



NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION
OF THE A.C.T.

Vol. 2 No. 2 April - May

Annual Subscription 6/-
Per copy 1/-.

2.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A. C. T.

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President : Dr. R. Story, 104 Buxton St., Deakin
Treasurer : Mr. I. Baird, 9 Canterbury Cres., Deakin
Secretary : Mrs A. J. Brand, Box 457, P. O. Canberra City

Monthly Meeting - 4th Tuesday of the month.

This year has commenced with two very well attended and successful activities. The first was the excellent address given by Mr. N. Gare, Superintendent of the Kosciusko State Park. It was very pleasant to hear such an enthusiastic person speak about the work of Rangers in this huge park with all its problems of management. The February outing to Fishing Gap was blessed with perfect weather and the beautiful Cotter River side of the Gap is a place to be revisited. Most members ended the day very profitably by blackberrying.

Our congratulations go to two members of this association. Dr. Burbidge has had another book published - "Gum Trees of the A. C. T.". This will be a valuable book for all members. Mrs. Temple-Watts has had three stamp designs accepted and printed. They are on sale now and depict a Blue Wren, a Galah and a Magpie. Native animals and flowers have been publicised in this way before and it is encouraging to see that the P. M. G. department is continuing this series.

David G. Stead Memorial Wild Life Foundation of Australia

The foundation has been named in honour of Australia's great conservationist, David George Stead, one of the founders of the Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia and who devoted the greater part of his life to conservation.

N. P. A. of the A. C. T.

April - May

Principal Aims and Objects of the Foundation

To initiate, promote and further research, scientific, technical or other into all aspects of the conservation of wildlife of the Commonwealth.

To maintain sanctuaries, reserves, and to carry on experimental works.

To co-operate with organisations, universities and institutions in experiment or research in use of national parks, playgrounds and similar areas; in the proper management, cultivation and preservation of Australian indigenous fauna and flora.

To publish information related to these aims and objects and to arrange lectures and carry on educational courses for the furtherance of these objects, and to establish fellowships and scholarships for work in conservation.

To establish and maintain museums, arboretums and collections, related to its objects.

Membership of the Foundation is open to any person or organisation who supports its aims. Membership fee is £1.1.0 to be sent to the Secretary, David G. Stead Memorial, Wildlife Research Foundation, Box 2307, G. P. O., Sydney.

Members of the Board of the Foundation are:-

Mrs. T. Y. Stead (Thistle Y. Harris), Chairman; and Messrs. B. U. Byles (Forestry), N. H. Hicks (Koalas), H. J. Stanley (Parks and Reserves) and A. A. Strom (Fauna).

Conservation Thoughts

"Natural open land is the ideal setting for rest and recreation. Once it is developed, it cannot be replaced".

"The march of development is making rapid inroads on the natural refuge of our wildlife and wild scenery. Paradoxically, in an age of easier travel we are thus finding it harder and yet harder to keep up with the fast-shifting frontiers between civilisation and primitive nature".

Mr. S. Wilson

How can one attract birds to the garden? - is a question frequently asked in Canberra.

There is no doubt that in the older areas of Canberra there are now more birds than before these areas were settled. As gardens and parks develop this trend can be expected to continue.

In winter one can see more birds in the vicinity of the built-up areas of Canberra than in the open country. The reason is the ready availability of food from the thousands of garden trees and shrubs.

Departmental plantings of several species of banksias and grevilleas have caused individuals of about a dozen species of honey-eaters to remain in Canberra over the last few winters. Without such an assured source of food these species would normally not be found near Canberra in winter. Specialist nurserymen advertising in the garden papers stock many species of banksias and grevillias and they make distinctive garden plants.

Generally speaking, the planting of Australian native trees and shrubs will attract birds to home gardens to feed. With the smaller allotments now being subdivided it is unlikely that many birds will actually nest in such private gardens.

Eucalyptus cosmophylla which flowers in winter is a good source of food for nectar feeders. Eremophyllas which are summer flowering shrubs from the inland are also important nectar producers.

Many of the garden shrubs which produce berries in winter will attract birds and probably the best of these from this viewpoint is Cotoneaster erotina.

Pyracanthas are also attractive to birds.

Birds are partial to ripe fruit left on the tree, particularly figs, plums, pears, crab apples and grapes.

A tall tree, preferably a eucalypt is a necessary refuge for birds in any suburban block. If disturbed when feeding they like the safety of a well developed tree.

Feeding tables are another supplementary way of attracting birds. Such a table should be in a position where cats cannot reach it and could be placed say 4' to 5' high on a suitable length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " piping. An alternative is to suspend the table at about the same height from overhead by four wires. Grated cheese, suet, a mixture of honey and water, chopped meat and bread smeared with honey or jam are all suitable foods.

.....

Conservation News.

New Zealand Nature Conservation. The first members of a Nature Conservation Council in New Zealand were appointed in December 1962. The appointment of the seven men was made under the Nature Conservation Council Act, and each appointment is for 3 years. The council will advise the Government on nature conservation matters, and has the power to make its views known to the public. It will be an independent body to coordinate scientific and technical information on nature conservation and to enquire into the effects of proposed works on any aspect of conservation.

.....

6.

EYES OR NO EYES No. 7



Dr. N. Burbidge.
Kangaroo Apple which is figured here is a leafy shrub that may grow to five or six feet high. The leaves are soft, the upper ones straight sided but the lower ones larger, broader and sometimes with a few spreading lobes. The deep blue flowers are attractive but do not last well if picked. They grow near the ends of the smaller branches. The flower opens very wide but the stamens stand erect in the centre. When in full flower the petals may be $1-1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter but off season flowers are often smaller. The fruit is like a small orange tomato. As it contains numerous hard stone-cell masses among the seeds it is of no use to eat.

A native name for Kangaroo Apple in the Gippsland area is Gonyang but

it may not be exactly the same species as we have near Canberra. The plant is common along the road by Lake George and may be seen in many other places. It belongs to the genus Solanum which also includes the Potato. Edible potatoes come from South America but there are many wild species in Australia, especially in the dry inland.

N. T. B.

MEETINGSAPRIL

Date : Tuesday, 28th April 1964
 Place : Institute of Anatomy at 8 o'clock
 Feature : Guest Speaker Mr. N. Semple whose subject will be "Victorian National Parks". Members have already heard talks about Queensland National Parks and National Parks in N. S. W., so that this illustrated address will be third in the series of "National Parks in Australia".

MAY

Date : Tuesday 26th May 1964
 Place : Institute of Anatomy at 8 o'clock
 Feature : Films "Around a Gum Tree" - a forestry film.
 "Koalas and Lyre Birds" - a Gerald Durrall film.
 "Wildlife Paradise".
 "Adventuring in Conservation".

MAY OUTING

Date : Sunday, 3rd May 1964
 Place : Flea Creek, Brindabella Valley
 Features : Members will meet at Picadilly Circus at 10 o'clock, then proceed into the Brindabella Valley and drive to within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Flea Creek which flows into the Goodradigbee River. After walking to the creek, members will see trout moving up the shallow creek to spawn.

OUTINGS

APRIL - This is a combined outing with the N. S. W. National Parks Association. It is hoped that there is a good gathering from both associations so ideas and opinions can be exchanged on our common interest - conservation.

Date : Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April, 1964

Place : Bungonia Gorge and Plateau, N. S. W.

Features: Members will meet at Bungonia Lookdown as early as possible on Saturday morning, having driven along the Federal Highway to Goulburn then along the Hume Highway for 16 miles to the Bungonia turn off (road 12 miles).

Programme - Saturday

The leader from the N. S. W. N. P. A., Mr Henry Fairlie-Cunningham will lead the party on a tour of the plateau area. Points of interest are:-

1. View from Lookdown into the Bungonia Creek gorge and the Shoalhaven gorge.
2. Cardinal View Point.
3. Cooeing Point view into the limestone slot gorge.
4. A walk of 1 mile to Adams lookout (along a track) to look end on to the gorge and see Jerrara Creek Falls and a walk to the limestone cave entrances.

At night colour slides of cave interiors and aspects of cave exploration will be shown in the shelter shed.

Sunday - There will be two activities:-

1. A walk into the gorge taking lunch. It is a steep descent but there are no cliffs to negotiate!
2. A drive to Long Point Lookout.

If it is inconvenient to spend the weekend away try to come for the Saturday's activities.

May Outing - see page 7.