



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"

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Monthly Meetings - 4th Tuesday of the month

Editorial

With our Secretary and Publicity Officer on extended leave and our Assistant Secretary out of commission for personal reasons, the administrative side of Committee work has been a little more difficult than usual. We offer our best wishes to the three who had to relinquish their duties, and a welcome to the two who have since joined the Committee, namely, Miss Marie Sexton and Miss Meredith Clark.

Committee Affairs : March - April

A letter of congratulations has been sent to Mr. Anthony, the new Minister for the Interior.

The Minister for Supply has been asked whether the tracking station in the Orroral Valley will be placed on any part of the proposed National Park area.

The Association is supporting the Anti-litter campaign which is being organized by the National Council of Women.

Congratulations have been sent to Mrs. Temple-Watts on the acceptance and printing by the PMG Department of three stamp designs.

The National Capital Planning Committee has been asked what provision has been made for parks in and around Canberra.

The Canberra Times has been asked to agree in principle to publishing a regular feature on the native fauna and flora of the A. C. T., to be contributed by N. P. A. members and to be about half a column in length.

The Voorhoeve family has written from Holland expressing appreciation to the N. P. A. for the interest which it stimulated and the activities organized.

A letter has been written to the trustees of the Coastal Softwood Rain Forest Reserve on the north coast, expressing sympathy with their aims to keep the Reserve intact in the face of proposed mining activities, and asking how the N. P. A. could help.

General Interest:

Mr. Myron Sutton, of the Division of International Affairs of the U. S. A. National Park Service, visited Canberra on May 15th. Several members of our Association were able to meet him at the luncheon organized in his honour by the Australian- American Association. His mission was to publicize the American national parks (which he did extremely well with a talk and with slides projected on to a hotel table-cloth) and to put the experience of his Department at the disposal of any organisation which may need it. We have his address and goodwill.

We have asked our representative on the anti-litter campaign in Canberra to request that attention should be directed to the countryside of the A. C. T. as well as the urban area. Will you please support the campaign when it is launched?

The A. C. T. Council of Cultural Societies invited us to stage an exhibit at the opening of the Hughes Community Centre from 9 - 17 May. Mr. E. Slater and his helpers put on a display of photographs for the occasion.

4.

Mr. R. Earp, President of the National Parks Association of N. S. W., visited Canberra in May and contacted our Association. He was guest at one of our Committee meetings and spoke on the need for ultimate Commonwealth control of the national parks of Australia.

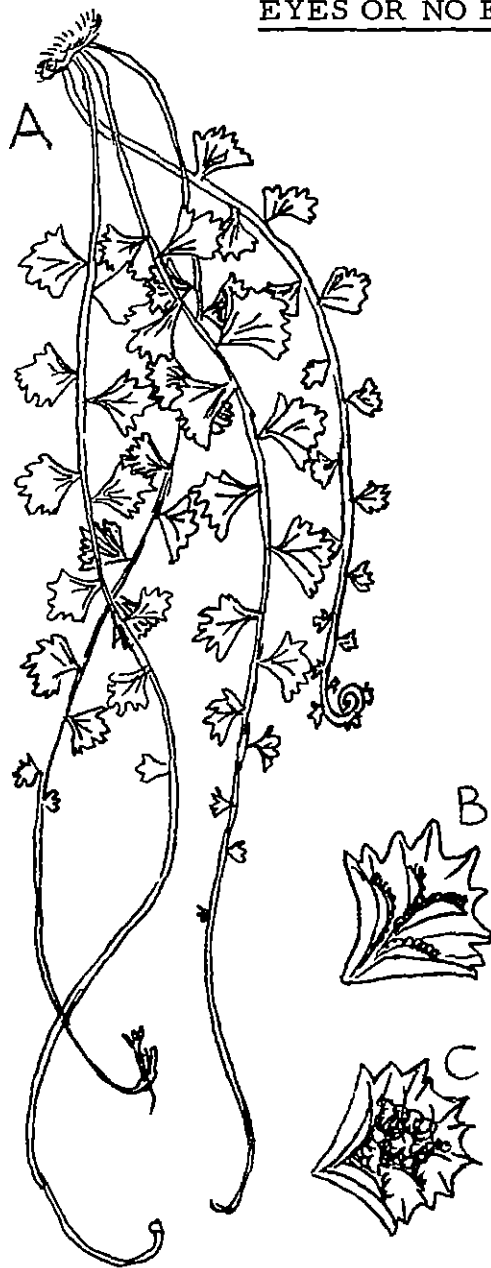
The Department of University Extension of the University of New England is organising a three-day or week-end residential school in January on wild life conservation. A similar one held in February was most successful in respect of lectures, discussions, and enthusiasm. We shall be receiving a copy of the proceedings for our library.

Amendment of Constitution.

Our title is now "The National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory, Incorporated." This means that we are a corporate body and not simply a collection of members, that we have recognized legal status, that we can sue and be sued, and that we can hold property. Our seal should in future be used for legalizing important documents and for adding weight to signatures of Committee members. So that the seal is not used improperly, it is necessary to add the following clause to the Constitution:-

"The seal of the Association shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of a resolution of the Committee and in the presence of two members of the Committee and these two members of the Committee shall sign every instrument to which the seal of the Association is so affixed."

This clause will be submitted to you at the Annual General Meeting.



If you look in the crevices of rocks or under their shade you will probably find the fern shown in the drawing. This is the Necklace Fern or Asplenium flabellifolium. The latin name means "the Asplenium with fan-shaped leaves" though it is really the pinnae or parts of the frond which are fan-shaped. The stalk of the frond is bare at the base and towards the end which is often hooked and may have a small bud capable of making a new fern plant. You can tell this plant is a fern because the young partly developed fronds are coiled at the tips. This character is found in all ferns.

Turn the frond over and you will find thick furry or dry dark brown masses of spores. When young these masses are partly covered by a narrow membrane (See B.) but when older the spore mass may cover most of the surface (See C.)

Necklace Fern is common among rocks in gullies and along creeks. Have you seen it?

N. T. B.

6.

MEETINGS

JUNE

Date : Tuesday, 23rd June 1964
Place : Institute of Anatomy at 8 o'clock
Feature : Mr. W. Arndt, of the Division of Land
Research and Regional Survey, CSIRO,
will give an illustrated talk on
"Arnhem Art and Dreamings".

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JULY

Date : Tuesday, 28th July 1964
Place : Institute of Anatomy at 8 o'clock
Feature : Annual General Meeting. As the business
usually takes up about an hour, there will
be, instead of the usual talk, an exhibition
to illustrate aspects of natural history in
the A. C. T., and the Association's activities.
It is hoped that members will take the
opportunity of examining the exhibits
informally and socially over a cup of tea
after the business side of the meeting has
been dealt with.

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PAST OUTINGS

The combined outing at Bungonia Gorge with the National
Parks Association of N. S. W. was attended by 20 members
from N. S. W. and 5 from the A. C. T. They spent Saturday
on the plateau, viewing the gorge from various look-outs
and visiting some of the limestone caves. That evening
the leader, Mr. H. Fairlie-C nningham, improvised a
screen and put up a first-class show of slides to illustrate
a talk on his caving activities. On the Sunday the party

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

June-July

climbed down to the foot of the gorge and followed the stream for a mile or so - a very steep climb and difficult going along a stream swollen from the recent rains. The members of the N. S. W. Association have their own bus and do more camping; probably because of this they seem better known to one another and to have more informal discussions than we do. Your President took the opportunity of talking to all who were there and of discussing the social and policy aspects of the two associations.

The Flea Creek outing was attended by 30 members. Cold and threatening weather at the rendezvous changed to calm and sunshine at Flea Creek itself, and the surroundings, in spite of being marred by litter of all description, were beautiful enough to make up for the complete absence of spawning trout. Thanks to the leader, Alan Bagnall, for an enjoyable day.

FUTURE OUTINGS

(Dogs on a leash please, and last car to shut gates.
Further information at the rendezvous).

JUNE

Date : Sunday, 28th. June 1964
Place : Gininderra Falls and Gorge
Leader : Dr. Nancy Burbidge
Features : Rendezvous - junction of Weetangera and
Coppin's Crossing roads, at 10 a.m. Before
lunch there will be an easy walk to the falls
and back; after lunch we have the choice of
climbing down into the gorge or of walking
along the top. No fires please.

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8. FUTURE OUTINGS (Contd)

JULY

Date : Sunday, 26th. July 1964
Place : Hurdle Creek, Mt. Tidbinbilla
Leader : Mr. S. J. Wilson
Features : Rendezvous - Cotter Kiosk or (to avoid congestion) 100 yards beyond, at 10 a. m.
We have the choice of strenuous or easy walks and should hear lyrebirds. We may see them too if the parties are small and quiet enough.

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LATE NEWS

The trustees of the Coastal Softwood Rain Forest Reserve on the north coast have sent us details of the Reserve, the proposed rutile mining, and its possible effects. The Reserve has a rich flora and fauna. Over 160 species of birds have been recorded, including emus, and the animals include wallabies, brush wallabies and paddymelons, with Koalas in the surroundings. Acting on this information, our members at the general meeting on 26th May 1964 passed the following resolution.

"That this meeting of the National Parks Association of the A. C. T., regarding as a matter of National concern the threatened destruction of wild life and of areas of scenic beauty through beach mining along the east coast of Australia, in particular with respect to the Iluka Reserve and the Myall Lakes, earnestly entreats the authorities concerned to review their policy and to conserve what remains of these irreplaceable areas as permanent assets to Australia".