



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"

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Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month

The Associations year has begun well with a steady flow of membership renewals and new memberships. We welcome the following New Members Mr. & Mrs. R. Alder; Mr. J. Baker; Mr. I. Bisset; Miss A. Bryce; Miss O. Buchman; Mr. & Mrs. R. Campbell; Mr. G. Everett; Dr. A. Millerd; Dr. F. Lilley; Mrs. E. Minchin; Mr. & Mrs. D. Richardson; Mr. & Mrs. F. Rigby; Miss B. Staples; Dr. R. Taylor; Mr. & Mrs. G. Turner; Mrs. D. Green.

Membership Renewals

Mr. & Mrs. W. Adams; Miss M. Aston; Miss P. Ayres; Mrs. M. Barnard; Mr. & Mrs. K. Blackburn; Mrs. F. Brand; Dr. J. Carnahan; Mr. & Mrs. G. Chippendale; Miss K. Clancy; Mr. & Mrs. C. Crutwell; Mr. & Mrs. I. Currie; Miss E. D'Arnay; Miss I. Dahl; Miss S. Davies; Miss N. Dunn; Miss T. Exley; Mr. & Mrs. R. Franzi; Mrs. K. Gilmour & Phillip Gilmour; Mr. K. Green; Mrs. D.L. Green (Hackett); Mr. & Mrs. R. Greenish; Miss W. Haines; Mr. N. Hall; Mr. & Mrs. L. Hamilton; Mr. & Mrs. B. Hammond; Mrs. D. Hanlin; Mr. & Mrs. C. Hardware; Mr. & Mrs. L. Harrison; Miss J. Henry; Mr. & Mrs. D. Hodgkin; Mrs. B. Holt; Mr. J. Holtzapffel; Mr. J. Jennings; Mr. K. Johnson; Mr. J. Kirk; Prof. E. Koch-Emmery; Mr. & Mrs. G. Lewis; Mrs. J. Long; Mr. T. Longstaff; Miss M. McDonnell; Mr. I. Mackay; Mr. & Mrs. R. Matthews; Mr. & Mrs. A. Matthews; Miss M. Morris; Mr. & Mrs. A. Morrison; Dr. A. Mortlock; Mr. K. Paterson; Miss K. Peaston; Dr. M. Phillips; Mr. & Mrs. D. Reid; Mr. & Mrs. B. Ridgway; Mr. & Mrs. G. Schneider; Mr. J. Schunke; Miss M. Sexton; Mrs. N. Sexton; Mr. E. Slater; Mr. T. Stokes; Mr. R. Tait; Mr. & Mrs. H. Temple-Watts; Mr. R. Want; Miss C. Westwood; Sir Frederick & Lady White; Mr. & Mrs. L. Whitfeld; Mr. J. Whitford; Miss D. Wills; Mr. J. Wrigley.

Missing Persons

Would anyone knowing the postal address of Mrs. D. Anderson, who paid her subscription in February 1970, please contact the Secretary, so that bulletins can be sent to Mrs. Anderson.

What is a National Park?

The following national park guideline definition comes from the 4th Ministerial Conference on National Parks held in Melbourne, 13th-14th August.

"A National Park is an area set aside for its features of predominantly unspoilt natural landscape, flora and fauna, permanently dedicated for public enjoyment, education and inspiration and protected from all interference other than essential management practices so that its natural attributes are preserved."

"New National Park in West" (from "The Daily Telegraph" 22.7.1970) copied from N.S.W.N.P.A. Sept. 1970.

A new national park of over half a million acres is to be formed in the far north west corner of N.S.W. Its formation has been made possible by the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Foundation which has provided \$80,000 to buy land for the park. One of the primary aims of the park will be to protect the red kangaroo and other arid zone animals. It will be located north of Tibooburra near the Queensland border.

The formation of the park was announced in a joint statement by the Department of Lands and the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Foundation yesterday. Chairman of the Foundation (Mr. F.S. Buckley) gave details of the project. He said the Foundation had provided \$80,000 which would be used by the National Park and Wildlife Service to buy the 83,500 acre Mount King Station. He said this was the first major project of the Foundation. It was planned to form the final half million acre park with the addition of portions of two adjoining Stations which were terminating Crown Leases. The Foundation, launched in March, is dedicated towards raising money for conservation purposes. The Foundation so far has drawn up a list of 20 projects (total cost \$3 million) which it hopes to achieve during the next 5 years.

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November, 1970.

NPA EXCURSION TO PEBBLY BEACH N.S.W., WEEKEND 3-5
OCTOBER 1970

Leader: Ederic Slater.

Location: Travel to Bateman's Bay via Nelligen. Turn north on reaching Highway 1 (Princes Highway) passing through Benanderah (5 miles) and continue for another 3 miles (total 8 miles from Bateman's Bay) and watch for NORTH DURRAS turnoff on right: Continue east along this road ignoring Durras and Depot Beach turnoffs and watch for Pebbly Beach sign (about 4 miles). Look for N.P.A. sign in camping area.

Objectives: i) Generally examine the area which is to be known and gazetted as the Murramarang State Park.
ii) Visit the Wave-cut Marine Rock Platform at north end of Pebbly Beach and study the zonation of the animals and plants occurring here including their special adaptation to a variety of habitats.
iii) Observe the various marsupial fauna including the live trapping and release of the Marsupial Mouse in the rain forest.
iv) Look and listen for the satin bower bird, lyre bird, etc. in the rain forest.
v) Walk north or south to various points of interest which includes other beaches, aboriginal artifact sites, fossil sites, etc.

Description: Geology.

Pebbly Beach is on the coast near the southern extremity of the Sydney basin. The rocks are of Permian age (about 280,000,000 years at base) and in this locality known as the Shoalhaven Group, Conjola Formation. The formation which can be seen by walking along the sea coast comprises banded siltstones and dark grey shales. These are interbedded with coarse conglomerates. In suitable localities fossils are present particularly the large thick shelled bivalve *Eurydesma*.

Fossil wood is also abundant, especially south towards Depot Beach where some very large tree trunks are embedded in the rock platform.

Further south beyond Durras near Dark Beach the Sydney Basin ends in a classical and magnificent unconformity between the Cambrian Wagonga Beds and the Conjola Formation. Mt. Durras which lies behind Pebbly Beach has been cleared for farming and has a Tertiary basalt capping.

Vegetation: The dominant coastal tree here is the Spotted Gum Eucalyptus maculata. Associated with Spotted Gum is the Cycad, Macrozamia spiralis a Gymnosperm, which means naked seed. Cycads are plants of ancient lineage and go back to Permian times, that is, as old as the rocks in this locality.

The rough-barked Eucalypts nearer the seashore are the Bangalay E. botryoides.

In the gullies of this area are remnant rain-forests and they contain examples of the Bangalow Palm (Archontophoenix cunninghamiana) and the rough tree-fern (Cyathea australis). These rain forest gullies support a number of animal species which particularly favour this habitat.

Animal Life: Terrestrial

At Pebbly Beach the most obvious animals are the Grey Kangaroo (Macropus giganteus) and the Red necked Wallaby (Wallabia rufogrisea) and these are quite approachable. A tame female Red kangaroo (Megaleia rufa) may be seen but it does not occur here naturally.

The brush-tailed Possum (Trichosurus vulpecula) occurs as does the Greater Glider (Schoinobates volans) and the small Squirrel Glider (Petaurus norfolkensis). These may be seen at night with a spot-light.

The broad-footed Macleay's Marsupial mouse (Antichinus stuartii) is common in the wet gullies and we will catch specimens for examination.

The allied Rat, Rattus fuscipes assimilis is found throughout the area.

The Dingo (Canis familiaris dingo) is quite common and has recently been responsible for the killing of some kangaroos.

Of birds, the Crimson Rozella (Platycercus elegans) is common, Kookaburras, Dacelo gigas, Blue wrens Malurus cyaneus etc. are all obvious. The Lyre bird Menura novae-hollandae is common and can be heard calling in early morning at this time of year. It is often seen. The Satin Bower bird Ptilonorhynchus violaceus is plentiful and a number of bowers can be found.

In the gullies the Lewin's Honeyeater, Meliphaga lewinii is a characteristic rain forest species.

Snakes and lizards are plentiful. Black snakes Psuedechis porphyriacus are common but not often encountered and some extremely large goannas Varanus varius live about this area.

Of invertebrates the one most often encountered is the scrub-tick, Ixodes holocyclus. Examine oneself and children for ticks regularly.

A number of butterfly species of interest occur mostly later in the year so will not be dealt with here but any of interest will be pointed out.

Leeches (Hirundinea) are common during wet weather in rain forest.

The Animals and Plants of the Marine Rock Platform:

On the rock platform animals and plants are distributed in an easily observed pattern. This is referred to as "zonation".

At low tide parts of the rock platform are uncovered and it is this intertidal region that we will examine in detail. The intertidal zone is the area between the average level reached by low spring tides and the highest of high spring tides. In N.S.W. this represents a vertical height of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

Twice in every 24 hours the intertidal zone is uncovered by the receding tide. Briefly, the length of time the various plants and animals are exposed to air and desiccation determines the level in this $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet where they occur as some are adapted to enable them to remain exposed longer than others. This results in a distinct zonation pattern.

The main zones that will be examined are as follows in descending order from high water level.

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
Supra Littoral Zone	- Snails, Nodilittorina and Melaraphe
Upper Littoral Zone	- Barnacles, Chamaesipho, Tetraclita Catophragmus
Mid Littoral Zone	- Tube-worm, Galeolaria
Lower Littoral Zone	- Cunjevoi, Pyura
Infra Littoral Fringe	- Algae, Phyllospora and Ecklonia.

Where heavy seas act on the mid-littoral zone the Tube Worm Galeolaria may be replaced by algae Ulva and Pterocladia.

A large number of animals and plants will be seen, named and discussed. A list would be too lengthy for these notes. If you are especially interested bring a note book and pencil. For reference see "Australian Sea Shores, Dakin, Bennett and Pope".

MEETINGS

October

Date: Thursday, 15th October, 1970 at 8 p.m.

Place: The Griffin Centre, Room I, Bunda St., City.

Feature: An illustrated talk by Dr. Dick Dodson of the Bureau of Mineral Resources. Subject: "African Game Parks".

Visitors Welcome

November

Date: Thursday, 19th November, 1970 at 8 p.m.

Place: The Griffin Centre, Room I, Bunda St., City.

Feature: An illustrated talk by Mr. Mike Hinchey
Subject: "Tasmania's National Parks".

Supper served after each meeting.

OUTINGSOctober Long Weekend

Date: Saturday 3rd October to Monday 5th October.

Place: Pebbley Beach.

Leader: Mr. E. Slater.

Meeting time: Meet by midday Saturday at Pebbley Beach camp site. Camping fee of 75 cents per day for each tent. Amenities include toilets, showers, water, and a small general store.

Details of outing: See article in this bulletin.

October

Date: Sunday 25th October

Place: Monga State Forest

Leader: Mr. Keith Green

Meeting Place: Braidwood Park at 10 a.m.

Feature: Driving via Majors Creek into Araluen Valley where we will lunch. Drive from valley to Monga State Forest to view the Waratahs, unique to this area.

November Special

Date: To be advised (Saturday-Sunday camping trip)

Place: Jervis Bay.

Leaders: Officers from the Department of the Interior. It is hoped that a large area of the penninsular will become a reserve.

November

Date: Sunday, 29th November.

Place: Billy Billy Rocks.

Leader: Mr. Jim Webb

Meeting Place: Junction of the Tharwa-Tidbinbilla Road and Corin Dam road at 9 a.m.

Feature: Bushwalk over steep, scrubby territory covered by fallen trees. Bring a cut lunch and small container of water.

Can you Help?

The Association needs the services of typists who can type gestetner stencils. If you can help, please contact our secretary.
