

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

Vol. 1 No. 3 August - September 1963 Annual Subscription 6/-  
Per copy 1/-

President : Dr. R. Story, 104 Buxton St., Deakin.  
Treasurer : Mr. I. Baird, 9 Canterbury Cresc. Deakin.  
Secretary : Mrs. A. J. Brand, Box 457 P.O. Canberra City.

As an association we have now entered into a new year. At the annual general meeting held in July, Dr. Robert Story became President; Miss Julie Henry, Vice-President; Mrs. Fiona Brand, Secretary; Miss Margaret Hamilton, Asst. Secretary; Mr. I. Baird, Treasurer. The committee members are Mr. A. Wood, Mr. E. Slater, Mr. R. Schodde, Mr. I. Forsythe, Mr. K. Green, and Mr. A. Brand. The outings committee members are Dr. N. Burbidge, Mr. A. Bagnall, Mr. R. Schodde, Mr. McLean and Mr. A. Brand.

Dr. Burbidge and Mr. R. Tait did not seek re-election. Thanks were expressed for their untiring work for the association. Dr. Burbidge will still be active on the committee as Past-President, and Mr. Tait will always be a very keen interested member.

Subscription rates were discussed and the following clauses were passed:-

Fees paid by members shall include a general subscription and also a fee of 6/- per annum for bi-monthly issues of the Bulletin as follows:-

Adults- £1-0-0 (including 6/- Bulletin fee)

Family- £1-10-0 (including 6/- for single copy of bulletin)

Would all members please note that the annual subscription for 1963-64 is now due. The treasurer would appreciate prompt payment.

Wildflower Show.

This association will have a display at this show (7th. Sept.) which is held in the Methodist Memorial Church Hall, Forrest.

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The display will consist of slides of native wildflowers, hand coloured photographs and posters. Many members will be needed to supervise this exhibit. If you are willing to help, please advise the Publicity Officer, the President or the Secretary.

The Poster Competition.

Report by the Publicity Officer.

The poster competition is now over after six weeks of preparation, publicising, judging and exhibiting. The six prizewinners (Senior Section, - Betty Bearce, Ann Robinson; Primary Section - Jane Spencer, Rhonda Gocher; Junior Section - Geoffrey Hammond, Edward Deveson.) have received their book prizes, presented by Dr. Burbidge on Channel 7 T.V. Childrens Session, and the posters have been exhibited in Cheshires window and in Civic Square.

What, you may ask, is the value of all this?

The aim behind this latest venture of our Association was to bring to the notice of Canberra children and adults the urgent need to protect Native Plants, Animals and Birds.

I feel that to some extent we have succeeded, especially with the children themselves who drew the posters. Our aim was not to get perfect works of art but a thoughtful appreciation of the need for protection. Here are some of the messages on the posters, which I'm sure you'll agree are very heartening.

"Protect our Heritage"

"They are Aussies, Let us Aussies protect them"

"Please leave birds nests alone because they want families like us"

"Don't destroy, you cannot repair"

"Let them live"

"Protect and enjoy Australia and its wildlife"

"Protect us all"

We're Citizens too

And we need special help

From you"

Anti-Shooting Slogans were:-

"Shoot them and you will hurt your fellow Australians"

"Watch us closely but not through the sights of a gun"

"Shoot us with a camera not a gun"

"Snap us don't shoot us"

"If we all kill one, there will be none left"

The Koala and Kangaroo were very popular as symbols. In one poster a Koala says -

"Let me eat my breakfast in peace"

"Don't you want me to stay here"

"He has a life to lead, don't shorten it"

If only we could get such attitudes of mind in all people, we would have little to worry about as regards the future of our native wildlife.

Thanks are due to all members who helped in the collecting of the posters from the schools (Mr. Baird, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Story, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Green, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Hurrell); those who helped at the exhibition of posters in Civic Square (Miss Cox, Miss Henry, Mr. Judge, Mr. Slater, Dr. Story, Mr. Forsythe, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. Tait), Dr. Burbidge, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Clough for judging the posters, and Channel 7 and the Canberra Times for valuable publicity. Hundreds of people visited the exhibition at Civic Square and thanks go to the Artists' Society for the loan of their stands.

I hope this association makes this competition an annual event amongst Canberra schoolchildren as its popular appeal was proved by the result of 664 posters being entered.

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#### Change of Constitution.

Notice is given of a change of constitution to be put to the September monthly meeting.

The clause "Committee" changed to read -

"The committee shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and six committee members. In addition, the immediate Past-President shall be ex-officio a member of the committee.

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A quorum for a committee meeting shall consist of seven members.

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Remember - Subscriptions for 1963-64 are now due.

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N. P. A. of the A. C. T.

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#### NATURE RESERVES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The following information may be of interest to members as the Northern Territory is under the control of the Federal Government, which also controls the A.C.T.

1. Area for preservation of Native Flora, Alice Springs, 12 acres.
2. National Park, Simpsons Gap, 106 acres.
3. National Park, Ayres Rock and Mt. Olga, 487 sq. miles.
4. Flora Reserve, Alice Springs, 27 acres.
5. Forest Reserve Sections 67, 70, 71, Hd. of Bagot, 445 acres.
6. Forest Reserve Sections 278, 279, 280 and 281 Hd. of Bagot  
1,275 acres.
7. National Park, Devils Marbles, 4,519 acres.
8. Scenic Reserve, Alice Springs, 27 acres.
9. Native Flora and Fauna Reserve, Coburg Peninsular, 740 sq. miles.
10. National Park, Katherine Gorge, 56,069 acres.

#### Proposed Reserves not yet gazetted.

Scenic Reserve, Corroboree Rock, 18 acres.

Scenic Reserve, Green Valley, 1,239 acres.

Flora and Fauna Reserve, Finke River, 150 sq. miles.

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#### THE NATIONAL PARK PROJECT IN THAILAND.

Taken from "Conservation News from Thailand" a quarterly publication of the Association for the Conservation of Wild Life of Thailand, June 1961.

"For many years, and through the lives of many governments the Niyom Phrai Association had campaigned for the establishment of National Parks in Thailand. The draft of the National Park Law was finished in 1960 and accepted in principle by the National Assembly in January 5th (1961). A committee appointed by the assembly has been formed to consider the draft in detail before it is made law. The Forestry Department with the help of the Association had listed 16 areas to be set aside as National Parks. Some have great scenic beauty, others are rich in the unique native flora. Some are large, some small, and they are well distributed throughout the country.

Not all people understand what a National Park is. Some people think that is like an oversize flower garden and the first thing to do is to clear all the natural forest and grow exotic flowering plants.

build up a big first class hotel with a dance hall, golf course, play grounds and even night clubs and casino.

The worst obstruction for the progress of our National Parks is the greedy land grab of some people who want to possess those scenic areas as their own, and it is much feared that the last piece of such grounds would be destroyed to serve their selfishness in the near future.

The problem of setting up National Parks has already passed the "why?" and "where?" stages and now comes the important "how?" question. How to keep the fine natural beauty in its original primitive state forever?"

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Important Don'ts for National Parks: - a few statements from Dr. George Ruhle's (a national park expert of the International Union for Conservation of Nature) lecture in Thailand.

1. Don't overlook the modifier "National". National Parks are spacious areas in essentially primeval state that are the very best examples of scenic, scientific, educational and inspirational grandeur that you have in your country. They must be worthy of commitment to national care.
2. Don't confuse National Parks with other types of areas each of which have their own special usage and purposes.
3. Don't debase your parks with cheap improper uses. Don't allow non-conforming uses to creep into your National Parks. Among such are hunting, logging, mining, grazing and gathering forest products including down timber and fuel. National Parks should not be appropriated for military usage, should not introduce attractions that belong to fairs, zoos and amusement parks. Don't overdevelop. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and the United States National Park Service are eager to help in developing plans and in training planners as well as administrators and technicians for National Parks.
4. Don't be discouraged! Don't give up! Infinite patience is required. Any great endeavour is always confounded by men of little stature whose aim is not high. Getting people, any people, to understand and appreciate the values of National Parks is a long slow process, with little day-by-day progress. There will always be disappointments and heartaches, but the general progress should ever be forward.

PLANT NOTES - by Dr. N. Burbidge.EYES OR NO EYES. No. 3

Now that Spring is nearly here the bush flowers are beginning to appear. Among the first is "Early Nancy" (Anquillaria dioica) which is shown in the figure. The plants are usually quite small and only 2 - 4 inches high. The pale green leaves have broad bases that are wrapped around the erect stem. The flowers are of



two kinds, only one kind forming on each plant.

The plant shown on the left in the figure has no stamens and the centre is filled by a dark purple ovary that may later contain seeds. In the plant on the right there are stamens but only a tiny ovary which does not grow any larger. In both kinds the petals have a dark purple stripe across the lower half and apart from this they are usually white though some pinkish flowers may be found.

Early Nancy likes places that do not get too dry

in summer. The plants will be found growing thickly on hollows in pasture land, on grassy banks of creeks and in shady places among the trees but it usually likes plenty of sunlight when it is flowering. It is very common around Canberra and may be found on the lower slopes of Black Mountain, on grassy slopes near the Cotter and many other places.

MEETINGS.AUGUST

Date : Tuesday, 27th. August at 8 o'clock.

Place : Institute of Anatomy.

Feature : Films

1. Mt. Ranier National Park (U.S.A.)  
A beautiful colour film showing the scenic splendour of this National Park and describing the varied activities carried out in the park. Rangers are responsible for the preservation of the park and of those who seek adventures outdoors.
2. Jasper National Park.  
A description of the world famous Jasper National Park in Canada.

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SEPTEMBER

Date : 24th. September at 8 o'clock.

Place : Institute of Anatomy.

Feature : An illustrated address by Dr. R. Johnstone  
"The U.S.A. National Park Service".  
Dr. Johnstone has worked in a National Park of U.S.A. and has studied the administration of National Parks.

Conservation Thought.

"The need to preserve natural beauty is not merely a question of preserving pleasing grounds for masses of people from the town. It is also a matter of preserving a main source of spiritual well-being and inspiration." (Trevelyan)

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### OUTINGS.

#### AUGUST

Date : Sunday 25th. August.  
Place : Gibraltar Falls, Tidbinbilla.  
Meeting : Gibraltar Creek bridge on road between Tharwa and Tidbinbilla (travel via Tharwa or via Paddy's River) at 10 a.m.  
Feature : This is an area which this association has proposed as a scenic reserve. It may be possible to drive part of the way up the creek but otherwise there will be a 4 mile walk up to the falls. Bring a cut lunch. Wildflowers should be blooming at this time of the year. Leader. Dr. N. Burbidge.

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#### SEPTEMBER

Date : Sunday 22nd. September (note this is the 4th not the last Sunday).  
Place : Queanbeyan River for the study of aquatic freshwater Biology. This should be of special interest to children. Leader. Dr. Weatherly.

Information as to the meeting place and time will be given at the August meeting and outing or by contacting the President or Miss Burbidge.

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Notice of an extra outing during the October long weekend (5th., 6th., 7th.) This is a visit to the mallee fowl reserve Griffith (N.S.W.) If the party is no bigger than 30, all should have a chance of seeing the birds at work. If more people attend we shall have to draw for places in the hides, for the number of hides and mounds is limited. To avoid chaos we shall also ask you to submit yourselves to the most strict organization and discipline in the reserve. The visit will entail a drive of about 6 hours (to Griffith) timed for arrival at the reserve early Saturday morning. Bring water as there is none available. Also needed, binoculars, compass, and fly repellent. Camp will be outside the reserve. Members who intend to come are asked to inform the Secretary by the end of August, and details of the arrangements will then be given to you.

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