



NATIONAL PARKS
ASSOCIATION
OF THE A.C.T.
BULLETIN

Vol. 4 No. 3 December 1966 - January 1967 Annual Sub. 60 cents

Per copy 10 cents

Registered in Australia for Transmission by post as a periodical.

2.

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

"A National Park for the National Capital"

President : Mr. J. Webb, 1 Lalor St., Ainslie (4 3661)
Secretary : Miss M. Sexton, Box 457, P.O. Canberra City.
Treasurer : Mr. J.L. Schunke, 26 Cliathus St., O'Connor

Monthly Meeting - New Time 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Once again, we are at the end of an old year and at the beginning of a New Year. There have been both pleasing and disappointing events in the battle for wildlife conservation in all the Australian States. New South Wales N.P.A. had high hopes for a National Parks and Wild Life Bill being introduced in the present session of Parliament, but hopes for this are fading. From the N.P.A. of Queensland's 36th Annual Report (1965-66) comes this news: "In a year in which we have worked strenuously for future National Parks, it is with some dismay that we record the tiny amount of land actually set aside as National Park in Queensland; approximately 1,051,000 acres. To achieve 3 million acres by 1971 will require the gazettel of an average of 500,000 acres in each of the next four years. Even then, Queensland might lag behind New Zealand, Tasmania and possibly West Australia. Where will this two million acres of additional National Parks be located? They must surely include:

1. A large desert area near or on the western border.
2. An area of grassland in Western Queensland.
3. One or two areas of brigalow.
4. High coastal sand dunes near Double Island Point.
5. One or two areas of coastal wallum.
6. A northern portion of Fraser Island.
7. A portion of Moreton Island.

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Bulletin Dec.'66-Jan '67

8. Three, possibly four large areas in Cape York Peninsula.
9. Completion of the Herbert River Gorge Scheme.
10. North-western parks including Gregory Springs.
11. Special types of rain forest and mangroves as submitted recently by C.S.I.R.O. and Zoology Department, Queensland University.
12. Wildflower country near Lake Gahlee and Buchanan.

However, two pleasing events have occurred recently.

Firstly, a money grant to the Conservation Foundation and secondly declaration of the first reserve in western N.S.W. Details of these will be given further on in this bulletin.

It will be noted that there are no general meetings in December and January, but there is an outing in early December and early in February. Details of these outings will be found on the back page.

The President and committee of your association extend to you best wishes for the Christmas and New Year Season and trust that they will have your active support in the coming year.

Australian Conservation Foundation

The President of this foundation, Sir Garfield Barwick, announced at a recent meeting of the executive committee that the Federal Government had given \$20,000 to the Foundation, and stated that this amount would be repeated in the next two years. The Government also proposed to offer income tax deductions for donations to the foundation. The current Programme of the Foundation is as follows:-

1. Educating the public in the meaning and importance of conservation through the press and other media - this will be one of the main and continuing functions of the Foundation.

- 4.
2. A survey of National Parks and reserves to show Australians what they contain, why they are of increasing importance in our national life, and what is needed to build them into a system of which we can be justly proud.
3. The establishment of urgently needed special reserves for endangered or outstandingly interesting native animals or vegetation types (the Cape Barren goose, certain marsupials, the brigalow, the tropical rainforest.)
4. Encouraging universities to turn out not only biologists and foresters, but engineers, agriculturalists, architects, town planners with an appreciation of the principles of conservation.

With increasing funds, the Foundation can take active interest in more of Australia's pressing conservation problems;- the future of the Centre and the Great Barrier Reef, the despoliation of the coastline; river pollution, the side effects of pesticides; the safety of our shrinking "wetlands"; and always the need for more research and more reliable information. However, the funds supplied are insufficient to implement the Foundation's plans, and it wishes to obtain the enthusiastic support of responsible people who, by becoming financial members, will show that they care for Australia's proper development.

Annual subscriptions are as follows:-

- Ordinary Member \$5.00 - has voting rights and receives the
Foundation's Bulletins
- Associate Member \$2.50 - has no voting right.

Donations over \$2 are an allowable deduction for income tax purposes.

Protection for Mootwingee

About 80 miles N.E. from Broken Hill, N.S.W., lies a beautiful low rocky range intersected with narrow gullies in which deep pools of water lie even throughout the hot summers. To this area retreated the aborigines during summer and drought as there was always wild game near the waterholes. In some of the caves, they painted animal forms and hand stencils and chipped or carved animal forms on the walls.

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Bulletin Dec.'66 - Jan '67

For many years, interested people have been agitating to have this area declared a reserve, to protect the paintings, carvings, remaining wildlife and flora; and to remove the area from grazing and from destruction by wild goats which have thrived in this area.

Although their efforts have not been completely successful, a 1,200 acre area containing the Aboriginal rock carvings, some of which are thought to be 3,000 years old, has been declared a reserve.

Mr. Lewis, N.S.W. Minister for Lands and Mines, is quoted as saying that early attention will be given to enclosing the area with a stock and animal-proof fence, and appointing a resident ranger. Unfortunately over the years vandels have been busy in the area, painting names and initials over the paintings and carvings.

This reserve is the first to be proclaimed in the Western Division of N.S.W. It has historical connections with the 1860 Burke and Wills expedition which camped here on its way to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Our President, Jim Webb, has very recently visited the area and other western areas of N.S.W., South Australia and Queensland, and will be able to give some first-hand information regarding this matter.

Christmas Cards are still available from the Secretary or Mrs. Hammond. There are several scenes to select from. Cost, 10 cents each.

Membership

Membership fees fell due after the Annual Meeting in July. If your subscription has not been received by the Treasurer, please send before the New Year begins. Unfinancial members will not receive the February-March issue of the bulletin.

The following subscriptions have been paid since September.

Family Subscriptions: Bambrick, greenish, Longstaff, Menzies, McDonald, Smith, Weevers, White, Wood.

6.

Single Subscriptions: Mr. Carnahan, Miss Green, Mrs. Long
Mr. Mitchell, Miss Morris, Miss Rosengrave, Miss Sexton,
Miss Watt.

We welcome a new member, Miss Gardener.

National Parks in Western Australia

Extracts from an article in the
N.S.W. National Parks Journal, July 1966.

"The National Parks Board of Western Australia had its beginnings in the State Gardens Board which was established in 1920. It was given the control of 10 small park and garden reserves in and around Perth. The State Gardens Board became the National Parks Board of Western Australia in 1956. This Board was and still is responsible to the Minister of Lands. The appointment of trained biologists to the National Parks Board has ensured a more consistent attitude on conservation and the policy now being followed has rectified many of the earlier defects. By 1961, the list of reserves controlled by the National Parks Board of W.A. had increased to 36. These include National Parks, flora reserves, recreation reserves, historic sites and small parklands containing waterfalls and caves.

A Look at some of the National Parks

Nornalup National (32,943 acres)

On the southern coast, 70 miles west of Albany, the country of Nornalup National Park is composed of low hills clothed with extensive forest. This is particularly fine Karri Forest which closely approaches temperate rain forest in character. Large parts of it have not been damaged by logging and some of today's largest Karri trees stand in this area. Among the most common animals are the Grey Kangaroo and the short-nosed bandicoot. One species of frog, *Crinia leavis*, which occurs in Eastern Australia, is only found in this National Park. One

National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Bulletin Dec. '66-Jan'67

plant Haloragis racemosa is also only known in this park.

Porongurup Range National Park (5,384 acres)

Found 70 miles north of Albany, these ranges are of magmatic granite, well pointed which rise to 2080'. Karri occupies a considerable portion of the western half of the range and one species of plant, Villarsia calthifolia, is only known from one moist spot near the top of the hills.

Because of its small size, this park is very vulnerable to the unwitting destruction of its natural bush and fauna, through haphazard tourist development.

Stirling Range National Park (270,000 acres)

The Range carries a highly interesting endemic flora, which makes it one of the most outstanding botanical reserves in Western Australia. There are almost 100 endemics in this area, including the large and spectacular species of Darwinia. The country is mainly covered by dense scrub and there are forests of Jarrah on the lowlying areas. The fauna is interesting. Unique frogs and spiders, mainly trapdoor, some still undescribed are found in the park.

Yanchep Park (6,000 acres)

In the coastal plain 32 miles north of Perth, it lies in scenery typical of the dune systems of the W.A. coast. The coastal limestone in this park contains underground caves which have been developed as a tourist attraction.

Cape Le Grand National Park (39,500 acres)

Found near Esperance at the end of the Great Australian Bight and opposite the islands of the Recherche Archipelago. It was established because of its great scenic beauty.

8.

OUTINGS

December:

Date : Sunday, 11th December, 1966

Place : Casuarina Sands and along the Murrumbidgee River

Leader : Dr. R. Story

Meeting Place: At 10 o'clock at beach on the right of the
Cotter Road before the bridge over the Murrumbidgee
River, downstream end.

The leader has not surveyed route, but if members find
it too rough, they can picnic anywhere on the way.

February:

Date : Weekend outing - 4th-5th February, 1967.

Place : Jervis Bay area

Leader : Mr. J. Webb ('phone 43661)

Meeting Place: 9 a.m. at the Riverhaven Motel, Nowra, located
near bridge over Shoalhaven River, OR 9.45 a.m. at
Turnoff to Jervis Bay from Pacific Highway.

Feature : To investigate the area, noting the flora and fauna
(especially the birds) looking for despoliation of
bushland and seashore. For motel booking, contact
the leader. Several camping grounds available
either near motel or at Jervis Bay.