



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"

President - Ian Grant, 12 Selwyn St. , Hackett, (phone 491427)
Secretary - Marie Sexton, P. O. Box 457, Canberra City
Treasurer - Ian Baird, 9 Canterbury Crescent Deakin,
(phone 71644)

Monthly Meeting, 4th Tuesday of the month

Following upon our Annual meeting, the association has a new committee to run its affairs.

President - Ian Grant
Vice President - (vacant)
Secretary - Marie Sexton
Asst. Secretary - (Mrs) B. Hammond
Treasurer - Ian Baird
Publicity Officer - Dick Schodde
Committee - Nancy Burbidge, A. L. G. MacDonald,
Murray Upton, Jim Webb, Keith Green

The office of Vice President was not filled, as well as that of one committee man.

Dr Story as past-President is also a member of committee. The Outings Committee comprises M. Upton, (Convenor); Don McLean; Keith Green; Stan Judge and Stella Rosengrove. Membership - Miss K. A. Clancy; Mrs Stoemmler, Mr D. McCay - all new members.

Subscription renewals to 31st July 1965 - Misses Baird; Cox; Davidson; Linley; Morris; Rosengrove; Stone; Whitton and Holt. Dr B. Phillips; Mesdames Gilmour; Holt and Tillyard; Families Fabricius; Hammond; Low; Webb, Gibson and Scott. Messrs Grant; Judge; Masters Clayton and Gilmour.

Regrettably a few members failed to pay their dues during last year. The Treasurer would appreciate all subs being paid by the end of this month, by post, at monthly meetings, or on outings. This will enable mailing lists to be properly compiled, and the number of Bulletins required to be determined.

The latest news about the magazine "Wildlife" is that its publication will be continued as "The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland" has taken responsibility for it. Your support is still needed however so send your annual subscription of 16/- to Box 1173 G. P. O. Brisbane.

Use of a Self-Guiding Track (from Queensland N. P. A.).

The Queensland Forestry Department has published a leaflet for use in the Maijala National Park at Mount Glorious. Visitors collect their copy from a box at the entrance to the circuit walking track at the lower corner of the picnic area, and then follow the signposts "A" to "O" on the Self-Guiding Track. In addition to the four pages of track notes and a map of the circuit track the leaflet contains a locality map and eight pages of natural history of the reserve.

Badges - Have you purchased your N. P. A. Badge yet?
Available from Roy Tait at outings or at monthly meetings.
Cost 5/- each.

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This can be achieved under our present constitution and can be made effective in a relatively short time. I hope we will see some such approach within the next year. This would be a major step forward, if not the complete answer.

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The Legislator and Conservation

(An extract from the opening address given at the Seminar on Wildlife Conservation in Eastern Australia, prepared and given by Mr W. Hughes, M. L. A.).

It is not too harsh to say that at both Federal and State levels Wildlife Conservation programmes are confused in their objectives. Responsibilities are scattered through so many different departments with apparently conflicting interests that no clear stream of policy emerges. New South Wales is no better and no worse than any other State in this Conservation field. I hope then, that I will not be considered political in taking it as an example.

Here we have a veritable maze of authorities dealing with various important aspects of conservation. There is little co-ordination and integration of policies, indeed, we see a type of organisation which cannot avoid conflicting interests to the detriment of conservation as a whole.

We have Conservation in the sense of Water, Soil and Forest Conservation with three Commissions under one Minister all doing fine work in a prescribed field, but with no responsibility for Wildlife Conservation.

We have Parks, Reserves, and National Parks under the Minister for Lands. This Department is in the throes of producing a National Parks Authority for N. S. W. This could be most valuable, but should it be divorced from the outstanding work of the Chief Guardian of Fauna.

We have the protection of Flora and Fauna and a separate Fisheries Department as the responsibility of the Chief Secretary. Until the present, protection of Wildflowers has been the prerogative of the Minister for Local Government. The new and valuable State Planning Authority - assuming a range of responsibility for town and country planning, and to an unknown degree, for National Parks is under the control of the Minister for Local Government.

The Department of Agriculture, often with a separate Minister, is responsible for the control of noxious animals,
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the use of poisons such as 1080 and other pesticides which have considerable and alarming side effects on birds, animals and useful insect life.

Finally, we have the Minister for Mines who has over-riding authority for the exploitation of mineral wealth and where the destruction of vegetation, wildlife areas, damage to surface areas and beauty spots too often take second place to mining activities of very limited value.

This is an unhealthy situation, indeed a frightening one, and from my knowledge, this intolerable position is by no means peculiar to N. S. W.

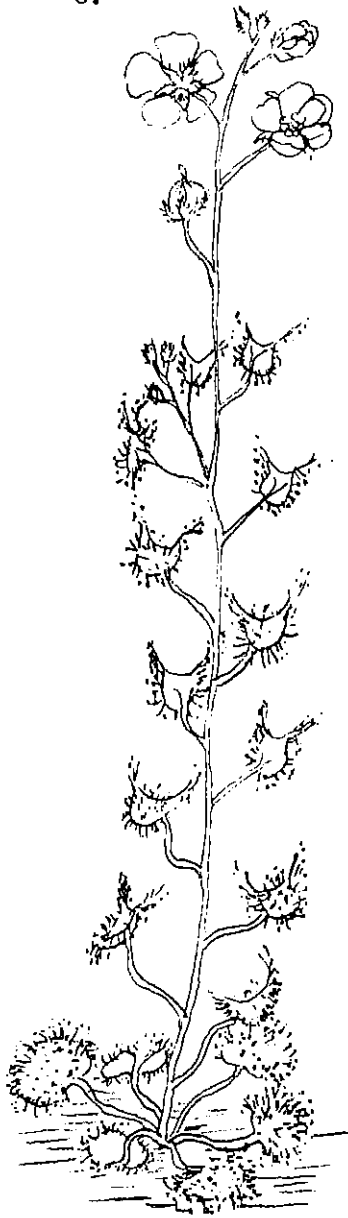
It may well be that economic land usage, development and natural resources may conflict with conservation needs and some degree of compromise is necessary, though personally I doubt it. But it is true that diversity of control - or lack of it in the wider field is having, and will continue to have, most damaging effects so far as Wildlife Conservation is concerned.

It is equally true that between States we have tremendous differences in attitudes and ideas in conservation which lead to equally disastrous results. In northern New South Wales kangaroos are protected and deer are noxious animals. I understand that over the Queensland border - a political boundary only - kangaroos are noxious and deer are protected! This surely is crazy in anyone's language. A similar position exists on the Victorian border in relation to wild duck.

It is arguable on these grounds that Conservation, and particularly Wildlife Conservation, should be the prerogative of the National Government. Personally I strongly advocate a National Conservation Council comprising the appropriate officers to define common grounds for an attack on this problem and achieving a high degree of uniformity on the principles to be adopted in each State.

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Eyes or No Eyes No 14

There are two kinds of Sundew growing in the A. C. T. In the one figured here (Drosera peltata) the round basal leaves persist until after the plant has flowered. It also has hairy sepals. In the second species (D. auriculata) the basal leaves soon wither and the lower stem leaves may be represented by minute brown scales. This species has dark sepals which are not hairy.

In both kinds the stem leaves have the petiole attached to the back of the blade. The blade has two hairy points or ears. The sticky glandular hairs on each blade secrete substances in which small insects become tangled. Once caught they are "digested" and the plant absorbs food material from this process.

The plants like damp places like gullies where there is seepage making swampy ground. At present they are still very small with little more than the basal leaves developed. It will be some months before the flowers, which may be white or pink, can be seen.

N. T. B.

MEETINGSAugust

Date : Tuesday 24th August at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : A film evening. We will have the privilege
 to be one of the first audiences to see a new
 film about the Lyrebirds, called "Menura".
 Other films will be -
 "Grampian Wonderland"
 "The Brolga"
 "Animals - How They Move"

Bring your friends to this evening.

September

Date : Tuesday 28th September at 8 o'clock
 Place : Institute of Anatomy
 Feature : The guest speaker will be Dr S. V. Boyden
 who will speak about the proposed Biological
 Centre in Canberra

"The principal aims of the Biological Centre would be to
 introduce people to the rest of the living world and to
 stimulate interest in biological science. The Centre's
 activities and displays would place emphasis not only
 on the intrinsic interest and beauty of natural phenomena,
 but also on the importance of biological science in
 relation to human affairs".

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OUTINGS

August

Date : Sunday 29th August, 1965
Place : ANGLE CROSSING (Murrumbidgee River)
Time : 10 a.m.
Where : Canberra side of THARWA BRIDGE
Leader : Mark Edgerly, B. Sc. (For.)
Transport : If you need a lift or can help with transport
please discuss with one of the Outings
Committee at the monthly meeting.

September

Date : Sunday 26th September, 1965
Place : BOORROOMBA STATION
Time : 10 a.m.
Where : Turn-off on Tharwa - Paddy's River Road
Leader : Keith Green

Future trips - Outings Committee is always interested to hear if you have any special interest to visit any particular area; please bring to notice of one of the members at an outing or monthly meeting. The Convenor for 1965/66 is Murray Upton, (phone 4-6902).

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