

**NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION OF
THE A.C.T. INC.**



BULLETIN

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 "A National Park for the National Capital"

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The Association welcomes the following new members:

Mr. R.J. Bird; Miss M. Crawford; Dr. S.P. Lewis; Miss D. Donnell; Mr. F.R. George;
 Mr. R. Gillett; Miss A.J. Godding; Miss M.J. Guthridge; Mr. & Mrs. Holesgrove;
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Membership Renewal

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 E.J. Walker; Mr. & Mrs. D. Wark; Mr. & Mrs. J. Webster; Mr. J. Whitford;
 Dr. & Mrs. P.H. Wilson.

Editorial.

This edition of the bulletin takes us past the Annual meeting and into the new year of the association. You will have noticed, it covers a longer period than usual in an attempt to avoid the compiling and printing of a bulletin over the weeks immediately after January 1st. The bulletins after this edition will once again cover a period of 3 months.

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Annual General Meeting

This important meeting will be held on Thursday, 20th July, 1972. The Business of the meeting is: 1. To receive from the Committee a report on the affairs of the Association, together with the audited statement of accounts for the year ended 30.6.72. 2. The Election of the Committee for 1972/73. Nominations are called for the following posts: President; Vice President; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Treasurer; Publicity Officer and Six Committee Members.

Nominations in writing should be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations should be signed by the proposer and seconder, and signed by the nominee as willing to stand.

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Films for Children

Will be held on Saturday, 3rd June, 1972 at 3 p.m. at the Dickson Library and Saturday, 1st July, 1972 at 3 p.m. at the Hughes Community Centre (subject to alteration).

Note. Confirmation of the date and place of the second screening and information on the films to be screened may be obtained after 1st May, by telephoning Miss Margaret Aston at 833320 (office hours). The screenings will also be advertised in the "Canberra Times" on the Wednesday prior to each screening.

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Outings Reports.

Australia Day Long Weekend outing to Kosiusko National Park was very well attended and the Alpine Club Hut was at capacity. The short walks from Sawpit Creek were in slightly misty conditions which prevail in that area. The main walk along Piper Creek toward the Snowy River was enjoyed by everyone except the leader who fell at the first hurdle.

The weekend was a success mainly due to the efforts of the ladies, who did sterling work. Some inclement weather engendered some real adventure when a few members were caught by a dramatic thunderstorm before wending their way home.

Mick Hardware.

Nadgee Report

The N.P.A. outing to the Nadgee Fauna Reserve over the Easter break, was attended by 12 adults and 1 child.

We arrived at a very pleasant campsite in a small valley behind Wally Newton's Beach, on Friday midday, and after pitching tents, went off on a short walk round the Jane Speirs Nature Trail.

Saturday morning was bright and clear, and 2 parties were formed - one to walk to Little River and the other, to set out on a more energetic 20 mile return hike to Salt Lake. Both groups encountered some magnificent coastal scenery, areas of low heath with species of Epacris, Hibbertia, Banksia, Grevillea & Goodenia in bloom, and small rainforest gullies, with Ribbon Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis), Pittosporum (P. undulatum, with large orange berries), and Coral Ferns (Gleichenia).

After a few aching muscles from Saturday, Sunday's walk to the Merrica River entrance, was taken at a much more leisurely pace. Species of Native Cyprus (Cupressus), Woollybutt (Eucalyptus longifolia), several forms of Fungi, and a few pools, laced with ferns, were sighted en route. We encountered a large deep sea cave near the entrance, and were most inspired by the huge rocky cliffs.

The visit to the caves at Wally Newton's Beach and the trip to Tumbledown Mountain, arranged for Monday were put off with the arrival of showery weather.

All in all, the visit to the Reserve was most enjoyable, and we were very grateful for the co-operation of the Ranger, David Hope.

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TREES OF CANBERRA

Eucalyptus rossii R.T.Bak. et H.G. Sm.

scribbly gum

This is an attractive, hardy, local eucalypt which is only planted to a limited extent, although it merits greater use than has hitherto been the case, especially on dry and stoney sites, where conditions are not favourable for some of the other species of the genus. Natural stands of it, however, are retained on hills around the city; good specimens, for example, may be seen at the picnic site half way up Black Mountain. The area of natural occurrence comprises the Western Slopes of New South Wales from the border with Victoria to the border with Queensland, as well as the lower altitudes of the tablelands. On poor sites the tree may be only 25-40 feet in height at maturity, but on moderately good soils in valleys of the Warrumbungle Ranges, near Coonabarabran, it attains 80 feet in height, and diameters up to 3 feet.

Like most of the genus it is a species suitable for public planting, but attains too large a size for most home sites. Scribbly gum is ornamental

and has some resemblance to brittle gum (E. mannifera subsp. maculosa). It has, however, heavier branching and, on good sites, a denser crown. The bark is shed to ground level, leaving light-coloured, mottled, new bark. The name 'scribbly gum' refers to the marks left by insects which burrow underneath the old bark; the extent to which 'scribbles' occur on the bark varies considerably. The common name of 'scribbly gum' is also used for several other gums but these are coastal species. The snow gum (E. pauciflora) also has 'scribbles' but occurs in a different habitat.

A short reference to the botanical differences between this eucalypt and brittle gum, has been given in the notes for that species.

Norman Hall.

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Book Review

"Wildflowers of the Australian Capital Territory" by Thelma & George Chippendale. Jacaranda Press 1972 \$1.95. This pocket size book contains fine colour plates and a succinct botanical description of the families illustrated.

G. Watt

"No Kangaroos for California" ("The Australian" March 2, 1972)
California at least is kangaroo conscious. It has just banned the import of kangaroo products - skins, hides and meat.

The legislation was introduced despite representations by Australian exporters and government trade officials in America that the proposals would include species that were not only in no danger of extinction, but had been declared "pests" in many parts of the continent.

The Californian Act goes one step further than Federal legislation which bans the import of species reported to be in danger of extinction by Australian authorities. These include all species of the wallaby and the rat kangaroo.

"Earthwatch" on Pollution (from The Courier-Mail March 18th, 1972)
The United Nations has prepared plans for sweeping international action against "degradation of the environment".

The plans include an "earthwatch" system for constant monitoring of pollution and research into ill effects of technology. The programme is a result of two years of consultations in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Environment to be held in Stockholm in June.

"Lighten Your Load by Chopping it in Two" (From New Scientist
Dec. 1971)

Although a large effort goes into ergonomically optimising the environment of such specialised people as astronauts, and to a lesser extent of people like car drivers and office workers, virtually nothing has been done on the ergonomics of manual load carrying, despite the immense amount of energy expended on such tasks around the world. Two Indian ergonomists, S.R. Datta and N.L. Ramanathan, report in Ergonomics (vol. 14, p 269) on a study of the energy used, and cardio-respiratory stress involved, in carrying loads in seven different ways. They found, surprisingly, that the best method is one that is virtually unused.

The seven subjects carried 30 kilogrammes of granite chips for one kilometre at five kilometres per hour, while their energy expenditure and cardio-respiratory response were measured. The seven carrying modes were: Double pack - the load is divided into two packs and strapped across the shoulder, one in front and the other on the back; Head - the load is carried on a basket on the head with a straw ring as padding; Rucksack; Ricebag - the load is carried in a sack on the back with the upper corners of the sack held by the hands; Sherpa - as rice bag except that the sack is supported by a band around the forehead; Yoke - the load is suspended from the ends of a pole which sits on the shoulder; and, last, hands.

They found that the relatively unusual double-pack method involved the least expenditure of energy and the least cardio-respiratory stress. In both cases carrying the load by hand was worst. It is hard to see why the double-pack should not be more widely used, except where the necessity of dividing the load in two makes it unsuitable. Datta and Ramanathan point out that in India, even when it is suitable because a double load is being carried, the yoke, which involved the expenditure of 30 per cent more energy, is far more common.

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THE FIRE FRONT

A Fire Control Policy for Jervis Bay

The State Council meeting report published in the March Journal mentioned the existence of the above, produced by the A.C.T. section of the Department of the Interior. It is commendable that such a policy should exist, and gratifying that its principles, which seem to reflect a considerable sympathy with a valuable environment, are in line with those which have been stated or suggested from time to time in The Fire Front.

The gist of the situation at Jervis Bay is that fire control management there has to cope with two general categories of land use - "man-made" areas and natural areas. The former comprise pine forests on the one hand and village, naval establishment, camping grounds, etc., on the other. The natural areas comprise a 10,670 acre nature reserve and other scenic natural areas, which abut both the improved areas and the nature reserve.

Recommendations for fire control in the first category are based simply on the need to protect the investment (and lives), which means keeping fire out completely at all times. Recommendations for the natural areas could have been different, involving some control burning to maintain an ecological mosaic, but in this case complete protection again is aimed for (although fire which does occur may be allowed to burn parts of the area). The reason for this is as follows:

The nature reserve contains a feature claimed as rare, if not unique - a 12-year unburnt heath, a mature community of closely spaced tall scrubs. This is both beautiful to the eye and scientifically - and no doubt ecologically - valuable, as well as functioning as a brake to potentially mobile sand dunes. It is highly desirable to maintain this area as long as it can persist in its present condition. In other words, it needs complete protection for the purposes planned for it. As for its own protection from fuel build-up, and for that of its adjacent areas, control burning is out, because in such dense growth control is impossible, and any fire destroys all standing vegetation.

Recognising that some fire will eventually occur in any such area in spite of the effort to protect it completely for as long as possible, the policy tends to condone infrequent and limited occurrences of fire as helping to produce that mosaic of fire-created habitats which seems to be generally regarded as ecologically desirable in many environments. The burnt areas can be either selectively managed by a fire regime to achieve some planned ecological result and maintain it, or leave them alone to regenerate and evolve naturally. The latter is more likely to be the policy in most cases, as witness the following statement: "In general, A.C.T. reserves are managed to conserve existing patterns only as far as they persist in their natural dynamic state, gradually progressing from one phase to another. Exceptions are possible." (The last three words leave the options open for judicial environmental manipulation. See *The Fire Front*, Dec. 1969.)

Coastal scrub in the area "is dominated by an inflammable (the word should be flammable - more modern, more logical - AC) species, and has a structure making cool burns unlikely". Presumably this also needs full protection more or less indefinitely, whereas the forests and woodlands which also occur there "can best tolerate fire, at infrequent intervals..." of 5-15 years. This leads to the subject of control burning as a protection measure.

The policy makes it clear that it regards control burning with considerable reservation, as a technique in which the risk of loss of control through wind changes and diversion of personnel to emergency out-breaks is not unlikely. Even though it can be practiced to some extent in the forests and woodlands of the Jervis Bay area, the risk of accidental ignition of the heath is too great for it to be used immediately adjacent to this environment. For this reason, slashed breaks are recommended as the primary mode of defence for all categories of land use in fact, and control burning can be used as an additional safeguard bordering these breaks, within forest or woodland only.

The document recognises that foresters are the main advocates of control burning, and that in general their main interest has been commercial forest protection. This has been extended to the protection of "property", but nature conservation - of "overall ecological patterns of vegetation" - has been a secondary consideration, although some attention is being paid, and research devoted, to this now.

Important additional recommendations are those which the NPA has recognised as paramount for many years - efficient detection and rapid suppression methods. Speed is the essence in bush fire fighting.

As well as setting down policy, the document also discourses generally, and in interesting fashion, on the general effects of fire, factors affecting its type and intensity, control burning, and the use of fire in management.

Alan R. Catford.

From (N.S.W. National Parks Journal - April 1972).

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Mining "detrimental at N.T. National Park" (from The Australian March 7, 1972)

But report views 'not yet accepted'

Mining in the area of the proposed Northern Territory national park is considered "detrimental," a top-level planning team appointed by the Federal Government said in a report released yesterday.

The team recommended urgent action to reserve 1436 square miles of the Top End for the park and that further moves be made to protect the catchment area of 627 square miles within the Arnhem Land Aboriginal reserve, for flora and fauna.

Commenting on the report last night, the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Hunt, said the Government had not yet accepted its recommendations.

The report was presented to the minister during the first half of 1971.

The Government announced in October that it would allow prospecting to continue in the proposed park area and review the situation at the end of 1973, when more was known about the extent of mineralisation.

This decision was contrary to the recommendations of the report, which was then in the hands of the Government.

The report said: "Any mining activity in this area is considered to be detrimental to the national park and protection of the catchment as a flora and fauna reserve or by any other suitable means is recommended.

"It is considered that any action in this regard should be implemented urgently and that existing authorities to prospect should be reviewed.

"A thorough revision and evaluation is recommended of all authorities to prospect and any rights or leases for mining activity within the national park boundaries, bearing in mind the priceless long-term value of national park resources which could be damaged."

Several major mining concerns now operate either within or close to the proposed park borders.

FUNDS

They include Queensland Mines, Noranda Australia, United Uranium, Pan Continental, Project Mining Corporation and Peko-Wallsend Industries.

Referring to the Arnhem Land Aboriginal reserve and the Deaf Adder and Jim Jim area, the report said: "If protection against possible visual and environmental injuries agencies is not adequately and permanently guaranteed, the individual features and the overall value of the national park could be in jeopardy."

The report also proposed that the park be named Kakuda National Park. It said the upper limit on funds set aside for the project should be increased by \$500,000 over the next three years making a total amount of \$900,000 for 1972-75 period.

The report team was headed by the chief planning officer of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr. J. Boeward, together with a CSIRO wildlife expert, Dr. H. Frith, and a Sydney parks architect, Mr. R. Smith.

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MEETINGS

May.

Date: Thursday, 18th May, 1972 at 8 p.m.
Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
Feature: Mr. David Deverall of the Dept. of the Interior will speak about "Environment Conservation in the A.C.T."

Visitors Welcome.

June.

Date: Thursday, 15th June, 1972 at 8 p.m.
Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
Feature: Colin Totterdell, Photographer, C.S.I.R.O., will give an illustrated talk on "Kosciusko Alpine Flora".

Visitors Welcome.

July.

Date: Thursday, 20th July, 1972 at 8 p.m.
Place: Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.

Feature: Annual General Meeting.

- Business:
1. To receive from the Committee a report on the affairs of the Association, together with the audited statement of accounts for the year ended 30.6.72.
 2. To elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer and six members of committee.
 3. To consider the Committee's recommendation that honorary life membership be conferred on Dr. Nancy Burbidge.
 4. To appoint an auditor.
 5. To transact any business which may properly be brought before the meeting.

Also "Lament for Lake Pedder". Colour slides and comments by Miss Julie Henry and Mr. Ian Currie.

Visitors Welcome.

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August.

Date: Thursday, 17th August, 1972 at 8 p.m.
 Place : Griffin Centre, Room 1, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: Guest Speaker, Mr. Ken Slater, at present of the Research School of Biological Science, A.N.U., and who has worked on zoological problems in New Guinea, South Australia, and the Northern Territory, will speak on "Reptiles and Conservation Strategy".

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OUTINGS

May.

Date: Saturday, 6th May, 1972.
 Place: Mount Majura.
 Meeting Place: At 1.30 p.m., top end Antill Street, Hackett.
 Leaders: Eddie Pook (477775)
 Chris Watson (489490)

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May.

Date: Saturday and Sunday 13th - 14th May.
 Place: Moodong Creek, Araluen Valley.
 Meeting Place: 10.30 a.m. at the Araluen Hotel.
 Leader: Robert Story (home phone 812174)
 Feature: Walk, carrying packs and tent but there is access to a shack if the weather is wet.

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May.

Date: Sunday, 28th May, 1972.
 Place: Two Sticks Road and Mt. Coree.

Meeting Place: Picadilly Circus at 10.30 a.m.

Leader: Ian Currie - Phone (H) 958112
(W) 958107

Feature: Proceed by car along Two Sticks Road to Mt. Coree.
Walk up mountain after lunch.

June.

Date: Long weekend (10th, 11th, 12th June)

Place: Pebbly Beach.

Meeting Place: At the beach by midday. Travel along Batemans Bay road from Queanbeyan but turn left at Coast Road and proceed north to Nth. Durras turn off. Proceed along this dirt road to junction of Pebbly Beach and Depot Beach roads. Turn left into Pebbly Beach road.

Feature: Pleasant camp site (75 cents per night). Water tanks, pit toilets and small store. Walks round headlands, on rock platforms. Fossils in rocks, life in rock pools, kangaroos on the green grassed areas.

Leader: Fiona Brand (479538)

June.

Date: Sunday, 17th June, 1972.

Place: Angle Crossing.

Meeting Place: At 10 a.m. at the crossing (Monaro Highway side)

Leader: Miss T. Exley (Phone home - 812324)

Feature: Gentle walk along the Murrumbidgee River.
Carry a lunch and water.

June.

Date: Sunday, 25th June, 1972.

Place: Mt. McKeahney.

Meeting Place: At 9.00 a.m. at junction of McCulloch Street, Curtin and Cotter Road.

Feature: Walk up the mountain through pleasant bush country. Views of Corin Dam, Orroral Valley and Southern A.C.T.

Leader: Noel Semple (Phone home - 811482)

Special Instructions: There are no tracks. This walk is unsuitable for small children. Bring a packed lunch.

July.

Date: Saturday, 1st July, 1972.

Place: Mt. Ainslie.

Meeting Place: 1.30 p.m. on Mt. Ainslie Drive, 100 yds. from Fairbairn Avenue turnoff.

Leaders: Eddie Pook (477775)
Chris Watson (489490)

July.

Date: Sunday, 30th July, 1972.
 Place: Molonglo Gorge.
 Meeting Place: Picnic area at gorge at 1.30 p.m. ready for walk
 (Members may like to come earlier for a barbecue
 lunch).
 Leader: John Baker (phone work - 493255).
 Feature: An easy walk along the gorge looking at features of the
 vegetation.

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August.

Date: Sunday, 20th August, 1972.
 Place: Tidbinbilla
 Meeting Place: Rangers office at 9.30 a.m.
 Leader: Mick Hardware (phone home 861915)
 Feature: Bring a packed lunch. As we did not achieve our objective
 on the previous outing, we might make it this time -
 Mt. Tidbinbilla Ridge.

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August.

Date: Sunday, 25th August, 1972.
 Place: Nursery Swamp.
 Meeting Place: 9 a.m. at Tharwa Village.
 Leader: Glyn Lewis (phone home - 956937)
 Feature: A walk of approx. 90 minutes from Orroral Valley through
 forest land, steep in places (no made track) to a long
 open valley where the swamp lies. After exploring the
 valley and eating lunch the party will return to the cars
 in Orroral Valley.
 Nursery Swamp is a proposed addition to the original area
 of the proposed Gudgenby National Park of the A.C.T.

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Proposed Future Outings.

September.

Lake George (Sunday)	Leader Prof. Brown
Black Mountain (Saturday)	John Baker
Big Hole & Marble Arch (Sunday)	Bill Adams
Bundanoon (Weekend)	Julie Henry
Barren Grounds (Weekend)	Thea Exley.

October.

Black Mountain (Saturday)	John Baker
Brindabellas (Sunday)	Nancy Burbidge
Griffith-Mallee Fowl (L.Weekend)	Ed Slater
Yarrangobilly (Weekend)	Andy Spate

Lake Pedder

The struggle to save this wilderness area still goes on. The latest news is from a letter to the "Canberra Times" Saturday, 8th April by Anne van der Duys, in which she stated that funds are needed to field several United Tasmania Group candidates in the Tasmanian elections. These candidates, if elected would hold the balance of power between the two major groups which have both refused to stop the flooding of the lake. Cheques to the fighting fund for the elections should be made payable to United Tasmania Group and sent C/- Dr. R. Jones, 6 Greenlands Avenue, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005.

Four of our members, Julie Henry, Jean and Ian Currie and Peter Currie visited this area in January and will show their slides at the July meeting.

Members last year had the opportunity of seeing the audio-visual presentation by Olegas Truchanas, who died in January whilst on a canoeing trip in Tasmania.

The following is a letter of Challenge to the Tasmanian Premier, published in "The Age" March 15, 1972.

Sir,

The Australian Conservation Foundation wishes to deny emphatically that there is any truth in the reported statement by the Tasmanian Premier (Mr. Bethune) "The Age" 9/3 that prominent and responsible conservationists are not interested in the Lake Pedder issue.

The A.C.F. also challenges the Premier to name the people he is referring to. As director of the A.C.F., I know of no conservation issue which is arousing such widespread concern throughout Australia.

The A.C.F. believes Lake Pedder is an asset of great scenic, recreational and scientific value to Australians and this organisation has given the widest possible publicity to its view that the flooding of the lake should be halted so that the question of what is in the public interest can be reviewed.

Lest anyone should think that the A.C.F. does not represent the voice of conservation, I would like to point out that it is governed by a council of 51 members who are elected by a membership of more than 7,300.

The Federal system can be made to work for conservation of great natural assets, such as Lake Pedder, which are located in a State with limited financial resources. But before the Commonwealth Government can help it has to be approached by the State Government. Conservationists throughout Australia are waiting for Mr. Bethune to adopt a responsible attitude and ask the Commonwealth for discussions. There is still time to save Lake Pedder by varying the power scheme.

R.D. Piesse (Director, Australian Conservation Foundation)

Poster Competition

This will be held in conjunction with "Conservation Week" in July. Children in Primary and Infants School will be asked to submit entries. Mrs. Shirley Lewis (phone home - 956937) will be grateful for any offer of help in organizing and conducting this competition.

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Nature Group to Make Films (from "The Age" 26th February, 1972)

The Australian Conservation Foundation is going into the film-making business.

The foundation plans to make a 57 minute colour T.V. film about Australia's flora and fauna and what effect 200 years of white civilisation has had on it.

The film has been tentatively titled "The Face of Australia".

* * * * *

Build on Nature, says scientist (from "The Australian" Jan.18 1972)

First public speech since taking office.

Man is increasing his ability to destroy his environment at an ever-growing rate, the Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant, said yesterday.

Thought has to be given to creating the environment as well as preserving it, he said.

Sir Mark, who opened a summer school in environmental studies, was giving his first public address since becoming Governor.

Sir Mark, an eminent scientist, said man was bent on increasing population because of a creed that equated expansion with progress.

"But there is no need for populations to increase." he said. "We have the knowledge to prevent this but the application is slow."

Sir Mark said that more than 500,000 acres disappeared in the world each day beneath concrete for homes, factories and roads demanded by an increasing population.

"We desire to have our cake and eat it too," he said.

Less emphasis should be placed on growth and more on the quality of life.

Adelaide had an environmental problem in its source of water, Sir Mark said.

"We drink water in a substance like weak tea," he said.

The summer school has been arranged by the interfaculty committee on environmental science at Adelaide University, the South Australian Education Department and the university's department of adult education.

The school's director, Dr. P. Davis, said yesterday: "Most of the environmental problems which threaten us today are just too complex to be solved by a simple engineering medical or legal approach.

"At the school we will be showing how the many resources of the university and the community must be brought together to find truly effective answers to environmental problems which will improve the quality of life for the whole community."

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LATE NEWS

The Society for Social Responsibility in Science will be holding a meeting on 2nd May at 8 p.m. in the Coombes Building. The subject will be "The Motor Car in Tomorrow's Canberra."

All Welcome.

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