



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

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2. NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T. Inc.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

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Secretary: Miss M. Sexton, Box 457 P.O. Canberra City (45795)
Treasurer: Mr. J.L. Schunke, 26 Cliaanthus Street, O'Connor (46828)

Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the month.

As we move into the Spring and Summer months our associations and private activities at weekends will be spent more and more outdoors and especially near lakes, rivers or the sea. An article by Dr. Carnahan in this bulletin, about the rock pool life at Pebbly Beach will interest those who will be visiting this beautiful area or other seashore places during the summer.

Lake Outing

An evening pleasure cruise on Lake Burley Griffin has been arranged for December as an end of year activity. The boat will leave the main wharf, Acton at 8 o'clock on 5th December, 1967. A buffet dinner will be served during the evening and there will be music for dancing. The tickets will be \$3 each.

As the capacity of the launch is limited, only 60 tickets will be sold, first to association members and then to friends of members if the tickets are available. If you need extra tickets please apply in writing and tickets will be allocated after the members have had the opportunity to purchase theirs. Sale of tickets to members only, up to 21st November.

Direct enquiries to Mrs. F. Brand, 11 Dyson St., Lyneham (43538). Tickets will be on sale at the October meeting and the following association activities.

Interstate News

The following item is from the Queensland N.P.A. Newsletter - Sept. 1967:

"A National Parks and Gardens Board has been established in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. It has been set up under the National Parks and Gardens Ordinance and will manage and control National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Bulletin Oct.-Nov. 1967

such lands as are committed to its care."

The Board consists of 5 members. The Chairman is a New Guinean member of the House of Assembly.

From N.S.W. The September issue of the National Parks Journal states: "You will all have been aware that the National Parks and Wild Life Bill has been approved by the Legislative Council. It passed the third reading on Thursday 24th August. Owing to pressure from several conservation bodies some changes were incorporated in the Bill and one of the most important was that the Director of National Parks and Wild-life will be appointed by the Governor. Also, the Minister has been persuaded to free the Service from the "shackles of the development-orientated Lands Administration."

You will also have been aware of the controversy which has been expressed over the proposed park boundaries. It is hoped that this matter will be postponed until the National Parks Advisory Council¹ has been appointed. The re-shuffling of land, without concern for the type of country contained in the particular areas involved, should not be allowed without careful investigation.

The legislation should bring together in one service the related functions of national parks and fauna and flora protection which were previously spread among three administrative bodies. "Wildlife" will now include all animals, not just birds and mammals.

Burrendong Arboretum Association

This association is asking for donations of seed, plants or cash for developing the 350 acres of land they have which is 16 miles from Wellington N.S.W. overlooking the waters of Lake Burrendong. Their aim is to plant by degrees all the 10,000 species of Australian Native plants in groups and groves of ten to 25 of each species, keeping them as far as possible in broad family groups.

For this initial year 1967, the membership subscription is \$2.00 and may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer Mr. J. Fraser, "Mehruda" Bakers Swamp 4W N.S.W. or Mr. G.W. Althofer "Nindethana", Dripstone. For Bird Watchers: A field list of "Birds of Queensland's South-East Corner" has just been published, price 25c. and available from Robin Elks, P.O. Box 71, Coloundra, Queensland.

4.

Adult Education Botany Course

Although this announcement is late, as the term has commenced, members are notified of a course on "Botany-Plant Recognition" being conducted by Prof. Pryor and others on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The course commenced on 9th September and continues until early November.

Christmas Cards

Old stocks of N.P.A. Christmas Cards are being sold at the reduced price of a dozen for \$1 or 6 for 50c. New stocks are not as yet to hand. Mrs. Pat Hammond will have cards on sale at meetings and outings.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are now overdue. Due to the postal regulations covering the sending of bulletins by a bulk postage rate, the association can send no more bulletins to unfinancial members. If there is a separate notice in your bulletin, please fill it in and return with your subscription to the Treasurer, as soon as possible.

We welcome the following new members to our association; Miss N. Dunn; Mrs. P. Hawk and family; Prof. and Mrs. J. Ovington; Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Wrigley.

The following members have renewed their subscriptions for 1967/68:

Family Sub. of \$3: Menzies; Brown; Greenish; Raggatt; Bailey; Temple-Watts; King; Gilmour; McDonald; Mrs. M. Crawford and Miss Crawford; Lowe; McLeod; Patterson; Harrison; Hodgkin; Mims; Brand; Creaser; Webb.

Single Sub. of \$2: Schunke; McFarlane; Carnahan; Rosengrove; Holt; Tait; Swain; Fleming; Moriarty.

INTERTIDAL LIFE AT PEBBLY BEACH

During the recent excursion to Pebbly Beach, members examined the zonation of intertidal organisms on the rocky shores.

The characteristic organism at the uppermost limits of tidal influence is Melaraphe, a little blue-striped periwinkle. Another periwinkle, the knobbly white Nodilittorina, is more scattered;

but where it is present, it goes even higher on the shore than Melaraphe. These molluscs appear to feed on Lichina, a low tufted black lichen. Melanerita, a little round black-shelled gastropod, occurs with and below Melaraphe.

Below the periwinkles is a barnacle zone. In the bay, this zone tends to be dominated by Chamaesipho columna, a small white barnacle that may be so numerous as to form a dense crust on the rocks. Scattered Saxostrea (rock oyster) may accompany Chamaesipho. On the shores exposed to the full force of the open sea, the characteristic barnacles are the pink Tetraclita and the scaly Catophragmus. These "surf barnacles" are accompanied by several seasonal algae, namely the green alga Ulva (sea-lettuce), the rather similar red alga Porphyra (laver), and the brown alga Splachnidium ("sticky gloved fingers").

Below the barnacles is a zone characterized by Galeolaria, a sea-worm that secretes a limy tube. On flat or gently-sloping places, Galeolaria may largely be obscured by the brown alga Hormosira (Venus' necklace), and the red alga Corallina, a low tufted plant strongly impregnated with lime. Galeolaria and Hormosira are less noticeable on the exposed shores. On the bay shores, at and below this level, there are occasional specimens of Codium fragile, a stout much-branched green alga.

Below the Galeolaria zone, the characteristic animal is the ascidian Pyura (cunjevoi). In the lower part of the Pyura zone, the large brown alga Phyllospora appears; below the Pyura zone in turn, this alga forms a dense kelp belt that marks the lower limit of the intertidal region. On the exposed shores, Phyllospora may largely be replaced by Pterocladia, a feathery red alga that forms a distinctive dark red "turf" on the rocks. Also present at about the lower limit of the intertidal region is Lithothamnion, an encrusting limy red alga that looks like red paint on the rocks.

This account is necessarily brief, and therefore oversimplified. For a very good popular account of the intertidal environment, and the specialized organisms found therein, read "Australian Seashores" by Dakin, Bennett, and Pope (Angus & Robertson). Most of the statements in this book that relate to the southern part of New South Wales can be regarded as applicable to Pebbly Beach.

J. CARNAKAN,



There are three species of Wild Violet growing in the A.C.T.

The tufted one shown in the figure has flowers which are the true "violet" colour. It was called Viola betonico-
folia because the leaves were thought to resemble those of the English herb Betony. It grows in our forests but is more common in cooler places at high levels. You can find it easily on Mt. Franklin or Mt. Gingera.

The second common species is Viola hederacea which has stems that trail on the ground and root at the nodes. The leaves are short and broad - almost kidney-shaped in outline. The petals are white with purple bases. This grows in many places in our forests. It often grows in the damp shelter of shaded road banks.

The third species, Viola caleyana is rare in the A.C.T. though it has been found in the upper part of the Orroral Valley.

It, too, has trailing stems but the leaves are heart-shaped and the petals almost white though their veins may be purplish.

N.T.B.

MEETINGSOctober:

Date: Tuesday 17th October, 1967 at 8 p.m.
Place: Institute of Anatomy.
Feature: The guest speaker will be Prof. J. Ovington who will give an illustrated talk on the subject "Management Needs in National Parks".

November:

An extra meeting to make new contacts in the north side suburbs.

Date: Monday, 13th November, 1967 at 7.45.
Place: Downer Centre.
Feature: A Nature Film evening. Come along to swell the numbers and to speak to visitors.

November:

Date: Tuesday, 21st November, 1967 at 8 p.m.
Place: Institute of Anatomy.
Feature: It is hoped to have Dr. P. Duffy to address us and show slides to illustrate a talk about "Canadian National Parks". Watch the "Canberra Times" for confirmation (Monday 20th November).

8.

OUTINGS

October:

Date: Sunday 29th October, 1967.
Place: Araluen and Monga Forest. Meet at 10 a.m. at the park in the main street of Braidwood.
Feature: Try your hand at gold panning in the Araluen Valley. Gold pans on sale at "David Mackay's Hardware". During the afternoon we will view the Monga Forest - we hope to see waratahs in bloom.

November:

Date: An extra outing - 12th November, 1967.
Place: Westbourne Woods (Now Royal Canberra Golf Course)
Meet at the main gate at 10 a.m.
Feature: Mr. Hamilton of the Forestry School will show us this beautiful Arboretum which formerly belonged to the Forestry School and was a public park. It was handed over, despite great public opposition, to a private club in the early 60's. This outing is not without danger - watch for flying balls!
Lunch at the lakeside - fireplaces and tapwater.

November:

Date: A weekend outing 25th and 26th November, 1967.
Place: Yadboro and Clyde River area. We will meet at 10.30 a.m., 20 miles north of Bateman's Bay on the Princes Highway at the site of the old Termeil School, TERMEIL.
Feature: This outing is being led and planned by the Milton Group of Conservationists. We will camp on the Clyde River at Yadboro at a beautiful camp site with perfect views. There will be easy walks and drives for the less energetic. On Saturday night slides will be shown by a local bushwalker.