



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

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE
A. C. T.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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

Our association's bi-monthly bulletin has a further addition to its "New Look" - a cover design. Our thanks go to Mr. Kelvin Cameron of Sydney for producing it for us. This cover design was used on the pamphlet which was distributed to interested people who viewed the association's exhibit at the recent Wildflower Festival. This pamphlet presents the national parks ideal and this association's aims and activities. We propose to give such a pamphlet to prospective members so please let the Secretary know of any people who you think would be interested.

The Treasurer reports that subscription renewals are coming to hand at a steady rate and wishes to thank members for this prompt response. If you have not renewed your subscriptions as yet please do not forget to do so. If this association is to fulfil its aims it needs the support of as many people as possible.

Activities

Please note that there are 3 outings for October-November. We are repeating the trip to Gibraltar Falls, hoping that there will be fine weather this time. As well as the two 1 day outings, a weekend bushwalk will be organized for those members interested. This will entail carrying a pack for an overnight stop. The distances walked will be approx. 20 miles through sandstone country which produces beautiful wildflowers. The association had two excellent activities in the month of September. The outing to Burra Creek was held in perfect weather. Dr. Weatherly is to be thanked for planning and organizing the interesting activities. Both children and adults found the discovery of creatures in the creek and examining them under microscopes thoroughly rewarding and fascinating.

The members who attended the October meeting heard a really excellent address given by Dr. Johnson on the "U. S. A. Parks Service". A very clear picture was drawn of activities in U. S. A. national parks, their histories, administration and problems when 80 million people visit them each year.

For the November meeting Mr. H. Stanley has kindly 3.
consented to travel to Canberra from Sydney to address our
meeting. All members are requested to attend this meeting
to hear Mr. Stanley, the Administrator of Parks and Reserves
in N. S. W., speak about the First World Conference on State
Parks held in the U. S. A. during 1962.

Ayres Rock. No doubt members have noted with alarm the
report that a "chair lift" is to be built to the summit of Ayres
Rock. A letter of protest has been written on your behalf to
the Dept. of Territories and The Minister for Territories,
Mr. Hasluck. The N. T. Reserves Board is proposing this
"addition" to the rock. If you feel that this will disfigure one of
the natural wonders of Australia - write to the Chairman of the
Reserves Board of the Northern Territory voicing your protest.
Christmas Cards.

As the stores remind us - Christmas is only ten weeks away.
This year the association will have on sale very attractive
Christmas Cards produced by the N. S. W. N. P. A. with this
association's name and address on the back. By purchasing
these cards you will be placing in many homes the idea of
national parks and will support financially this association. The
cards are 1/- each, with a choice of scenes taken in four of
N. S. W. national parks or reserves. The cards will be on sale
at the next 2 meetings. Fill in the enclosed form and send with
money to the Secretary.

Have You Read This?

"Wildlife" - a new quarterly publication printed by the Jacaranda
Press (41 Military Road, Neutral Bay, N. S. W.). The editor is
the well known writer Judith Wright and contains excellent
articles and photographs showing Australian wildlife and stress-
ing conservation. Each copy costs 4/- and is on sale in
Canberra bookstalls. If this publication receives the support
it deserves and becomes widely read, it will do a great
service for wildlife conservation.

PLANT ECOLOGY - WORLD-WIDE AND LOCAL

Plant ecology is the study of plants in relation to the environ-
ment, or, in every-day language, what plants are in a certain
place and why. A clue to the basic principles of this science is

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perhaps best obtained from a world atlas, which will show a fairly close relation between world vegetation and climate. In spite of irregularities and although (particularly in Europe) much of the original vegetation has been destroyed, an underlying latitudinal arrangement is discernible. In equatorial Africa, for example, the vegetation is largely rainforest. This forest is bound up with a zone of heavy rainfall, for rain in the tropics tends to follow the vertical rays of the sun, and since the equator is in the middle of the north-south swing the lands there are rainy throughout the year. Away from the equator the uniformity lessens and the country becomes drier - this thins the trees to an open woodland and allows the grasses in, and except for the lifeless zone of the Sahara they dominate the vegetation up to the Mediterranean region until increasing rainfall allows the tree to become dominant again. Towards the pole the environment becomes drier for a second time, not directly but indirectly, for where the groundwater is in the form of ice (as it is for most of the year near the arctic circle) it is not available to plants. The trees accordingly become sparse and stunted, forming a woodland rather than a forest, and as conditions become increasingly severe they gradually give way to the herbs, shrublets, and mosses of the tundra.

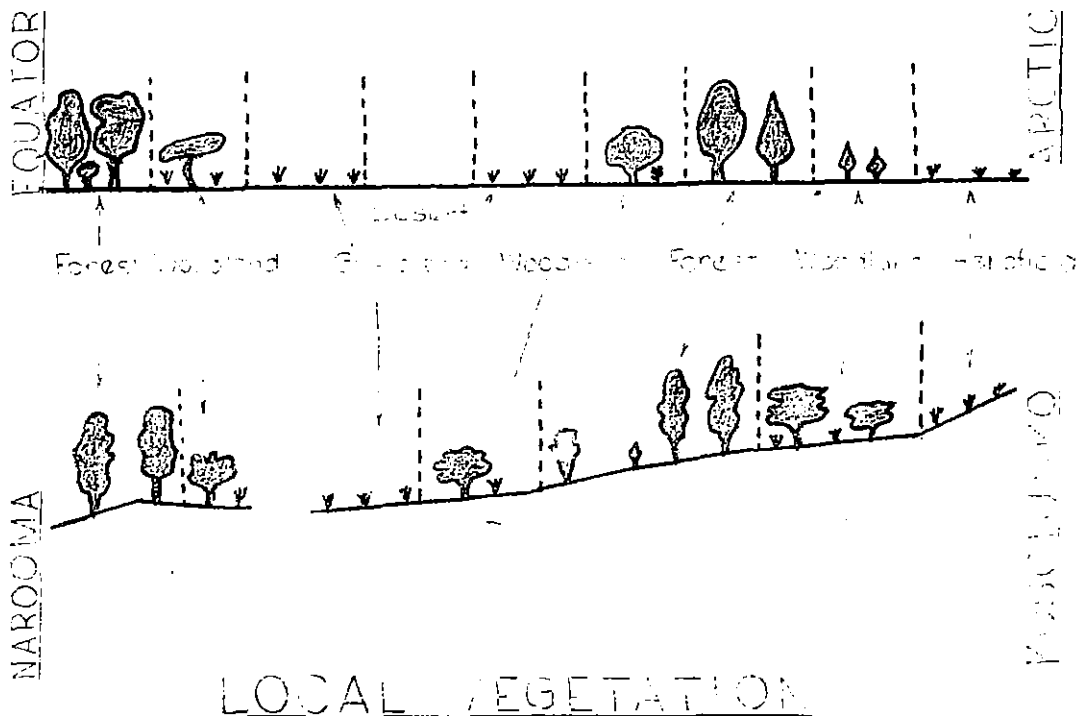
This world-wide relationship of climate and vegetation is reflected on a small regional scale in and around the A. C. T., as shown in the diagram of the Monaro region which is based on the work of Dr. A. B. Costin. Here the heavy rain comes not from the equator but from the sea, and the cold not from the polar regions but from high altitudes. The alpine herbfield on the top of Kosciusko is adapted to the prolonged freezing of the soil in winter and is the equivalent of the arctic tundra. Below this is the sub-alpine woodland of Eucalyptus niphophila (snow gum) corresponding to the stunted conifer woodland of the arctic. The forest comes next, wet and dry sclerophyll

forest on Kosciusko, conifers and broad-leafed forest in Europe. Towards the foot of Kosciusko the trees gradually thin out as they approach the rain-shadow and accompanying grassland of the tableland. This corresponds to the thinning of the Mediterranean woodland near the rain-shadow of the north African grassland.

There is nothing in this part of New South Wales to correspond to the Sahara, but apart from this the comparison continues to hold good, and the continental grassland which gives way first to woodland and eventually to the equatorial rainforest has a close counterpart towards the coast of New South Wales.

Dr. R. Story

CONTINENTAL VEGETATION

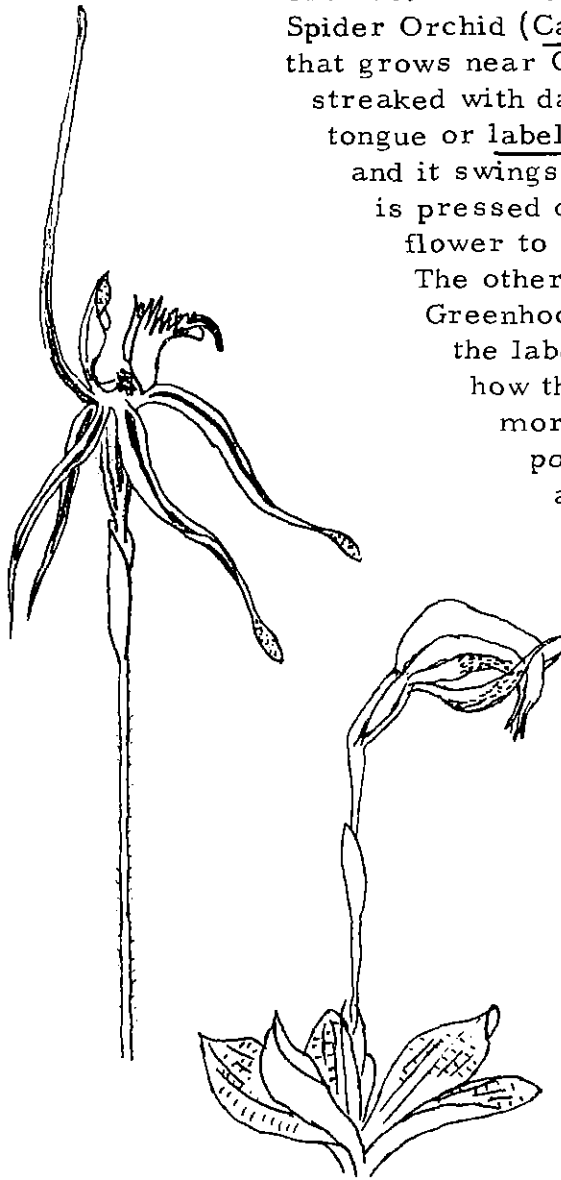


EYES OR NO EYES - NO. 4

This time I am showing you two common orchids. The one with the long petals is the Spider Orchid (Caladenia dilatata) and the one that grows near Canberra has green flowers streaked with dark red. In these orchids the tongue or labellum has a very narrow base and it swings up and down quite easily. It is pressed down when insects visit the flower to collect the pollen.

The other orchid shown in the Nodding Greenhood (Pterostylis nutans). In this the labellum is hidden inside. Note how the lateral "petals" or as they are more often called "sepals" have erect points. In some Greenhoods these are longer and very thin. In other species they hang down and in these ones the labellum may be sensitive so that when touched by an insect it flicks up and holds the insect inside the hood for some moments before it relaxes. REMEMBER Orchids are protected plants. Do not pick them. ALSO REMEMBER when orchids are picked with their leaves and stems the roots in the ground will die. This is one reason why orchids soon disappear from near towns. Lets try to keep our Canberra ones.

N. T. B.



MEETINGS

OCTOBER

Date : Tuesday 22nd. October at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : Guest Speaker. Mr. J. N. Jennings who is
 a member of the Canberra Spelaeological
 Society. Mr. Jennings will give an
 illustrated address entitled "Caving".

NOVEMBER

Date : Tuesday 26th. November at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : Guest Speaker.
Mr. H. Stanley, the Administrator of Parks
and Reserves, Department of Lands, N. S. W.
 Mr. Stanley was a representative at the First
 World Conference on State Parks held at
 Seattle U. S. A. in 1962. He will give us a first
 hand report on this Conference. It is
 important that all members hear about this
 Conference so don't fail to attend and bring
 other interested people.

Remember -

Your association meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.

OUTINGS

OCTOBER

- Date : Sunday 27th. October
 Place : The Big Hole - east of Captains Flat.
 Meeting : 10.30 at the swimming pool (main street)
 Captains Flat.
- Features : A drive of approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to Captains Flat
 (road in fairly good condition). We will lunch
 beside the Shoalhaven River where leaders
 will explain the geological and botanical feature
 of the sandstone area surrounding the Big Hole.
 We will then drive a short distance and walk
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the hole. We warn parents to keep
 the children with them as the hole "appears"
 suddenly and is 300 ft deep and 150 ft in
 diameter.

NOVEMBER

- Date : Sunday 24th. November
 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. We will drive
 part of the way up the creek and then walk 2
 miles up to the falls. Bring a packed lunch.
 Leader Dr. N. Burbidge.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Date : 30th. November - 1st. December
 (Weekend Walk of approx. 20 miles)
 Place : Corang River, Budawang Range.
 Meeting : For arrangements contact Miss M. Cox at
 November meeting or the President or Secretary.