a range of gradients and country types. From these statistics he developed a series of 3 formulae from which, when applying a "Terrain Difficulty Factor" and knowing his load, distance and gradients he could calculate his "Gross Walking Hours". He defined "Gross Walking Hours" as the total time for covering a stretch of country including rest periods and times for note-writing etc., as long as no break exceeds 15 minutes, with the further proviso that if a main meal occurs during a walk, a maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for it.

The route took him over mountains which in total amounted to 86,000 feet and in all seasons of the year. Water had to be carried over several sections or cached beforehand. His heaviest pack load was 89 pounds and a light one was 65 pounds! The gear he carried seems heavy by light weight walking standards e.g. his one man tent weighed 5 lbs. and his sleeping bag 4½ lbs. with an additional 1½ lbs. for an air mattress. Boots weighed 5¼ lb. and in addition he carried desert boots weighing 2¼ lb. the pair and 3 pairs of these were used up on the walk. The heavy boots were still in use after 9 years and gave 120 Gross Walking Hours service in the Flinders Walk. Average speed was 1.28 miles/G.W.H. over 8.7 miles/day.

His dedication to his objective can be understood as his very interesting story unfolds and for those who have only seen part of the Flinders the story

brings on a yearning to go back and see more. For those who cannot go, 85 high standard colour photographs capture the Flinders in all it's moods and seasons.

The concluding pages complete the story with a plan on how to conserve the Flinders. The Flinders are already proclaimed a State Planning Area, but he recommends that they need a particular sort of planning control like that given over Britain's national parks which have been very much inhabited and used over the centuries i.e. they should be conserved by planning controls allowing existing activities to continue but preventing changes and developments incompatible with that character.

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Safe Walking

by Julie Henry.

1. On Association outings the leader is in charge and watches the safety of the party.
2. Members can assist by cooperating and acting on reasonable directions given by the leader.
3. Usually a 'whip' or 'last man' is appointed by the leader to watch slower members and tail enders.
4. Members should not leave the main party without advising the leader, who should satisfy himself the group is competent.
5. Remember the minimum number for safety is three, four is better.
6. The leader must consider the pace of everybody in the party. A party can travel only as fast as the slowest members. If party members become exhausted it can be dangerous, particularly in bad weather.
7. You should be reasonably fit before starting a trip. If you are taken ill or receive an injury during the trip, advise the leader without delay.
8. Carry a well balanced light meal and something extra for snacks (and emergencies) preferably of high food value e.g. nuts, dried fruits, chocolate. In cold weather you need to eat more. Glucose tablets are useful for that exhausted feeling.
9. Carry sufficient suitable extra clothing to counter cold and rain - a woollen pullover, weatherproof coat and/or rain cape. Woollen pullovers are to be preferred as wool is warm even when wet. In cold weather you should also have gloves and a hat or cap, body heat is quickly lost from the extremities.
10. Always carry matches and in a waterproof container (don't put them in someone else's pack).
11. Carry a simple first aid kit and have a working knowledge of first aid.
12. Ample time should be allowed for the return journey. Don't be disappointed if you haven't reached your objective. Remember it is in the interest of the safety of the party.
13. Never roll rocks. If you accidentally dislodge a rock or stone give warning immediately by loudly calling 'rock'.
14. In going up or down loose rock slopes the party should spread out across the slope at the same level or slight slope to avoid hitting each other. In narrow places the party should negotiate the slope one at a time.
15. In scrub, walk a few paces behind the one in front of you. It is the business of the second to avoid the springing twigs, not of the first to hold them back. Keep the man in front in sight and don't hesitate to call out if you lose sight of him.

16. All members of a party should take notice of creeks crossed, ridges climbed etc. Occasionally look back and familiarize yourself with the landscape, it may be useful if you have to retrace your route.
17. Learn to use a compass and map, it adds to the interest of trips.

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CAN NATIONAL PARKS BE JUSTIFIED?

(Extracts from a talk which I gave at a seminar at the A.N.U. on 22nd June, 1972)

G.M. Chippendale.

Can National Parks be justified? I intend to ask you a number of questions and put some views on National Parks which, I hope, will assist you in forming your own opinions.

I envy that my ancestors who arrived at Woolloomooloo in 1842 saw natural bush in that now highly developed area of concrete and steel. Of course, my forebears and their contemporaries probably helped to develop Woolloomooloo to what it is today...or what it is proposed to be tomorrow. So, is it a guilt-sentimental complex which therefore guides me in a strong feeling for conservation and for the expression of conservation in National Parks? Professor Ovington thought this may be so in his chapter of The Last of Lands (1969).

National Parks - are these really National? Should they be Natural Parks? Does the word National mean anything in parks which are mostly administered by States? Should they be State Parks? Except, of course, in the two non-States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

A National Park is a relatively large area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoilt natural landscape, plants and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration, and protected from all interference other than essential management practices, so that its natural attributes are preserved. I prefer a more liberal interpretation of parks which should be maintained in the manner of the definition. Smaller areas should also be included in the same scheme, though perhaps called Nature Parks. The nomenclature is, however, unimportant as long as there is true dedication. I prefer to restrict my main thoughts on National Parks to the pursuits of enjoyment and inspiration - people's aesthetic needs.

Now, in the A.C.T. we have no true National Parks, but there has been a certain amount of administrative control on the status of various areas while plans are made for their eventual use. Black Mountain is such an area. The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. started action in the early 1960s to keep this area as a reserve. After a concerted move in 1970, Black Mountain was declared a public park, and that is its status now - the same as Weston Park around the lake, or the same as the narrow strips which comprise Telopea Park.

A large area in Jervis Bay was declared a public park late in 1971, but loosely called a National Park. Molonglo Gorge is a maintained picnic area, but is not yet declared as a reserve. The Gudgenby-Mt. Kelly area has been the subject of discussion for it to become a reserve, for about 10 years, and in answer to a query in the Senate on the timing of this reserve the answer was that "... timing and gazettal on budgeting and other considerations connected with the acquisition

of land in the area." Tidbinbilla Reserve is also a public park.

In the A.C.T. an Ordinance is being drafted which may go some way towards some protection of natural areas. While acknowledging that nothing, not even an Act of Parliament, is final, I believe that there must be a more effective way of dedicating a park than is practised at present.

At this stage, it is interesting to note that in 1960 the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department considered seven points to be essential for effective National Park legislation:-

1. The aims of national parks shall be the preservation of areas essentially in their natural state and the provision for the enjoyment of these areas in such a way as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.
2. Establish a National Parks Authority.
3. Provide finance for such Authority.
4. Establish a National Parks Service.
5. Provide for the incorporation of suitable lands into National Parks.
6. Provide that the declaration of any land as a National Park shall be made by Act of Parliament, and that the alienation of any National Park shall require an Act of Parliament.
7. Provide for the National Parks Authority to arrange for such works as may be necessary for the proper use of the area by the public.

Many of our parks have been reserved only after agitation by small local groups who recognise the value of an area. Only comparatively recently have we had Governments creating National Park Services, at least partly because of the growing publicity on pollution. If this is so, it seems to me to be confusing two subjects. The conservation of areas as National Parks is the other end of the scale from the urban pollution, and is not the sole answer to the pollution problem. However, National Parks provide facilities for enjoyment and inspiration of our predominantly urban population.

Are National Parks a selfish concept, locking up large areas for a few people who might utilise them occasionally for bushwalking? Is it fair to keep such areas for a comparative few in our democratic society? Are National Parks for everyone? In theory at least, the answer to the last question is yes. National Parks are for the whole population.

It seems that many of the problems which concern environmentalists, including people who want more National Parks, involve engineers, politicians and decision-makers, and that ecologists are rarely involved with these decisions in the first place. Such decisions should be made by a composite body which should include an ecologist, possibly a plant and an animal ecologist separately, and also a psychologist and a sociologist who will think of the needs of people rather than the requirements of modern development. So much of modern planning is the result of team-work, but the difficulty I see is that the decision-maker makes up his own team, and this is where there can be inbuilt bias.

Are National Parks in need of Research? Grudgingly, I'll admit "yes". Ecological research, resource research and visitor study research may be necessary, but I would stress that even research must be done with minimum interference to the environment.

The United States National Park Service originally suggested 5% as the maximum area of a Park for development, but is now reconsidering this as being too much. It

is pleasing that the Director of the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dr. Don McMichael, uses 0.5 - 1.0% as the maximum permissible area for development.

What is the value of a natural forest in a National Park? Is it like having money in the bank and being denied a withdrawal form? Is it a means of saving up for a rainy day? Or is it a genuine entailed inheritance which we should be conscience-bound to pass to the next generation? Does a National Park have to be economic? This, of course, can be viewed in several ways. What monetary value can be put on a National Park? Or, rather, should a monetary value have to be put on an area or Crown Land? We know what high prices are being paid for building areas, some of which are Crown Land, in Australia, but I believe that the matter of National Parks should be quite divorced from this sort of thinking. I prefer to consider them as beyond price, that a decision to make a National Park means that an area is essential for the well-being of the population. In the matter of being economic, I would concede, again grudgingly, because of trends in Australia, that maintenance or developments may be paid for by entrance fees. Basically, I consider that moneys spent on National Parks are so small by comparison with other items paid for directly from taxes that National Parks should be totally free.

In a recent issue of The Malaysian Forester (April 1971), there was an editorial which mentioned "It is difficult to place a monetary value on such things as prevention of soil erosion, the advantages of having clear, unpolluted, fish-filled water in the nation's streams Yet, the fact that the recreational, watershed, research and educational tourism and other non-wood values are difficult or impossible to measure in dollars and cents does not mean that Malaysia can afford to neglect or ignore them."

Are National Parks useful? Useful to whom? Well, a National Park, according to the definition, should have only limited areas of vehicular access. Such areas should act only as a focus to allow people to be there. From there on, I favour the Park being a wilderness area without the comforts of modern travel. Few would deny that cars have killed walking. However, a National Park is a therapy centre for our evolved way of life. It is a place where people may investigate, search, explore and experience something new. It will not achieve this if there is a kiosk every few miles, or if there are taps or toilet blocks every few miles. The "development" of National Parks with these amenities will certainly attract more people because we are all lazy, but it will kill the desire to investigate something unknown to the individual. It must have some natural dangers with the rewards of achievement, or the disappointment of failure that will lead to further investigation, and the lessons learnt will influence our other walks of life. A further use of natural areas, particularly near urban areas is that of a chemical exchange factory. The photosynthetic formulae of carbon dioxide plus water, with the action of sunlight producing sugars and oxygen is a potent part of our life, and each National Park will contribute greatly to our environment. Axiomatic in this is that the more urbanised a society becomes the more reserves or National Parks there should be available for that society. This certainly means creating National Parks in advance of urbanisation.

President Nixon of the United States, in a Landmark Message to Congress in February 1970 stated that "...increasing population, increasing mobility, increasing incomes and increasing leisure will all combine in the years ahead to rank recreational facilities among the most vital of our public resources." He directed that all Federal agencies should review all Federally-owned properties so that emphasis would be placed on areas which could be converted to parks.

Some conclusions in a paper by Ranken and Sinden at the Conference of the Institute of Foresters of Australia at Thredbo in May 1971 included that "The education level of the household head was positively related to resource-based recreation... As education level rises, household head ages, children leave home, so consumption of resource-based recreation rises." In other words, as you get older (and wiser?) with less family responsibilities, you get the chance to enjoy the wonder of nature - something you have wanted to do all of your life.

Is a National Park a multiple-use area? Emphatically, no. Multiple-use embraces watershed protection, timber production and recreation. While the first and last of these may have some compatibility with a National Park, constant timber production may be incompatible. Just as incompatible, of course, is mining.

Basic to a lot of the arguments of our need for more National Parks is the lack of an inventory of Australian plants and animals, because this knowledge would indicate clearly where rarity of nature was involved. The Academy of Science supported this view four years ago in a report. The Academy report also stated that:

"The realisation of the tourist potential of National Parks, together with an appreciation of the economic returns from tourists, should encourage a more realistic funding of parks. Commonwealth involvement is necessary. Ways must be found for Commonwealth funds to flow to Australian National Parks."

I am convinced that the concept of natural National Parks is justified. Only a few years ago, an apparently few people were concerned with this. Now, Governments show concern by establishing special bodies for National Parks. My hope is that these Services will not be restricted by other Departments or Services which are longer established, and that there will be true planning for the benefit of all people.

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TREES OF OUR DISTRICT

Eucalyptus melliodora A. Cunn. ex Schau. yellow box. by Norman Hall.

Yellow box is one of the common eucalypts of the lower foothills and gentle slopes around Canberra, being most plentiful in the southern, western and north-western districts and in the country extending to the Murrumbidgee River. Some very fine specimens (original vegetation) can be seen in Red Hill and some of the new suburbs in the Weston Creek area. It is one of the most ornamental species in the A.C.T., with heights of 60-80 feet and a large, compact crown above a stout but moderately short bole. A tree of this size must have plenty of growing space and it is only suitable for retention in parks, school playgrounds and similar large areas. Locally it is reputed to be of slow early growth, whilst poor early stem form is common; probably much of the slow growth is due to severe insect attack of the foliage, and it has been observed that some individuals are less susceptible to attack than others. Growth has been much better in many farm shelter belts in the drier and warmer country to the west. The best development is on light to somewhat heavy alluvial soils, loams and sandy loams. These are usually the better agricultural soils of the areas where it grows naturally.

This eucalypt has a wide natural distribution, mainly on the Western Slopes and the lower edges of the tablelands of New South Wales and on the northern side

of the Dividing Range in Victoria. There are a few scattered occurrences in Queensland, one being in wet sclerophyll forest at the top of Cunningham's Gap on the Cunningham Highway between Warwick and Brisbane; there it is a tall (100-120 feet) forest tree very different in form from that seen elsewhere. The name Cunningham commemorates Alan Cunningham (1791-1839), the pioneer explorer and botanist who named this eucalypt.

The original botanical description refers to 'flores mel redolente', hence the name melliodora, meaning smelling of honey. Yellow box is possibly the outstanding native tree for honey production, the flow of nectar is very heavy most years, whilst the clear honey which results is in high demand. Pollen yield, on the other hand, is comparatively poor and insufficient to maintain hives which are gathering nectar from this species only. The common name of 'yellow box' is derived from the yellow colour of the inner bark. The wood is heavy, hard, strong and durable but difficult to work, and is one of the best of all Australian firewoods.

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News Item

Study of Jervis Bay (The Canberra Times) Sat. 20th May, 1972.

"The Society for Social Responsibility in Science has formed a study group to examine proposed developments in the Jervis Bay area.

The vice-president of the society, Mr. R. Taylor, said the developments included a planned steelworks, a temporarily suspended nuclear power station and a planned sewage disposal unit. All three would have far-reaching consequences for the environment, not only in the Jervis Bay vicinity but, in the case of the steelworks, for the whole South Coast.

In relation to this matter, the South Coast Committee has organised a meeting to be held on Tuesday 19th September at 8 p.m. (place to be announced in newspaper) when Mr. Milo Dunphy the Director of the Total Environment Centre (Address: 3rd floor Argle Arts Centre, 18 Argle Street, Sydney) will talk about Jervis Bay and other south coast problems.

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Park Management. The following is a letter written by this association, to Senator J.A. Mulvihill and a copy of a letter that Sen. Mulvihill received back from Mr. R. Hunt, Minister for the Interior.

"Dear Senator,

I refer to your questions in the Senate (Hansard Reference Page 2516) addressed to the Minister for the Interior, asking for an up-to-date list of the land designated as national parks or nature reserves, and to the answer supplied by the Minister. My Association is concerned that the terminology used in the Minister's reply may lead to a misunderstanding of the present nature of the 'reserves' in the A.C.T. and Jervis Bay area.

The only legislation at present available for designation of public areas for any purpose is the A.C.T. Public Parks Ordinance 1928-1942, and Tidbinbilla, Black Mountain and Jervis Bay areas are formally gazetted under this Ordinance. The use of the term 'Nature Reserves' is indicative of the

management process of the area, not of its legal status. The Association understands that the Department of the Interior, who administers the area, either is preparing or has prepared management plans for these areas as nature reserves; however, we are not aware of any public announcement being made of the plans.

A small area of the Molonglo Gorge and another at Gibraltar Falls have been managed as scenic/nature reserves for some years but have no formal land-use status.

The 'Hill or 'Mountain' Reserves referred to in the Minister's reply are also without formal land-use status. The N.C.D.C. have repeatedly referred to 'hill' reserves in their reports (see Planning Report, February 1961, 'Recreation Areas' and map; the Annual Report 1968-69, "Landscaping", p. 32 our copy; and Part 3 of 'Growth of Canberra' 1958-65 and 1965-72 by Lord Holford) but these are no more than a planning concept; the areas have no land-use status protected by legislation. These 'hill' reserves, left unidentified by a specific land-use status with legal protection, are vulnerable to piecemeal disturbance and a whittling away of the areas. Jurisdiction over these 'hill reserves' is also ill-defined; it is not clear at what stage of N.C.D.C. planning a 'reserve' is handed over to the Department of the Interior to administer.

The Public Parks Ordinance in its present form is not suitable for either the creation or administration of special purpose parks and reserves. The Department of the Interior has advised that new legislation is under preparation for the management of reserves but there is no definite date as yet in view for its issue. We are particularly concerned that the creation of the proposed Gudgenby National Park should receive full status as such, with the necessary legislative protection.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the material you send to the Association from time to time. We are very pleased indeed to have the copies of letters, Questions in Parliament, and other documents we receive from you and have found them most interesting and useful.

Yours sincerely,
G.M. Chippendale
President."

"Dear Senator Mulvihill,

I refer again to your letter of 10 May 1972 concerning park management in the A.C.T., in particular to the points made to you in the letter of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc. of 8 May 1972 and incorporated in Hansard page 1472 of 9 May 1972.

In reference to management plans for the various areas the present position is as follows:

Black Mountain Reserve - a management plan for this Reserve has been completed under the guidance of the Black Mountain Advisory Committee and will be available shortly for discussion with interested groups and organisations.

Proposed Gudgenby Reserve - the broad concepts for management of this area have been formulated along the lines submitted by the National Parks

Association of the A.C.T. Inc. The development of this area is dependent on acquisition of land and the availability of finance.

A management plan is being prepared for the Mount Majura and Mount Ainslie area.

A preliminary management plan has been formulated for the Jervis Bay Reserve. Additional resource survey work is being undertaken to provide more up-to-date information for management purposes.

Molonglo Gorge - the Department of the Interior has plans well advanced for the declaration of this area as a reserve under the Public Parks Ordinance.

Gibraltar Falls and other small reserved areas - consideration is being given to formal declaration of such areas.

The "Hill" or "Mountain" reserves are part of the land-use patterns within the total concept of the urban and broad-acre development about the National Capital. The ultimate use of these areas, whether for informal recreation purposes or for regeneration of natural vegetation, can only be established when development plans are more advanced and final boundaries are delineated. The characteristics of the land will determine what purposes are most appropriate on any specific area.

The Department of the Interior is preparing new legislation relative to parks and reserves. This legislation is being designed to take account of modern requirements in regard to conservation and the wise use of natural resources.

Yours sincerely,
(Ralph J. Hunt)"

MEETINGS

September

Date: Thursday, 21st September, 1972 at 8 p.m.
 Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: The speaker is Mr. Frank Podger, a graduate from the Forestry School, Canberra and whose general interest is in fungal diseases in forests. His subject will be "Phytophthora cinnamoni - an invader from abroad or a native gone wrong".
 Visitors Welcome.

October

Date: Thursday, 19th October, 1972 at 8 p.m.
 Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: Professor Joe Jennings of the A.N.U. Dept. of Geomorphology will give an illustrated talk about Bungonia Gorge (see article in this bulletin).

November

Date: Thursday, 16th November, 1972 at 8 p.m.
 Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: The speaker will be Dr. J. Hookey, A.N.U., who will talk about "Law and the Environment" - land use legislation with special reference to National Parks and reserves.

Social Nights

The association is planning to hold occasional social evenings at which members may have a better opportunity to meet one another, than is possible at the more formal monthly meetings. These gatherings would especially enable members to exchange information about areas visited and to view one another's slides. An initial meeting has been arranged for the evening of 7th September at 8 p.m. in Room 2, Griffin Centre. Supper will be provided. All members are welcome.

OUTINGS

The committee wishes to draw members attention to the rule that domestic animals are not to be brought on association outings.

September

Date: Saturday 2nd September, 1972 at 2 p.m.
 Place: Black Mountain
 Leader: John Baker (Ph. 493255)

Meeting Place: Barry Drive, about 100 yds. past lights on left hand side. There is a place to park cars and an entrance to walk through the fence.
 Feature: Looking at the botany of the area.

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September

Date: Sunday, 10th September, 1972.
 Place: Lake George.
 Leader: Dr. M.J. Richard (A.N.U. Geology Dept.)
 Meeting Place: On the Federal Highway at Queanbeyan, Gunning Road junction (about 14 miles from Civic) at 9.30 a.m.
 Feature: Geology. Landforms in relation to scenery.
 Bring a packed lunch.

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September

Date: Saturday-Sunday 16th-17th September, 1972.
 Place: Bundanoon Section of Moreton National Park.
 Leader: Julie Henry (Home phone 485730)
 Meeting Place: Bundanoon Railway Station at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday.
 Feature: One of the features at this time of the year is the wildflowers, as this is the edge of the Sydney sandstone country. Saturday afternoon - graded paths will be followed around the rim of the plateau and through the wildflower country. Sunday - a trip will be made to the bottom of the Bundanoon Gorge 1,000 ft. below the plateau. The campsite will be at the park entrance (at the end of Church St.) a small charge is made for the overnight stay. There are a number of guest houses and a hotel and a motel which are conveniently placed - members should make their own arrangements and indicate in their nomination that a camping booking is not required.
 Map: An excellent map showing the walking tracks is printed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Nomination forms must be forwarded to Outings Committee, P.O. Box 457 Canberra City, to reach them by Monday 11th September.

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September

Date: Sunday, 24th September, 1972.
 Place: Bungonia Gorge.
 Leader: Chris Watson (Home phone 489490)
 Meeting Place: 9.30 a.m. opposite Federal Highway Drive-in. It is a 2 hour drive via Goulburn to the gorge.
 Feature: View unique limestone canyon formation. Also see effects of rampart mining on rim.
Please Note This is a dangerous area - children must be closely watched.

Outings (cont.)October

Date: Long Weekend - 30th September - 2nd October 1972.
 Place: Jervis Bay.
 Leader: John Baker (Ph. 493255)
 Meeting Place: At Green Patch camping area at noon on Saturday 30th.
 Feature: Flora of this area. Botanic Gardens annexe. Walks through bush and heathlands to beaches.
 Nomination forms to Outings Committee, P.O. Box 457, by Monday, 25th September.

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October

Date: Saturday, 7th October, 1972.
 Place: Black Mountain.
 Leader: John Baker (Ph. 493255)
 Meeting Place: At 2 p.m. off Caswell Drive, about 0.5 miles off the junction with Lady Denman Drive on the right hand side going towards Belconnen, where a track leads on to the mountain and there is ample parking space.
 Feature: An easy ramble on tracks with wanders into the bushland to view the Spring wildflowers.

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October

Date: 14th-15th October, 1972.
 Place: Yarrangobilly.
 Leader: Andy Spate.
 Meeting Place: At Yarrangobilly Village at 10 a.m. On Cooma Tumut road, past Yarrangobilly Cave turnoff on Saturday 14th. Allow 3½ hours driving time from Canberra - where camp will be made.
 Feature: Visit the caves and walks in the area. Bring your swimming costume for swimming in the warm pool.

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October

Date: Sunday, 22nd October, 1972.
 Place: Big Hole and Marble Arch.
 Leader: Bill Adams
 Meeting Place: Captains Flat, 9.30 a.m.
 Features: See Big Hole, 150' diameter, 340' deep with fern covered bottom; is situated on a sandstone ridge about 2 miles from cars across Shoalhaven River; suitable footwear for wading river should be brought. Lunch to be carried. It is to be expected that there will be a good wildflower display. In addition there will be an extended walk to Marble Arch for those wishing for a more strenuous day.

Warning. Because of the hazards of river crossing and the unprotected sheer sides of Big Hole, all children must be under full control of adults.

Outings (Cont.)October

Date: Sunday, 29th October, 1972.
 Place: Brindabella Ranges.
 Leader: Nancy Burbidge.
 Meeting Place: 10 a.m. at junction of Uriarra and Bullshead Roads,
 (Uriarra homestead)
 Feature: Drive to Warks Road and up to the top of a ridge
 to view wildflowers.

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November

Date: Weekend Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th November.
 Place: Barren Grounds Faunal Reserve.
 Leader: Thea Exley (Phone home 812324)
 Meeting Place: From Moss Vale continue through Robertson until approx.
 2 miles past the Post Office, a fork in the road is
 reached. Take right hand fork, passing the turnoff to
 Carrington Falls, 3 miles later. The track into the
 Faunal Reserve is on the right after about 5¼ miles, just
 before the road descends Jamberoo Pass (about 10 miles
 from Robertson P.O.) The visitors Reception Centre is a
 few yards along this track. Arrive by lunch time at the
 centre, Saturday 4th.
 Feature: The Barren Grounds Faunal Reserve is an area of 4,390
 acres to the east of Kiama on the heights above the
 Jamberoo Valley. The country is mainly moor-like heathland
 with scattered trees and swampy ground in some parts and
 some stands of sub-tropical ferns in sheltered gullies.
 One of the moving forces in having it gazetted as a faunal
 reserve was the need to preserve two rare birds, Eastern
 Bristle Bird and the Ground Parrot. There should be a
 variety of types of wlaaks and for those who do not wish to
 walk, it may be possible to drive to Carrington Falls.

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November

Date: Saturday, 11th November, 1972.
 Place: Black Mountain.
 Directions as for 2nd September.

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November

Date: Sunday, 12th November, 1972.
 Place: Yankee Hat, on the edge of the proposed wilderness area
 of the Gudgenby National Park.
 Leader: Julie Henry (Phone home 485130)
 Meeting Place: 8.45 a.m. at Tharwa township, just over the Bridge.

- Feature: Trip I. A short easy walk to view aboriginal paintings. Cars will be left at the Gudgenby River.
 Trip II. Cars for this party will continue on a rough forestry track for another 1½ miles before starting a climb of approx. 1,500 ft. up Yankee Hat. This mountain, 4,800 ft. high gives good views over the proposed wilderness area and the Gudgenby Valley. The climb is steep and there will be some scrub bashing. This trip is not suitable for young children.
- Note: All cars will have one creek crossing to make. Because of roads the trip will not be done if there is any heavy rain during the week preceeding.

November

- Date: Saturday-Sunday 18th-19th November.
 Place: Tuross-Deva area - proposed new park on south coast.
 Leader: Ian Currie (Phone home 958112)
 If interested, contact leader.

November

- Date: Sunday, 26th November, 1972.
 Place: Corang Peak.
 Leader: Noel Semple (Phone, home 811482)
 Meeting Place: 9.30 a.m. at the junction of the Braidwood & Nerriga Roads. Cars to meet on the Nerriga Road just past the junction.
- Feature: A walk to Corang Trig, then back via Canowie Brook - total distance approx. 6 miles. The walk follows a track through attractive wildflower country to Mt. Corang which is on the edge of the Budawang section of the Morton National Park. While not included in the National Park it affords good views over the southern section. Carry lunch. (A total fire ban usually operates at this time of the year).
- Maps: Northern Budawang Range Bushwalkers maps 1 to 50,000 Corang (National Mapping).

Proposed outings
 in the future:

- 3rd December, 1972 Mt. Palerang - Leader R. Alder.
 9th December, 1972 Christmas Social - Blue Range Hut.
 21st January, 1973 Pine Island to Kambah Pool.
 27-29th January, 1973 Lower Snowy.
 There will be a wildflower viewing weekend from Jindabyne sometime in January or February.
Easter 20th-23rd April Warrumbungle Mountains.

WEEK-END EXCURSIONS

IF YOU INTEND GOING ON A WEEK-END EXCURSION YOU MUST COMPLETE ONE OF THE ATTACHED FORMS AND FORWARD TO THE TRIP LEADER AT THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS, TO REACH HIM NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE TRIP.

The Excursions Sub-committee,
N.P.A. Inc. of the A.C.T.,
Box 457, P.O.
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601.

I/We wish to join the outing to
on

I/We will be accompanied by
.

I/We will proceed by private transport
b) will need transport
c) can provide transport for other persons.

I and my guests agree to be bound by the rules and by-laws of the Association and to take part in the above field outing entirely at our own risk.

NAME ADDRESS

PHONE NO. HOME WORK

SIGNATURE

The Excursions Sub-committee,
N.P.A. Inc. of the A.C.T.,
Box 457, P.O.
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601.

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NAME ADDRESS

PHONE NO. HOME WORK

SIGNATURE

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1972 - 73.

(If you are already financial for 1972-73, please disregard this notice).

Annual subscriptions to June 30, 1973, were due on July 1, 1972.
Early payment will greatly assist the Committee.

The Treasurer,
National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc.,
P.O. Box 457,
CANBERRA CITY. 2601.

Herewith my remittance of \$ covering:

(place x in the appropriate box)

- | | | |
|--|-----|--------------------------|
| Ordinary membership | \$4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family membership (covers two adults and dependent children) | \$6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Student membership (taking a full-time recognised course of study) | \$2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Corporate membership (open to local government and statutory bodies, schools, clubs, organisations, companies and firms) | \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Mr.
Name Mrs.
Miss.
(please print)

Address
. Postcode

Former address, if changed since July 1971
.
. Postcode

Note:

This form is only to be used for renewal of membership.
New members should complete a special membership form, which is available from the Secretary or Treasurer.