

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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(48-9828)

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month

Guest Speaker for 1969

The Association is very fortunate to have as guest speaker for this year, Judith Wright (Mrs McKinney) who is one of the outstanding writers in Australia today. Her latest book of poetry entitled "Birds" should appeal to many members. Judith Wright was President of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland for many years and was one of the originators of the quarterly publication "Wildlife". Her writings and talks on conservation matters are well known and often quoted. She is a lecturer at the University of Queensland, Brisbane.

Judith Wright will visit us on 15 April. Keep this date free and please publicise this event as widely as possible.

A Place to Visit

(The following copied for N.S.W.N.P.A.Journal Dec.1968)

Red Rocks Nature Reserve No.58 Dedication
announced in Government Gazette No.112 of Sept.20,1968.

Area about 1,600 acres in the parishes of Cambewarra and Bugong, county Camden. Situated on the Cambewarra Range north and west of Nowra. Access by about 1½ miles of poor gravel forestry track from "five ways" at the top of Cambewarra Pass, between Nowra and Kangaroo Valley.

The nature reserve is another "sandstone top" area somewhat akin to the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve No.3.

New Director of the Conservation Foundation

Extract from the Conservation Foundation Newsletter No.5 October 1968.

At the Council Meeting held in Canberra on Oct. 13, the President, Sir Garfield Barwick, announced the

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appointment of Mr R.D.Piesse, B.A.LI.B., Dip.Ed. (Melb.) as the new Director of the Foundation.

Mr Piesse who is at present Director of Visitor Services for the Australian Tourist Commission, Melbourne, has been for many years actively interested in conservation and especially in the development of national parks in relation to the Australian Tourist Industry. He has had long experience with the Australian National Travel Association (including a period as editor of the well known magazine "Walkabout") and more recently with the Australian Tourist Commission in administration and travel development. Mr Piesse, who has travelled widely throughout Australia, takes up his duties with the Foundation on November 18.

Book Reviews

"Impressions of Nature Protection in Europe" by Leonard Webb. Published by the "Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia".

Vincent Serventy in the forward to this book states that he hopes Dr Webb's book will help spur us on to save Australian wildlife while it is still "today" as "Tomorrow may be too late".

Dr Webb's report covers the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Italy, Soviet Union and Switzerland. All these countries have features we need to consider in planning our own programmes. In addition Dr Webb has a fascinating chapter on the role of State Forests and foresters in the conservation scene.

This book may be purchased at meetings or outings or by writing to the Secretary. Price 40 cents.

"A Field Guide to Victorian Wattles" by F.J.C. Rogers illustrated by John Truscott.

This is a handy sized book describing, one to a page, the wattles found in Victoria. Clear drawings illustrate each variety described and information includes the location and flowering months. Price \$1.75.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND THE TEACHER

Extracts from an address by the President to the Kedron Park Teachers' College, Brisbane, in November 1966, as published in the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Brisbane) Newsletter No.4, February 1967.

Though the word "conservation" is used quite frequently now, it generally has rather a specialist air about it, and I find that surprisingly few people are able to give a convincing definition of what they mean by it. This, of course, is because it is a new word in our language, as it is a new conception in our minds; and new ideas take a long time - sometimes a fatally long time - to become familiar.

Until now, we have simply not noticed the destruction we were causing in our unchecked exploitation of landscape and wildlife. It is only in the last few centuries that we have overspread the whole of the earth: there are no more new countries to be exploited. But with newer and more efficient methods of changing the environment, we have wasted many irreplaceable resources by ruthless attack. For example, the wholesale slaughter of the American buffalo went hand in hand with the wholesale clearance of American forests; those forests, and those buffalo, would be worth a great deal to us today. In Canada, the Eskimos learned to use the repeating rifle and - imitating us - have killed off so many of the caribou which formed their staple food and whose hides were turned into tents and clothing for them, that now the Eskimos themselves have been driven out of the areas where they formerly lived and have had to go looking for work in cities. You can see from these examples, that the idea of conservation is not something we have brilliantly discovered for ourselves; it is being forced upon us by our own misdeeds.

But at the same time, though it may seem nasty medicine to have to acknowledge our mistakes and try to change the attitudes that caused them, like other kinds of nasty medicine it may, in the end, be exactly what we need. It involves - if we are

to make it work at all - a new kind of responsibility towards our environment, of consideration for the needs of things other than ourselves, and of self-discipline and even self-denial. Over the last few centuries we have got used to the idea that the resources of the earth were endless, and that all its riches were ours by right of conquest. Now we are suddenly brought up against the limits of resources, and have to recognize that we are not in possession of an endless bonanza of natural wealth and a frontier that will go forward forever - that, in fact, if we don't want to see the disappearance of the complex of water, soil and landscape by which we live, we have to change our ways.

The idea of conservation, now so slowly gaining ground, can restore to the human race the sense of personal and human responsibility for the well-being of earth and its creatures, through enlightened self-interest, and put man in the picture again as part of nature, not as its enemy and exploiter.

Surely the educator, who is often at his wits' end to find a way of restoring the idea of enlightened self-discipline and of meaningful action to the lives of the young, ought to see in this new concept of man's relationship to the world, the very thing he needs. It is seldom of any use to preach self-discipline and morality to the human race, unless it can see real force in your arguments and real meaning in what you are saying. It must be obvious, though, that in changing our attitude to nature from one of exploitation to one of respect and understanding, we have at least the chance of recognizing that the same principles must be applied in our personal relationships as well.

It is certainly clear that the natural order, disturbed and torn apart, is now taking its revenge on us in the cycles of erosion, flood, drought and famine. The progressive extinction of species and alteration of environment means outbreaks of pest species, once controlled by natural predators, but now only kept in check by increasing and highly expensive research and application of pesticides, insecticides, sprays of all kinds (many of which further speed up the destructive process and affect man himself). Industrial pollution affects air, water supplies and ocean species. (Con'td. p.7)

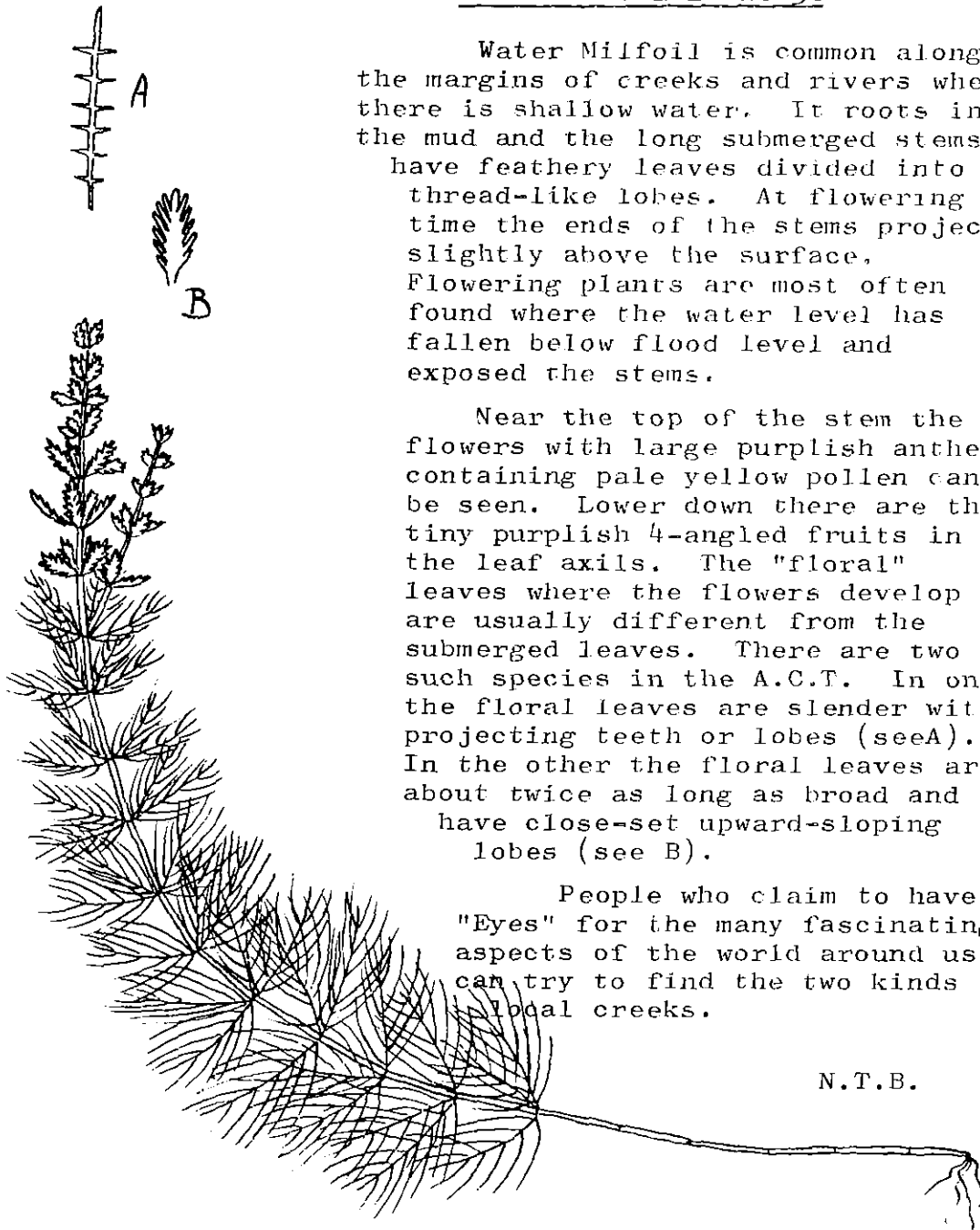
EYES OR NO EYES NO.30

Water Milfoil is common along the margins of creeks and rivers where there is shallow water. It roots in the mud and the long submerged stems have feathery leaves divided into thread-like lobes. At flowering time the ends of the stems project slightly above the surface. Flowering plants are most often found where the water level has fallen below flood level and exposed the stems.

Near the top of the stem the flowers with large purplish anthers containing pale yellow pollen can be seen. Lower down there are the tiny purplish 4-angled fruits in the leaf axils. The "floral" leaves where the flowers develop are usually different from the submerged leaves. There are two such species in the A.C.T. In one the floral leaves are slender with projecting teeth or lobes (see A). In the other the floral leaves are about twice as long as broad and have close-set upward-sloping lobes (see B).

People who claim to have "Eyes" for the many fascinating aspects of the world around us can try to find the two kinds in flood creeks.

N.T.B.



It was Dag Hammarskjold who pointed out that we all share a rather small spaceship, and that we are all equally responsible for seeing that its very limited supplies of food, fuel and water are not wasted. He might have added that we also have a responsibility for seeing that the spaceship does not become so poor and ugly, so polluted by our waste-products, so monotonous and unvaried by other existences than those of human beings, so generally unpleasant to live in, that we all develop mental illnesses and die of mutual hatred, boredom and distaste.

It will be no great triumph to have spread our species all over the earth and conquered all our former enemies, if we finish by becoming our own most dangerous enemies, and poison and starve ourselves to death on a planet which once had plenty for all of us and many other things as well. It would be something to be proud of, however, if we recognised this appalling danger, changed our attitude to this planet, and took over the responsibility for its management and for our own mutual good, while there is still time.

This is what is meant by the new concept of conservation, if we carry it to its logical and sensible conclusion. And educators - educators of all kinds, from parents to university professors with all the grades between - can help to teach us what it means, if they will begin to discover it for themselves.

Judith Wright.

MEETINGS

FEBRUARY:

DATE: Tuesday, 18 February 1969 at 8 p.m.

PLACE: Institute of Anatomy.

FEATURE: A talk by Dr Nancy Burbidge about the A.C.T. National Park Proposal. As many members have joined the association since the proposal was placed before the Department of the Interior in 1963, it is appropriate that this proposal be once again described and the history of events up to the present time be listed. Members will have the opportunity to visit the area in April, during the Easter holidays.

8. MEETINGS (continued)

MARCH:

DATE: Tuesday, 18 March 1969 at 8 p.m.

PLACE: Institute of Anatomy.

FEATURE: Mr Chris Humphries, from the Milton National Parks Associations will speak to us about the Upper Clyde River Area, which is a proposed national park but is threatened by the wood-chip industry. Mr Humphries has walked extensively in in this beautiful area & will show coloured slides to illustrate his talk.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association welcomes the following new members: Mr & Mrs J.Bryant; Miss J.Buckie; Mr J.Grant; Miss H.K.Harris; Mr & Mrs A.Landgren; Mr M.O'Connor; Miss R.Rawson; Miss A.Schneider. Membership Renewals - Mr & Mrs D.Emmery; Mrs V.Rowan; Mr & Mrs Schwarzlose-Fisher; Miss M.Swift; Miss G.Watt; Mr J.A.Whelan.

OUTINGS

FEBRUARY:

DATE: A weekend outing, 22 and 23 February.

PLACE: Jervis Bay, A.C.T.

MEETING PLACE: "Green Patch" Camping Reserve, Jervis Bay (past Naval Station) at 10 a.m.Saturday.

FEATURE: The camping area is in the bay area, with a safe beach for swimming - especially good for children. There are water taps, toilets and cold showers. During the weekend we will visit Murray's Beach, Caves Beach, the sand dunes and heathland. It is hoped that members of the N.S.W.National Parks Association will join us for this outing.

LEADER: Mr A. Brand (43538)

DATE: Sunday, 23 February 1969.

PLACE: Mr Gingera area

MEETING PLACE: Piccadilly Circus at 10.30 a.m.

FEATURE: Dr Burbidge will show you the flowers of the mountain

MARCH:

DATE: Sunday, 30 March 1969

PLACE: Dingo Flats.

MEETING PLACE: Swamp Creek Bridge on the Mountain Creek Road at 10.30 a.m. Leader: John Schunke 489828

FEATURE: 5 mile drive, walk on a bridle track, lunch, back to the cars by 3.30 p.m.