

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



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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National Parks Association Phone Number 479538

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EDITORIAL

At last! A statement of intent about a "national park for the national capital". The following is the statement made by Mr. Hunt, Minister for the Interior.

"An area of approximately 278 square miles in the southern districts of the ACT will be progressively incorporated as a National Park, the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Ralph Hunt, announced today.

The Park will eventually consist of a wilderness area and a buffer zone and will extend from the Orroral and Gudgenby Rivers, west to the boundary of the Cotter catchment, and south to the ACT border.

The Minister said that the land to be included in the reserve now comprised leasehold and freehold areas which would be withdrawn and acquired progressively.

Until the land came into full possession of the Commonwealth there would be no access to the public. The area could neither be declared nor developed until such time as the land was acquired.

Timing would be primarily dependent upon management resources and budgetary considerations.

Mr Hunt said that the proposed area consisted of a series of valley systems and uplands with several well-defined peaks ranging from 3000 to 6000 feet. It contained a wide range of flora and fauna, some unique to the region.

The total area under consideration was generally unspoiled and had great potential for a wide range of educational, scientific and recreational uses.

Discussions had been held with the National Parks Association of the ACT and many other interested community organisations to decide what activities and facilities should be provided for in the reserve.

Mr Hunt said the prime importance of this reserve would be the conservation of flora and fauna and priority in management would be directed to the wilderness area.

It was envisaged that use of the wilderness area would be limited to one day walks. The area would be managed to preserve its present character.

To give maximum protection to the wilderness area the remainder of the reserve would form a buffer zone. Access by car would be permitted and provision made for picnicking and some camping.

Mr Hunt said the reserve was expected to meet anticipated growth in demand for recreational facilities by Canberra people, and would conserve a most important wilderness area."

Before this statement was issued, a letter from our association to the Minister, had been sent asking whether his promised "expression of

intention" to declare a national park in the Gudgenby area could be expected before the elections. A Mt. Kelly sub-committee is in existence and will continue with Julie Henry as Convener. Other committee members are Nancy Burbidge, John Schunke, Jenny Cusbert, Bob Story. Ways and means of keeping alive the interest of the Association and the general public in the proposal have been discussed. Present plans include a ten-minute talk at the November meeting by Brian Hammond as an introduction to a major talk by Julie Henry and Nancy Burbidge at the March 1973 meeting. The Sub-Committee for Student Activities has been invited to use the idea as a theme for a student project.

The Sub-committee is planning to prepare a historical review of the proposal to be circulated to members and handed out at the March 1973 general meeting.

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Mr. John Baker
*Miss Wendy Haines

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*Miss Olive Buckman
*Mr. Ed. Slater

* non-Committee Members.

POSTER COMPETITION REPORT

(held during Conservation Week 24-29th July)

The N.P.A. of the A.C.T. arranged a poster competition on "Bushland Conservation" for the Primary and Infant Grades. Mrs. Shirley Lewis was the Convener of the Poster Competition sub-committee, and it was a great success thanks to her, and her supporters.

Over 1,200 posters were received and judged. The prize winning paintings of each grade were hung in the Mall for a week. The official prize giving had to be cancelled owing to the petrol strike, so Mrs. Lewis arranged the delivery of the prizes to the schools. The judges were pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the children and a number of collective collages and paintings of high quality were received.

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NATIONAL PARKS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Report of a talk by the President at the September general meeting.

The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. is interested in the declaration of parks anywhere in Australia but there are three zones which are of special relevance to an A.C.T. body. These are -

the A.C.T. itself (including Jervis Bay)
the south-eastern corner of New South Wales
the Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory several areas have already been set aside for recreational or conservation purposes. The major areas are -

Ayers Rock-Mt. Olga National Park	518 sq. miles
Palm Valley Fauna and Flora Reserve	176 sq. miles
Katherine Gorge National Park	90 sq. miles
Ormiston Gorge and Pound National Park	30 sq. miles

There are nine parks in an area between 2 and 20 sq. miles and fifteen under 2 sq. miles.

In addition, there are five Sanctuary areas. Only authorised persons may enter these sanctuaries and taking of animals, including birds, fish and reptiles is prohibited. The areas are -

Tanami Desert Wildlife Sanctuary	14,490 sq. miles
Nurganella Sanctuary	1,050 sq. miles
Drysdale River Sanctuary	850 sq. miles
Coburg Peninsular Sanctuary	740 sq. miles
Woolwonga Wildlife Sanctuary	300 sq. miles.

After all this, it might seem churlish to ask for more. However, for some time the Northern Territory Reserves Board has been trying to obtain larger, more remote areas for the conservation of wildlife. The Commonwealth

Government's response to the Board's request for large new areas has been most disappointing, and the Board's plans for new parks, such as a large Northern Area National Park, have been continually frustrated. The main area of interest (initially 1,185 sq. miles) is on the western edge of the Arnhem Land plateau, adjoining the western edge of the aboriginal Reserve. The area is mostly of extremely rough broken ranges where the scenery is magnificent; it includes the Jim Jim Falls, abundant wildlife and many fine examples of aboriginal rock art. There are black soil plains in the northern parts, towards the Alligator River.

The history of this scheme dates back to 1965. Between 1965 and 1967 the Northern Territory Reserves Board submitted a number of proposals to the Administration for the development of a Top End Park. At the request of the Minister for the Interior a report was submitted by Mr. S.P. Weems, Parks Advisor to the U.S. Department of Interior, in November 1968 after he had surveyed the area. In June 1969 the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Nixon) gave approval in principle for a reservation of 1,000 sq. miles. It was not then known that minerals of commercial value existed in the proposed park, but since that time large uranium deposits have been discovered within and adjacent to this area.

In September 1969 a Pre-planning Committee of officers of the Northern Territory Administration carried out a reconnaissance and prepared a report. In June 1970 a Planning Team was formed, the three main members of which included Dr. H.J. Frith, Chief of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. The team was required to identify boundaries and points of interest, and make suggestions for future development. Their report was released on 6 March, 1972. They delineated an area of 1,436 sq. miles, including large areas of wilderness where natural wildlife might remain undisturbed. They emphasized the need for the protection of areas or items of anthropological, historical and archeological importance. They recommended an administrative staff structure, a budget, equipment and buildings. They also said: "The use of National Park land for mining purposes is considered incompatible with the general concept of National Parks. A thorough revision and evaluation is recommended of all Authorities to Prospect and any rights or leases for mining activity, within the National Park boundaries, bearing in mind the priceless long term value of National Park resources which could be damaged".

As a result of the report of the Planning Team a Working Committee is being established to plan an environmental impact study to "identify possible changes resulting from mining and other developments and indicate methods to minimise environmental damage". The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Hunt) announced the study on 26 May, 1972. The team to make the study includes representatives from the Department of the Interior, the Department of National Development, the Atomic Energy Commission, CSIRO and the mining companies operating in the area. The cost will be shared by the government and the miners.

I have given this introduction to the problem to show that the Association needs to formulate a policy on this matter. We should be very glad indeed if those who know the area would come forward and help the Committee formulate such a policy. It is planned that more information will be presented to you so that the view we develop will be well-informed and not over-emotional, as can so easily be the case when environmental interests clash with mining interests.

CORRESPONDENCE1. Proposed Tuross/Deua National Park

On 8 July, 1972, the following letter was sent to the Shire Clerks of the Shires of Eurobodalla, Mumbulla and Shoalhaven:

The National Parks Association of the A.C.T. has read with interest the news item in The Examiner, June 8, 1972, regarding the proposal for the establishment of a National Park in sections of your Shire. Members of our Association frequently visit this region and endorse the view of the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service that the area is eminently suited for Park status.

Citizens of Canberra naturally look to the coastal Shires as a recreation resource, and yet we are very much aware of the dearth of National Parks along the South Coast and its associated ranges. Canberra's population continues to expand and will make increasing demands on its surrounding recreation areas. The area proposed for a Park is particularly well-sited for access from Canberra, and from future growth centres along the Hume Highway and Southern Tablelands.

The need to reserve large Park areas is increasingly being recognized by our population in general. There is not only the requirement to conserve large areas of natural forest as a habitat for our unique flora and fauna; these areas can be seen as fulfilling a basic recreational need for the very high percentage of Australians who are city dwellers.

Our Association hopes, therefore, that your Shire will look favourably on, and support, this National Park proposal.

As the replies received from two of the Shires were most encouraging (Eurobodalla has referred our letter to a special meeting to consider the proposal and related matters) a letter was sent to the N.S.W. Minister for Lands urging an early declaration of the national park to prevent any unnecessary despoilation in the area.

2. Grazing in National Parks

On 31 August, 1972, the following letter was sent from the President to the N.S.W. Minister for Lands:

In company with other members of the National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory I attended a meeting in Cooma on 15th July called by the Kosciusko National Parks Snow Lessee's Association and the Cattlemen's Association of Victoria to discuss controlled grazing in National Parks. On that occasion our Association's strong opposition to a resumption of grazing in the Kosciusko National Park was expressed and at a recent meeting of our Committee the question has been further debated.

It was the feeling of our Committee that you should be acquainted with the Association's attitude to the suggestion that grazing might be reintroduced on Kosciusko. We applaud the stand you have taken to disallow

grazing and we urge that this situation be allowed to continue. We would be happy to see a clause inserted in the Management Plan for the Kosciusko National Park which would specifically exclude the possibility of grazing being reintroduced.

A copy of the above letter was sent to the Monaro Conservation Society, after which the Society also wrote to the Minister to support the "inclusion of such a clause in the Management Plan (for the Kosciusko National Park)".

On 3 October the Minister for Lands replied to the President's letter, saying "...The Association's support in this matter is appreciated and you may rest assured that there is no current intention to reintroduce grazing within this National Park".

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STATEMENT TO THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON THE
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, STOCKHOLM 1972 BY THE
AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT,
ABORIGINES AND THE ARTS, MR. PETER HOWSON,
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION

It is fitting that this Conference should be held here in the city of Stockholm, since it was the Government of Sweden which had the vision to bring the question of such a Conference before the United Nations General Assembly.

Since our arrival here, the reception which we have received from our host Government and the Swedish people has been an example of the international understanding and goodwill which is a basic philosophy of the United Nations.

This Conference is the culmination of a great amount of effort by many dedicated men and women in the Preparatory Committee, the Secretary-General of the Conference and his staff, the specialised agencies, and inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. I pay tribute to them at the outset of my speech.

Australia was one of the first countries to support the Swedish initiative for this Conference. In the general debate in the United Nations General Assembly, on 22 September, 1969, the Australian Minister for External Affairs devoted a major portion of his speech to the Conference, setting out the Government's views on what the United Nations should aim to accomplish. Since then we have taken an active part in all the preparatory work.

We have already gained a great deal from our participation. I believe that we have also been a significant contributor. Australians, young and old, and regardless of political party, are behind the national and international effort to preserve the human environment.

Great interest has been shown in this Conference by government departments and authorities, professional associations, community organisations, private industry, conservation groups, and individuals from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds.

Australia's environmental problems are not as acute as those of some other countries. We do not have the pressures of population on resources which

have contributed to environmental problems in some countries. Our geographic isolation as an island continent makes us less affected by pollution across frontiers from other countries. But we do have environmental tasks and problems.

They are not only receiving high priority from the Australian authorities but they also, I believe, are of a nature relevant to many other countries. Australia is a rapidly developing industrial country, and also a highly urbanized one - 85 per cent of our population lives in cities. Our further development needs safeguards to help us forestall environmental problems which now face many developed countries - although in some matters, to some degree at least, we are already in a worse position than we would like. But we are also a large agricultural, pastoral, and mining country.

Environmental problems are not confined to highly developed countries nor are they the product only of the industrial revolution. The provision of a safe water supply and sewage disposal in growing cities and towns are problems for all countries. Unwise farming can reduce fertile areas to desert - examples over a thousand years ago prove that point, quite apart from more current examples. Soil erosion is faced today by many countries, developed and less developed: Australia has been grappling with it, with some success, for 30 years. Salination of the soil is a current problem for many countries which are not highly industrialised.

Range management, the development of tropical pastures, the control of arid zones, the protection of our unique fauna and flora, and the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef are all matters in which Australia has done a great deal of work of interest to other countries and in which we have benefited from co-operation and the exchange of views with others. I need only mention, as an example, our co-operation over many years with India and Egypt on arid zones.

Australia is determined to protect the environment. In our federal system of government considerable constitutional responsibility for environmental management rests with the six State Governments. Each has developed a specialist agency in this field. In recognition of the need for co-ordination of environmental activities the Australian and the six State Governments have formed an Australian Environment Council consisting of the Ministers with primary responsibility for the environment in each of the seven governments.

In this spirit of co-operative federalism the Environment Ministers from the two States with the largest populations, New South Wales and Victoria, are representatives in the Australian delegation, and a senior official from each of the six States' environment agency is also a member of the delegation.

My own Government has recently established a Land Use Advisory Council to advise it upon environmental considerations relating to the future use of any land under the Government's control within Australia. For example, when proposed industrial undertakings of national importance might appear to conflict with the preservation of such environmental assets as national parks in Commonwealth Territories, the Government will be able to seek independent advice from this Council.

The Australian Government also announced recently its decision to introduce a system of impact statements. A Federal Minister preparing a submission to the Government on any proposal that has some relevance to the environment, has to submit an accompanying statement setting out the impact the proposal is likely to make on the environment. I am sure that the impact statements will become an important element in decision making in Australia. The Government of New South Wales has already instituted the policy of calling for environmental impact statements.

Many of the world's environmental problems have arisen because of the lack of awareness of the environmental effects of human actions and a lack of knowledge of the interaction of the various systems. Sometimes those making decisions are ignorant of knowledge already available: in other cases, data is incomplete and techniques and theoretical principles and connections have not yet been explored or discovered. We must strive against both forms of ignorance.

One area on which we need more knowledge is in relation to the measurement of the impact of our activities on the environment. No one seriously questions the well-established proposition that thorough consideration should be given to the economic implications of any development project whether at a national or international level. However, without an account of the full impact of the project on the environment, the economic implications are incompletely measured.

Much has been said so far at this Conference about the role of administrators and of physical and biological scientists. I want to add a word about economists. A lot more needs to be done in both theoretical and applied economics to enable total costs in the widest sense to be known, so that those making a decision will be in a better position to weigh the advantages and the disadvantages of proceeding with a particular course of action. Many of the costs and benefits are intangible, indirect, and long-term: the costs of not proceeding with a proposal may be equally difficult to measure: and, though a spurious mathematical precision has to be avoided, economists should be encouraged to provide more assistance than at present exists. I am sure that opportunity exists for fruitful international exchange in this field.

Another field where additional and improved research and information sharing are needed is in the monitoring of certain environmental factors on a global basis. Australia is ready to play its full part in such a programme.

I shall not attempt in this statement to cover all the forms of pollution with which we are concerned. We believe of course that increased attention must be paid at an international level to pollution of the seas and of the atmosphere. As we in Australia live on the edge of the world's greatest expanse of ocean and our country has a long coastline, we are very much aware of the importance of clean oceans. Australia looks forward to the 1973 Law of the Sea Conference and the 1973 IMCO Conference on Marine Pollution, and urges that in the meantime the international community should press forward to control the dumping of harmful substances into the ocean.

The Draft Convention on Ocean Dumping should be settled at the earliest practicable opportunity. As far as atmospheric pollution is concerned it is becoming increasingly obvious that the atmosphere is a fragile element of the environment and emissions at a local level can lead to global problems.

I shall mention only one other form of pollution, because it has received so little notice in discussions. I refer to noise. One has only to walk in the street or live in a house or hotel in a modern town to know the constant assault on our ears of penetrating and persistent noise - not just the more spectacular outbursts, but the steady and wearing drone. It is frightening that many persons have come to accept it as natural and inevitable. The abatement of noise should be taken into account when projects are being approved and when equipment is being devised. The absence of avoidable noise is not a pleasant luxury but a vital part of an harmonious environment, of good working conditions, and of a healthy life.

I now turn to the organisation of future international action and co-operation on the environment.

Australia supports that approach which would use existing United Nations agencies as far as possible and which would avoid overlapping of functions as far as practicable between existing agencies. We recognise the need, and fully support the call, for an inter-governmental body to provide broad and continuing policy direction for international co-operation in the field of human environment.

Australia, as a continent, and in view of our place in the Southern Hemisphere, affirms its special interest in any action and programmes of a global nature. It is not just desirable, but essential, if we are to attack environmental problems successfully on a global scale that the Southern Hemisphere and Asia and the Pacific be adequately represented in the membership of any co-ordinating body to be developed. In common with many others who have preceded me, Australia accepts the principle of a voluntary fund in this vital area of international co-operation. Australia agrees with the guiding principles so far developed by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development in relation to the national and international aspects of environmental policies and their effect on economics and trade. Australia is in accord with the principles that the polluter should pay and of harmony or similarity of standards between countries for the maintenance of a healthy and clean environment for all people.

Those principles would provide an equitable basis on which to approach cases of pollution within the general international community. There are two opposing fallacies that we have to steer between. One is to think that there is nothing to be worried about, or that there is plenty of time, or that one country's troubles or actions in respect of the environment are of no relevance to anyone else. The other fallacy is to think that environmental disaster is so close that programmes of development are bad in themselves - for example, that dams and the use of insecticides should be condemned regardless of any setback to overcoming hunger and disease, or that less developed countries should be frozen permanently at a lower standard of living than others.

Both lines of thought - apathy or panic - have to be avoided.

Each proposal has to be approached on its merits, remembering that, side by side with our goal of preserving the human element, is the goal of higher living standards throughout the world.

It is not technology itself that is bad: It is the use that man sometimes makes of it.

This Conference has the task of seeing that the conditions will exist for the whole of mankind to take advantage in safety of all the opportunities for human benefit that science and technology have opened up and will continue to offer in increasing measure.

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THE ANCIENT SEA IN CANBERRA

by D.L. Strusz

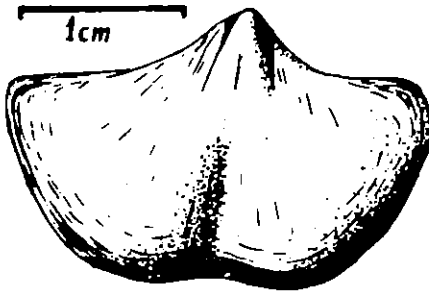
(Contributed with the permission of the Director, Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics).

About 420 million years ago, the area now occupied by Canberra was open sea. 'That's all very well', you say, 'but how can you know such a thing? You're not Dr. Who!'

Well, the answer lies buried in the rocks around us, for some of them contain fossils - the remains of animals and plants living when the rocks were newly-deposited mud and sand. By examining such fossils, it is usually possible to work out what sort of environment they lived in - or at least the environment of their burial-place. A great variety of fossilized animals has been found around Canberra, but three types predominate: brachiopods, corals and trilobites. Even today there are brachiopods living in shallow marine environments, although the group is of minor significance compared to its past importance. Modern corals also are exclusively marine creatures. The fossil corals of Canberra belong to different but related groups; however accumulated evidence nowhere suggests that they could have lived in fresh water. Trilobites are a completely extinct group, vaguely related to the King Crab (*Limulus*), so don't give any direct lead as to the environment of the time. But trilobites have never been found with exclusively fresh-water organisms, and so strongly support the evidence of the other fossils: the animals lived, died, and were buried in sediments being deposited in a shallow sea. What is more, the great diversity of animal life represented (there are also gastropods, pelecypods, bryozoans, crinoids, and ostracods, for instance) tells us that the water was relatively warm. Modern cold-water faunas are often prolific in numbers, but of only a few species.

But what of the great age of these fossils? Well, put very briefly, two lines of evidence are used. First, geologists and palaeontologists over the last two centuries have put together a sequence of rocks and the fossils contained in them. From this, a "Geological Time Scale", divided into Periods, has been set up. By comparing the Canberra fossils with those already described from the rest of the world, we know where they fit on this scale. Then, more recently, a study of the rate at which radioactive minerals in rocks decay has given us a fair scatter of points on the geological time scale whose age is known in years. So we arrive at the statement that started this article.

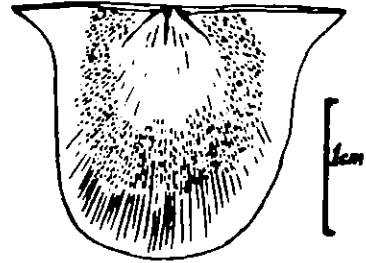
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Spirinella (a spiriferide) -
internal mould of one valve

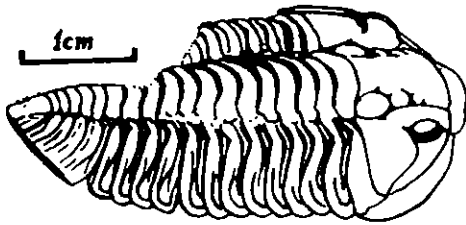


Atrypa



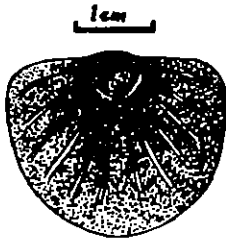
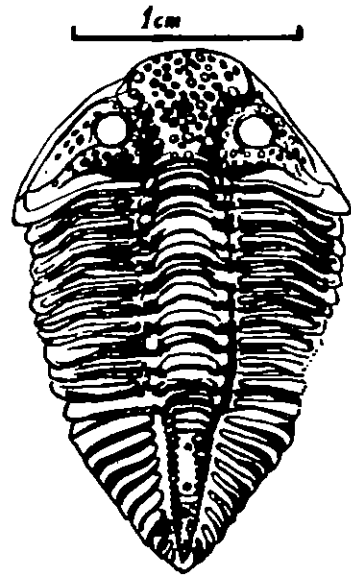
A strophomenide -
internal mould of
one valve

Three typical Canberra brachiopods; the distortion
common in fossils from Canberra is quite obvious



Calymene - a damaged carapace,
viewed obliquely

Encrinurus -
internal mould of
a complete carapace



Eobronteus -
a complete tail-shield
('pygidium')

These trilobites are exceptionally well
preserved - the commonest finds in
Canberra are distorted pygidia of
Encrinurus

LIST OF PERIODICALS REGULARLY RECEIVED BY THE NPA ACT

1. AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION. (Parkville, Vic.)
 - a) Annual report. 1969/70 *
 - b) Newsletter. Vol. 1, No. 3, April 1968 *
 - c) Occasional publication. No. 2, March 1970 *
 - d) Special publication. (received irregularly)
 - e) Viewpoint series. No. 5, Nov. 1970 *
2. AUSTRALIAN MINING INDUSTRY COUNCIL. (Canberra)

Environmental quality bulletin.
No. 2, Nov. 1970 *
3. GOULBURN FIELD NATURALIST SOCIETY.

Circular. No. 10, Nov. 1969 *
4. ILLAWARRA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. (Dapto)

Circular. No. 212, Oct. 1969. *
5. JAPAN (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

No. 1, 1970. *
6. MONARO CONSERVATION SOCIETY. (Cooma)

Bulletin. Vol 1, Jan. 1970. *
7. NPA NEWS (National Parks Association of Queensland, Brisbane)

V. 39, No. 9, Sept. 1969 *
8. NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. (Canberra)
 - a) Annual Report, 13th, 1969/70 *
 - b) Newsletter. June, 1971 *
9. NATIONAL PARKS JOURNAL. (National Parks Assoc. N.S.W., Sutherland, NSW)

Sept., 1969. *
10. SMOKE SIGNAL. (South Coast Conservation Society) (Kiama, NSW)

V.1., Sept. 1970 *
11. SWANS. (Dept. Fisheries & Fauna, Perth)

V. 1, No. 2, Spring 1970 *
12. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR (Conservation Series)

No. 1, March 1972. Prelim. devel. & management Plan. 1977 *

These publications may be borrowed by members of NPA ACT by making arrangements with the Librarian, Miss Gay Watt, at the Monthly Meetings. The Librarian also has a collection of newspaper clippings which could be of use to anyone preparing a conservation national parks talk, or for anyone working on these areas on NPA ACT sub-committees.

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"WHY A NATIONAL PARK MUST BE SAVED"LAKE PEDDER

A new book published by the Lake Pedder Action Committee, 28 Kintore Street, Camberwell, Victoria, 3124. Price \$1.80 per copy, post free. This is an authoritative statement of all aspects of the Lake Pedder issue, and including chapters on the history of the issue, geology of the area, the endemic species and other flora and fauna, engineering aspects of the scheme and an analysis of the national importance of Lake Pedder to the conservation movement. Includes 60 photographs, plus maps and diagrams.

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FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

"Barwick Urges Land Authority" (from the Australian, 23/10/72).

The Chief Justice, Sir Garfield Barwick, has urged transfer of responsibility for making decisions on land use from government departments to an independent national authority.

The authority should make its decision only after taking evidence from experts and members of the public, Sir Garfield suggests in the forward to a new book on the Bungonia Caves area on the N.S.W. South Coast.

* * * * *

"Court Decision against mining of Gorge" (Canberra Times, 23/10/72)

Conservationists have won their court case to protect the northern wall of Bungonia Gorge, near Marulan, from an expansion of limestone mining leases.

The metropolitan Mining Warden, Mr. K.S. Andersen, announced on Friday that he had found that public interest in an application for a special mining lease by Metropolitan Portland Cement Pty. Ltd. over about 87 acres of Crown land at Bungonia Gorge would be outweighed by the public interest in preserving the area's scenic aspects and recreational uses.

This was "having regard to the everlasting impairment of the environment as compared with the short-term benefits of mining", Mr. Andersen said.

The result of the Warden's Court inquiry, held at the State Office Block, Sydney, is in effect a recommendation to the Minister for Mines, Mr. Fife, who will make the final decision.

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HOBBIES & CRAFTS EXHIBITION, LYONS PRIMARY SCHOOL, 19th AUGUST, '72

Our Association was one of over 30 Canberra Clubs that contributed towards this exhibition. Some of the prize-winning paintings from the 1972 Poster Competition from from the A.C.T. primary schools and kindergartens were exhibited. In addition there were some professional posters of fauna and flora; and some coloured photographs. Gay Watt, who prepared the display, would be very interested to hear from any members who have colour prints, or slides, or black and white photos of the Gudgenby or Jervis Bay areas. The object is to make a selection of the best that are suitable for reproduction to build up a collection of pictures for future displays. Phone Gay Watt (home) 491631.

CANBERRA TREES

Norman Hall

Eucalyptus macrorhyncha F. Muell.

red stringybark

This eucalypt should not present any difficulties in identification, since it is the only stringybark native to the Canberra area. It is as common tree on hills and lower mountain slopes to about 3000 feet altitude and is plentiful on Black Mountain and the hills around Queanbeyan, as well as the better-drained, lower mountain slopes west of Uriarra. In the woodlands and open forests where it occurs locally, it is usually a tree 40 - 70 feet in height and 1½ - 2½ feet in diameter, with a wide-spreading and rather open crown. In other parts of its habitat, however, on good sites it may attain 80 - 100 feet in height, show better forest form, and is a producer of commercial timber.

In Canberra it has been planted in Westbourne Woods, but is not generally favoured for ornamental planting. Pryor (1968) states: 'A tree of limited value for ornamental purposes because of its rather open crown and the lack of adaptability to growing in open conditions, where it suffers badly from exposure'. The writer does not favour the general use of a species with an inflammable bark for public parks and reserves. Except for the limitations noted, however, it is a fairly hardy species, especially in relation to soil and rainfall, and some specimens should be retained in any area being partially cleared.

Red stringybark is common throughout much of the foothill country of Victoria, especially on the lower northern slopes of the Dividing Range, and in parts of Gippsland. In New South Wales, in addition to the Southern Tablelands, it is one of the main species on much of the Southern and the Central Western Slopes. In South Australia there is a minor occurrence. It grows on various soil types, often of moderate fertility and a clayey nature, but well drained. The mean annual rainfall is usually around 25 inches, whilst summers are hot with shade temperatures of 90 - 100° F, and winters cool with 10 - 40 frosts a year.

The botanical name of macrorhyncha, meaning large-beaked, was given in reference to the size of the exerted valves of the fruit, the qualification of 'red' in the common name is in allusion to the inner bark. The botanical description was published in 1853 in the First General Report of the Government Botanist of Victoria.

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STOP PRESSPUBLIC LECTURE 1973

Our association has arranged for Professor F. Fenner, M.B.E., F.A.A., F.R.S., Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Chairman of the Australian Academy of Science Committee on National Parks and Conservation, to address a meeting in the National Library Theatre on Thursday, 22nd March, 1973.

M E E T I N G STHERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY.FEBRUARY

Date: Thursday, 13th February at 8.00 p.m.
 Place: Room 1, the Griffin Centre, Civic.
 Feature: Mr. H.J. Higgs, Secretary of the Australian delegation to the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, will speak about this conference.
 (See article in the Bulletin)

O U T I N G SDECEMBER

Date: Sunday, 3rd December, 1972.
 Place: Palerang Peak.
 Meet: At Hoskinstown at 9.30 a.m.
 Feature: Drive to Mulloon Creek for lunch, where two parties will form, one to climb Palerang, and the other to follow a road to a lower peak.
 Leader: Reg Alder (Home 'phone - 542240)

Date: Saturday, 9th December, 1972 at 4.00 p.m.
 Place: Blue Range Camp. Proceed along Brindabella Road for about 2½ miles and look for N.P.A. sign on right past Lee's Creek Road on left. Blue Range hut about 1 mile along Forestry Road, passing under power lines.
 Feature: CHRISTMAS SOCIAL. Bring your evening meal. Wine and cheese will be served from 4.30 p.m. on.
 Contact: Bill Watson (Home 'phone - 816601). Ian Currie (Home 'phone - 968112)

JANUARY

Date: Sunday, 21st January, 1973.
 Place: Mount Gingera.
 Meet: At Piccadilly Circus (Junction of Brindabella and Mt. Franklin Roads) at 9.30 a.m.
 Feature: Drive along Mt. Franklin Road to Mount Gingera, then walk (1½ miles) to top to examine Bogong Moths gestivating in rocky clefts.
 Leader: Ron Evans (Home 'phone - 882572)

Date: Saturday-Sunday-Monday, 27th - 29th January, 1973.
 Place: Cooleman Creek Area (camping weekend).
 Meet: At Tantangara Dam. Turn off from Cooma-Kiandra Road at 11.00 a.m. Saturday (about 2½ hours from Canberra). Party will then proceed by car to camp site at Cooleman Creek.
 Feature: Walks through limestone country around the creek. Swimming.

N.B. If there has been rain during the week preceeding or the forecast indicates rain, the trip will be cancelled, so please contact the leader on Friday for information on possible alternative arrangements.

Leader: John Whitford (Home 'phone - 812132)

Outings form, indicating your intended attendance must be with the Outing Committee by Monday, 22nd.

FEBRUARY

Date: Sunday, 11th February, 1973.

Place: Gudgenby River.

Meet: At Glendale Crossings at 10.00 a.m., where some cars will be left, then proceed to crossing near Gudgenby Homestead.

Feature: Walk along river back to Glendale, stopping for lunch on the river bank. Carry a lunch.

Leader: Bill Watson (Home 'phone - 816601)

Date: Saturday - Sunday, 17th - 18th February, 1973.

Place: Kosciusko.

Meet: Assemble at Kosciusko Park, Visitors Centre at Sawpit Creek at 10.30 a.m. Party will then proceed to C.A.C. Perisher Chalet.

Feature: Drive to summit on Saturday or Sunday to view the Alpine Flora, or walk along Spencers Creek.

Accommodation is limited. Submit forms early.

Leaders: Norma Price (Home 'phone - 496905)

Fiona Brand (Home 'phone - 479538)

Date: Sunday, 25th February, 1973.

Place: Mount Orroral.

Meet: At Tharwa Village at 8.45 a.m. Party will then proceed out on Orroral Road.

Feature: To visit Mt. Orroral in the declared A.C.T. National Park.

PROPOSED FUTURE OUTINGS

March 3 - 4th A Camping weekend on the South Coast in a proposed Park area near Bermagui.
Leader: John Baker.

March 18th A walk in the Tinderry Range.
Leader: Laurie Adams.

24th Walk on Mount Ainslie.
Leader: Chris Watson.

31st) Walk in the Mount Kelly area carrying tents of approx. 5
April 1st) miles to base camp, then climbing Mt. Kelly if possible.

April 7th Camp at Dingo Flats with instruction in map reading and bushcraft.

Easter -

April 20th-23rd Lower Snowy River area near Suggan Buggan.

April 29th Walk along Murrumbidgee from Kambah to Pine Island.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In 1973, for members only. Details in March Bulletin.

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WEEK-END EXCURSIONS

IF YOU INTEND GOING ON A WEEK-END EXCURSION YOU MUST COMPLETE ONE OF THE ATTACHED FORMS AND FORWARD TO THE TRIP LEADER AT THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS, TO REACH HIM NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE TRIP.

The Excursions Sub-committee,
N.P.A. Inc. of the A.C.T.,
Box 457, P.O.,
CANBERRA CITY. A.C.T. 2601

I/We wish to join the outing to

on

I/We will be accompanied by

.

I/We will proceed by private transport.

b) will need transport.

c) can provide transport for other persons.

I and my guests agree to be bound by the rules and by-laws of the Association and to take part in the above field outing entirely at our own risk.

NAME ADDRESS

PHONE NO. HOME WORK

SIGNATURE

The Excursion Sub-committee,
N.P.A. Inc. of the A.C.T.,
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