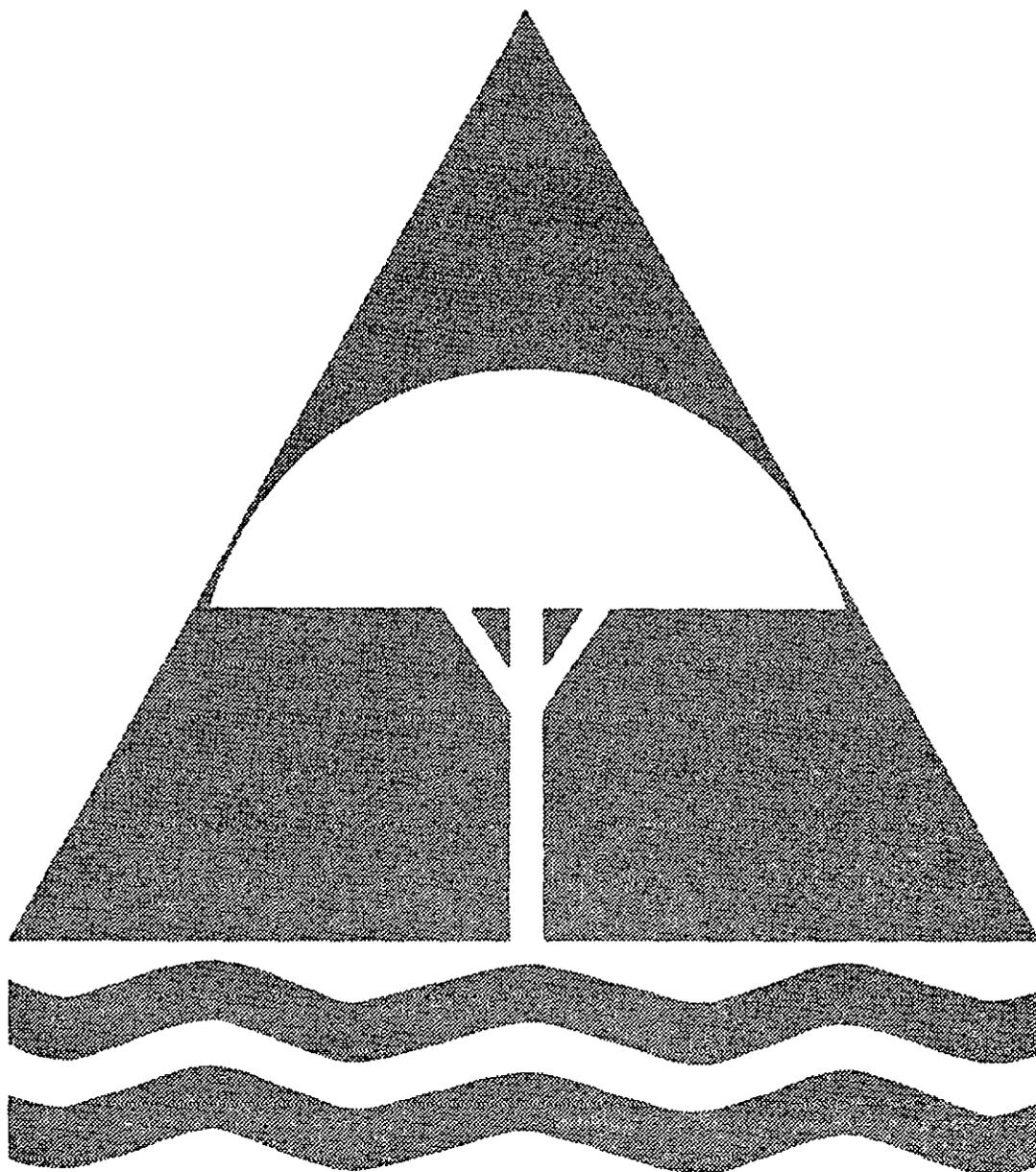


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NPA Bulletin

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



March - May 1974 Vol. 11 No. 3.

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Mr. J. Schunke; Miss G. Watts.

All correspondence to Box 457, P.O., Canberra City. 2601.

National Parks Association Phone Number - 956937

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AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Promotion of National Parks and of measures for the protection of fauna and flora, scenery and natural features in the Australian Capital Territory and elsewhere, and the reservation of specific areas.
- Interest in the provision of appropriate outdoor recreation areas.
- Stimulation of interest in, and appreciation and enjoyment of, such natural phenomena by organized field outings, meetings or any other means.
- Co-operation with organizations and persons having similar interests and objectives.
- Promotion of and education for nature conservation and the planning of land-use to achieve conservation.

OUR ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE

At the General Meeting on 16th November, 1973, the main business was a group discussion on the future of the Association. The meeting was divided into four groups and five questions were listed for discussion over a period of over an hour. The groups were still talking strongly when they were asked to report back to the meeting. The questions and the overall conclusions follow.

At present, is the balance between conservation and outings activities right? If not, which should be given more emphasis?

No group criticised the present balance. If conservation is to be given more emphasis it should be through a Federal body, and not in isolation. The social aspect of outings and other activities assists the 'lobbying' as it brings in new members, providing the enlarged membership needed for effective lobbying.

What changes would you like to see introduced into the outings programme? Suggestions included the use of coaches and some outings longer than two days.

Do you believe NPA should be more aggressive on conservation issues? Opinions differed, but there did seem to be a wish for more activity, and more information provided either at meetings or in the Bulletin. More activity did not necessarily mean more aggressiveness, but certainly did mean more communication.

What aspects of conservation do you believe NPA should concentrate on? Each discussion group emphasized the point that we were a National Park group, with emphasis in the A.C.T. and with some interest outside the A.C.T. Areas remote from A.C.T. (e.g. Northern Territory) were not emphasized. Nor were man-made parks considered relevant.

Do you believe we should attempt to form an Australian federation of National Parks Association? All groups considered an Australian federation of National Parks Associations was a good idea, but did not wish the A.C.T. group to lose its identity.

A need was also seen by some members for more attention to educating school students in environmental and conservation matters.

Bill Watson

ORRORAL THE HARD WAY

On Sunday 25th November, a fine spring day, John Holzaffel led about 25 keen NPA-ers up the dreaded Mt. Orroral. One member took it into her head that any old tracking station (namely Tidbinbilla) would do just as well as the appointed meeting place, and missed the main walk.

The walk itself was harder than we usually have but this didn't detract visibly from our enjoyment. The ascent was made by ascending first into a saddle, and thence onto an intermediary peak where we had lunch, and finally up Orroral itself. The party split at the top and spent some time circum-navigating the topmost rocky outcrop looking for each other. Some were lucky enough to see an echidna at this stage.

The Taswegians-in-training insisted on carrying rocks in their rucksacks for a goodly part of the walk. I suspect that they quietly dumped them when the going got rough. (That should confuse geologists of a future age!)

The descent was a haphazard affair with two main groups - one straight downward for 1,300 ft back to the tracking station, and the other 'contouring' to lessen the effect.

Ian Currie stood in for the Good Samaritan and ferried bodies back to the cars from the tracking station.

It would seem from the undoubted success of this walk that the harder day-walks can be popular too!

Pat Jeffress

EXCURSION TO SMOKERS FLAT

Thirty-six members and friends gathered in fine warm weather on 20th January at the Tharwa road - Corin Dam road junction at 10.00 a.m. for an excursion to the sub-alpine swamps known as Smokers Flat. After an unscheduled (!) circular tour of an area of forest cleared for pine-planting, the leader found himself and the party parked at the gate south of Smokers Gap. A walk of about 2 miles along a good track took the party through intermediate sclerophyll forest characteristic of this altitude (about 4500'), i.e. *Eucalyptus rubida*-*E. dalrympleana*-*E. pauciflora* association, with *E. stellulata* confined to the stream gullies. This type of forest has a well-developed open shrubby understorey consisting of mainly *Daviesia* spp., *Helichrysum stirlingii*, *Olearia* spp., *Acacia dealbata*, *Tieghemopanax sambucifolius*, *Oxylobium* spp., and epacrids. Along the stream *Leptospermum lanigerum* forms prominent thickets at intervals. The grassy sward beneath the shrub layer, dominated by *Poa*, contains a rich variety of herbs; and among the more interesting of those observed were *Celmisia longifolia* (rather unusual for this habitat), *Chiloglottis gunnii*, *Cynoglossum australe* and *C. suaveolens*. The saprophytic orchid *Gastrodia sesamoides* and the brilliant blue spikes of *Lobelia gibbosa* were particularly common. Approaching the swamps, young plants of the rare native dandelion, *Taraxacum aristum*, were found on the track after some searching at the spot where it was seen 2 years previously.

At this point the track crosses the streams which drains the Flat, and evidence to suggest there has been a reversal of the drainage (stream-capture) some time in the distant past was discussed. On reaching the Flat, lunch was taken on a pleasant grassy bank in the shade of snowgums, after which the party made a leisurely stroll upstream. Frost and the shallow, poorly-drained, peaty soil overlying granite bedrock have combined to produce a series of highly characteristic sub-alpine meadows among the snowgum woodland, interspersed with patches of heathy sphagnum bog. The meadows also tend to be maintained by light grazing by wild herbivores; here and there they are dotted with shallow pools (brumby wallows) in which the brilliant yellow flowers of Fringed Waterlily, *Nymphoides*

geminata, were abundant. The muddy pool-margins carried a rich flora of, inter alia, *Ranunculus millanii*, *R. pimpinellifolius*, *Glossostigma* sp., *Utricularia dichotoma*, *Drosera gracilis*, *Pratia pedunculata*, *Gratiola nana*, *Haloragis micrantha*, *Myriophyllum pedunculatum* and *Hydrocotyle* sp. Interesting plants of the meadow community seen included *Carex capillacea*, *Geranium antrorsum*, *G. neglectum*, *Seseli harveyanum*, *Marianthus* sp., *Ranunculus graniticola*, *Trachymene humilis*, *Velleia montana*, *Veronica gracilis*, *Spiranthes sinensis* and *Prasophyllum* sp.; the ferns *Lycopodium fastigiatum*, *Polystichum proliferum* and *Blechnum penna-marina* occurred around granite boulders. Last but not least, in the drainage channels amongst the *Baeckea-Sphagnum*-Sedge-dominated bogs, abundant cushions of the interesting little aquatic moss *Meesia triquetra* were pointed out. This locality, so far as can be ascertained, is only the second one known for this plant in Australia, although it is common in North America.

At about 3 p.m., still in hot sunny weather, the return trek was begun (some of the party pausing for a freshen-up at the creek-crossing!), and most people reached the cars about 4 o'clock, from whence the party dispersed to return to Canberra.

Laurie Adams

HELP!

As Sheila Kruse is going overseas for six months we urgently need someone to help the committee with secretarial work and correspondence. Part-time assistance better than nothing. If you can type will you please help?

Phone Sheila Kruse - 486104 (home) or 484132 (work).

JUDITH WRIGHT

She will be guest speaker at our June General Meeting.

"KOSCIUSKO" or "THE TRIP OF MANY LEADERS"

With apologies to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
and those who love their "Hiawatha"

Before the first day of December
Rains had filled the Nine Mile Diggings
So we went not to Kiandra
And we saw not Leader Andrew.
But resourceful Ian Currie,
To avoid our disappointment,
Took us off to camp at Sawpit
Where we lunched and pitched the wigwams.
Then Bill Watson took us over -
Him Big Chief of National Parkers -
Off we drove to Guth'ga Pondage
Where we left the cars behind us,
Gambolling gaily through the paddocks,
To the little chain and pulley -
Farm Creek's means of crossing rapids -
Back and forth we slid a-giggle,
Till the tribe had all crossed over.
Then we walked along the East bank
Till we reached the Gauging Station,
And midst laughter, Lyn the swimmer,
Gave us all a great performance,
Plunged into the foaming Snowy,
Bobbed around just like a sea-lion.
Up and onward to the Ski-hut,
Where we carefully read the legend
(And proceeded to forget same).
Then the tactful Ian Currie
Took the tired ones back to Sawpit.
But the keen and tough Bill Adams
Led the others further onward,
With his chin thrust squarely forward,
Down the valley, 'cross the Snowy,
Up the Tate Ridge in a straight line,
Like a Roman, never wavering.
Till the weak ones could no longer
Stay the pace and 'gan to falter.
So the gentle Harley Johnston
Took the frail ones down the West bank,
And we staggered slowly homeward,
Ever deeper in the scrubbush,
Pricked and scratched by leptospermum,
Squelching through the spongy sphagnum.
Slipping, sliding down the shale banks,
Nearly falling in the Snowy.

Till at last we spied two figures,
Bill the Chief and Bill the Roman,
Coming back to lead us homeward.
And the god of National Parkers
Got us safely back to Sawpit.
Then we feasted round the campfire,
Watched the stars and flying saucers,
Crept at last into our wigwams.
But the wind sprang up at midnight,
Nearly blew the wigwams over,
Blew all night, and in the morning
When we drove to Kosciusko.
There the wind was even stronger,
Hardly could we stand against it.
So we dropped to shelter southwards,
To the lake where eagles drink from,
Cootapatamba to the ancients
But renamed Lake May by white man.
Saw the tiny prawn-like creatures,
Proving that the mighty ocean
Once had covered all those mountains.
Saw the white ranunculaceae
With their golden eyes agleaming.
Sat and talked and laughed at lunchtime
On the clean and sun bleached boulders.
Then once more the party split up,
Some to wander via the valley,
Some to follow mid-line contours,
Some to climb above the snow-line
Up to where the peak of Koscy,
Standing firm, defies all furies.
And the god of National Parkers
Quite lost track of who was leader,
So he gathered up the wanderers,
Steered us somehow back to Rawsons,
Whence we came home safe to Canberra,
Full of mountain air and magic,
Ready for our routine labours,
Dreaming of the next adventure.

Mary Jacques

NATIONAL CONSERVATION STUDY CONFERENCE

On November 16-18, 1973, a conference of the major voluntary conservation bodies in Australia was held at the Academy of Science, Canberra. It was organized by a Steering Committee, representing all States, in association with the Australian Conservation Foundation. The Chairman was Mr. Vincent Serventy. The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. was represented by the President.

The decision to hold the Study Conference was prompted by the growth of conservation effort, accompanied by the establishment of scores of new societies and committees throughout Australia during recent years. Among the basic premises underlying the meeting was the belief that each conservation organization has a valuable role to play, that each has its own 'ecological niche' in the conservation movement and that better understanding and co-operation between various groups must be developed.

The specific aims of the Study Conference were

- . to review the recent history of the voluntary conservation movement in Australia, and thereby enable each organization to learn from the experience of other organizations
- . To consider and, if possible, define more clearly the respective roles, problems and needs of the various types of conservation bodies at the national, state, regional and local levels
- . To exchange ideas as to how, with better understanding, co-operation and collaboration, the efforts of private individuals can be more effectively channelled or rationalised to the advantage of conservation

The opening address was given by Dr. Moss Cass, M.P., Minister for the Environment and Conservation. His views are challenging and go far beyond those of the traditional nature conservationists, who comprised a large part of his audience. His views of the environment are an integral part of his socialist philosophy, and focus on the poor and underprivileged, and the need to fight the economic roots of the pollutionist. This view was challenged during question time, and the volatile nature of the conservation movement was clearly revealed. Dr. Cass stood his ground well and the Chairman calmed the meeting effectively.

Saturday and Sunday were spent listening to lectures and examining specific topics in syndicates. Copies of the lectures given are available from the Secretary. The papers were:

Review of the Development and Current Position of the Conservation Movement in Australia, - an excellent series of reports from each State. Dr. R.W. Taylor, of the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, gave the report for the A.C.T. and was generous in his description of the role played by our organization.

Definition and Aims of Conservation, - by V. Serventy - a personal view of a deeply-committed and well-informed conservationist.

The Aims, Role and Programme of the Australian Conservation Foundation in Relation to the Conservation Movement, - by J.G. Mosley, Director, A.C.F. This paper was the first opportunity for the airing of the new A.C.F. policy. As Professor J.S. Turner (the Rapporteur of the meeting) stated later, it was not a radical statement. It appeared the A.C.F. would continue to pursue an 'honest broker' policy but would hope to do so somewhat more vigorously than was done before.

Towards Agreed Guidelines for Rationalising the Roles and Efforts of the Various Types of Conservation Organizations, - by Dr. F.H. Talbot, Director, the Australian Museum, Sydney.

How Conservationists Can Preserve and Enhance the National Estate, - a paper written by Mr. Justice Hope, Chairman of the National Estate Committee of Inquiry, and read by Judith Wright who is a member of the Committee of Inquiry.

The eight syndicates covered the topics of environmental law, finance, communications, leadership, officialdom, education, land-use planning, and definitions. Their findings will be published. An item of interest to National Park groups was the recommendation that the A.C.F. form an N.P.A. sub-committee to encourage a freer exchange of information on National Parks issues.

Overall the Conference was voted a success. It was the first time such a gathering had occurred, and it seems likely now to be an annual event. There is no doubt individual groups can gain new heart from attendance at such a conference.

Bill Watson

NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION MAGAZINE

Dr. Dick Beidleman gave us a 12 month subscription to the American National Parks and Conservation Association, so we now receive the magazine. Dr. Beidleman will be back in Australia next August to attend the International Conference on Ornithology. He comes from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, U.S.A., and was here 2 years ago on sabbatical leave at the A.N.U. Both he and his wife and two daughters were all good members of the NPA.

THAT TOWER - LESSONS FOR NPA?

The skyline silhouette of that large crane on top of Black Mountain is an all too obvious reminder that construction of the Post Office telecommunications tower is proceeding rapidly in spite of all the objections by concerned Canberra citizens. Your association has donated \$100 to the Committee to Save Black Mountain in the belief that this outstanding city reserve will be subject to intolerable tourist pressure, apart from any environmental damage the tower itself may cause. Some of us may now be wondering whether this contribution has been worthwhile and whether anything more could have been done to protect the reserve.

Although newspaper publicity concerning the tower probably reached its height last year, it was in 1972 that a formal Parliamentary public hearing was offered through the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Even at this stage, it is evident that people opposing the tower were at a disadvantage.

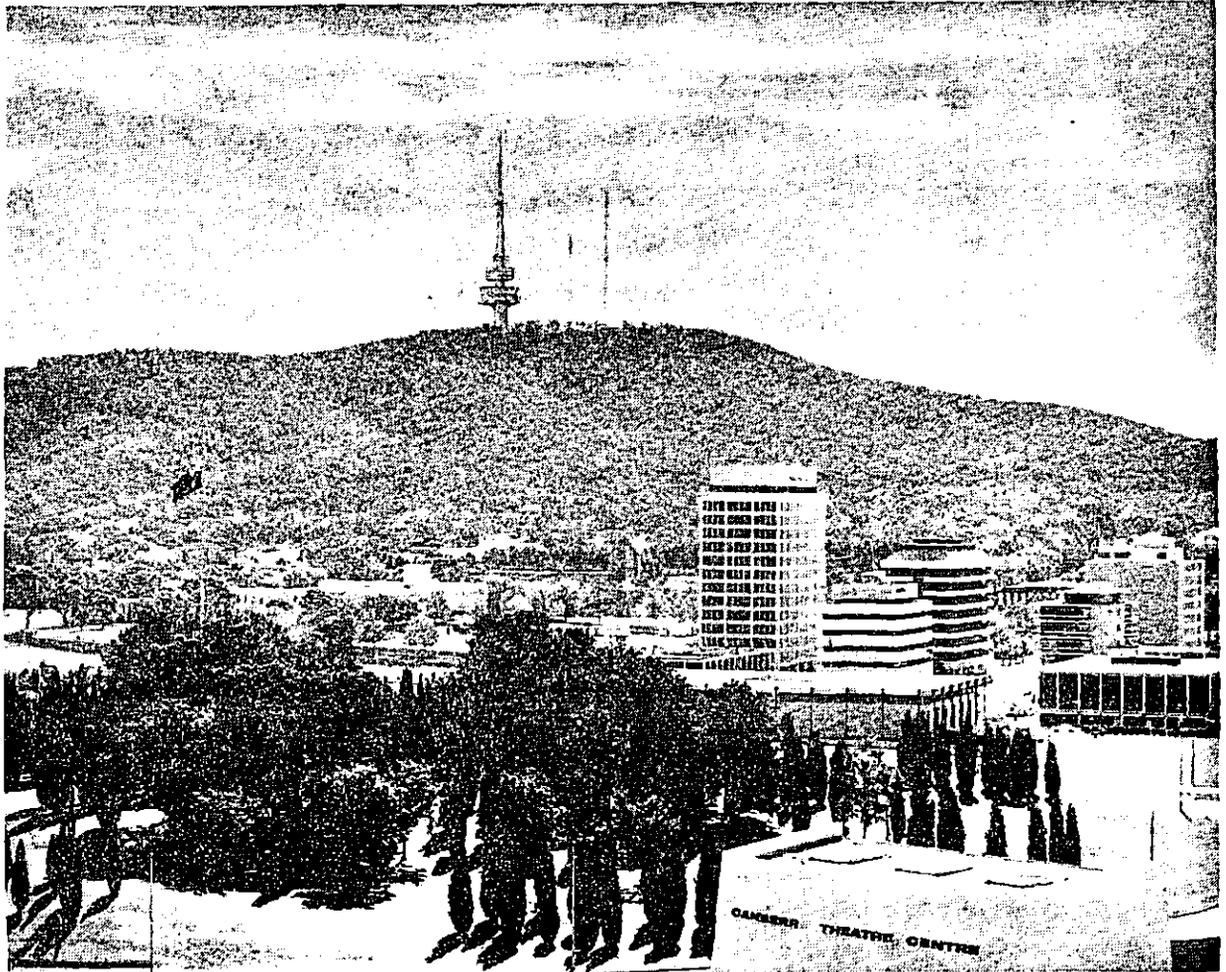
Firstly, the Post Office has already acted as if approval for the tower was to be a mere formality by committing large amounts of public funds to the Black Mountain site. Apart from \$50,000 spent on alternative site studies dating from 1970, \$225,000 was needed for the Black Mountain site plan, \$200,000 for a duct and coaxial cable installation already carried out, and an extravagant \$45,000 for the Public Works Committee hearing itself!

Secondly, Dr. J.T.O. Kirk claims that one of the main obstacles in finding a suitable alternative to Black Mountain was that the Post Office simply refused to divulge the technical requirements for the tower. This meant that, whether in Committee or in Cabinet, those in favour of the tower could always swamp the opposition with superior knowledge about what was wanted.

The Public Works Committee, which is usually concerned with assessing financial viability of a project rather than the subtleties of aesthetics and ecology, heard evidence from NPA's Dr. Chris Watson and others, but finally recommended the tower.

Although the Liberal-Country Party Cabinet also approved the Post Office tower in October, 1972, a group of people active in local ALP branches became hopeful that a change in Government that year would take the pressure off Black Mountain. It was made clear in 1973, however, that the new Labor Cabinet contained only a small (though articulate) proportion of environmentally concerned Ministers. Of 27 Cabinet members, only Mr. Uren, Dr. Cass, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Enderby, Dr. Everingham, Mr. Cameron and Senator Bishop voted against the project as proposed by the Post Office. Mr. Whitlam abstained.

In retrospect, the ensuing court case brought by fourteen Canberra citizens against the Government was extremely worthwhile, not only because the case was the first of its kind in Australia, but because new aspects of the project were brought to light.



The judge himself suggested a new site in Mt. Painter, while the basic opposition of the NCDC to the Black Mountain tower was made clear. Nevertheless, all environmental and aesthetic objections were finally rejected by the court, and the "approval" of the NCDC easily obtained by order of Mr. Uren by order of Cabinet.

There seems to have been a genuine division in the ACT electorate about the aesthetics of the tower, which after all was supposed to be designed for good looks as well as function. On the technical side, it is doubtful where many of us took a stand on such scientific questions as whether the tower would cause drainage problems or bring uncontrolled root-rot fungus to Black Mountain. Local voters are also not too well informed about the complexities of telecommunications. Politicians of course, are very good at detecting controversial or poorly-supported causes; the virtual non-involvement or fence-sitting by the great majority of Federal Parliamentarians in this cause makes one wonder whether the anti-tower forces ever gained general community support. In any case,

much of the drive came rather late in the day due to unreasonable faith in the new Government. Technically feasible alternatives were offered, but again too late. We may well ask ourselves whether NPA should be taking a more active part in convincing the community that city parks should be protected from development.

An environmental impact statement was released by the Post Office, but so late in the decision-making process (March, 1973) that the statement can only be regarded as a public relations exercise. It was roundly criticized by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Ideally, the public should be informed of every large Government project at the time of its first consideration by the Department concerned, not in an explanatory brochure at the end of its deliberations. If the size of the project and its technical requirements are known by the public, scientist and layman alike can contribute to the planning process. This should be welcomed by Governments and Departments which do not always have access to balanced advice.

It is to be hoped that some compulsory "early warning" of imminent projects can be written into the forthcoming legislation on environmental impact statements. Clearly, the statements by themselves are not automatic environmental safeguards, especially when carried out by the Department promoting a development. Even if a poor or controversial impact statement is produced early enough, however, it will set off a public debate which is highly desirable. This was the essential element lacking four years ago in the tower case.

Rod Panter

GUDGENBY NATIONAL PARK

A large area of the proposed Gudgenby National Park in the south-eastern corner of the A.C.T. should be gazetted by the end of this year, the Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr. Bryant, said in a letter to an ALP senator recently.

The major problem of declaring the area immediately was a shortage of sufficient departmental staff and other resources.

Because the land that was to be included in the park could not remain vacant and unmanaged, the department was allowing it to be leased for short-term grazing.

Mr. Bryant was replying to a letter from Senator Mulvihill (Lab., N.S.W.) who wrote to him seeking to have the park declared as soon as possible, and seeking an assurance that no mining exploration would be allowed in the proposed park area.

Staff was presently being sought to manage and develop the park, Mr. Bryant said.

"I am hopeful that by the end of 1974 a sizable portion of the park will be withdrawn from lease and gazetted as the beginning of the park. Further additions will then be made as the department's management capacity increases.

"It is not feasible to declare the park to include areas still held under pastoral leases but the plan is to give adequate notice and gradually withdraw the leases as management ability expands.

"You have my assurance that I would not agree to mining exploration within any of the proposed park area".

PUBLIC LECTURE 1974

Thursday 28th March - a date for your diary!

Dr. D.F. McMichael, Secretary, Department of the Environment and Conservation, will speak on National Parks and the Australian Government.

Time - 8 p.m. Location - National Library Theatre.

Supper will be served afterwards.

Don't forget!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

All morning the clouds were becoming steadily thicker. Would it rain - ruining our barbecue and dampening our Christmas spirit?

But no - by 2 o'clock blue sky was breaking through. So full of optimism we set off to Blue Range hut anticipating a pleasant evening. We were well rewarded.

Swiss flags planted every hundred yards confronted us from the moment we turned off from the Mount Franklin road. What could they represent? Had the Swiss taken over the NPA, or had we been upstaged at the barbecues?

For a moment, when we arrived, we thought we had been upstaged - all we could see was a lot of strange faces and a herd of unfamiliar cars. But a shout from the back attracted our attention and there stood various Curries gesticulating madly. The Swiss and their friends had the barbecues by the stream, we would celebrate beneath the eaves of the hut.

No less than 90 souls in all turned up to make a very jolly party; a number of rarely seen faces had shaken out of the woodwork. Festivities really got under way when our President arrived - it took several journeys to get the makings from the boot of his car.

Children ran happily around in the sunshine while parents talked, and the astuter members threw their meat on to the fires early - just in time in your correspondent's case - before the rush really started. By the time the sun went down most people appeared well content.

Congratulations to the outings sub-committee for once again choosing a magnificent Christmas barbecue spot.

They tell me that the evening finished with Carol singing in the hut around the fire. See what you miss if you go home early!

Brian Lee

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Jervis Bay - The Future? A special publication of the Australian Littoral Society.

Proposed Master Plan for Ayers Rock - Mt. Olga National Park. J.A. Lacey. 1973. Northern Territory Reserves Board.

National Parks and Conservation Magazine. November 1973. National Parks and Conservation Association (U.S.A.)

Victoria's Resources. Dec. - March 1973/4. National Resources Conservation League of Victoria.

OUTINGS AND MEETINGS

See separate insert.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following - Mr. & Mrs. R. Skipper, Miss Shirley Schmidt, Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Ward, Miss Lynne Evans.

NPA OUTINGS

MARCH

3rd, Sunday

Pierce's Creek Falls

Easy walk from cars to falls. Carry lunch
(no fires).

Meet at Cotter Kiosk at 9.30 a.m.

Leader - John Banks 816641 (home).

9th, 10th, Saturday, Sunday.

Mount Franklin

Local walk including Ginini Swamp.

Meet at Canberra Alpine Club chalet

Friday night or 10 a.m. Saturday. Accommodation
\$2 per night (adults).

Leaders - Norma Price 499379 (work)

Ian Currie 958107 (work) or

958112 (home).

Come for a day if you can Saturday or Sunday.

23rd, 24th, Saturday, Sunday

Camp at Pebbly Beach.

Examine rock-shelf flora and fauna.

Meet at Pebbly Beach camping ground 11.30 a.m.

Saturday.

Leader - Ed Slater 487122 (work).

31st, Sunday

Orroral Valley area

Meet outside tracking station at 10.30 a.m.
sharp.

Leader - Brian Hammond 814777 (home).

APRIL

6th, Saturday
Honeysuckle Creek
Easy walk on fire trail
Meet at tracking station car park 2 p.m.
Leader - Brian Lee 484470 (work) or
813340 (home).

12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, Friday - Monday
Mallacoota Inlet
Contact Ian Currie 958107 (work) or
958112 (home)
Bill Watson 816601 (home).

20th, Saturday
Cotter Cave and mining area
Very short walk to examine cave and
mining area
Meet at picnic area behind Cotter kiosk
at 2 p.m.
Leader - Dr. J. McDonald (ANU Geology
Dept.)
Contact Ian Currie 958107 (work) or
958112 (home).

27th, 28th, Saturday, Sunday
Tallaganda Forest
Camp at local hut - creek walk and
forestry activities.
Come for one day or both.
Contact Ian Currie 958107 (work) or
958112 (home).

MAY

12th, Sunday

Walk from Pine Island to Kambah Pool

Drivers required to shuffle cars

Meet at Pine Island parking area at 10.30 a.m.

Leader - Bill Adams 486622.

18th, Saturday

See effects of Pythoptera on native and
introduced trees and plants

Meet at Forestry Dept. parking area at
1.30 p.m.

(located opposite Ursula College and
Botany Dept. ANU)

Leader - Dr. B. Pratt.

25th, 26th, Saturday, Sunday

Araluen Valley

Camp at Keith Green's property and walk
around valley and along Creek.

Meet at North Araluen at 10.30. a.m.

Leader - Andrew Fordham 818451.

GENERAL MEETINGS

At 8 p.m. Griffin Centre, Room 1

MARCH

21st, Thursday

Manipulating environments to conserve fauna

Alan Newsome

APRIL

18th, Thursday

The MacDonnell Ranges, N.T.

Frank Rigby

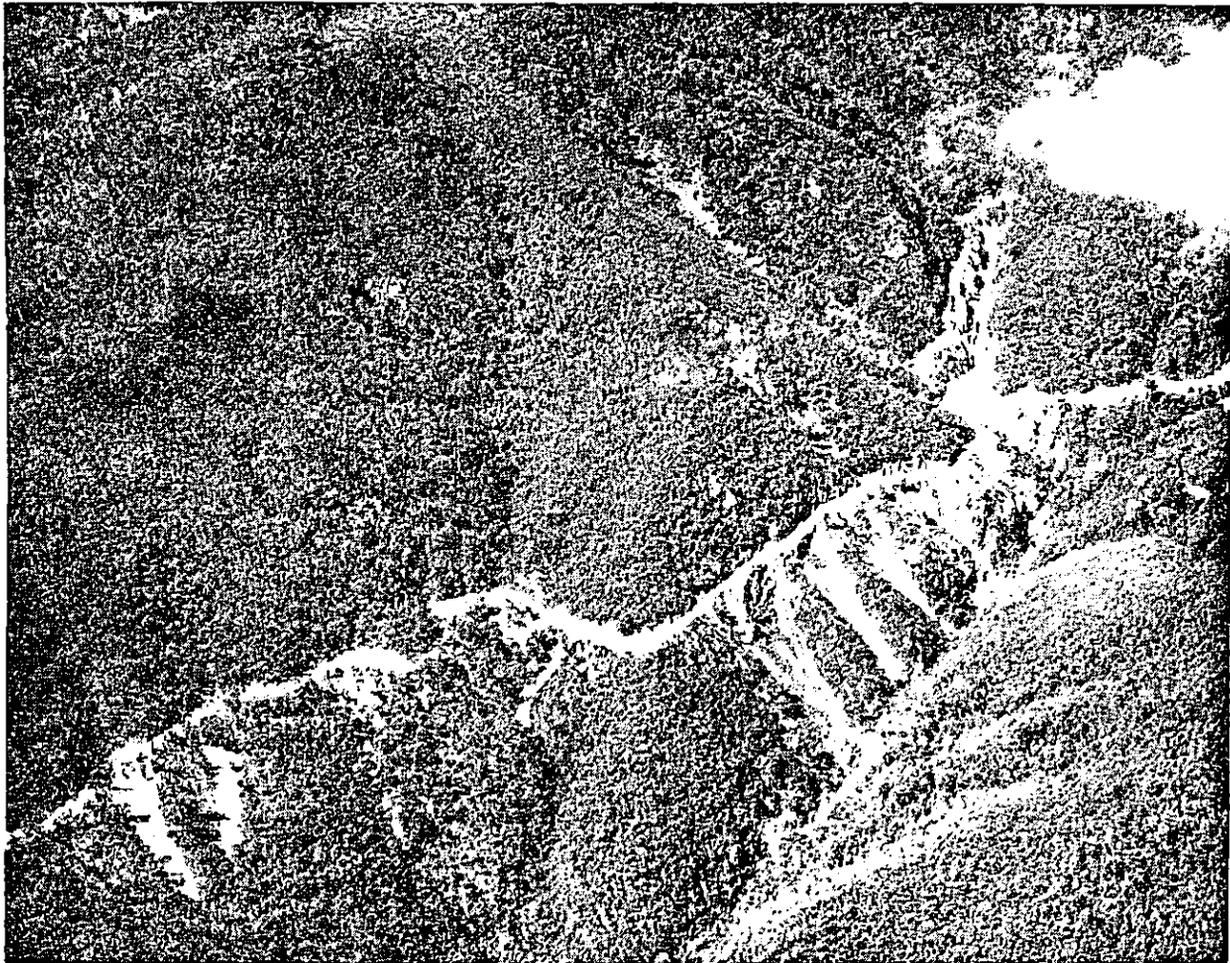
MAY

16th, Thursday

The Cotter Catchment

John Banks

SAFE BET, BUT.....



Here is a photograph, taken 2 years ago, which shows the dangers of carrying out engineering works in natural bushland. The aqueduct carrying water to Geehi dam runs across a very steep slope in the proposed wilderness area in the Kosciusko National Park. It is carried in a concrete pipe. A number of bursts have reopened old scars in the vegetation, and caused new ones.

An engineer who used to work for the Snowy Mountains Authority tells me that when the pipeline was laid, engineers considered the risk of a blow out to be practically negligible.

But they were wrong. Once again engineering works and natural conditions didn't mix - even though a mishap seemed almost inconceivable. I understand that the SMA is now lining the pipes with stainless steel.

Brian Lee

National Parks Association outings summary

MARCH

3	Sunday	Pierce's Creek Falls	Walk
9	Saturday		
10	Sunday	Mount Franklin	Camp
23	Saturday		
24	Sunday	Pebbly Beach	Camp
31	Sunday	Orroral Valley	Walk

APRIL

6	Saturday	Honeysuckle Creek	Walk
12	Easter		
15		Mallacoota Inlet	Camp
20	Saturday	Cotter Cave	Walk
27	Saturday		
28	Sunday	Tallaganda Forest	Camp

MAY

12	Sunday	Pine Island to Kambah Pool	Walk
18	Saturday	Effects of Phytopthera	Walk
25	Saturday		
26	Sunday	Araluen Valley	Camp

Members of the public are welcome. Most walks are suitable for people with families. Anybody interested should phone Mr. Ian Currie on 958107 (work) or 958112 (home).