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**NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Subscription 6/-

President : Dr. Burbidge

Treasurer : Mr. Roy Tait, Box 73 P.O. Manuka

Secretary : Mrs A.J. Brand, Box 457 P.O. Canberra City

As an association, we are now approaching the end of our 3rd. year of existence. The annual meeting will be held on the 23rd July. It is most important that all members attend. Included in the agenda will be the election of office bearers, a report on our National Park proposal and the selection of an association emblem. Don't forget that nomination of members for official positions in the association must be in the secretary's hands no later than Tuesday 16th July.

The association now has a private mail box at Canberra City Post Office. Box number 457.

Poster Competition

In an effort to make children and adults aware that all native flora and fauna is protected in the A.C.T., a poster competition will be held amongst school children during "Conservation Week" - 29th July - 3rd August.

The winning posters will be displayed in the window of Cheshires Bookshop and it is also hoped to display many other posters in Civic Square on Saturday 3rd August. Printed poster announcements will be sent to all schools. If you could help publicity by having the advertisements placed in shop windows, or require more information about this competition, please contact the Publicity Officer, Mr. A.J. Brand, 11 Dyson Street, Lyneham.

The following is a comment by Dr. A. Costin.

The decision of New South Wales Cabinet not to oppose the engineering works of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority in the Kosciusko Primitive Area comes as a surprise and a disappointment to national park supporters. For the Primitive Area issue is important not only in the specific case of Kosciusko, the largest of Australia's national parks, but also as a precedent for most other parks throughout the Commonwealth.

It now seems certain that parts of the unique Kosciusko landscape, which has no substitute on the mainland, will be modified by hydro-electric developments for which there are other cheaper alternatives. This is unfortunate news. But there have also been gains, both as actual achievements and as lessons for the future, and it is profitable to look at some of these.

The S. M. H. E. A. has promised to exercise all possible care in the rehabilitation of disturbed areas and is prepared to consider replacing sections of the pipe-line aqueducts with shorter tunnels. It has also offered to assist in obtaining scientific data from sites which will be effectively destroyed.

More importantly, a large section of the public and many politicians both in State and Federal spheres have heard the phrase "primitive area" for the first time. It is being realised that the management of unique and outstanding landscapes essentially in their primeval condition is in some circumstances the best possible type of land use on account of their scenic, scientific, cultural and inspirational values. In its report to the President and Congress in 1962, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Committee of the United States endorsed the "Preservation of scenic areas, natural wonders, primitive areas, and historic sites of national significance" and urged as its first recommendation that Federal Government should accept this role. In Australia these matters should also be Federal responsibilities and in the light of Kosciusko we should examine how such objectives might be achieved.

The success of the engineer's case in the Primitive Area controversy has emphasised the importance of good "public relations" and sound organisation. Ready access to all

important newspapers and direct ministerial representation at the Federal level have ensured wide and favourable publicity for the S. M. H. E. A. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent in "selling" the Snowy Mountains Scheme to the Australian taxpayer and in convincing him that his money is being spent wisely and well. The claim that engineering works in the Primitive Area are essential therefore finds ready acceptance, despite considered scientific statements by the Australian Academy of Science and unbiased economic appraisal in last issue of the Current Affairs Bulletin that the continuation of the Upper Snowy works may not be in the best national interests.

By contrast, national park opinion is poorly organised and has no ministerial representation either in New South Wales or in the A. C. T. In the Primitive Area controversy only a small fraction of the letters sent to the newspapers was published and none of the editorials which appeared adequately represented the Primitive Area case. For example, the fact that the Primitive Area was proposed as early as 1946, years before the advent of the S. M. H. E. A., was never given publicity, and the probability that thermal power could be produced for half the cost of Snowy power has been ignored.

Better organisation of national parks opinion, sound national parks legislation, and full ministerial representation at State and Federal level should be prime objectives of National Park Associations throughout Australia and in particular of our A. C. T. Branch.

The various branches of the National Parks Association, the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, and other naturalist organisations co-operate on many issues. But to a considerable extent these groups work independently of each other on matters of national concern as well as on their more local problems. Regular meetings among group representatives should be held to formulate national objectives, and a federal executive should be appointed to publicize and work for these aims through the press, radio, television and special publications as required.

Among the main objectives of the executive group would be the enactment of national parks legislation in those states including the A. C. T. which at present possess none, and the standardization of legislation throughout the Commonwealth according to modern standards. Such legislation would protect national parks to the extent that only another act of parliament or an amendment to an act could admit non-conforming uses.

Full ministerial representation should be sought so that the use of land for national parks and nature reserves is given the same status as the more conventional uses such as agriculture, grazing, forestry and engineering development. In this move we should be more far-sighted than the other main users of land by working also for the establishment of a Bureau of Natural Resources with the responsibilities of evaluating land use on a national basis and defining priorities in specific regions.

Unless we can achieve these objectives the Kosciusko experience will be repeated and national parks will remain the Cinderellas of land use.

A Proposal for a National Park in the A. C. T.

After several months of exploratory work in the Gudgenby Kelly area collecting evidence and preparing maps and information, the proposal for a National Park in this area was finally collated and presented to the Minister for the Interior early in June.

The boundary of the suggested area commencing at Mt. Kelly, follows the Cotter catchment area boundary, towards Cotter Gap, turns and encompasses Mt. Orroral at approx. 4,000 ft., cuts across Rendezvous Crk. to Middle Ck. past Yankee Hat at approx. 3,500 ft. to Bogong Ck. then in a straight line past Gudgenby across Naas Ck. and over Sentry Box Hill to the A. C. T. /N. S. W. Border. The border is then followed back to Mt. Kelly. The initial area proposed includes only leasehold property.

One of the first tasks was to define what we understand by the term "National Park" as there is some diversity in the definitions and interpretations of the term in different places and different countries. The definitions we are using for our purpose are as follows:-

The expression "National Park" shall denote an area
 a) placed under public control, the boundaries of which shall not be altered nor any portion be capable of alienation except by the competent legislative authority.

- b) Set aside for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public as far as this is compatible with the propagation and protection, of wild animals and wild vegetation and the preservation of objects of aesthetic geological, prehistoric, historic, archaeological or other scientific interests.
- c) in which the hunting, killing or capturing of fauna and the destruction or collection of flora are prohibited except under the control of the park authorities and then only for bona fide scientific purposes.

The above definition is based on one given in the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in the 31st Session (1961).

The Summary provided as a preface to the text of the proposal outlines the points raised in the text and is given in full below:

The term "National Park" is defined (as distinct from municipal reserves or formal parks). World opinions of the need for and value of National Parks are given. The history and growth of the concept are touched upon from the creation of the first national park in the U.S.A. in 1872 to the prestige and importance of the national parks of the present day.

The pressing need for a national park in the A. C. T. is pointed out in the light of the expanding population, the present inadequacy of locally available reserves, and the distance of even the nearest reserves in N. S. W. A proposal is made for the creation of a national park of approx. 36 sq. miles among the mountains in the south of the A. C. T. near Gudgenby and about 40 miles from Canberra.

As the creation of a National Park would entail legislation to ensure the protection, administration, maintenance and management of the area, these aspects are treated in some detail. The policies and expenditure of some of the states are set out for guidance and the view put forward that the park could be developed gradually to avoid the imposition of a heavy financial strain. It is pointed out that the financing of a national park is a government responsibility and that a high standard in the facilities is a basic requirement.

The scenic beauty and the natural history of the proposed area are outlined and attention is drawn to the aesthetic and scientific values. Notes are provided on the birds, mammals, plants, fresh-water invertebrates, entomology and geology. The text of the proposal was supported with maps, appendices covering natural history and photographs. A copy of the full proposal will be available at meetings for inspection by members.

Miss J. Henry
Convenor-National Park Proposal Committee

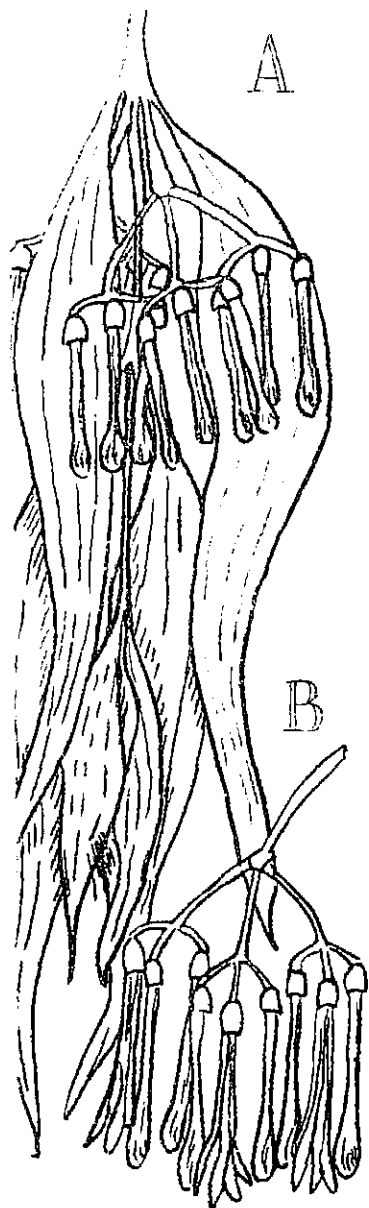
EYES OR NO EYES? No. 2

In the A. C. T. there are two common species of mistletoe growing on gumtrees. Both are species of the genus Amyema (A-MY-E-MA) though in some books they are placed in the genus Loranthus. Both have leaves shaped like those of the host tree but the leaves are opposite instead of alternate on the stems.

If you look closely you will find that the flowers (or buds) in the axillary clusters are arranged in three's. In one kind the central flower of each set of three has no stalk. This one is called Amyema pendulus (see sketch A). It was called "pendulus" because of the way the stems and the leaves hang down but as the second kind grows the same way this character does not help to separate them. In the second kind all the three flowers in each group have little stalks. This species is called Amyema miquelii (see sketch B.)

Sometimes plants flower out of season but even if you cannot find fully grown flowers you will be able to see the different character while only buds are present.

A third kind of mistletoe grows on she-oaks. has narrow leaves like thick needles and the flowers are small and covered with grey hairs. After the petals fall off the fruit containing the seed becomes fleshy and sticky. When ripe it may become stuck to the beak or feet of birds that feed in mistletoe and in this way be carried to another tree. If you bring some ripe seed home you will find it starts to grow straight away and does not need to wait until it is wet. So when a bird rubs one off on to a branch it starts to send a root into the bark quite quickly.



MEETINGS

JUNE

Date : 25th June at 8' o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : Guest Speaker: Dr. Jacobs, Director-General
 of the Forestry and Timber Bureau.
 Dr. Jacobs will speak about National Parks
 in Africa and U. S. A. and illustrate with slides.
 Bring along your friends to this interesting meeting.

JULY

Date : 23rd July at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 This is the most important meeting of the year.
 Make every effort to attend, thus showing support
 of the association's endeavours in the field of
 conservation.

OUTINGS

8.
JUNE

Date : 30th. June - Sunday

Place : Middle Creek Aboriginal drawings and Yankee Hat

Meeting : Tharwa at Naas Road turn off at 9 o'clock

Feature : This trip will allow members to see something of the proposed National Park Area. The walk to the aboriginal drawings is approx. 2 miles of easy walking in open country. Take your own drinking water and a packed lunch. The energetic walkers will be able to climb Yankee Hat (approx. 1,700 ft.) and obtain views over the greater part of the proposed park area. There are approx. 57 species of birds in the 500 ft. below the tree line.

JULY

Date : 28th. July - Sunday

Place : Westbourne Woods and Uriarra Crossing

Meeting : At 10 o'clock in front of the Forestry School, Yarralumla.

Feature : We will be led by a member of the Forestry and Timber Bureau to view the fine selection of trees in Westbourne Woods, an area of over 200 acres which was once open to the public but is now the Royal Canberra Golf Course. We will see a range of conifers, overseas hardwoods, eucalypts and deciduous trees. If the weather is unpleasant this section of the outing will be postponed until later in the year. At 12.30 we will proceed to Uriarra Crossing for a campfire lunch.
