



NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION
OF THE A.C.T.

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"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Monthly Meetings - 4th Tuesday of the month.

This edition of our bulletin covers the end of a year and the beginning of a new one. It is difficult to assess the value of our work in the conservation field during 1963, but we trust that some good has resulted. This association stated its views in the Kosciusko Primitive Area dispute and the spoilation of Ayres Rock controversy. We attempted to educate a small section of the general public in conservation by holding a poster competition and an exhibition at the wildflower festival. We submitted to the Minister for the Interior, a National Parks Proposal and a proposal for the Gibraltar Falls area to be reserved.

Outings have been very well attended but our monthly meetings only interest a few members. This is very dissappointing as we have had some excellent speakers, talking on subjects which should be of interst to members of a National Parks Association. We are a group with an aim to preserve areas of Australia in their native state for future generations. We need instruction in this so that we can inform others.

Why not make a New Years Resolution to try and attend the monthly general meetings as well as the outings?

A Reminder

As members of a conservation Association, remember we must set a good example to new members and outsiders.

3.

Remember we do not pick wild flowers or pull up plants. Admire, photograph, describe for identification but leave them where they belong.

There will be no meetings or outings in December - January but for the special outing on 1st - 2nd February and the ANZAAS meetings, see the back page.

As this is the time of the year when many people will be going into the bush at weekends and holidays to camp, here are a few notes which were given to members in 1961.

Camping and field trip etiquette.

1. Always leave gates as you find them. Make sure that a gate is closed after the party has passed through. Get through, not over, fences.
2. Don't carry waxed matches in forest areas when fire hazard is high.
3. Don't deliberately dislodge rocks on, or roll them over cliff edges; someone may be below. Treat cliff edges with caution at all times.
4. Never cut a green stick if a dead one will do.
5. Don't drink water if there is any doubt about it. Boil it first.
6. Don't wash upstream of where drinking water is being obtained.
7. Don't use someone else's fire without permission or invitation.
8. Always replenish the wood supply if you use any at recognized camping spots.
9. Burn, bash and bury all rubbish. Don't leave food scraps on a dead fire.
10. Where no toilet facilities are available, cover all refuse.
11. Clean a campsite before you depart. Leave it as tidy as you would wish to find it.
12. Always make sure your fire is OUT.
13. Always consider the feelings and comfort of the other

people; avoid making undue noise, particularly late at night or early in the morning.

14. When walking, keep to recognized tracks wherever possible. Don't damage made tracks by cutting corners.

Fires.

A small fire is easier to cook on than a large one, so keep yours within an approachable size. Apart from scorching the cooks, a large fire is much more likely to get out of control. A few general fire precautions are :-

1. Build in a recognized fireplace whenever possible.
2. If there is no made fireplace choose a clear space, preferably against strategically placed rocks.
3. Clear loose leaves and twigs well away from the fire - they encourage spreading.
4. Never light a fire against a stump or fallen tree.
5. Don't build under green shrubs or overhanging branches - it doesn't do green plants any good, and besides may lead to the fire spreading.
6. Rocks from watercourses are likely to explode when heated; this is spectacular but dangerous, so don't use them as backstops.
7. Don't pitch tents too near a fire; the sparks can burn holes. Likewise, don't light a fire too near tents. Keep fires well away from parked cars.
8. Don't leave a fire burning when out of camp.
9. Never vacate a camp without ensuring that the fire is completely dead.

Extinguish fires completely with water or earth or both.

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A happy Christmas and an active and progressive New Year to all members.

EYES OR NO EYES NO. 5

You will be able to find species of Pimelea in many places. Some are shrubs about one to three feet high, others are low growing and less than one foot high.

In most species the flowers are white. They are arranged in heads which are usually surrounded by four or more bracts. The bracts are like the leaves but usually larger or broader. Each flower has four petals but there are only two stamens. Most species have opposite leaves. You will find this is the case in the common species drawn in the figure (Pimelea linifolia) and in the low growing species which you will find on high slopes in the mountains.

One mountain species has large bracts which are longer than or as long as the flowers and which commonly turn reddish as they grow older. The plants of this species are shrubs to four feet high. It is Pimelea ligustrina.

A common name for Pimelea is "Rice Flower" possibly because the seeds inside the bracts look like grains of unhusked rice. The bark of the plants is very tough. It was used by the aborigines for making cords and fishing nets.

N. T. B.

ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR COUNTRY?

- Q. Why are Australians so careless of the beauty of their country?
- A. Certainly we are not as active as we should be to preserve or conserve the natural beauty of our landscape. Many people do not even LOOK at let alone THINK about what is around them. For them a highway is merely a series of interludes between petrol stations.
- Q. You mean they are content to live in ugly houses in ugly streets so why worry about making the countryside ugly too?
- A. That's about it. The first thing the "developers" do is to cut down all the trees. They never consider whether some might be left to beautify the settlement later. The road engineers think more of surface and gradient than of the kind of country the road is passing through. Neither group seems to include enough people with sufficient vision to want to make their work part of a greater one. You have only to compare a few roads through scenic areas in New South Wales - or in the A. C. T. - to see how in certain places the road has become part of the scene whereas in others it is merely a horrible scar bordered by carelessly felled trees, earth spill and spoiled views. Yet in no case is the latter type of road either more efficient or safer for the traveller than the former.
- Q. Well I quite agree that it is a shock to find my favourite bush tracks destroyed by over-enthusiastic drivers of bulldozers. Then again it is sad to drive through fine coastal forest only to come on horrible shambles of beach shacks or camping grounds poorly sited and surrounded by a litter of discarded tins, bottles and torn paper. But what can we do about this?
- A. Surely just to say "What can we do" is to admit defeat before we begin. Certainly in some places the real damage

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has already been done but there are still unspoiled areas we must fight to save. We should press for effective conservation of the best of the coast that remains unspoilt. Also, and this is important, we should give active support and encouragement to any community or local government projects aimed at maintaining high standards of development or care of the places opened up for public use.

Q. Isn't part of the problem due to the fact that people who spoil beauty spots and coastal resorts are passers through? They do not feel any sense of responsibility?

A. This is true and it means that it is quite wrong to talk about "they". It is more correct to say "we" because WE are the travelling public who visit for long or short periods all these places we are talking about. In other words WE have to maintain standards and WE are responsible for preventing damage

Q. But this brings us back to where we started. Why are we so careless?

A. Possibly one factor is that we cannot believe that there is not "plenty more". Another is that we tend to think it is all right "if we do it". Yet another is that we live in an age when there is a great tolerance of ugliness - in general behaviour and in the shapes of things we live by and with - and so we are indifferent to the destruction of beauty.

Q. But surely all ages have known both ugliness and beauty?

A. True, but the beautiful things have never been so common that we can ever afford to lose any of them. Unfortunately ugliness wins out over beauty all too often. Think how ready we are to leave litter, empty bottles, old papers and other rubbish near beauty spots, to throw it out of the car window or let it lie about when we move away from a camping site? Also we are too ready to tolerate such bad behaviour in other people. How often do we use the force of public opinion, or help to develop this force, to stop the

activities of the litterbugs?

Q. Why do people do such things?

A. Why indeed. We hope they do not behave this way in their own homes.

Q. Do you think it is a matter of education?

A. Some would say yes but I think it is not just education not to do these things but something more positive. In our whole community throughout Australia we need a greater sense of ownership and hence pride. We are proud of our homes, we give them endless care and attention both inside and out. We love to own beautiful houses. If visitors come we immediately start "tidying up" even if our friends can see nothing out of place. Surely we should feel the same about our country? We should feel deeply ashamed when it grows shabby and dirty and we should never let ourselves be grouped with those selfish or careless people who forget that Australia belongs to US and that we are proud of it.

N. T. B.

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NOTES ON ANZAAS CONFERENCE

The Conference will take place between 20th and 24th January 1964. Any interested member of the public may enrol for the Conference at a fee of £2.2.0. Enquiries about joining should be sent to the Secretary, ANZAAS, C/- C. S. I. R. O., Box 109, Canberra City. Our association will have a display of photographs in the Albert Hall, dealing with conservation and National Parks.

The following notes, based on the preliminary programme, list the items that might be of special interest to members of the National Parks Association.

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MONDAY (20th) :

Registration, which involves the collection of papers, programmes etc. , takes place during the morning.

4 p. m. Section D (Zoology) has a Symposium on "The Changing Australian Environment" with talks on evidence for climate changes.

8 p. m. Official Opening and Presidential Address by Sir Frederick White (Albert Hall).

TUESDAY (21st) :

9 a. m. Section F (Anthropology) Symposium on Aboriginal Art and Religion (continuing in afternoon)

Section M (Botany) Symposium on the Eucalyptus - Forest Habitat.

8 p. m. Special Lecture by Mr. J. Mulvaney on Archaeology between 1929 and 1964. (Section F)

WEDNESDAY (22nd) :

All day: Section D (Zoology) Symposium on the Changing Australian Fauna. Will include lecture by Mr. E. Riek, 11 a. m. on the effects of the Snowy Mountains Scheme on the freshwater fauna and one by Messrs. F. Ratcliffe and J Calaby at 2 p. m. on changes in status of birds and mammals.

2 p. m. Section J (Education, Psychology and Philosophy) has a Symposium on Behavioural Studies of Australian Marsupials.

Sections M (Botany) and P (Geography) have a Symposium on Aims and Methods of Biogeography.

8 p.m. Special lectures by Dr. P. Siple (U. S. Embassy) entitled "Man's First Winter at the Geographic South Pole".

THURSDAY (23rd) :

9 a.m. Section D (Zoology) has a Symposium concerned with various aspects of the conservation of the Australian Fauna. Contributors to the discussions will include Dr. M. F. Day, Mr. C. S. Christian and Dr. R. Carrick.

2 p.m. Section D (Zoology) will commence a Symposium on Animal Communication with papers on invertebrates - signs and signals used in insect communication and song differences in crickets. This Symposium will continue on Friday morning with papers on vertebrate animals.

8 p.m. Mr. Overall will speak on Planning the National Capital.

FRIDAY (24th) :

9 a.m. Section D Symposium (see above)

Section F (Anthropology) Symposium on the Stone Age in South East Asia and Australia.

Section K (Agriculture and Forestry) have a Symposium during which there will be lectures on the use of forested water catchments.

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As on previous occasions the press will cover Conference and there will be daily announcements regarding sessions. There are plans for the taping of a session each day by TV personnel. The tape will be edited and used in a daily TV show.

WEEKEND OUTING

- Date : 1st - 2nd February, 1964.
- Place : Mt. Franklin and surrounding countryside.
Staying in the Alpine Club Hut.
- Features : Viewing alpine vegetation, especially alpine flowers. Visiting Ginini Falls, Mt. Gingera and Brumby Flats. Saturday night campfire discussion, subject "Nature Conservation - Where do we fit in"?
- Details : Take the Mt. Franklin road past Uriarra arriving at the hut during Saturday morning to organize camp and have lunch. There are bunks for sleeping but bring own sleeping equipment, food and cooking and eating utensils. There will be two walks organized and repeated on the Sunday so that members may attend both.

If possible, please notify the Secretary of intention to attend. We hope that as many members as possible will attend this gathering.

PROPOSED OUTINGS FOR 1964. FEBRUARY TO MAY.

- February 23rd : Day trip to Mountain Creek (between Yass and Burrinjuck.)
- March 7th - 8th : Walking trip to Mount Morgan and Mt. Murray.
- March 22nd : Day trip to Fishing Gap, Tidbinbilla.
- April 25th - 26th : Weekend outing to Bungonia Gorge in conjunction with the N. S. W. N. P. A.
- May 3rd : Day trip to Flea Creek.

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

December - January