

NATIONAL PARKS

ASSOCIATION

OF THE A.C.T.

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B U L L E T I N

Vol.6 No.1 August-September, 1968 - Annual Sub. to
Bulletin \$1.20
per copy 20¢

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a
periodical.

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National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President: Mr A.J. Brand, 11 Dyson St., Lyneham (43538)

Secretary: Miss I. Dahl, Box 457, P.O., Canberra City.

Treasurer: Mr J.L. Schunke, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City,
(48-9828)

MONTHLY MEETING: 3rd Tuesday of the month.

A new year has begun for our association with the election of new office bearers at the annual meeting held in July. For those members who were unable to attend the meeting, the new committee is as follows :-

President: Mr A.J. Brand; Vice President: Mr J. Webb.

Secretary: Miss I. Dahl; Assistant Secretary: Miss M. Ashton.

Treasurer: Mr J. Schunke; Publicity Officer: Mr Laurie Adams

Committee Members: Dr N. Burbidge; Miss V. Macfarlane; Mrs F. Brand; Mr K. Green; Mrs B. Hammond; Mr T. Longstaff. Thanks are given to the outgoing Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Sexton and Mrs P. Hammond for their hard work in the association, over the past three years.

Subscriptions are now due for the period 1968-69 and it is drawn to your attention that the annual meeting accepted a rise in rates, due to rising costs, particularly in the publication of the bulletin. Subscriptions are now \$5 for family membership, \$3 for single membership and \$1.20 for junior membership.

From Fellow Societies

This association exchanges its bulletin with many other groups in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. The following is an extract from the Illawarra Natural History Society Circular, May 1968.

Mr D. Leithhead in a lecture entitled "Some Thoughts on Conservation" mentioned how the spread of the white man

had pushed back certain forms of wild life e.g. Plain Turkey and Kangaroo, but that the spread of grain, fruit and rice growing had increased in some areas the population of cockatoos, honeyeaters and duck and a balanced view was called for when viewing the problems involved.

The speaker read extracts from early writings to illustrate the wealth of wild life when the aborigines rigidly controlled its use and deplored the tragedy of how, with the extermination of the tribes, their profound and wise mystery of conservation went with them. It was suggested that, even at this late stage, some part of the aboriginals system of the rotational sancturaries for various game could be incorporated in plans for conserving the wildlife still left us.

From the Burrendong Arboretum Brigge (aboriginal word for messenger) it is reported that the drought has caused a lot of casualties amongst the plantings and attacks by mice, hares and rabbits have caused further losses. However, through watering with buckets from a tractor or trailer mounted watertank and by placing covers over young plants, losses are not as bad as they could have been. At least 293 species of some 67 genera of Australian flora have been planted so far.

From the New South Wales National Parks Journal, July, 1968 "The appointment of the permanent Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service has been made. It is to be Dr Donald F. McMichael, B.Sc., Ph.D., at present the Director of the Australian Conservation foundation.

Mr D.A. Holmes, formally a senior officer of the N.S.W. Forestry Commission, has been appointed Assistant Director (Administration) is Mr Howard J. Stanley. The position of Assistant Director (Wildlife) has as yet not been filled.

From a recent "SYMPOSIUM ON LAND USE IN THE A.C.T." comes the Summary of paper on Wildlife aspects given by Ian Rowley.

Although the A.C.T. covers little more than 900 sq. miles, the altitude ranges over 5,000 ft. and the rainfall over 20 in.; considerable diversity of habitats exists, therefore, and it is not surprising that the fauna and flora are varied. These are catalogued broadly in Table I, and are in general representative of a much larger area than the A.C.T. There are few endemic species, but the region is interesting in that it marks the eastward limit of distribution of several inland species and that the alpine area supports some interesting "Antarctic" forms.

The value of the wildlife of the A.C.T., therefore, lies not in any unique biological forms, but in the variety available so close to a city and the unusual number of residents to whom this resource is important either professionally or as a source of enjoyment. There are three schools in the University that depend to a large extent on wildlife to provide both the environment for student excursions and the subjects for research. Five divisions of CSIRO located in Canberra are biologically orientated and particularly the ecologists and taxonomists amongst them make extensive use of the local "bush". At least five "learned societies", three groups of "hardy recreationalists" and three more of sportsmen all make considerable use of wildlife in the broad sense, as do graziers and foresters. Besides these, and constituting probably the largest group of the lot, are the private individuals, unaffiliated to any particular body, who enjoy a "day in the country". On the administrative side, the Department of the Interior, N.C.D.C. and the Police are all involved.

These interests may be grouped under three headings: Givers, Neutrals and Takers. Givers contribute something to the wildlife resource either physically, educationally

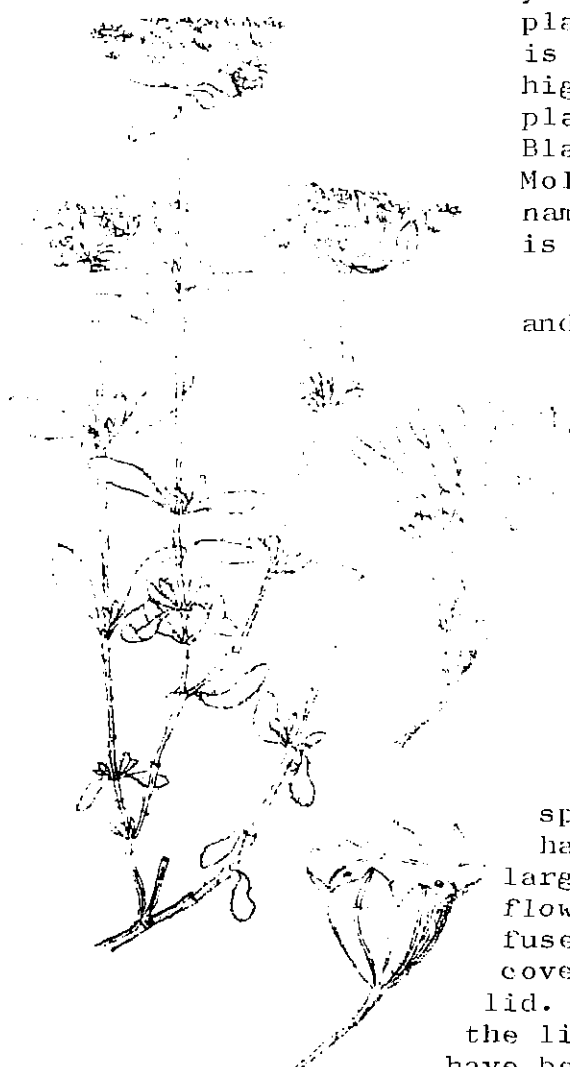
or by their research findings. Neutrals form the vast majority of users; they neither harm nor benefit the environment, but they do require certain facilities, help and even instruction to achieve maximum satisfaction. Takers are those who damage, alter or remove part of the wildlife resource; this group includes forestry and agriculture, fishermen, hunters, vandals and litterbugs, and those responsible for the development of Canberra.

An appreciation of wildlife is no longer the prerogative of a wealthy minority nor is it yet available to as many as it should be for a number of reasons. We in the A.C.T. are in a unique situation; not only have we a varied and interesting wildlife right on our door-step but the community is an intelligent one, with an unusually large array of biological institutions to provide the "know-how" of both management and informed usage of this important resource.

With the amount of leisure time available to the individual rapidly increasing as automation proceeds, and with the mounting load of stress in both our everyday work and our urban life, the importance of "recreational guidance" is becoming increasingly obvious. The A.C.T. is in an ideal position to make full use of wildlife resources as a form of recreation; it is also very much in the public eye so that it behoves us to set a good example both in our planning and our usage.

TABLE I
Wildlife to be found in the Australian Capital
Territory

<u>Plants</u>		
Gymnosperms	2 families	2 species
<u>Angiosperms</u>		
Monocotyledons	17(1) families	335(75) species
Dicotyledons	71(7) families	674(200) species
<u>Animals</u>		
Arthropods	ca 5-6,000 species	
Turtles	1 family	2 species
Snakes	1 family	9 species
Lizards	6 families	30 species
Frogs	2 families	15 species

EYES OR NO EYES NO.27

During the winter when there are few flowers to be seen you may find the curious little plant shown in the sketch. It is usually about 3-5 inches high and grows in dry forest places such as the slopes of Black Mt., Mt. Ainslie and the Molonglo Gorge. Its botanical name is Pomax umbellata and it is only found in Australia.

The leaves are opposite and each stem ends in a cluster of small cups like upturned bells which look like dry flowers. These are small heads each with two flowers around which bracts have fused into the cup. That the cup is not a calyx is shown by the number of teeth or lobes on its margin. If the cup was a calyx there would be 4 or 5 lobes.

In the young stage in spring or summer, each cup has two erect flowers with large anthers. The top of each flower falls away leaving the fused bases inside the cup and covered by a horizontal plate or lid. In old plants (winter time) the lid and the seeds it protected have been lost leaving the empty cups.

N.T.B.

MEETINGSAugust:

Date: Tuesday, 20th August, 1968.

Place: Institute of Anatomy at 8 p.m.

Feature: An illustrated talk by Mr Ian Glover who inspected archaeological sites in Portuguese Timor, during 1967.

September:

Date: Tuesday, 17th September, 1968

Place: Institute of Anatomy at 8 p.m.

Feature: A Film Evening. Watch the paper add, for the film titles.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association welcomes the following new members:

Mr & Mrs K.R. Blackburn; Mr & Mrs K. Dusting; Mr & Mrs G. Lavis; Mr & Mrs S. Whitford; Prof. & Mrs K.C. Masterman; Mr & Mrs W. Martin; Mr & Mrs E.J. Walker; Mr & Mrs R.O. Newbury; Mr & Mrs C.R. Samondsett; Mr & Mrs A.P. James; Mr & Mrs R. Home; Mr & Mrs L. Whitfeld; Mr & Mrs R. Boden; Mr D.R. Smyth; Mr J. Ashman; Mrs C. Davis; Miss M. Dodds; Miss S. Dicker; Mrs F. Hanlin; Mr K. Johnson; Lady Randall; Mr M.C. Hall; Mr J.S. Holtzapffel; Miss N. Taylor.

Renewal Subscriptions:- L.O. Brown, Hammond; Story; Longstaff; Brand; Miss Clancy; Miss Davidson; Miss Moriarty; Lady Frankel; Mrs Green; Miss Dunn; Miss Dahl; Miss Ashton; Miss I. Fleming; Miss Henry; Miss Stoemler.

8.

OUTINGS

AUGUST:

DATE: SUNDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 1968.

PLACE: MURRUMBIDGEE GORGE - LEADER: R. STORY.

MEETING

PLACE: ZEBRA MOTEL ON COOMA ROAD AT 9.30 A.M.

FEATURES: A drive to Michelago where we turn off and drive on a road, steep in parts, through private property. There is a walk of 2 miles to the gorge where we will have lunch. After exploring the gorge and its sandy beaches we will walk the 2 miles back to the cars.

SEPTEMBER:

DATE: SUNDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1968.

PLACE: A property that has been declared a Faunal Sanctuary, in the Wee Jasper area.

FEATURES: For details of this outing, ring the leader Mr K. Green, 48-9223.

OCTOBER:

Members interested in a camping trip in the Budawang Mts. area, over the October long weekend (5th, 6th & 7th) contact A. Brand (4-3538) or J. Webb (4-3661).