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OF THE A.C.T.  
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National Parks Association of the A.C.T. Inc.  
"A National Park for the National Capital".

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479538

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MONTHLY MEETING - 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

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Once again we come to the end of our association's financial year and it's the time for electing office bearers for 1970-71. Please hand to the secretary, by the first week of July, nominations for committee positions.

Slide Photo Competition

Members are reminded that the closing date for the slide photo competition and junior section is 18th June 1970. Entry forms appeared for the first time in the April-May issue of the Bulletin.

Mr E. Slater A.R.P.S. and Mr C.L. Leslie A.F.I.A.P. have offered their services as judges for competition entries in all sections. A limited number of entry forms is still available. If required contact the Competition Secretary, Mr Lewis, on 482475 (office) or 956937 (home).

Good News

The Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Dr McMichael recently met with the Shoalhaven Shire Council to discuss the proposed extension to the Morton National Park.

The Murramarang area was also discussed and Dr McMichael stated that the N.P. & W.S. proposed to create a State Park between Schnapper Point and Depot Beach. (This would include Pebbley Beach. Ed.) The Shire Council was agreeable to this proposal. All roads and forest tracks within the Murramarang Park would be maintained by the Wildlife Service.

### A.C.T. Elections

The following letter was sent to each candidate in the election on Saturday, 30th May:

"Dear Sir,

Preservation of the environment and conservation of resources has now been recognised as a matter of national importance. The Members of this Association as an organisation directly concerned with conservation in the Australian Capital Territory, are particularly interested in obtaining a policy statement on conservation from each of the candidates in the coming by-election.

In particular we are interested to know your attitude to five local conservation issues:-

1. The proposed construction of an atomic power station at Jarvis Bay, in view of the many problems of contamination and pollution which have been encountered in other countries.
2. In view of the important issues involved the need for adequate public discussion of the project.
3. The dedication of the Mount Kelly National Park and the Black Mountain Nature Reserve and their inviolability when dedicated.
4. The urgent need for legislation to safeguard national parks in the Australian Capital Territory.
5. The preservation of the hills surrounding Canberra in their natural state, and particularly your attitude to the proposed erection of a restaurant on the summit of Mount Ainslie.

Yours faithfully,  
N.T. BURBIDGE."

### Black Mountain

Since the last Bulletin there has been some success in the campaign to protect the Black Mountain Reserve. The success can be attributed to the publicity obtained as a result of the editorial in the Canberra Times published following the report in the Bulletin. This was as you are no doubt aware, followed by questions at the

Advisory Council Meeting, and replies to statements made by representatives of the Department and the Commission. These events were all reported in the press, and an approach was made by the Department to the Association for a further meeting. This offer was accepted. At this meeting a map was presented, showing the area which it was suggested by the Department and the Commission as being the area of the Reserve which should be dedicated within three months. Unfortunately this is only the main part of the reserve, the portions which have been cut off Belconnen Way and Caswell Drive were not included. The area suggested by the Association in our original letter to the Minister included these areas. The route of the proposed Tuggeranong Expressway was shown on the map by a dotted line. We were informed that the decision to construct the Expressway through the Reserve could only be taken by the Parliamentary Joint Committee as it involved a change in the city plan. It was envisaged that transport in the city for many years to come would be almost completely by private car, even though no city in the world has succeeded in successfully using this method. We were also informed that it was anticipated that Caswell Drive and the extension of Bindubi Street would be required to cope with future traffic.

The extension of Parkes Way between the Mountain and the Lake were also discussed, and it was stated that the mountain side is unsuitable for a cutting to be made to obtain sufficient width for the extra carriageway, and that it was likely that the completed road would be on two levels.

A further 100 acres will be needed for the Botanic Gardens, and this will be obtained by extending the Gardens around the lower slopes of the Mountain. The barbecue areas on the Mountain are serviced by gangs twice weekly, but in view of the weed growth and the derelict appearance of the area in places it would appear that this is not sufficient. Mr Shoobridge stated that if the weeds were left alone they would be replaced by natural vegetation. The question is how long will that take and is this the correct attitude to management of a nature reserve. (Continued Page 7)

### Jervis Bay Power Station

As everyone knows, the Government is rushing ahead with the plan to establish a nuclear power station at Jervis Bay. This is a step of vast significance to Australia, yet there has been little publicity and virtually no public discussion of the wisdom of the move. There is no doubt that nuclear radiation itself has enormous potential for destruction, even when it is used with peaceful intention. What assurance does the public have that the introduction of nuclear power to Australia is not a gigantic mistake. There have been mistakes which have caused great harm in the past, but no decision has the same potential for harm as the introduction of nuclear power.

The Australian Atomic Energy Commission is restricting all but favourable publicity regarding the establishment of the reactor, as though the members of the Commission were the only people with sufficient wisdom to make the decision. I suggest that the members of the Commission are emotionally committed to the concept of nuclear power and so unable to make a calm and rational decision. I also suggest that they are aware that if certain facts regarding the potential of nuclear power stations for destruction were made public there would be strong resistance to the proposal, and that this is the main reason for the secrecy, not national security as is contended.

As official sources of information are not available one is forced to turn to other sources and one which I suggest every member should consult is a book just published called "Perils of the Peaceful Atom" by Richard Curtis and Elizabeth Hogan and published by Victor Collanz Ltd. this year. If only a few of the dangers described and well documented in this book are correct they would justify great caution before joining fashionable rush into nuclear power.

I therefore suggest that a subcommittee be formed to investigate the matter and to arouse public awareness.

J.H. Hill.

EYES OR NO EYES NO.

A very common fern of shaded creek and river banks is the Maiden Hair Fern. It likes earthy crevices or banks where there is light but the heat of the sun is not so great as to dry the soil out too severely.

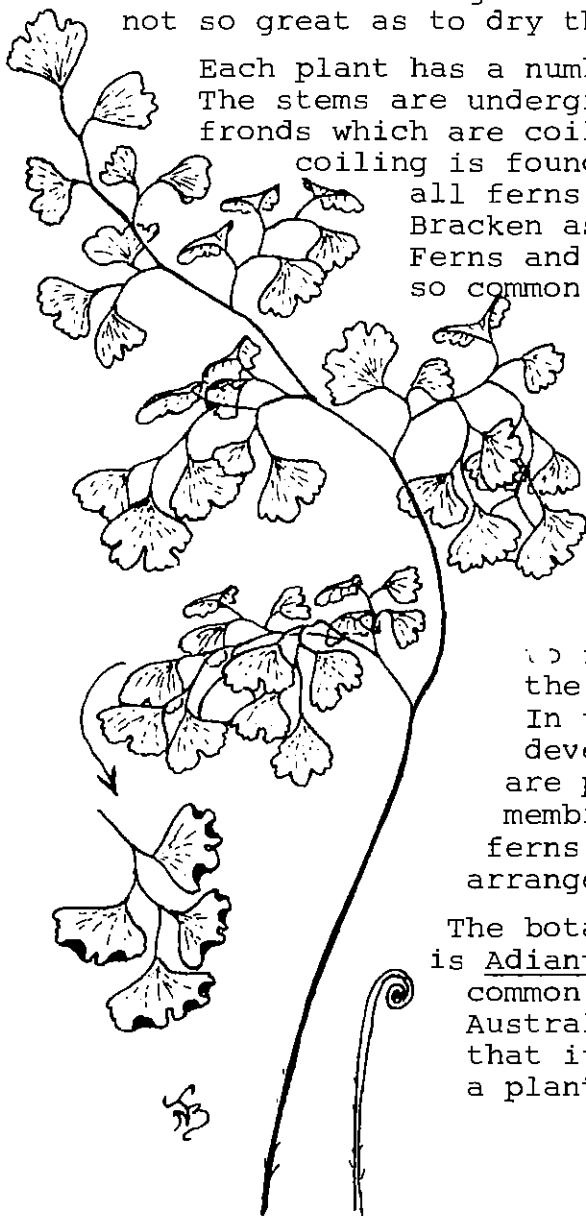
Each plant has a number of leaves or fronds. The stems are underground and produce the new fronds which are coiled at their tips. This coiling is found on the young leaves of all ferns. You can see it on Bracken as well as on the large Tree Ferns and the slender Necklace Fern so common in our forests.

Ferns do not produce seeds. They form a brown dust of minute spores in tiny sporangia on the undersides of the fronds. The way the sporangia are developed differs in each kind of fern. In the Maiden Hair the edges of the "leaflets" turn down

to form a cover. In Bracken the whole margin is curved in. In the Necklace Fern they develop along the veins but are protected by a delicate membrane. Look at a number of ferns and see how many different arrangements you can find.

The botanical name of Maiden Hair is Adiantum aethiopicum. It is common in many parts of Australia but its name tells us that it was first described from a plant from Ethiopia in Africa.

N.T.B.



## MEETINGS

### JUNE

Date: Thursday, 18th June at 8 p.m.  
Place: Room I, The Griffin Centre, Bunda St,  
City.  
Feature: A talk by one of our members, Mr  
Chippendale - "Plant Collecting in the  
Northern Territory".

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### JULY

Date: Thursday, 16th July at 8 p.m.  
Place: Room I, The Griffin Centre, Bunda St,  
City.  
Feature: Annual General Meeting. Election of  
Office Bearers for 1970-71. Showing of  
selected slides from the Slide Competition.

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### CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION

Motion to be put to members at the June General Meeting  
that: "The Committee shall consist of President, Vice-  
President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary (to act as  
Minute Secretary), Membership Secretary and Publicity  
Officer, Treasurer and Six Committee Members. The  
immediate Past President shall be ex-officio a member  
of the Committee."

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### Black Mountain (Continued from page 4)

It was confirmed that the motor body dump will be  
permanently closed by the end of June this year. The  
achievements so far therefore are:-

1. A major part of the reserve is to be dedicated.
  2. The tip is to be closed.
  3. Boundary fences have been restored.
  4. The new power-line through the reserve has been  
constructed through the existing easement.
  5. There is a proposal to form an advisory committee  
on which the Association will have representation.
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OUTINGS

JUNE

21  
Date: Sunday 28th June, 1970.  
Place: Lake George - to sight birds.  
Meeting: At 9.30 at Bungendore - opposite the "Shell"  
Service Station.  
Leader: Mr M. Clayton.  
Feature: Bring a lunch you can carry and fieldglasses  
will be useful.

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JULY

Date: Sunday 26th July, 1970.  
Place: Westbourne Woods.  
Meeting: Outside Old Forestry School, Yarralumla at  
10 a.m.  
Feature: Party will spend about 1½ hrs. during which  
they can inspect planting of native and intro-  
duced trees dating from about 1915. A lakeside  
barbecue lunch will follow.  
Special Note: The following arrangements are subject to  
confirmation at June Meeting or Phone 957632 or  
479538 during evenings nearer to the date.

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Subscription Renewal: Prof. E. Koch-Emery.

We welcome the following New Members:

Mr & Mrs J. Anderson,  
Miss E.A. D'Armay,  
Mr & Mrs L. Huston,  
Mr J.T.O. Kirk,  
Dr A.J. Mortlock,  
Miss K. Peaston,  
Captain & Mrs W. Rourke.

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