

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"

President: Mr. J. Webb, 1 Lalor St., Ainslie (Home 'phone 43661)
Secretary: Miss M. Sexton, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City
Treasurer: Mr. J.L. Schunke, 26 Cliathus St., O'Connor
('phone 70416 ext. 215)

Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month

During the past two months we have had two very successful weekend camping outings to the coast. The February trip to Jervis Bay was attended by 20 members, either camping or staying the Nowra Motel. Mr. Webb led the party, first over the heathland where Christmas Bells and Flannel Flowers were blooming, and then over the sand dunes to inspect the attempts to halt the inland progress of the sand. These walks were interspersed with swims in the surf at three beautiful beaches. As this area is of great interest to us, being part of the A.C.T., it is intended to have another weekend outing in June to inspect other parts of this Commonwealth Territory. The March weekend outing to Pebbley Beach attracted 35 members, most of whom camped at the delightful camping area. Saturday was spent swimming and inspecting the forest land and Sunday morning was occupied with a walk through the rain forest led by Ed. Slater, who showed us a bower bird's bower; and a walk around the rock platform led by Dr. J.A. Camahan, who identified the organisms in the intertidal environment.

The Committee trusts that as many members as possible will attend the weekend outing in May to the Mt. Franklin Area as it is sure to prove most enjoyable.

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Protection of African Wildlife

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An announcement by a Food and Agriculture Organization Officer of the United Nations:

"Sixty delegates and wildlife experts from 20 African countries met in Fort Lamy, Chad, on 6th February for a five-day conference on the future of African wildlife and how best to protect and foster it. This was the second session of a working party on the subject to be organised by the Food and Agricultural Organization. The first was held at Kampala, Uganda, in September 1965, and gave top priority to a proposed draft African convention on conservation and management of wildlife. The meeting in Fort Lamy learned yesterday that 30 African states had either approved or suggested amendments to the preliminary draft. If adopted by sufficient states it could lead to a radical extension of national parks and other reserves, and to lists of species which need special protection."

Membership

Just a reminder to intending members, or members renewing their subscriptions, that the rates are as follows:

Single membership	\$2
Family membership	\$3
Junior membership	50 cents

We welcome the following new members: Miss J. Fleming, Miss K. Moriarty, and acknowledge the following renewals of membership: Single membership: Miss E. Holt, McGrath, Want. Family membership: Bagnall, Cooper, Lowe, Patterson, Frankel, Greaves, L.O. Brown, Mrs. J., Miss M. Crawford.

ROADS & RESERVES - Frederic J. Swann

We whoop for joy when a Government Gazette confirms that a very

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large area of unspoilt bushland has been set aside as a National Park. We want to keep the Park unspoilt and unaltered, but, face the facts, this is quite impossible. Some sections might be kept "as is" for a time but the general public, who will own the Park, will have to be given access and amenities.

Access means tracks, paths and motor roads. Amenities mean tearooms, dressing sheds, toilets, swimming pools, paddling pools, parking areas etc. etc., so our Park will not remain unaltered.

The purpose of this paper is to set out some of the changes that will result from providing roads and amenities, so that the Park planners will be better able to plan with a view to maintaining as fully as possible the desirable features of the Park.

Consider road construction. First trees and large shrubs are cleared from the road width and somewhat beyond on each side; then a machine strips the surface soil, which is stockpiled for later surfacing the batters of embankments. Seeds in this soil will germinate and provide a vegetation cover for the embankment slope. Next, cuttings are made through the hills and the earth used to make embankments in the valleys. Following the formation of earthworks, the road pavement is built up of gravel or crushed rock free from all humus or vegetable matter, the pavement surface is coated with bituminous cement graded to shed all water from the road. All the work is done by many types of machine, some of which may have last worked in an area infested by noxious weeds whose seeds are given a free ride into the new Park. A careful "weed watch" must be kept for the first two years to prevent noxious weeds from establishing. As other work proceeds, drains are constructed, which, open and piped, collect surface and subsoil water and concentrate it at suitable discharge points. The great change here is that water is not now distributed over a large soakage area but collected from the waterproofed road surface and run into new or enlarged existing channels. The character of the water will also be changed.

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Rainwater dissolves phenols from road surfacing materials. Somewhere along to drain lines, a peaty area carrying acid water may have been drained. Rock cuttings may cut through aquifers, the water in which may range from a high degree of purity to water carrying chemicals dissolved from the rocks encountered on its journey. Your drain-discharges therefore may empty into a stream a liquid with a different pH and of different chemical content to the original run-off of the area.

Consider climatic changes. Most road surfaces nowadays have a black coating which affects the atmospheric temperature from ground level up to considerable heights. Glider pilots report they can notice upward thermal currents hundreds of feet above a road surface. A typical temperature reading at ground level taken at Canberra recently is:

Natural ground with grass and weed cover	78 ^o F
Dark grey roadside dust	88 ^o F
Bitumen pavement	92 ^o F

Other readings show that black pavements average 10^oF warmer than surrounding brown clay surface. Therefore vegetation bordering the road is in a different climate to that further back. Should the road be some miles long, the term micro-climate seems hardly applicable. Micro-climate alterations do occur where winds blow directly onto the face of high rock cuttings, causing air compression and temperature rise. Penetration of wind into forest areas is affected by the relationship of the direction of prevailing wind and the direction of the road. The road can become a wind tunnel, or a bend in the road may act as a windbreak. Other alterations in the aerodynamics of the area should be noted by the Park Planner.

Consider amenities provided. Roads bring cars; parking areas are needed. Care must be exercised that the washings from paved car-parks and service stations do not cause an oily nuisance.

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The disposal of sewerage from toilets and of waste waters from tea-rooms and camping areas must be carried out in such a manner that there is no pollution of any stream where toxic substances may poison fish or the food of fish, and particular care must be taken that there is no pollution of swimming or paddling pools.

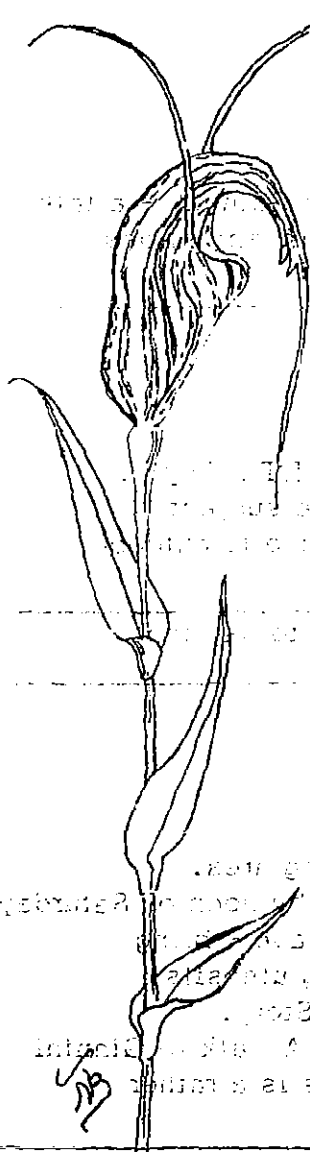
Effluents from simple septic tanks still carry pathogenic bacteria, and other organisms difficult to detect, and filter beds and other measures are necessary to prevent bathing areas being contaminated by bacteria, viruses, protozoa and worms that cause disease in man.

Waste waters from a busy tearoom can cause trouble if discharged into a small open drain or stream. Here detergents are the trouble-makers, as they usually contain phosphorus in some form, which stimulates algal growth to the extent that an overgrowth of algae causes masses of these plants to die and putrify in the water. Detergents also cause foaming which is very hard to control and which can be damaging to stream fauna.

So - our new Park sets some problems for us to solve. We have to compromise between the sudden changes caused by making the Park available for public use and the sure, slow, natural changes that are and have been continuous throughout the ages.

I urge all National Parks Associations to continue to study and record all facts regarding Park roads and other facilities and the effect of these on the natural flora and fauna of the area so that all National Parks shall be of the greatest possible value to all people.

Frederic J. Swann.



This beautiful red-streaked "Greenhood Orchid" is found in the eastern ranges and tablelands areas of New South Wales, and in the A.C.T. it is found on the Brindabella and Tidbinbilla Ranges.

The specific name is derived from the latin "coccineus" meaning deep red or scarlet and its full botanical name is Pterostylis coccinea.

The long drooping point on the dorsal sepal is usually shorter than in the specimen illustrated. The species belongs to the group of Greenhoods in which the basal leaves are absent from the flowering stems.

R.D. Fitzgerald, who first described the species, wrote: "Its beauty is detracted from by the strong resemblance it bears to a boiled prawn."

M.G.

8.

MEETINGS

April

Date: Tuesday 18th April 1967 at 8 p.m.
Place: Institute of Anatomy
Feature: "A Look at the Sepik District, New Guinea" - a talk by Sandy Brand. A short colour film and slides will illustrate.

May

Date: Tuesday 16th May 1967 at 8 p.m.
Place: Institute of Anatomy
Feature: An illustrated talk, given by Prof. J.D. Smyth, Professor of Zoology, A.N.U. The subject: "Parasites - with particular reference to outdoor activity."

Keep the June meeting in mind, as we are pleased to say that Vincent Serventy has agreed to address us.

OUTING

May

Date: Weekend 27th & 28th May, 1967
Place: Mt. Franklin Chalet and surrounding area.
Feature: Members will gather at the Chalet by noon on Saturday. If staying overnight, a charge is made - bring blankets, food, cooking and eating utensils.
Saturday: A walk around the area led by Dr. Story.
Sat. night: A campfire discussion. Sunday: A walk to Ginnini Falls led by Mr. A. Bagnall. This is a rather strenuous walk through thick bush.

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