



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

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Monthly meetings - 4th Tuesday of the month

Editorial:

The urgency for the setting aside now of large areas as National Parks is only fully realized when the problem of lack of public land is seen in other countries.

In Britain there is no "Crown Land" as we understand the term - as a National Parks Information Officer said in Monmouthshire "every inch of land in Britain is owned by some individual or company". To attempt to set aside land of scenic beauty under these conditions is extremely difficult.

The urge for people to get out of the cities and into the fresh air of the country seems to be universal. It is a pathetic sight in England to see people picnicking beside the busy highways and sunbaking on the grass verges because there is just nowhere else to go. If by chance the picnickers should come across an inviting looking tree-lined road or river it is more than likely barred with one or other of the signs "Private Road", "No Camping", "No Picnicking", "Keep Out".

Too many people think "that won't happen here - Australia is too vast" - but as population grows and more land is cultivated

National Parks Association of the A. C. T. Bulletin - Oct. Nov.

it will happen here if land is not set aside while it is still available.

In Canada, National Parks are part of the advertised tourist literature, used to entice people to holiday in this country, bringing it financial gain. Surely National Parks here could also be advertised as part of Australia's bid to capture the tourist trade. This argument would appeal to politicians, who always wish to know how the country will benefit economically from any proposal !

As a member of a National Parks Association, the cause you foster is a worthwhile one. Do all within your power to see that Australia always will have adequate open land for its citizens and land for its unique flora and fauna.

Association News:

1. Deputation to the Minister for the Interior - On Thursday September 25th the Minister for the Interior received a deputation from our Committee to discuss our proposal for a national park in the Mt. Kelly area. The interview was mentioned in The Australian next day, with a supporting photograph, and reported in some detail in The Canberra Times. The substance of Mr. Anthony's remarks was that the area would be reserved with this end in view, and would not be alienated except under very exceptional circumstances. He was in agreement with our views that a national park was needed in the A. C. T., but felt that as the Government was ~~not~~ involved with the Tidbinbilla Faunal Reserve and its attendant financial commitments, and as the Kelly area was in the meantime secure, the proposal would have to be shelved. He advised us to raise the matter again at some later date, and to keep interest alive in the public mind meanwhile.

2. Australian Conservation Foundation - On 21st August the Australian Conservation Foundation was established at a meeting held in Canberra under the chairmanship of Sir Warren

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McDonald. Its objects are to preserve adequate examples of our fauna and flora through providing assistance to approved projects and through stimulating interest in conservation. Five members of our Association are represented on the Foundation's Provisional Council - provisional because the Constitution has yet to be drawn up and approved. The Foundation has the support of the Commonwealth and of all the States. It marks a big advance in Australian conservation policy.

3. Membership - The following have paid their subscription for 1964-65 since the August list :- Mr & Mrs J. Webb*, Mr & Mrs A. L. G. McDonald, Miss Marie Sexton, Mr Andrew Wood, Mr J. Roy Tait, Mr Ian H. Baird, Miss Barbara McDonough, Mrs M. Greenhalgh, Mr I. R. McLeod, Mr S. Judge, Miss Tatiana Vshivkina, Mr & Mrs B. Hammond, Mr & Mrs J. Mitchell, Mr S. J. Wilson, Miss Kinnealy*, Miss H. Whittom, Sir Frederick & Lady White, Mr & Mrs Tredennick, Mr & Mrs R. J. Cameron, Mr J. A. Carnahan, Mr & Mrs B. P. Moore, Miss M. G. N. Morris, Dr H. Dong, Miss M. Cox, Mr & Mrs Brand, Miss Stella Rosengrave, Mr Allan Gourlay*, Mr Ian Wilson*, Mrs Joyce Monahan*, Mr & Mrs W. R. Adams, Miss Marian C. Lindley*, Mr & Mrs P. L. Shilling*, Miss Ann E. Todd*.
(* New members).

4. Christmas Cards - N. P. A. cards are on sale for 1/- each. Please send your order to the Secretary (including 1/- for postage) or purchase at the meetings. These beautiful cards are a good advertisement for the national parks movement.

The shooting of magpies - Again!

In July this year a shooting incident took place in which three magpies were shot from the Barton Highway near Gunghalin. The shooting was done from behind a parked car and at a low angle across the road, in fact the last shot which

was fired narrowly missed an oncoming car. The shooter then drove on leaving two magpies dead and one dying. They happened to be birds which had been marked for a CSIRO research project. The shooting was witnessed by members of the Association and reported to the CSIRO authorities, who called the police and laid a charge leading to the conviction and fining of the person concerned.

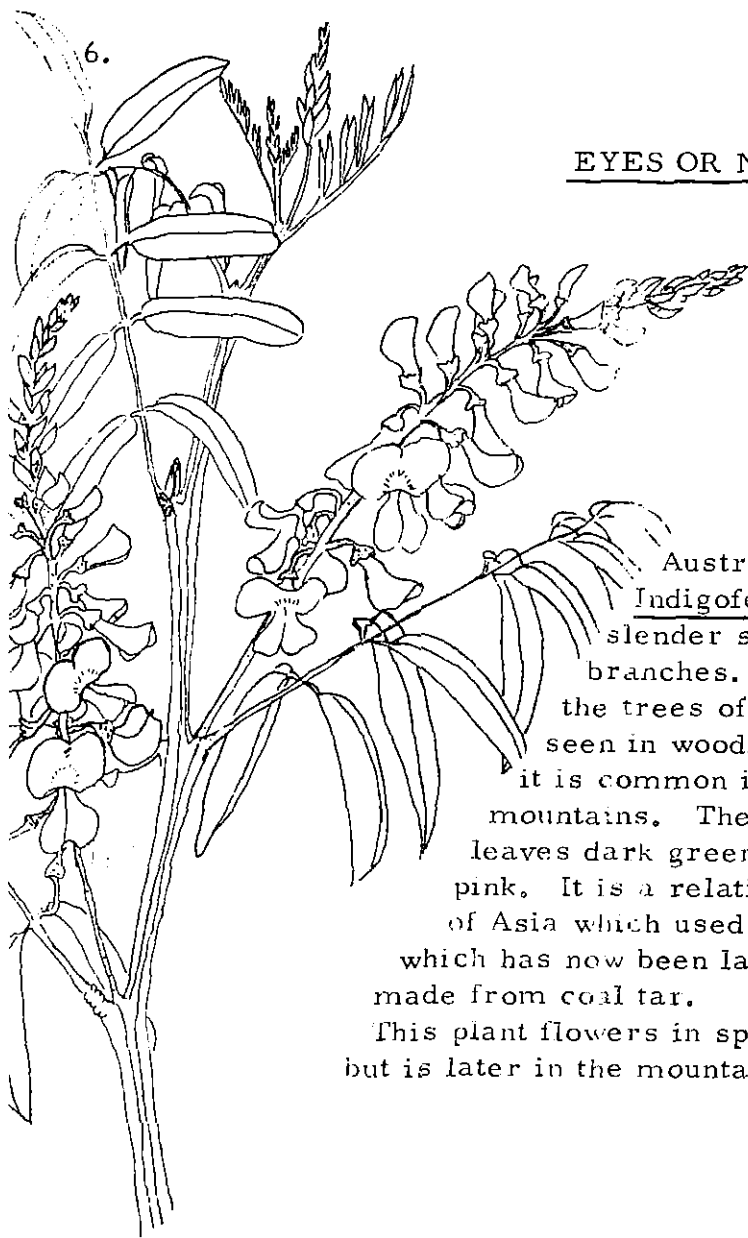
Our policy is to conserve wild life, and it is our unpleasant duty to report any violation of the flora and fauna protection ordinances. This is the main point of the case as far as we as an Association are officially concerned, but there are incidental points as well - the endangering of human lives and the ruin of scientific work through unreasoning irresponsibility. At times shooters like these will destroy stock as well, as press reports have shown.

We feel we should begin to press for the licensing of all shotguns and rifles, air or otherwise, and for the thorough vetting of all applicants for licences.

Past Outings

August - Between 20 and 30 cars arrived for an outing to the Swamp Creek area. The walkers started at Uriarra Crossing, went up the creek to a waterfall, and returned over the hills. Weather and conditions generally were pleasant, and small members were well represented.

September - In spite of a rainy morning with the threat of more rain to come (fulfilled, as it happened), thirteen cars turned up for the outing on 26th September to Gundaroo and Lake George. It was unusual, tantalising, and enjoyable, with rewarding glimpses through the mist of a streaming countryside and masses of busy waterfowl on the lake shore. Thirteen species were represented.



EYES OR NO EYES NO. 9

Australian Indigo or Indigofera australis is a slender shrub with few spreading branches. It usually grows among the trees of "dry" forest but may be seen in woodlands near Canberra and it is common in the forests of the mountains. The stems are dark red, the leaves dark green and the flowers purplish-pink. It is a relative of the Indigo Plant of Asia which used to be grown for dye but which has now been largely replaced by dyes made from coal tar.

This plant flowers in springtime near Canberra but is later in the mountains. Have you seen it?

N. T. B.

Future Meetings:

- Date : Tuesday 27th October at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : Film evening -
1. "Park Here" - National Beauty spots in Great Britain with the suggestion that they should become National Parks.
 2. Across Australia by the Eyre Highway.
 3. "The Lonely Island". Albatross, penguins and sea-lions photographed on Macquarie Island.
 4. "About Trees" - a description of the trees of Australia, with a short account of the uses to which they are put

OR

"White Clay & Ochre" - a film showing aboriginal art.

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- Date : Tuesday, 24th November at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : Guest speaker Dr Ross Robbins, Research Fellow in the Department of Pacific Studies, A. N. U. He will speak on "Parrots and Plants - a Biogeographer in the Tropics". Dr Robbins has been studying the tropical rain forests of the Pacific islands and the countries bordering the Pacific. His talk will be illustrated with colored slides.

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Future Outings

Date : Sunday, 25th October

Place : Botanic Gardens

Leader : Dr Nancy Burbidge

Feature : Meet at gates at 10.00. Tour of gardens followed by lunch at lakeside. Tour to Stromlo for those who want it. Guides to gardens provided by Director.

Date : Sunday 29th November

Place : Bendora Dam

Feature : Meet at Uriarra Homestead at 10 o'clock. Visit to the dam and surrounding country. Bring a packaged lunch - no fires.

December: There is a proposed walk in the Mt. Kelly region 5th - 6th for the weekend. Members interested please contact Mr. McLean, phone 44903.

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Definition of a National Park - The definition approved by our Association is "National parks are areas which conserve for all time places of natural beauty containing flora and fauna or features of geological, anthropological or other interest dedicated in perpetuity for the recreation, inspiration, and benefit of present and future generations"

Although we have no national parks in the A. C. T. at the moment, we can at least make use of the facilities offered to us in the national parks of the rest of Australia. Those seeking information on the New South Wales national parks (which are probably the easiest to reach) are referred to the booklet Nature Reserves, which gives a full list, with short comments on all, and more comprehensive notes on some of the more important. There is a copy in our library. If you would like your own, write to the Fauna Protection Panel, Chief Secretary's Department, 11th Floor, Caltex House, 167 Kent Street, Sydney.