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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 MEETING - 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Both the Save our Bushlands Action Committee of Victoria quoted in the Australian Conservation Foundations latest newsletter, and the Queensland N.P.A. in its December news stressed the urgency for the instant preservation of land in its natural state before it all disappears before the bulldozers, the endloaders and the giant tip trucks.

The Victorian Save our Bushlands Action Committee has drawn up the following Charter:

- "1. Freeze action on all alienation projects immediately until consideration can be given to the potential of the land for nature conservation;
2. Considerably strengthen the national park authority by providing increased funds, increased staff, and more positive direction;
3. Provide for an urgent investigation to indicate areas suitable for dedication as national parks and wildlife reserves, employing for this purpose talents already available in the community (Universities, scientific organisations, etc.) until such time as the work can be carried out by the strengthened national parks and wildlife authorities;
4. Reserve as parks and wildlife reserves the greater part of Victoria's existing nine million acres of uncommitted Crown land together with such other areas as may have value for conservation;
5. Provide that the establishment and revocation of national parks and reserves be by Parliament only;

6. Institute a system of public notification for all proposed changes of land use on Crown lands which threaten nature conservation values, and provide for the holding of public enquiries if objections are raised to such proposals;
7. Make sure that an adequate amount of unpolluted water reaches Victoria's swamps and creek beds and the public right of access to them is protected."

The Queensland N.P.A. news further expresses concern over the pressures on reserves and national parks caused by overuse as the population increases. It commends the creation of commercial parks especially the 400 acre property of Mr & Mrs G. Gibson in the Tallebudgera Valley. The area consists of rainforest and dairyland on which holidaymakers are encouraged to ride and walk.

Also announced is the Brigalow National Park! During the week ended 15th November 1969 the Minister for Lands announced that 27,420 acres had been reserved as a National Park in the third Brigalow Belt. It is situated 15 miles south of Nebo and was formerly part of Dipperu Holding. This new National Park contains 20,000 acres of brigalow scrub and associated vegetation. It has a 13 mile frontage to Bee Creek and there are several permanent lagoons. The lagoons are noted for their waterbirds and the reserve will also give protection to kangaroos and emus.

"WILDLIFE VANISHING"

by Spike Milligan - first printed in the "Observer" and reprinted in Wildlife Vol.6 No.3 September 1969.

"Since 2900, one hundred wild creatures have become extinct. To save what remains is not based on any emotional premise. It is a truth - briefly four-fifths of the World's population have little or no understanding of wild animals. Of the remaining fifth, there is a mixture of people who dote on cats, dogs, send them to poodle parlours etc. In Australia, kangaroos are being slaughtered wholesale (or is it retail) especially for doggy food without a whisper of complaint from the doggy lover. (If only I could sit up and beg how all the neighbours would love me.) What has happened? The 19th Century Industrial

Revolution and the population explosion reduced rural and natural confines, at the same time millions cut themselves off from both, concentrating in smoky, concrete jungles called "cities", within them families were born, lived and died, seeing no creature wilder than the horse, (with motor cars, even that link has disappeared). Cut off in cities, man no longer hunted animals for food, and thus lost respect for his ancient prey; gone was the once timeless mystique of the hunter and hunted. (It still survives among "backward" peoples like the Aborigine tribes of Arnhem land).

In the period 1947-62 Sheiks drove motorcades of cadillacs into herds of desert antelope and slaughtered them with machine-guns. By 1962 the Oryx was all but extinct. Did no one care? Did no one remember the creator's words to Noah? The lesson of the Ark? There was a very slender ray of hope. A few sad but courageous men had built a small, modern ark called "Save the Wildlife", with limited funds and armed mostly with hope, they worked, not only against the clock but apathy from a society that is laughingly called "Christian". With a borrowed army helicopter, a land rover and in the appalling heat of the Yemen, Major Peter Raven with a few helpers, did the impossible. Three Oryx, two bucks and one doe, were captured alive. I won't recount the myriad red tape difficulties that beset animal preservation but the result was that in October, 1963 a male Oryx calf was born. His picture appeared in several daily papers, and there was no shortage of those who said "Awwwww ... isn't he sweet" and did little else. All this rescue work was being done in the face of financial difficulties. From the famous 'foundations' for this and that? Not a penny. About the time this rescue was going on the public of dear old England had been coaxed into giving £350,000 towards buying a Leonardo cartoon which was in 'danger' of being bought abroad (up till then it had been kept in a cellar). The Government added another £450,000 to clinch the deal. £800,000! With that sort of money the future of living masterpieces that not even Leonardo could create, might be secured. The Orang-Utang, the Panda, Javen Rhino, the Cheetah, the Whooping Crane, Tasmanian Tiger. The fight for wildlife is no crank struggle, this is much a battle to save man's morality as the world of animals he is

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State or Territory	Type of Park or Reserve	Number	Area (acres)	Percentage of State or Territory (area of State or Territory, square miles)	Per capita acres (1969 population estimated)	Per cent increase 1/7/67 to 30/6/69 except where stated
Queensland	National Parks Sanctuaries on Crown land controlled by Department of Primary Industries	261	2,369,116	0.7 (667,000)	1.3 (1.8)	1.2
		5	43,080			
		266	2,412,196			
New South Wales	National Parks State Parks Historic Sites Nature Reserves Flora Reserves (Forestry Act)	12	1,994,040	1.2 (309,433)	0.5 (4.5)	11.0 (1/10/67 to 30/6/69)*
		7	24,128			
		6	2,109			
		60	340,378			
		9	12,197			
94	2,372,852					
Victoria	National Parks Wildlife Reserves	21	374,930	0.9 (87,844)	0.1 (3.4)	2.1
		32	128,114			
		53	503,044			
Tasmania	Scenic and Historic Reserves Sanctuaries on Crown land under sole control of Animals and Birds Protection Board	81	1,023,668	6.7 (26,383)	2.9 (0.4)	59.0
		36	107,951			
		117	1,131,619			
South Australia	National Parks Fauna Reserves, Prohibited Areas, and Game Reserves on Crown land under control of Minister for Agriculture National Pleasure Resorts Flinders Chase	52	2,716,876	1.2 (380,070)	2.5 (1.1)	296.0
		55	35,805			
		21	23,328			
		1	135,680			
		129	2,911,689			
Western Australia	Reserves vested in National Parks Board of Western Australia Reserves vested in Western Australian Wild Life Authority or Minister of Fisheries and Fauna Reserves vested in Special Boards and 'unvested 'A' class reserves	34	843,056	0.8 (975,920)	5.1 (0.9)	58.0 (1/7/68 to 30/6/69)*
		131	3,863,999			
		112	95,608			
		277	4,802,663			
Northern Territory	Reserves controlled by Northern Territory Reserves Board Sanctuaries	32	524,430	3.5 (520,280)	171.0 (.07)	0.1
		5	11,119,886			
		37	11,644,316			
Australian Capital Territory	Tidbinbilla Reserve	1	11,500	1.9 (939)	0.1 (.01)	
Australia		974	25,789,879	1.4 (2,967,909)	2.1 (12.3)	22.0

*NOTE: New legislation which came into force in October, 1967, in New South Wales, and June, 1968, in Western Australia changed the status of certain parks and reserves so that it is not possible to make valid two year comparisons for these States.

MAJOR PARKS AND RESERVES (over 10,000 acres) ESTABLISHED JULY 1, 1967, TO JUNE 30, 1969

QUEENSLAND

1. N.P. 135 'Cape Upstart National Park' (13,500 acres) near Ayr.
2. N.P. 645 'Hinchinbrook Passage National Park' (13,800 acres) near Cardwell.

NEW SOUTH WALES

1. Dharug National Park (29,377) near Gosford.
2. Kinchega National Park (96,700) near Menindee.
3. Banyabba Nature Reserve (30,000) near Grafton.
4. Pilliga Nature Reserve (160,000) near Baradine.

TASMANIA

South-West National Park (473,500), South-West Tasmania (includes former Lake Pedder National Park).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1. Elliot Price Wilderness National Park (160,000) Lake Eyre.
2. Simpson Desert National Park (1,708,000) adjoining Queensland national park of same name.
3. Yumbarra National Park (262,400) near Ceduna.
4. Coorong Game Reserve (15,500) near Meningie.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The following 'C' class reserves were vested in the Western Australian Wild Life Authority during the period and are therefore relatively secure:

1. R.26808 Barlee Range Fauna and Flora Reserve (257,995) North-east of Carnarvon.
2. R.27632 Nullarbor Cliffs Fauna and Flora Reserve (1,535,500), Nullarbor Plain — coastal strip.

EYES OR NO EYES No.36

Hyacinth Orchid flowers in late summer and is one of our most beautiful members of the orchid family. The leafless stems are erect and may grow to 3 feet high though they are more usually 1-2 feet. The flowers may be about an inch across and vary from deep to pale pink with the petals often spotted or blotched with purple-red on one or both sides. From the centre of the flower there is a projecting lobe of the labellum which is coloured like the petals and minutely hairy.

This type of orchid, being without leaves, obtains its nourishment from the rotting of organic material (decayed leaves etc.) in the soil. Consequently it only grows where such food material is available.

The botanical name is Dipodium punctatum. The second half of the name refers to the spotting of the petals.

This species is widespread and is found in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. In the A.C.T. it is common in some localities especially in rather dry forest areas. During good seasons it is particularly

abundant in the Tidbinbilla Fauna Reserve where it may be seen along the walking trails. N.T.B.

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MEETINGS

February:

Date: Thursday, 19 February 1970 at 8 p.m.
Place: Griffin Centre, Bunda St, City Room I.
Feature: Film made by the C.S.I.R.O. "The Echidna".

Visitors Welcome.

March:

Date: Thursday, 19 March 1970 at 8 p.m.
Place: Griffin Centre, Bunda St, City Room I.
Feature: An illustrated talk by Dr P. Hoogland on
"Wildflowers of New Guinea".

Visitors Welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

The association welcomes the following new members:

Mr & Mrs C.Appleby	Miss Z.Liepa
Mr & Mrs C.Christian	Dr & Mrs B.P.Moore
Dr & Mrs I.Cruikshank	Mr & Mrs K.Norris
Mr & Mrs H.Frith	Miss L.Reeves
Mr & Mrs M.Lazarides	

Subscription Renewals:

Miss P.Ayres	Dr K. Key
Dr & Mrs V. Bailey	Prof E. Koch-Emmery
Mr & Mrs J. Calaby	Mr & Mrs M. Lacey
Miss K. Clancy	Mr & Mrs A. Langren
Dr & Mrs P. Cooper	Mr & Mrs A.R. Menzies
Dr & Mrs Creaser	Dr & Mrs F. Morley
Mr & Mrs G.S. Davidson	Miss R. Rawson
Dr M. Day	Mrs Schwartzlose-Fisher
Mr I. Grant	Miss M. Shurety
Miss H.K. Harris	Mr & Mrs D.W. Smith
Mr R. Hill	Mrs V. Tredinnick
Dr & Mrs F.B. Horner	Mr & Mrs A. Wood

OUTINGSFebruary:

Date: Sunday, 8 February 1970.
 Place: Uriarra Crossing.
 Feature: A swim in the river during the late afternoon followed by a barbecue, fire regulations permitting.

February:

Date: Sunday, 22 February 1970.
 Place: Mt. Gingera.
 Leader: Dr N. Burbidge.
 Feature: Meet at 10 a.m. at Piccadilly Circus, then proceed along the mountain road. Walk on slopes of Gingera to view the alpine flowers. Bring a lunch that you can carry.

March:

Date: Easter - 27, 28, 29 and 30 March.
 Place: Nadgee Faunal Reserve.
 Meeting Place: The Rangers area at the entrance to the reserve at midday. Most direct route from Canberra is through Cooma, down Brown Mt, through Bega, Eden and Womboyne turnoff is off to the right along Princes Highway. Right turn off from Womboyne road to Nadgee is clearly signposted. Camp at Wally Newton's beach camp site. Walks to Little River, Nadgee River, Jane Spears Beach.

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constantly destroying. Don't wait, do see the plastic elephants. This way to the clockwork chimps tea-party, come and pop the inflatable rubber hippos. Hear the stuffed lions roar every hour on the hour in hi-fi, lay a wreath on the grave of Brumas, see the radar controlled wooden pelicans! I am donating the fee for this article to 'Save the Wildlife'. What are you going to do, stroke Pussy?