



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"

President	: Dr. R. Story 104 Buxton St., Deakin (office phone 92217)
Treasurer	: Mr I. Baird, 9 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin (phone 71644)
Secretary	: Miss M. Hamilton, P. O. Box 457, Canberra City. (office phone JO422-2898)

Monthly Meeting - 4th Tuesday of the month

After a recess of two months, the monthly meeting for February will be a "picnic meeting" instead of our usual meeting held in the Institute of Anatomy.

Hoping that members with young children will be able to attend our first meeting for the year, we will gather at the sandy beach of Uriarra Crossing from 6 o'clock on for a swim, picnic tea and "get together". Later in the evening the St. John's Folk Singers will entertain us for a short time. There are fire places at Uriarra, but as February is still in the bush fire season there may be a total ban on fires so that it would be wiser to plan a cold meal. If the picnic has to be cancelled because of wet weather a normal meeting will be held in the Institute at 8 o'clock.

Membership

The following new members are welcomed into our association, and we know their interest will help the Conservation Cause in this country. Dr E. C. F. Bird; Mr & Mrs R. J. Murray, Mr & Mrs N. T. Sexton; Dr R. Milton Moore; Mr J. A. Whelen; Mr W. Whelen; Mr & Mrs J. H. Johnston; Mr & Mrs S. V. Vine.

Renewals :- Sir Harold and Lady Raggett; Mrs E. M. Holt; Miss J. Henry; Mrs Margaret Lake; Mr & Mrs Paijmans; Mr & Mrs M. B. Lowe; Mr. K. J. Green; Dr & Mrs R. Story; Mr W. Reyenga; Miss I. Sherlock; Miss A. C. Swain; Dr & Mrs I. Gyorgy; Mr & Mrs D. Hodgkin; Miss M. D. Barrow; Dr J. A. Carnahan; Mrs A. P. Dalgarno; Mrs M. Morris; Dr & Mrs F. H. W. Morley; Mr & Mrs N. H. Speck, Miss R. W. Davidson; Mr & Mrs R. Schodde; Mr & Mrs K. Crawford;

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Mr & Mrs R. P. Greenish; Mrs A. E. Prait;
Dr & Mrs Paterson; Sir Frederick & Lady White;
Dr & Mrs K. Key; Mr N. Semple; Mr M. P. Hill;
Commadore & Mrs Stanners; Dr & Mrs E. M. Franke;
Mr & Mrs E. Pook.

3.

Badges - Your committee is at the moment negotiating to have a lapel badge made for our association. We should be able to announce cost and when sale will commence in the next bulletin.

Conservation Lectures - Here is your chance to learn what "conservation" really is. A course of ten lectures organised by the Department of Adult Education, will be given by Dr. E. C. F. Bird commencing on Thursday 10th June at 8 p. m. at the Australian National University. The course consists of a study of the conservation of natural resources, particularly of soils, water, forests, wildlife and scenery in Australia and overseas. After an introduction to the problems of conservation in Australia the lecturer will give special attention to the role of national parks and wildlife reserves in the conservation programme.

A weekend field class, which will be held in the Koscuisko State Park will illustrate this role. The course may be repeated, or continued in third term, according to demand. Although the course does not commence until June, enrolment must be made between 6th - 27th February, as classes may be cancelled if there are not sufficient enrolments by that date. Enrolment cards are obtained from the Department of Adult Education, P. O. Box 4 Canberra or Y. W. C. A. Office, Alinga St., Civic or The Office, Hughes Community Centre. The enrolment card and a cheque or postal order for £2 (made out to The Australian National University) to be sent to the Accountant, P. O. Box 4, Canberra.

Does this sound familiar? From Queensland N. P. A. News "20 acres have been taken from a National Park Scenic Area north of Nambour and given to the exclusive use of the Nambour Golf Club. "

Mallacoota National Park - (from Victorian N. P. A. News

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Letter). A deputation from the V. N. P. A. visited the Victorian Minister of Lands to express their concern about the proposed excision of part of the Mallacoota National Park. The Minister gave the deputation a good hearing and invited representatives from the V. N. P. A. to accompany him and the Minister of State Development on a personal inspection of the Park in February. The V. N. P. A. president warned that more than passive support may be required from its 1,400 members.

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Here is an article by one of the association's members. The editor would welcome similar articles from members on any nature subject or interesting place visited which could be recommended to others. Please send to 11 Dyson St. Lyneham.

"Garden Visitors"

by Mr I. Baird

When we first came to live in the A. C. T. our house was new and the trees and shrubs in the garden were only small. A couple of cats were there, so birds were scarce. The cats were supposed to keep down the rats but they seemed to us to get along quite well together. So soon the cats went and we got rid of the rats, and as the trees grew and we planted bushes and hedges the birds began to come into the garden.

Among the first to arrive were the blue wrens. After a bed has been dug they will search the recently turned earth for small worms and grubs and if you stand still they will feed almost up to your feet. On hot days they love taking a shower under a sprinkler and sometimes get so wet that they can scarcely fly. Their nests, made of grass and deep with only a small entrance on the side near the top of the nest, are always well hidden in a thick bush. They evidently are very successful in rearing their families and the blue wren population must outrun the food supply because soon after the young birds come out it is quite common to find dead wrens about the garden. We have overcome this to a certain extent by constantly keeping a supply of fat available. They only take a few pecks at it at one time, but the number of wrens seems to have increased.

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The Willy-Wagtail is another friendly little bird. He is not as tame as the wrens but if you go near his nest he will flutter around your head, nearly touching it, and protesting all the time. If they are sitting they always leave the nest when you come along, but if you stay working close by they gradually pluck up enough courage to return to the eggs before they get cold. Willys build in the most exposed places but even so more often than not they rear their young ones, mostly three. 5.

Goldfinches are shy birds and like to build in the pines and in the apple trees. If you take too much notice of their nests they are likely to abandon them.

A pair of fantails has nested in the garden this year. These little birds are very tame and are quite likely to fly under your arm if you hold it out.

White-plumed honeyeaters (Australian canary) used to visit us regularly but are absent this year. One tree-creeper looks in now and again for a peck of fat, and robins come about in the winter and at times firetail finches call for a few days.

Our best song bird is certainly the thrush. It was years before a thrush came into the garden and then it only stopped for the winter, leaving early in Spring to find a mate. Then one year it brought a mate but it didn't suit her and they both left quite soon. But this year they both spent winter and spring in the garden. Unfortunately just recently they have both departed.

Parrots are not very welcome in the garden. Early in spring they call to nip off the almond blossom. Later on they drop in to sample the apricots and other fruit. Finally they revisit the almonds to feed on any nuts that develop after their first raid.

An exception to the general lot of parrots are the small, beautiful grass parrots who spend most of their time hopping about amongst the grass and don't bother about fruit.

These are some of the birds which give us so much pleasure in our garden in the country. In town we are not so well off for birds.

EYES OR NO EYES NO. 11

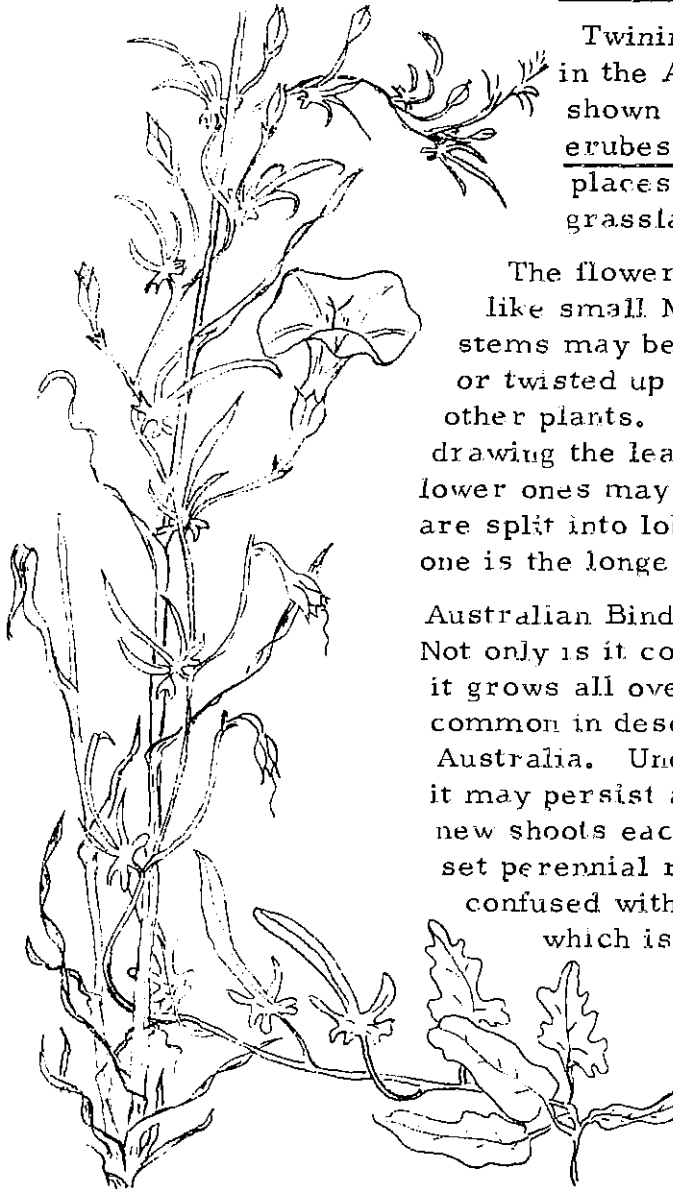
Twining plants are not common in the Australian Bush. The one shown here is Convolvulus erubescens. It grows in warm sunny places and so is more common in grassland than in the forest.

The flowers are pink inside and look like small Morning Glories. The stems may be prostrate on the ground or twisted up the stalks of grasses or other plants. As may be seen in the drawing the leaves vary in shape. The lower ones may be oblong while the upper are split into lobes of which the middle one is the longest.

Australian Bindweed is very widespread. Not only is it common in the A. C. T. but it grows all over Australia, It is common in desert country of Central Australia. Under Canberra conditions it may persist as a garden weed with new shoots each season from a deep-set perennial root. It should not be confused with the true Bindweed

which is a serious weed in some places. Our plant differs in the presence of minute downy hairs on stems, leaves and flowers.

N. T. B.



OUTINGS

7.

March

Date : Sunday 27th March, 1965
Place : Bird watching on Lake George
Leader : Mr S. Wilson
Feature : Meeting place at the swamp on the left hand side about 2 miles past the A. C. T. boundary on the Bungendore Road at 10 a.m. Bring a packed lunch as there will be a short walk along the Lake's shore to view waterbirds and to watch bird banding by the Australian Bird Banding Scheme (CSIRO).
Bring binoculars if possible.

MEETINGS

February -

Date : Tuesday 23rd February at 6 o'clock
Place : The sandy area, Uriarra Crossing
Features: Swimming, a "get together" for all members young and old. After a cold tea, entertainment from the St. John's Folk Singers. Please note - If it is raining at this time, an ordinary monthly meeting will be held at 8 o'clock in the Institute of Anatomy.

March -

Date : Tuesday 23rd March at 8 o'clock
Place : Institute of Anatomy
Feature : We hope Mr Fabricius will speak about "German Nature Reserve". Will members please watch the press for the advertisement.

SIGNS FROM OVERSEAS NATIONAL PARKS.

1. " Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints"
(from Queensland N.P.A. News)
2. " Let it not be said, And said to your shame,
This place was beautiful, Until you came. "

OUTINGS

February

1. Day Outing

Date : Sunday 28th February, 1965
Place : Molonglo Gorge
Leader : Dr N. Burbidge
Feature : Meeting place is the junction of Sutton Road and Duntroon Road at 10 o'clock. Bring a packed lunch as there will be an easy walk along the gorge. Remember, this was your association's first success in gaining a reserve in the A. C. T.

2. Weekend Outing

Date : Saturday 27th February and Sunday 28th February
Place : Coolamon Plains, Coolamon Homestead, overnight at Yarrangobilly Caves, inspection of caves at 7.30 p.m. Saturday and 9.30 a.m. Sunday. Swimming in thermal pool, returning to Canberra Sunday afternoon via Talbingo, Blowering Valley, Tumut, Gundagai and Yass.
Leaders : Mr I. Baird and Mr K. Green (phone 46223).
Details : Meeting place, Brindabella Bridge over Goodradigbee R. at 1 o'clock (pm) Saturday. Yarrangobilly is 80 miles from Canberra over a rough road and very steep hills so that cars must be in first class mechanical order. Overnight accommodation can be arranged at the Caves House (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast £2/5/-; B & B £1/10/-) by informing Mr Green by Tuesday 16th February. There is a camping area near the caves. Inquiries regarding transport and members with space for passengers please contact Mr Green.
