



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

Vol. 2 No. 4 August-September 1964. Annual Subscription 6/-  
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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A. C. T. INC.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President : Dr. R. Story, 104 Buxton Street, Deakin,  
(office phone 90149).  
Treasurer : Mr. I. Baird, 9 Canterbury Cres., Deakin  
(phone 71644).  
Secretary : Miss M. Hamilton, P.O. Box 457, Canberra City,  
(office phone J0422 - 2898).

Monthly meetings - 4th Tuesday of the month

Committee

Besides the President, Treasurer and Secretary, the following members will be serving on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting in July 1965:-

Assistant Secretary : Miss M. Sexton, office phone 90301 - 37  
Vice President : Mr. A. L. G. McDonald, phone 91162  
Past President : Dr. Nancy Burbidge, office phone J0455 -309  
Publicity Officer : Mr. A. Brand, office phone J0422 - 2559  
Ordinary Committee members : Mrs A. Brand  
: Miss J. Henry, office phone 70411  
: Mrs G. Long, phone 71601  
: Mr. E. Slater, office phone 42328  
: Mr. R. Tait, office phone J0411  
: Mr. A. Wood, office phone 78231.

Outings Committee

The outings committee for the year is as follows :-

Convenor : Mr. D. MacLean, phone 44903  
Ordinary members :- Mr. K. Green  
: Dr. Nancy Burbidge  
: Mr. S. Judge  
: Mr. A.R. Bagnall ) subject to confirmation  
: Mr. A. Brand )

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THE KOSCIUSKO STATE PARK - ITS  
FACILITIES AND FUTURE

On Saturday 30th May a number of representatives from Canberra outdoor clubs interested in the Kosciusko State Park met the Superintendent of the Park, Mr. N. Gare, to discuss matters of Park administration of interest to the clubs. I was present and the following matters will I am sure be of interest to members.

The Visitors' Reception Centre referred to by Mr. H. Stanley at our meeting in November last was inspected. The building was well on the way to completion, and will be finished and set up in time for summer visitors. Provision has been made for a thetrette, an information centre, and a herbarium, and visitors will be encouraged to make use of these facilities. The Centre will also serve as headquarters for the Park Rangers.

Mr. Gare advised that the staff of the Ranger Service had recently been increased, and included the appointment of a Chief Ranger. Next summer Rangers will be available for visitor induction and conducted tours. They will be used mainly on Kosciusko and in the primitive area. It is also planned to make the services of Rangers available to week-end parties camping in the Park, and it is hoped that the outings committee will be able to take advantage of this.

It was learnt that a draft plan for the controlled development of the K. S. P. has been submitted to the Trust by the Superintendent, but the plan has not yet been considered in full. Until the plan is formalised by the Trust, details cannot be made available. The tardiness of the Trust in developing a formal plan and making it available for public information is to be very much regretted, and those present expressed this point of view.

The need to plan for further primitive or wilderness areas and the administration principles appropriate were discussed at some length. The point of view was expressed that a second area should be reserved, and the Superintendent indicated that the Trust would welcome and consider any suggestions put for-  
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ward. There is provision in the Act for primitive areas up to 1/10 of the total area of the Park, and the summit primitive area represents only 70 square miles of the 21000 square miles controlled by the Trust. The permanent protection of further areas is, I feel, imperative, for no positive policy on the abolition of grazing leases above 4500 ft has been announced. Leases above this height have been withdrawn since 1958, and the Snowy Mountains Authority compensates the Trust for half the value of these leases amounting to approximately £12000 each year, of which half must be spent on conservation work. What happens when the S. M. A. finishes the construction work and withdraws?

The question of maintenance of the existing huts in the Alpine areas and of further development of huts is under consideration. The Trust is waiting for the outcome of a court case in respect of ownership and compensation to lessees who have constructed huts. The Superintendent however is aware of the need to develop a positive policy before existing huts deteriorate beyond economic repair. A number of the clubs represented at the meeting have since made a submission direct to the Trust on this question.

Members visiting the Park in the coming summer should make a point of inspecting the new Visitors' Reception Centre and take every opportunity of contacting Rangers on the job in their new role.

J. Henry.

#### Past Outings

Gininderra Falls - A record number of members and friends (just over 100) spent 28th June at this pleasant and spectacular gorge. The Association had already visited it twice, but the outings committee, in view of possible difficulties in the future, decided to arrange a third visit while there was time. The party spent the forenoon on the high ground, and in the afternoon descended by a tricky but not dangerous scramble to the junction of this stream and the Murrumbidgee.

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New Chum's Road - The original plan was to visit Hurdle Creek and Mt. Tidbinbilla, but heavy rains made this too risky a venture. Mr. Wilson took the party instead to where he carries out a good deal of his bird-banding, a part in the mountains not far from Bull's Head. In spite of the snow the cold was not severe, for the day was calm and sunny. The Wilsons spread their nets and showed how the birds are caught, the bag including the rare pink robin, a Tasmanian species first recorded in the Brindabella range in 1962. The brown thornbill, olive whistler, yellow robin, and white-browed scrub wren represented the plebs.

#### Future outings

The outings committee usually arranges these for the last Sunday of the month. The convenor, Mr. D. MacLean (phone 44903) is willing to put those requiring transport in touch with those who have seats to spare. Please let him know if you can offer even one person a lift. Please also watch the Canberra Times on the day before the outing - for a variety of reasons it may be necessary to change the plans, and if so the changes will be advertised. It would be appreciated if the last car closed the gates, and if dogs were kept on a leash. The next three outings will be as follows:-

Date : Sunday, 30th August  
 Place : Swamp Creek  
 Leader : To be appointed  
 Feature : To meet at Uriarra homestead at 10.30. Walk includes falls and Uriarra crossing.

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Date : Sunday 27th September  
 Place : Lake George range  
 Leader : Mr. D. MacLean  
 Features: Meet at Belconnen turn-off on Barton Highway at 10.00. Trip includes Gundaroo, Sutton Plain, look-down to Lake George and water-birds at north end of lake.

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Date : Sunday 25th October  
Place : Botanic Gardens  
Leader : Dr. Nancy Burbidge  
Features : Meet at gates at 10.00. Tour of gardens followed  
by lunch on lakeside. Tour to Stromlo for those  
who want it. Guides to gardens provided by Director.

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#### Future Meetings

Date : Tuesday 25th August  
Place : Institute of Anatomy, 3 o'clock  
Feature : Mr. K. P. McGrath, of the Forestry and Timber  
Bureau, will give an illustrated talk on  
"Recreation and aesthetic values in productive  
forests."

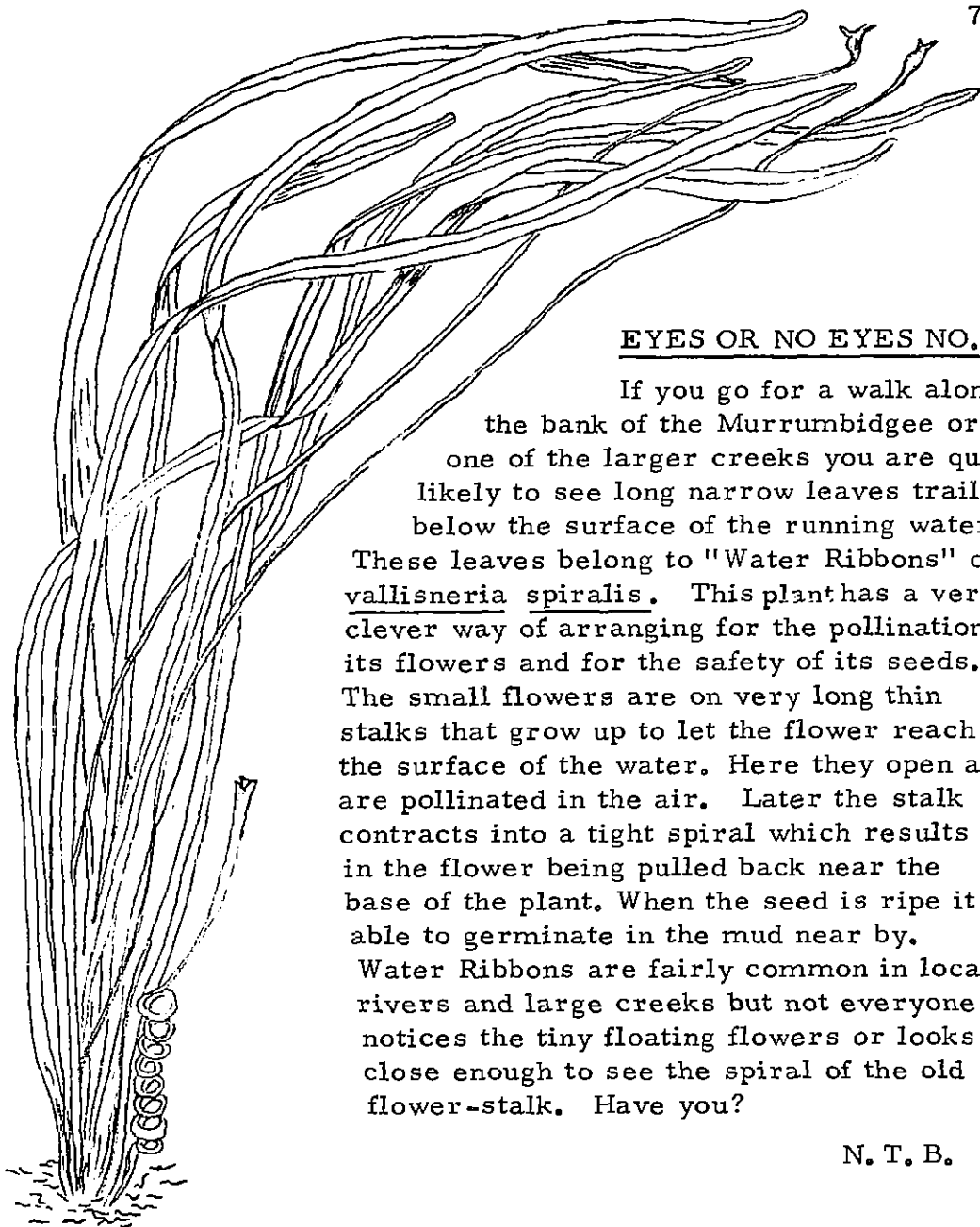
Date : Tuesday 22nd September  
Place : Institute of Anatomy, 8 o'clock  
Feature : Mr. B. U. Byles, of the Forestry Commission  
of N. S. W. and a member of the Kosciusko State  
Park Trust, will speak on "The need for  
collaboration between the park-using public and  
the Trust in the planning of the Kosciusko State Park."

#### Committee Affairs : May - July

An inter-club committee has drafted a proposal on policy to be  
submitted to the Kosciusko State Park Trust. While agreeing in  
principle with the views expressed, the committee has not  
supported the proposal because of its general tone.

The Canberra Times has agreed to the Committee's suggestion  
to publish a series of nature notes sponsored by our Association.  
In reply to a request from the Committee, the Minister for the  
Interior has agreed to meet a deputation to discuss the proposed  
Mt. Kelly national park, and he has given an assurance that the  
Orroral Valley Tracking Station will not infringe upon this area.  
The committee is looking into the A. C. T. flora and fauna  
protection ordinance to see how they may be improved.

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### EYES OR NO EYES NO. 9

If you go for a walk along the bank of the Murrumbidgee or one of the larger creeks you are quite likely to see long narrow leaves trailing below the surface of the running water. These leaves belong to "Water Ribbons" or vallisneria spiralis. This plant has a very clever way of arranging for the pollination of its flowers and for the safety of its seeds. The small flowers are on very long thin stalks that grow up to let the flower reach the surface of the water. Here they open and are pollinated in the air. Later the stalk contracts into a tight spiral which results in the flower being pulled back near the base of the plant. When the seed is ripe it is able to germinate in the mud near by. Water Ribbons are fairly common in local rivers and large creeks but not everyone notices the tiny floating flowers or looks close enough to see the spiral of the old flower-stalk. Have you?

N. T. B.

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Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union

Although branches of the Union have been in existence in all States and in New Zealand for many years, it was only in July this year that a branch was formed in the A. C. T. The aims of the union are the conservation and study of bird life and the publication of a quarterly journal, The Emu. The local branch, which has nearly 50 members, is to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the CSIRO lecture room. Beginners will be assisted by means of lectures, small outings, and co-operative field work. The President is Mr. Warren Hitchcock, the Secretary Mr. Graham Chapman, both of CSIRO.

Membership

As most clubs and societies do, we shall not in future issue receipts for subscriptions unless you ask for them. Instead, acknowledgements will be made through the Bulletin.

New members :- Anderson Miss J., Bambrick Mr. R.H., Barrow Miss M.D., Da Rin Dr. E., Falls Dr. J., Hall Mr. N., Koch-Emmery Prof. E.K., McIntyre Miss M., Mueller Miss M.A., Nix Mr. H.A., Tinning Miss D.

Renewals since last Bulletin :- Baird Miss L.H., Burbidge Dr. Nancy T., Grant Mr. I., Gilmour Mrs K., Holt Mrs J., Long Mrs G., MacLean Mr. D., Mackay Mr. I., McWilliam Mr. J.R., Moore Mr. C.W.E., Stone Miss B., Taysom Mr. A., Tillyard Mrs R.J., Watt Miss G.

Please address renewals or entry forms to the Treasurer, National Parks Association of the A. C. T. Inc., Box 457, Canberra City. The following is the form of application suggested :-

I wish to continue as a member of the N. P. A. of the A. C. T.  
become

Name ..... Mr. /Mrs/Miss/Family  
Subscription

Address .....

Telephone No. home ..... work .....

(Family £1/10/-; Adult £1/-/- each including 6/- for single copy of Bulletin; Junior 5/-, plus free copy of Bulletin on request).

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