



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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Secretary : Marie Sexton, P. O. Box 457, Canberra City  
Treasurer : Ian Baird, 9 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin,  
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Monthly Meeting 4th Tuesday of the month - Institute of Anatomy  
Lecture Room

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Early in April residents of Canberra were surprised to read in their morning papers that a specimen of native marsupial Tiger Cat (*Dasyurops*) had been found accidentally trapped in a parrot cage after eating the former occupant.

Many theories have been advanced as to how the animal came to be found in a Canberra suburb, from suggestions that it had escaped from previous captivity to the more likely disturbance by recent bulldozing in the nearby Westbourne Woods. But all of this is speculation. What has been revealed to the amazement of many is that the Tiger Cat is listed as vermin on a local ordinance.

This animal is uncommon over most of its mainland range, and in neighbouring N. S. W. is rare fauna. The Tiger Cat has been found before in the A. C. T. Several specimens have been reported as trapped in places such as Uriarra. However, these would not be regarded as ever being in pest proportions.

It is known that the Ordinances are at present under revision. The removal of this animal from the list of vermin is imperative. Indeed the circumstances of its original inclusion would be an interesting story.

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A Member's Contribution

The Editor Sir,

During a recent trip through the western slopes and plains of N. S. W. I was depressed by the fact that for mile after mile the only young trees to be seen were on the roads and reserves. There are still trees in the paddocks but they are nearly all old, and in many cases they are dying. This is particularly true of the native cypress trees.

If things go on as they are, in a few years there will not be any cypress trees on thousands of acres where they were once plentiful. A little later the Eucalypts will die out and the whole area will be a vast tree-less steppe with no shelter at all from sun and wind.

This to me, would be a tragedy, and something must be done to avert it, and done now.

Cypress trees seed readily and the seedlings grow fast if protected from rabbits and stock. It is not too late yet to re-establish naturally, clumps and rows of these pines. Fencing is the great problem. It is very expensive and a fence around a plantation must be good and built to last for a considerable number of years. This expense is too much for most people, but some could afford to make a start and they should be given every encouragement to do so. Shire rates and land taxes might be waived on land fenced off for plantations and special taxation concessions granted for the cost of fencing. Cypress trees made good wind breaks and they grow well in poor soil, so the loss of the use of fenced-off land would not be serious, and when the trees grow the protection they give will more than make up for the land they occupy.

Once the value of wind-breaks is shown, nearly all land-holders will establish them and at least some of the native trees will remain in the area.

4.

Further 1965-1966 Subs.

Families - \$3.00

Perrin; Pook; Johnston; Frankel; Brown; Gibson;  
Nix; Want; Greaves; Key; Crawford, K. G.;  
Paijmans; Carron; Cooper; Temple-Watts;  
Menzies; Morley; Gourlay; Cramp; Pinson (N. M.)  
Shepherd.

Mr. (\$2.00) -

Wood; Hall; McLeod; Wheelen; McGrath;  
Koch-Emmery.

Misses - \$2.00

Hamilton; Dalgarno; Cameron; McPherson; Heath;  
Grant-Lipp; Swain; Campbell (N. M.); Stone (N. M.);  
Smits (N. M.); Schunke (N. M.).

N. M. = New Members.

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The official quarterly publication of The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is "Wildlife in Australia". Through this publication the Society, a non-profit making scientific and educational organisation seeks to increase and disseminate knowledge of our natural history.

Recently its publication was in danger of going out of circulation, through lack of enough support. Support was enlisted from a nationwide appeal. The very success of this has again given rise to another crisis.

The editing and distribution has gone beyond the magnitude that can be handled by voluntary help, and a paid editor must be employed.

The Society is seeking donations from individuals to help

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them over this difficult period until they are on their feet, and self supporting from subscriptions. If you can help, send your donation to the Society at Box 2030X, G. P. O., Brisbane, Queensland.

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The following is a brief summary of a paper "Some Problems for National Park Administration", delivered to the Seminar on National Parks at New England University recently by Mr A. Strom, Chief Guardian of Fauna, Fauna Protection Panel, N. S. W. Mr Strom sees the real problems in National Park administration in these guiding philosophies:-

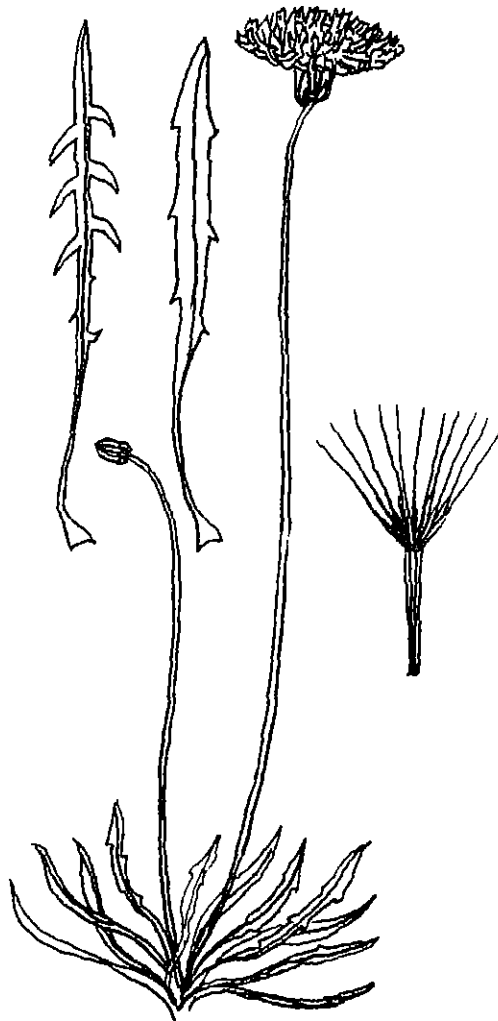
1. The integration of national parks with the nature conservation programme and other conservation activities.
2. The conflict between recreation and conservation in National Park Management and the vulnerability of parks to destructive human-inspired uses.
3. The quality and quantity of national parks, the debilitation of biotic communities within them and the need to see parks as a contribution to nature conservation, but not as the complete answer.
4. The use of national parks for educative purposes, the training of staff and the encouragement within them, of scientific enquiry at the level of pure research in the natural science disciplines.
5. The realisation that the real responsibility of present day administration is to secure and establish a system of National Parks and nature reserves, so that the people of 2,000 A. D. and beyond will have something to manage and use. Their intensified usage will be inevitable tomorrow!
6. The responsibility of this time and age is to condition our own minds and those of our contemporaries, to a realisation that we do not have the answers. Consequently, we must leave sufficient of the natural resource for the future to decipher.

Other problems exist, but Mr Strom considers these readily resolved by manpower and finance.

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EYES OR NO EYES NO. 17

If you were among the members who visited Mt. Franklin and Mt. Gingera in February you may have noticed a yellow-flowered "thistle" growing in the shade of the



snow gums. This might have reminded you of the Cats-ear Thistle or Flatweed so common in lawns and gardens but it has a larger flower-head up to two inches across, the leaves are loose and not lying flat against the soil and (if you look closely) the bristles on the top of the seed are not feathery but stiff with flattened bases. The leaves may have narrow teeth which point downwards or very small teeth or none. The stalk of the head may be up to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long in well grown plants.

The tubers of these plants were relished by the aborigines and are reported as "sweet and milky and in flavour resembling the coconut". The native name was "Murrnong". Among botanists it is known as Microseris scapigera.

N. T. B.

## MEETINGS

7.

### April

Date : Tuesday 26th April, 1966 8 p.m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy  
Feature : Miss S. Rosengrave will give an illustrated address "Flinders Ranges, South Australia".

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### May

Date : Tuesday 24th May 1966, 8 p.m.  
Place : Institute of Anatomy  
Feature : Film evening. A selection of nature films in colour, including -  
1. "Menura" (Lyrebirds)  
2. "Journey into Spring"  
3. "Soil Conservation (S. M. A.)"  
4. "From the Tropics to the Snow"  
5. "Escape the City".

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### Proposed Amendment to Constitution -

Owing to introduction of decimal currency and to change from Honorary Auditor to Auditor, notice is hereby given in accordance with the existing Constitution, to amend at a general meeting two clauses to comply with the Incorporation Ordinances. These clauses will be stated in detail in the June-July Bulletin.

8.

OUTINGS

April

Date : Sunday 1st May, 1966  
Place : Molongolo Gorge  
Leaders : Dr. N. Burbidge, S. Judd  
Time : 10 a.m.  
Meeting : Junction of Sutton Road and Duntroon Road.  
Place : Bring a packed lunch as there will be an  
easy walk along the Gorge.

This was your Associations first success in gaining a reserve in the A. C. T., so come along and inspect the facilities that have been provided to date.

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May

Date : Sunday 29th May, 1966  
Place : Tidbinbilla Fauna Reserve  
Time : 10 a.m.  
Meeting : Junction of Paddy's River Road and  
Place : Tidbinbilla Road.  
Details : Inspection of Reserve.  
Dr. Shepherd of C. S. I. R. O. will conduct  
a field study group in fungi.

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NOTE: Details will also be announced at the April Meeting of a possible collecting trip to be held in early May in conjunction with the Mycological Society of Sydney. Our members may be able to join this group, but at this stage final details are not yet known.