

**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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The Association welcomes the following new members.

Mr. & Mrs. G.A.J. Butler; Mr. & Mrs. W. Egan; Prof. & Mrs. F. Fenner;
 Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Fordham; Miss C.B. Aspkins; Mr. K. Huenke; Mrs. W. James;
 Ms. P. Jeffress; Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Land; Mr. R. Malot; Mr. J. Murtough;
 Prof. & Mrs. J. Newton; Mr. E. Roberts; Mrs. Schrambke; Mr. & Mrs. A. Struzina;
 Mr. E.G. Wilson.

Membership Renewals:

Mr. & Mrs. K.P. Blackburn; Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Calaby; Dr. & Mrs. I.A.M. Cruickshank;
 Mr. & Mrs. A.R. Cumming-Thom; Dr. M.F. Day; Mr. & Mrs. L.W.F. Huston;
 Mr. M. Hardware; Miss M. McDonnell; Miss R. Mathews; Dr. & Mrs. M.S. Paterson;
 Miss G.C. Prerson; Mr. & Mrs. D.W. Reid; Mr. & Mrs. P. Samuel; Mrs. N.T. Sexton;
 Prof. & Mrs. D. Walker.

EDITORIAL

This issue of the bulletin covers the time of the Annual General Meeting of our Association and also contains a supplement, giving the history of the association's attempt to gain a National Park for the National Capital. Extra copies of this supplement are available if you wish to give one to interested friends.

Photographic Competition

Members are reminded once again of the photographic competition, details of which were in the last issue of the Bulletin.

The closing date for entries is June 21st and a selection of entries (including prize winners) will be screened at the Annual General Meeting on 19th July 1973.

Amended "Conditions of Entry" forms are available at monthly meetings or from the Competition Secretary G. Lewis ph. 482444 (W), 956937 (H).

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NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION MEETS WITH N.C.D.C.

At 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2 May a meeting between representatives of the National Parks Association of the A.C.T. and the National Capital Development Commission was held in the NCDC 7th Floor Boardroom.

The NCDC was represented by the Commissioner, Mr Andrews, Mr Kevin Curtis, Mr Kent McCoy, Miss Margaret Hendry, Mr Ron Moore, Mrs Angela Sands and Mr Sleiger. The NPA was represented by Bill Watson, Ian Currie, Sheila Bruze, Julie Henry, Gay Watt, Thea Exley and Chris Watson.

A wide range of topics was covered including the organisation and responsibilities of the NCDC, the Metropolitan Park System, the future development of the Ainslie-Majura Reserve, the roads around Black Mountain and the Googong Dam.

Minutes of the meeting are being prepared by the Commission and these will be available soon. The exchange of views was considered to be mutually satisfying, and it is planned to make the event an annual one with additional meetings on specific urgent topics during the year if necessary.

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PUBLIC LECTURE 1973

Professor Frank Fenner (now a member of N.P.A.) delivered the 1973 Public Lecture on 22 March on the subject: Environmental Problems - Approaches to Understanding and Solution at Local, National and International Levels. He chose to speak to the Association on environmental problems as a whole, for the last ten years has seen a change in public, national and international attitudes to the environment, and the specific interest of the Association - national parks and nature reserves - must be looked at as a component of the overall problem of man's relationship with his physical environment. He shared the Association's view that there are strong scientific, aesthetic and cultural reasons for ensuring that large areas of land are preserved and managed as national parks and reserves. He defined problems of the environment, and their emerging as public issues, as deriving primarily from the 'biological success' of Homo sapiens, and the resulting pressure of people underlines every environmental problem. He suggested that poverty of inland water in Australia would cause most new cities to be located on the coast and that places such as Jervis Bay were 'naturals' for urban development, and queried whether

Public Lecture 1973 (Cont.)

it would not be better to accept this but to insist on preservation of natural amenities in the construction of new cities. In outlining a strategy of attack on environmental problems he stressed the continuing need for education at all levels - from kindergarten to tertiary - and the need for regulation and control by legislation; he hoped that eventually ecologic considerations would be as much built in to governmental activity as economic considerations are now. Actions that a democratic country can undertake at international levels depend ultimately on the understanding and support of individuals, and national and local action on our interest and participation. In Australia we are increasingly becoming aware of the need to extend our concern for the custody of the national environment forward to the time of future generations; all of us have a responsibility and a duty to ensure that where it lies within our power Australia will remain for our grandchildren as fine a place as we have found it in our lifetimes.

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CORRESPONDENCEExcerpts from correspondence March-May, 19736.3.73 to National Parks and Wildlife Service, N.S.W.

"We understand that the Service has under consideration a proposal for the dedication of land in the Mount Kelly/Mount Scabby areas as a park or reserve. We would be interested to hear what progress has been made with the proposal and details of the area under consideration....."

24.3.73 from President to Minister for the Environment and Conservation

"The National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory seeks your support for completely reappraising the need for the proposed P.M.G. tower on Black Mountain, its siting and style. We make this request because our Association is especially concerned with the protection of national areas within the A.C.T.

As you know, the tower will be built in the middle of a nature reserve, and such a large structure must adversely affect this reserve.

In the Preliminary Development Plan for the Black Mountain Reserve the (then) Department of the Interior estimated that motor traffic to the tower will be so great that it will have to be restricted. Officers of the Department have stressed their desire to protect the reserve when discussing the problem with us. But, while appreciating this desire, we very much doubt if future governments will be able to resist public pressure. We fear an enlarged road will inevitably be built, at the cost of the reserve.

I emphasize that our 300 members oppose the tower mainly because we fear the effect that it will have on the reserve. The ecological problems were aired during the Public Works Committee hearings, but criticisms were muted since many departmental officers were not allowed to speak openly under the previous Government.

There are, however, several other important arguments against building the tower. As a group of people concerned with the environment we are distressed to see violation of one of the major town planning concepts in the design of Canberra - keeping the skyline free of buildings. A structure of this sort, if permitted on Black Mountain, will create a precedent, and it will be much harder to resist future claims for other buildings on hill-top sites.

Our Association has examined the documents produced by the Post Office in

Correspondence (Cont.)

justification of the tower, and the more we assess them the more we doubt the real need for the tower as presently planned. The communications aspects of the tower were not adequately considered at any hearing - possibly because there is no Electrical Engineering School at the A.N.U., or an engineering division of CSIRO in Canberra, so expert criticism was lacking. We have consulted a number of experts recently, and we wish to make four points:

- (1) Technological developments could alter the need for a tower greatly. We believe a world-wide study should be made of the technological forecasts involved before proceeding with such an expensive structure.
- (2) We question the need for the main radio-telephony channels between Sydney and Melbourne to pass through Canberra. An alternative might be to link Gun-Gun and Mount Carroll directly, and use a spur set of bearers to cater for Canberra's traffic. Justification of the present plan requires more information on the predicted sources of traffic between Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. The only alternative site for a communications tower that has been discussed is Mount Crace, but many others must be worth considering, particularly if Sydney-Melbourne traffic does not flow through Canberra.
- (3) The Post Office report states that 39 bearers will be needed for telephone circuits and TV as soon as the tower is built (presumably mainly for Sydney-Melbourne traffic). The Post Office goes on to say that it expects to add another 15 bearers within five years - 3 additional bearers per year. The tower is designed to accommodate 350 bearers, so at current rates of growth it will take over 100 years to use the design capacity. A more detailed explanation of this "need" should be provided.
- (4) A number of other factors contribute to making the tower so large and solid - for example, the tower allows for four TV channels. We ask when these are likely to be needed, in view of the increased cost of providing colour TV programmes, and in the light of the talk of reducing the number of stations in Sydney and Melbourne? Space is allowed for 10 channels of FM broadcasting from Canberra. At present we have no FM channels anywhere in Australia, and FM broadcasting will, it seems, be unlikely to be introduced before full implementation of colour TV.

In conclusion we suggest that the question of the desirability of including a rotating restaurant ought to be separated from the proper responsibilities of the Postmaster-General's Department. There are many other ways of satisfying the needs of tourism, and no other P.M.G. tower in Australia has been required to recoup its capital costs by charging tourists.

For these reasons we request a complete reappraisal of the proposed P.M.G. tower on Black Mountain."

A reply has not yet been received from the Minister for the Environment and Conservation but the copies sent to other Ministers have been acknowledged. Mr. Enderby's letter stated: "... Cabinet will shortly be considering, on the joint initiative of my colleagues, the Minister for Urban and Regional Development and the Minister for the Environment and Conservation, and myself, further action regarding the Black Mountain Telecommunications Tower. You will appreciate that this makes it rather difficult to discuss the issue with you in any detail, but I am certain that all parties with a genuine concern in this matter will be satisfied with the course of action we have in mind."

Correspondence (Cont.)19.3.73 from President to Minister for the Environment and Conservation

This letter urged the Government to accept the recommendations of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation. It stated that the Association found very little in the report with which it disagreed and considered the following recommendations to be particularly important:

that a Commonwealth wildlife authority should be set up.

that land use authorities should be established in the A.C.T. and the Northern Territory, and encouragement given to the States to do like wise.

that the suggested amendments to the Income Tax Assessment Act should be implemented to limit the scope of tax concessions available for clearing bushland and native forests.

5.4.73 from President to Minister for the Environment and Conservation

"..... my Association would welcome a statement of the present Government's intentions regarding the establishment of a national park in the A.C.T. May we assume that the previous Government's 'declaration of intention' has the endorsement of the present Government?"

12.4.73 from President to N.S.W. Minister for Lands on the subject of grazing in Kosciusko National Park

A letter from the Minister last October stated "you may rest assured that there is no current intention to reintroduce grazing within the (Kosciusko) National Park"; three months later the Acting Minister announced the resumption of grazing. The President's letter of 12.4.73 sought a public policy statement that would state unequivocally that the Park would in future not be used for stock grazing purposes.

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YUGOSLAVIAPLITVICE LAKES PRIMITIVE PARK

R. F. Alder

Some years ago I toured quite extensively through the southern and western areas of Yugoslavia or should I say travelled in the modern usage of the term because insurance offices will not cover the risks of such a motor journey and with the lack of road signs, prior general information and language problems we followed our hunches or the sun.

Our general scheme was to gather local knowledge as we proceeded in a general northern direction and by doing so travelled on many roads which the average foreign tourist scorned, but to us the dirt or stoney surfaced narrow, winding or water worn roads were like home. Leaving Zadar on the Adriatic coast by the new super highway designed to lure the free spending tourists further into the country, we left the highway and the picturesque coastal scenery at Mastenua and headed in a north easterly direction on a loose stoney road which skirted the deeply indented extensions of the coast fjords.

The plan was to take a direct route to the Plitvice Lakes of which we had heard stories of their beauty from some English speaking people in some of our camping places. It was not long before a most spectacularly formed range of rocky peaks pushed up on the northern skyline with the wish that our road would go closer but we maintained a parallel course. A few more kilometres and an abrupt turn to the

Plitvice Lakes Primitive Park (Cont.)

left had us heading directly for the most jagged of the peaks. The road climbed steadily through the barren scree of the slopes and past deserted broken villages until on rounding a corner we were astounded to see a richly decorated litter of the type upon which one person would be carried by two others. This did not altogether surprise us, as earlier in Macedonia we had come across a group of peasants returning from market who by their clothes and transport might have stepped out two to three hundred years earlier. There was no one in sight, so after examining it we passed on to shortly come across some litter of another sort, paper cups, lunch wraps, cigarette and other packets in great profusion. We thought we were not so far off a tourist route and this had been a lunch stop for a bus.

The litter was such an unusual feature of the European countryside that with the combination of road surface and the litter we felt a twinge of nostalgia for home. The next corner solved the mystery and here was a film unit on the production of Genghis Khan. A strange sight it was with the heavily garbed extras waiting in the sun for their cue to repel an attack from the peaks above. It was not to be our fortune to see this onslaught for as usual in this modern age they had lost radio contact with the attacking force. The wildness of the country may be judged from an attack on the previous night by wild bears on the unit's horses. Near the top of the mountain we took note of its name only to subsequently find on another mountain the same name. Translated it meant "serpentine - take care" or bends ahead!

The first indication of approaching the Plitvice Lakes Reserve was to be confronted with five very large signs closely printed in five languages about all the regulations governing the area. The Lakes of which there are sixteen, cascade from the rim of a plateau at about 2000 feet in limestone country. The Yugoslavs are keeping very strict control of the area by regulated development in small areas, the remainder being preserved in its natural beauty. Regulation and supervision being similar to our primitive areas where access is restricted to defined paths.

Water seems to come from everywhere, over water falls, cascades and out of the ground to finish up into the lakes which in turn cascade from one to the other through a progressively deepening narrow gorge flanked by the limestone cliffs. In common with most European areas of scenic beauty you must pay to feast upon the beauties of nature and this area was no exception. Tickets are issued on a daily basis to give entry to the various sections and just in case you didn't stop to read the large notices on entering the area the most dreadful of the threats and restrictions are printed on the tickets in the language of your choice. Punishment is by "instantaneous" fines by conspicuously uniformed rangers, who are on continuous patrol to see that you keep on the paths and do not step on the travertine, the deposit from the heavily laden limestone filtered water.

The lakes are of the type popularly known as the bottomless variety, which means that you cannot see the bottom because of the murkiness of the water, or that they are extremely deep. The water was remarkably clear, with a pale green colour in depth. The distance seen down into the lakes was difficult to judge without direct measurement but from the edges the steeply sloping sides seemed to go down and down without coming to a clear end before surface ripples broke up the images of fish freely swimming in the depths.

The camping ground was in a well chosen location in a sheltered valley which spilled out onto the top lake. It had a flat grassy floor like most in Europe and this extended some 200 yards into the hills before they closed in on a creek. In the upper part, grass on the hills had been scythed on one side for hay and the

Plitvice Lakes Primitive Park (Cont.)

remaining area was densely wooded which formed a contrasting backdrop to the brilliant colours of the tents. Very few caravans are seen in Europe and most campers used the tubular frame type of tent to which were zippered many annexes to provide all the comforts and privacy of home. One feature which amused us were the large padlocks that some used to lock up the zippers during their absence. Around the fringe of the ground the boundary was outlined by two berth cabins made from bark and shingles to provide a perfect blend into the forest and a high degree of comfort. Even though the camp was full the amenities were more than adequate and of a high standard.

Germans made up the greatest number of campers in these areas and we found that few cooked their own meals, most using the indoor and outdoor cafe in the grounds or going up to a nearby town. After our style of camping it is a bit disconcerting to see people emerge from a tent almost dressed up to the extent of top hat and tails, or to the other extremes of undress. On making camp, the items designed for comfort that came out of cars was amazing, but on analysis this was only possible because their technique was to go like mad on the autobahns straight to their destinations with as few overnight stops as possible. They would not make camp en route.

The campers were the favoured ones in this area with the pick of the locations for their ground as compared with the hotel set who were relegated to high ground well back from the verge of the largest lake and from appearances the hotel hadn't quite made popular appeal. Still it may only be a matter of time as the buildings looked new.

We spent a day roaming the paths alongside the lakes, which we were to see once more in the film, 'Ghengis Khan', for the film unit came on later to film out of sequence their Shangri-la shots. Along the paths at intervals the local women had staged themselves to sell attractively displayed delicacies on leaves or bark punnets. The usual fare was yoghurt with many varieties of cheeses, eggs, black bread and ground fruits. The most delicious were the wild strawberries about the size of a small finger nail. How different to the bags of potato chips and ice cream buckets with their resultant litter.

The limestone caves we visited with the aid of a guide and acetylene lamps were poor by our standards, but this may have been due to the lack of development for tourist exploration. This may be so if the defunct electric light system was any indication of the amount of work which had been spent on opening them up. English was not one of the guide's accomplishments, so we had to be satisfied with what we saw, which was probably just as well, for no doubt there is little variation in cave guide patter.

My appearance must have looked a bit suspicious for I was singled out for ticket production from a group watching some pictures being made by a man on horseback and made up as an Indian against a backdrop of a particularly spectacular waterfall.

All good things must come to an end, and though my story has been a narrative of our experiences and observations, enough, in spite of language difficulties which made information difficult to obtain, has been written to give some idea of the type of management of a popular primitive area in a little known segment of Yugoslavia.

VISUALIZING GEOLOGIC TIME

(From: P.A. Moody, Introduction to Evolution, 2nd ed. pp. 140-141)

Unavoidably our ideas of time are conditioned by the length of the human life span and its subdivision into periods (infancy, youth, etc.) and years. The term "one million years" is so far outside our experiences as to be meaningless to us. Multiples of a million years are, if anything, even less meaningful. We may have the vague impression that a million years is "a very long time", and that a thousand million years is "a very long time", and that a thousand million years is "a very, very long time". But in other connections a thousand years also seems "a very, very long time". Indeed, all periods longer than a human lifetime or two have a tendency to fade into "a-very-long-time" vagueness for us.

But we can grasp the meaning of the length of a year and of its subdivisions into months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, and seconds. Consequently James C. Rettie.....rendered a signal service by picturing geologic time in subdivisions of a year. He imagined a moving picture taken of earth by inhabitants of another planet, using a super-telephoto lens and a time-lapse camera. This imaginary film was taken at the rate of one picture per year for the last 757 million years. When it is run on a projector at normal speed (twenty-four pictures per second) twenty-four years of earth history flashes by each second. Since the author has the film run continuously twenty-four hours a day, about two million years of past history are shown on the screen each day. To show the entire 757 million years requires running the film continuously for one full year. The author starts the show at midnight of one New Year's Eve and runs it without interruption until midnight of the next New Year's Eve.

For many fascinating details of this movie readers are referred to the original article or to the reprint of it in Coronet magazine (March, 1951). We have space for but a few high spots.

Throughout January, February, and March the movie runs on without showing any signs of life upon the earth. Single-celled organisms appear early in April, many-celled ones later in that month. Late in May come the first vertebrates. It is the middle of July before the first land plants begin to pave the way for animal life on land. Late August arrives before the first land vertebrates, the amphibians, put in an appearance. The first reptiles appear by the middle of September. Among these the dinosaurs dominate the scene through the remainder of September, through October and much of November, about seventy days. In the meantime the first birds and first mammals appear. The raising of the Rocky Mountains near the end of November signals the end of the great era of reptilian domination.

As the movie runs on into December we see the mammals dominant; they undergo their great evolutionary developments. Christmas arrives: The movie shows us the Colorado River beginning to cut its Grand Canyon. We have the vaguely uneasy realisation that the year is nearing its close, yet we have seen no signs of man. Day follows day until we reach the last day of the year. Suddenly about noon of December 31 the movie shows us the first men. During the afternoon the glaciers push southward from the polar regions, and then retreat, four successive times. By supertime man is still not much in evidence. By about 11 o'clock in the evening varied "Old Stone Age" men become quite prominent in the picture, and by 11.45 men who make more refined stone implements and cultivate the soil appear. Five or six minutes before the end of the picture we see the dawn of civilization. One minute and seventeen seconds before the end the Christian era begins. Twenty seconds before the end Columbus discovers America. Seven seconds before the end the Declaration of Independence is signed.

Visualizing Geologic Time (Cont.)

Many aspects of this wonderful imaginary movie are worth pondering. Life has existed on earth for some eight months of the movie's year; man has been here for about twelve hours of that year. The dinosaurs dominated the movie for seventy days; man has dominated it for about half of one day, so far. (Yet sometimes we look condescending upon the dinosaurs as "unsuccessful" animals! If the movie continues into the future, will it show us here seventy days from now?). Man has been in existence for about twelve hours of the movie, but for only about five or six minutes has he had any civilization which we consider worthy of the term. This is some-times a comforting thought when we become impatient with the "slow" progress made by mankind in adopting various desirable reforms - such as the abolition of war. In speaking of this progress as "slow" we are using human lifetimes as our yardstick. Any progress made since the dawn of civilization has been dazzlingly swift, measured in terms of man's total existence on earth.

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FROM THE NEWSPAPERSSaving the Rain Forest

Sir - Replying to Mr Freudenstein (The Australian, 6/2): the information he asks for should be readily available to him, in the estimates of future broadleaved pulpwood production in Australia, from the relevant Federal departments.

For his information meanwhile, estimates show for 1975 328,000 acres in production, and by the year 2000 an overall total of 10,392,000 acres. Estimated production of pulpwood by 1975 is 295.6 million cubic feet, by 1990 382.4 million cubic feet.

This production will be from presently managed forests, crown land and private forests. Practically all Australian forest land is situated close to the coastline and within easy reach of transport.

While (as far as forestry experience goes) there will be few problems in regenerating eucalypt species, rain forests as such cannot be regenerated. Any woodchip project involving rain forests will result in disappearance of these forests, and any regeneration undertaken will involve only two or three species of easily-grown trees suitable for woodchip production.

Thus, without quibbling over words, our rain forests will indeed have gone into other hands. The fact that the land itself, and the replanted species, will still be under our control does not affect the fact that our rain forests themselves will have disappeared (except, of course, for the comparatively small areas retained as national parks).

Finally, I challenge any authority to deny the statement that the present woodchip projects in Tasmania and at Twofold Bay are no more than a small beginning of what is projected to be a huge development; and that the projections over the next 20 years show that within that time virtually every Australian forest could be involved in the demand for pulpwood.

We should now be urgently planning for assessment of our forest resources in terms of our own requirements, of watershed protection, of scenic and recreational values and of fauna and flora resources and soil conservation. Without this, we are faced with incalculable economic and environmental losses.

Judith Wright, Sydney NSW.

(The writer is president of Ecology Action's campaign for native forests.)

MEETINGS

June Date: Thursday, 21 June 1973, at 8 p.m.
 Place: Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: Dr. R. Schodde will speak on the biology of the proposed
 Top End National Park.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July Date: Thursday, 19 July 1973, at 8 p.m.
 Place: Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Business: 1. To receive from the Committee a report
 on the affairs of the Association, together
 with the audited statement of accounts for
 the year ended 30.6.73.
 2. To elect a President, Vice-President,
 Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer
 and Publicity Officer, and six members of
 Committee.
 3. To consider the Committee's recommendation
 that honorary life membership be conferred
 on Miss Julie Henry.
 4. To appoint an auditor.
 5. To transact any business which may properly
 be brought before the meeting.
 Feature: Photographic Competition 1973: presentation of
 awards and display of selected entries.

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Nominations are called for the 12 positions listed in 2. above. Nominations in writing should be signed by the proposer, the seconder and the nominee, and should be in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.

August Date: Thursday, 16 August 1973, at 8 p.m.
 Place: Room 1, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, Canberra City.
 Feature: Dr. Alec Costin will speak on 'Scientific bases for
 excluding grazing from Kosciusko National Park'.

OUTINGS

June Date: 9th, 10th, 11th June
 Place: Durras
 Meet: At Bundilla camping area in Durras North at noon on Saturday
 Feature: Walk around Durras Lake, fishing, seashore walk
 Leader: I. Currie 958107 (W) 958112 (H).

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Date: 24th June, Sunday
 Place: Blundells Flat
 Meet: 11 a.m. at Uriarra Homestead
 Feature: Barbecue lunch and walks in the area.

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July Date: 8th July, Sunday
 Place: Tallagandah
 Meet: At Captains Flat near hotel at 10.30 a.m.
 Feature: To look at Forestry activities. Carry lunch.
 Leaders: C. Watson and E. Pook.

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Date: Sunday 22nd July, 1973.
 Place: Tidbinbilla
 Meet: At Visitors Centre in Tidbinbilla Reserve at 9.30 a.m.
 Feature: Walk along fire access track towards Fishing Gap. Carry lunch.
 Leader: R. Evans.

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August Date: Saturday 4th August 1973.
 Place: Lake George
 Meet: In Bungendore at corner to coast road at 1.30 p.m.
 Feature: Bird watching on slopes of lake.

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Date: Saturday and Sunday 11th, 12th August, 1973.
 Place: Barrallier at the junction of Murruinck and Wollondilly Rivers.
 Meet: East side of Wollondilly River on Mittagong-Wombeyan Caves road at 11.30 a.m.
 Alternate routes available: via Goulburn - Taralga - Wombeyan Caves - 123 miles - 3½ hours. or via Goulburn - Berrima - Wombeyan Caves road - 145 miles - 3¾ hours. As it is necessary to travel further 4 miles along a narrow, slow road - please arrive on time. Fill up with petrol at Berrima or Taralga.
 Feature: Ideal river bank camping. Walks along river and creek flats in mountainous area with some shallow wading.

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Date: Sunday, 19th August, 1973.
 Place: ~~K~~owen Forest
 Meet: At Molonglo Gorge Reserve at 10.30 a.m.
 Feature: Barbecue lunch at a point on the Molonglo River above the gorge.

Suggested Future Outings

1. Camping in the north end of the Budawangs
2. Camping at Bundanoon in Morton National Park
3. Mount Kelly
4. Photographic outing
5. Black Mountain walks.

Outings ReportEaster Trip to the Lower Snowy River Area.

Twenty four members assembled at Jindabyne on Good Friday and proceeded in convoy along the Barry Way south to the confluence of the Pinch River with the Snowy.

Thanks to the Kosciusko Park superintendent all members were issued with a Bush Camping Permit and permission was granted to camp in the picnic area which is provided with fireplaces, tables and toilets.

Although the area was badly burned before Christmas regeneration of trees is amazing. The camp ground was still rather grassless but quite attractive.

On Saturday morning the party walked up along the south (left) bank of the Pinch River on a road which followed the stream for about 1½ miles then turned left rather steeply along a fire access track which was followed up for about three miles to a vantage point giving spectacular views of the Snowy valley.

Next morning was cold and wet so walking was confined to the afternoon when an amble along the Snowy was enjoyed.

Monday saw most of the party return to Canberra but the remainder followed down along the road through Suggan Buggan to Buchan where camp was made in a very pleasant reserve at Buchan Caves with hot showers and all amenities. After leaving the Snowy River on this section the road climbs steeply and then winds around the ridges giving panoramic views of the mountainous areas but only to the passengers since the driver needs attention on the road which is quite narrow and tortuous.

A walk from the camping area at Buchan up along a creek valley to falls provided an interesting variety of fungi of all shapes and sizes as well as many opportunities to watch birds and kangaroos.

The trip home was highlighted by stops at Little River gorge and McKillops bridge which is a large steel and timber bridge 841' long built over the Snowy in 1936 and approached by a steep road again providing magnificent panoramas of the mountains.

After leaving the bridge the road follows the Deddick River for many miles - a very beautiful drive - before joining the Bonang Highway through Delegate to Bombala.

A very interesting trip through a mountainous and sparsely inhabited area to be recommended for a long break only. However Pinch River is not too far away and many walks should be available in this area.

Useful maps are the N.R.M.A. maps "The South Coast and Snowy Mountains" and the Department of National Development 1 - 100,000 Jacobs River map No. 8254.

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 a) 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 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 a) 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