



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: Mr A.J.Brand, 11 Dyson St., Lyneham (43538)

Secretary: Miss I.Dahl, Box 457 P.O., Canberra City.

Treasurer: Mr J.L.Schunke, Box 457 P.O., Canberra City,
(48-9828)

Monthly Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month

The Committee of your association extends the compliments of the season to all members, and the hope that the cause of nature conservation is well served during 1969.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that there are no meetings in December and January, but there will be two outings. For details see the outings page.

Coming Events:

Many members have expressed the wish to know the proposed programme of the association for the first half of 1969. The programme is as follows but events may have to be changed if unforeseen circumstances arise.

Meetings: February: Dr Nancy Burbidge who was one of the original members of the committee which formulated this association's National Park Proposal and presented it to the Department of the Interior in 1963, will speak about the area.

March: Mr Chris Humphris from the Milton National Parks Association will speak to us about the Upper Clyde Area which is a proposed national park.

April: It is very pleasing to announce that the Guest Speaker for 1969 will be the famous writer and conservationist - Judith Wright.

May: Films.

June: Undecided.

Outings: February 22nd & 23rd: A weekend at Jervis Bay which is part of the A.C.T. The N.S.W. National Parks Association has been invited to take part in this outing.

February 23rd: A day outing to the Cotter River area.

March 30th: Dingo Flats.

Outings: April 4th, 5th & 6th & 7th (Easter) A
(cont'd) combined outing with the N.S.W.N.P.A. to
the Mt. Kelly area - the proposed national
park area in the A.C.T. Base camp and
walks or overnight camps away from Base.
May: Tuross Falls.

June: Corin Dam area to hear the Lyrebirds.

Calling all Photographers

It has become a custom in the association to show coloured slides, at the annual meeting, of scenes taken during the year's outings. Please keep this in mind and take a few slides on each outing. In addition, at the annual meeting of 1969, we would like to show any black and white prints taken on outings. A prize will be presented to the owner of the print or slide which is considered the best entry.

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The Conservation Foundation's first special report is now available. It consists of a report on the "Conservation of Norfolk Island" by Prof. John S. Turner of the University of Melbourne Botany Dept., assisted by C.N. Smithers of the Australian Museum and R. Hoogland of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Land Research. It is well illustrated and contains useful lists of plants, birds and insects as well as a full report on the problem of conserving both the endemic plants and animals of Norfolk and its pleasant scenery and environment. It is priced at \$1 and copies may be obtained on application to the Director's Office at P.O. Box 91, Eastwood, N.S.W.

The Foundation's annual report for 1967-68 is to hand and may be borrowed by members.

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THE FUTURE OF COLONG

The opposition to the mining of limestone in the proposed Kanangra-Boyd National Park, near the Colong Caves, is still very vocal and was well presented recently in "This Day Tonight", an A.B.C. television production.

Despite the fact that the mining company, Commonwealth Portland Cement Ltd. has been granted a lease of 580 acres to mine the limestone, the Colong Committee is planning to step up its campaign to save "the most important wilderness area of N.S.W."

It will be many months before the mining company is in a position to commence mining in the Reserve. It has to construct a vast web of works across very difficult country. So far little has been done because of the degree of opposition to the project.

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FIRES: A danger and a price

The following article came from the N.S.W.N.P.A. Journal who acknowledge "Fuel Conditions and Fire Hazard Reduction Costs in a Giant Sequoia Forest" by H.H.Biswell, R.P.Gibbens and Hayle Buchanan. Published in the February 1968 issue of California Agriculture; reprinted by permission in August 1968 issue of the National Parks Magazine U.S.A.

FIRES: A DANGER AND A PRICE

The groves of giant sequoia (*Sequoia gigantea*) and coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) still remaining on the west coast of the United States have been heavily protected from fire for about the last century. Contrary to many expectations, the program has been exceedingly successful. There are large areas that have not had a fire of any kind in all that time. Recently it has come to be realised that this situation is just as unnatural as the too frequent fires that preceded it. Sequoias are well adapted for resisting low-intensity ground fires, and it was these low fires that disposed of the heavy litter on the forest floor which, if allowed to accumulate, will convert a ground fire into a crown holocaust; fatal to sequoias.

The University of California has been conducting investigations of ways and means to reduce this hazard in Whitaker's Forest, a 320-acre area owned by the University adjoining King's Canyon National Park. Whitaker's Forest was logged over in the 1870's. The

original sequoia-pine association was destroyed by the removal of almost all of the pine and about half of the sequoias. The forest had, by 1964, when the program started, reached a highly inflammable stage, with a very thick second growth of incense cedar, white fir and young sequoia. A tangle of dead willow clumps, killed by the increasing shade, and dead incense cedars, killed by competition, added to the danger. It might be noted here that white fir, which is very shade tolerant and often has thick foliage right down to ground level, is characteristic not only of second-growth forest, but also of fire-protected forest. It can form a dangerous fuel bridge between ground and upper canopy.

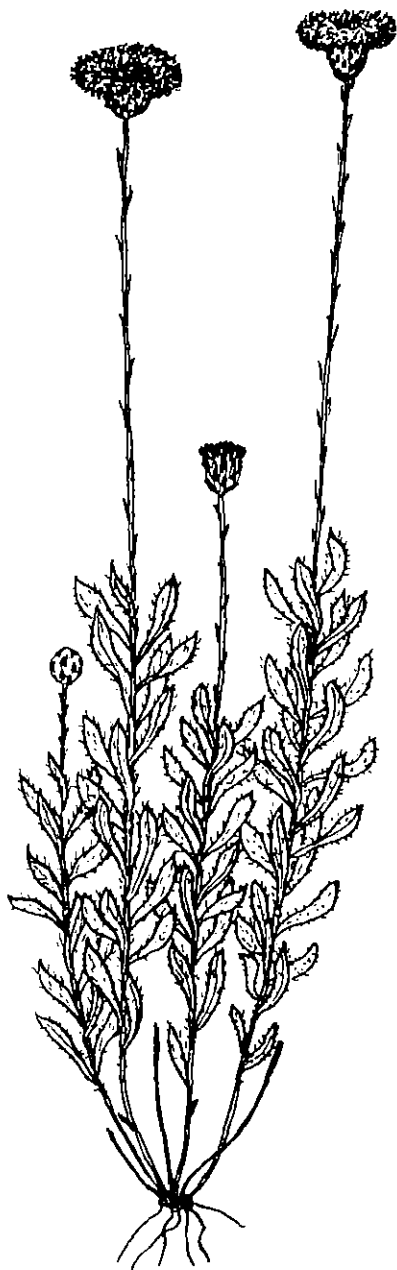
What is called the 'minimum treatment' has now been applied to about 60 acres of the forest. This consisted of removal of all heavy debris from the ground, cutting and removal of all dead trees, all white fir and all incense cedar between one and eleven feet tall. This material was later burned in small piles, in open places, at minimum fire danger seasons.

It was computed from test plot results that this treatment removed, by hand, 22 short tons of fuel per acre, at a labour plus chain saw cost of US\$114 to \$146. (This does not include such items as supervisory cost, transport of crews, etc.).

The article from which this information was taken closed with the following paragraph:

"While the cost of treatment appears high, it should be borne in mind that the manipulation removed 80 years' accumulation of debris and lowered the fire hazard conditions for many years to come. Also, there has been an improvement in aesthetic values. NO MONETARY VALUE CAN BE PLACED ON GIANT SEQUOIAS BECAUSE THEY ARE A PRICELESS HERITAGE, TO BE PRESERVED AT ALMOST ANY COST."

One wonders when, of if, authorities in Australia will regard any part of our heritage as worth preserving "at almost any cost".



The common name of this plant is "Hairy Buttons" because of the fringes on the scale-like tips of the bracts of the flower-heads. The botanical name is Leptorhynchos squamatus and the second part means "furnished with scales".

There is two forms of this species occurring in the A.C.T. The first one is common in grassy places such as cleared pasture or woodland and it can often be seen on roadsides not far from Canberra. It has spreading hairs on the stems and leaves and the scale-tips of the bracts are dark brown. (see figure) The second form grows in shaded damp places in forested gullies or near swamps high on mountain slopes. Its leaves are dark green (turning almost black when dry) on the upper side but the lower side is covered with a web of dense white hairs and the scale-tips of the bracts are light brown.

This species is widespread from south east Queensland to Tasmania. Though the two forms are distinct in the A.C.T. they tend to merge when specimens from other places are examined. For this reason they cannot be regarded as two species.

N.T.B.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association wishes to welcome the following new members: Mr C.R.Brown; Miss D.Craig; Mr & Mrs L.B. Hamilton; Miss M.McDonnell; Mr & Mrs J.Martin; Mr & Mrs D.Wilson; Miss P.Granby; Mr J. Haskew; Mr & Mrs A.K.Henderson; Mrs E.Kinenz; Mr & Mrs M. Lacey; Mr & Mrs Vimms.

Renewal Subscriptions:

Mr L.Adams; Mr & Mrs Bambrick; Dr & Mrs K.Bailey; Prof. & Mrs A.D.Brown; Mr & Mrs A.R.Brown; Dr N.T. Burbidge; Mr & Mrs R.J.Cameron; Mr J.A.Carnahan; Mr & Mrs G.Chippendale; Dr & Mrs P.Cooper; Miss I. Copley; Dr J.Costell-Brown; Dr & Mrs A.Costin; Mr & Mrs K.Crawford; Dr & Mrs Cleaser; Mr & Mrs Cruttwell; Mr & Mrs G.Davidson; Dr M.Day; Mr J.Dick; Miss C.M.Gillies; Mrs K.Gilmour; Mr K.Green; Mrs M. Greenhalgh; Mr M.Hall; Mr & Mrs L.G.Harrison; Cmndr. & Mrs J. Hay; Mr & Mrs D.Hodgkin; Mrs Holt; Mr & Mrs J.Howlett; Mr & Mrs V.King; Prof.E.Koch-Emmery; Mrs M.J.Long; Mr & Mrs J.Lane; Miss A.MacDonald; Mr & Mrs A.L.G.McDonald; Miss J.MacFarlane; Mr & Mrs D.McLean; Mr J.McLeod; Mr & Mrs R.Matthews; Mr & Mrs A. Menzies; Miss M.Morris; Dr J.G.Mosley; Dr A.Nicholson; Mr & Mrs K.Paijmans; Dr & Mrs M.Paterson; Mr & Mrs J.F. Pinson; Miss N.Price; Lady Raggatt; Mr & Mrs A.Roberts; Mrs N.T.Sexton; Mr J.L.Schunke, Miss M.Sexton; Mr & Mrs D.V.Smith; Miss T.Smits; Mr & Mrs P.Stevens; Mr F.Swann; Mr J.R.Tait; Mr & Mrs H.Temple-Watts; Mrs V.Tredinnick; Mr & Mrs D.Walker; Mr R.Want; Mr & Mrs J.Webb; Mr & Mrs J.Webster; Sir Frederick & Lady White; Mr & Mrs A.Wood; Mr M.Wrigby.

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A REMINDER:

The following notice seen in a national park is for all to remember when on association outings or on your own expeditions into the bush:

"This is your heritage -
Take nothing but photographs
Leave nothing but footprints.

OUTINGSDECEMBER:

DATE: Saturday, 21st December 1968

PLACE: Tharwa.

FEATURE : A FAMILY SOCIAL.

The outing will commence at 5 o'clock with a swim in the Murrumbidgee River, then cooking your meal. Bring your own meat etc. but facilities for a barbecue will be provided and wine or soft drink will be served with the meal. Games will commence at 7.30 in the hall for the children and later there will be dancing for the adults. A folksinger will entertain us during the evening. The evening will conclude with supper. A liquor licence has been obtained so that members can bring their necessary liquid refreshments to the social.

Cost for each adult is \$1 but children are free. It helps the Social Committee if they know the numbers attending. Tickets are available from Fiona Bland, 11 Dyson Street, Lyneham (phone 4-3538) and will also be available at the social.

JANUARY:

DATE: Long weekend 25th, 26th, 27th January 1969.

PLACE: Kosciusko State Park.

FEATURE: Staying in one of the ski lodges in the park and walking in the area. Bookings must be made with the leader Mr Jim Webb (4-3661) between 2nd January and 20th January 1969.