

Lake Peddar

The Tasmanian Government will go ahead with its proposals to construct a dam for hydro-electric purposes and Lake Peddar will be flooded, despite Australian-wide protests as well as ones from England, America and Switzerland. However there is a possibility, as a result of all these protests, that a large national park in the south west of Tasmania will be proclaimed immediately with an Administrative Board and that, after the repeal of an Act, a Directorate of National Parks will be set up. Conservationists will be represented on both these bodies.

Coolong Caves

The N.S.W. Conservation Council is investigating the possibility of opposing the applications for mining leases in the Coolong Caves area. This thrice dedicated area is not the only limestone area available. According to geologists there are other suitable areas available. The more public opinion is roused over the plundering of reserved areas, the better.

O.F.F. NEWS

Mr. R. Grundy,
4 Edna Ave.,
PENSHURST 2222

O.F.F. News

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OATLEY FLORA
AND FAUNA
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

Hon. Sec., Mrs. B. Goldstein
61 Mi Mi St., Oatley, N.S.W.
2223 :: Telephone 57-5189

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February, 1968.

EDITORIAL

We start the year 1968 with a new venture - the publication of this Newssheet which will replace the former monthly notice and extend its scope by giving a resume of action on the conservation front as well as news of happenings in our own small world.

The subscription price for "OFF NEWS" - necessary under postal regulations to obtain concession postage rates - will as a consequence of a resolution carried at the Annual General Meeting - be automatically covered by your membership subscription which has not been increased. But you must pay your subscription promptly as we cannot continue sending the newssheet to unfinancial members. Our new Treasurer, Arnold Bryden, will be at the next meeting to receive your fees for 1968 or you can post them to him at 46 Glen Road, Oatley, 2223.

Having made this point, we would now like to ask your help in making a success of this venture. We shall be glad of any criticisms or any suggestions to make the paper meet your needs. If you have any, or any unusual experience or information of common interest, please pass it on to Mrs. Goldstein (57-5189).

COMING EVENTS

Monday, 26th February, at 7.45 p.m. in the Swimming Hall, Myall St. & Wonoona Parade, Oatley -

"A NEW APPROACH TO BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY"
by Mr. Donald Trounson.

Mr. Trounson has been with the British High Commission in Sydney for eight years and wild birds are his hobby. Finding that many existing pictures are copied from stuffed birds and inadequate for identification purposes, he invented a technique for taking bird portraits. He retired recently and is starting a project to get a portrait of every species of Australian bird for publication in a new bird book. His unique methods and apparatus have been publicised in the press and at present he is taking portraits of birds in the Zoo. His clear pictures will help you identify birds you see, and you will enjoy meeting him and getting advance news of the project.

Sunday, 3rd March, at 10 a.m. - Half a mile beyond Baulkham Hills Traffic Lights (near the Bull and Bush Pub).

"BIRD FIELD DAY" with Athol Coleman.

The idea of going half a mile beyond the traffic lights is to find an easy place to park.

We shall go first to some bushland near Scheyville and then on through Windsor and Richmond to Pugh's Lagoon, where we may see some migrant waterbirds such as the Red-kneed Dotterdls. Lunch will be in a Picnic Ground (with all facilities) near Pugh's Lagoon with cars nearby. After lunch we shall visit Baker's Lagoon and Bushell's Lagoon. Athol assures us we should see at least sixty species of birds during the day, and he certainly knows where to find them.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As the names of the new office bearers appear on the 1968 Syllabus which should be available at the monthly meeting on 26th February, we shall not print them here, but we cannot fail to mention with regret that both Doris Newbould and Eddie Dalziel gave up the positions they have occupied for the last ten years. Many thanks to them for their good work. We also welcome our new President and his colleagues.

It was decided to introduce a new class of member - Student Member - for students over 16 years at 60 cents per annum. Other fees remain unchanged. Husband and wife \$2.50, senior member \$1.50, junior 20 cents.

CONSERVATION FRONT Wood Chip Industry in Northern Territory

The Administrator of the Northern Territory invited companies to apply for survey licences in connection with large scale wood chip industries in areas which include the Coburg Peninsula and Daly River wildlife reserves. These proposals have already been attached by Mr. R. J. Withnall, M.L.C. (Arnhem Land) in Darwin and members of the Legislative Council have pledged themselves to prevent the desecration of these sanctuaries. Our Society brought the proposals to the notice of the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Director (Dr. McMichel) has advised that the Foundation is interesting itself in the matter and do what it can to ensure that areas of interest for conservation purposes are not effected.

Water Pollution

State Cabinet has approved the preparation of legislation to control water pollution in N.S.W. This is very welcome news for already too many Australian streams are polluted from a variety of controllable sources - discharge from factories, sewerage, sullage, etc. etc. May be we will be able once again to swim in the Georges River.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At present, in N.S.W. a system of Voluntary Fire Brigades, working through local Shire Councils, exists to control bushfires but these Brigades tend to work on the margin to prevent the spread of the fire into occupied areas rather than to go into the bush to extinguish the fire where it is burning. It is difficult therefore to control a bushfire in a National Park.

Mr. Phil Gabel, Fire Protection Officer of the N.P. & W.S. (with the assistance of the National Parks Association) last year started to organise a body of voluntary firefighters for intra-bushland firefighting in the Royal National Park, Heathcote, Kuringai and Muogamarra. Besides able-bodied fit men to actually fight the fire, a support body to provide refreshment and/or transport is needed. We feel a Society such as ours should be able to help. Any member interested in volunteering can find out more about the scheme by ringing Cec Sainty or Mr. A. Catford (449.1658). We hope the phone runs hot!

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

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EDITORIAL

At various times members have asked "What is the Conservation Council", "Who is Allan Fox" and so on, and it seems a reasonable assumption that many of our members do not know exactly who does what or who is who in the Conservation field in New South Wales.

It is proposed therefore to give short accounts of the functions and the names of the principal personnel in some of the conservation bodies in the State.

We commence with the National Park and Wildlife Service recently created after the stormy passage through Parliament of the very controversial and much criticised National Parks and Wildlife Service Bill.

Many people have doubts about the provisions regarding wildlife which integrate the previous Fauna Protection Panel into the Service and are also dissatisfied with the existing legislation which the Service administers and wish to see a variety of alterations made to it.

How this new body will stand the test of time has yet to be seen. On the negative side so far is the Minister's granting of permission for mining in dedicated areas. On the positive side, he has set

up a Scientific Committee to advise on the creation of parks and reserves. But the question can fairly be asked - If the creation of parks and reserves has to await the findings of this Committee, should not any despoiling of existing reserves also await scientific findings?

.....

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

The Service came into being on 1st October, 1967, when the N.P. and W.Act came into force. It is under the control of the Hon. T. Lewis, Minister for Lands (not Minister for Conservation who looks after soil and water conservation). There is a Director (at present Mr. S. Weems who is returning to America soon) and three Assistant Directors. Mr. Allen Strom, formerly Chief Guardian of Fauna, has been acting temporarily in the position of Asst. Director (Wildlife) but he will soon vacate the position. The position of Asst. Director (Management) has not yet been filled (Mr. Murrell is at present in charge of this section) and Mr. Howard Stanley is Asst. Director Administration).

In the Wildlife Section is Mr. Les McQueen who is known to some of us. Allan Fox, Fred Hersey, Charlie Boyd and Phil Gabel, all of whom have visited us or organised field days are employed in the Management section in varying capacities.

There are also two advisory bodies, the Advisory Council of 13 members two of whom, Mr. Vincent Serventy and Mr. Paul Barnes represent conservationists, and the Advisory Committee of Architects consisting of six architects including the Govt. Architect and a qualified landscape architect. The Minister is under no statutory obligation to heed the advice of either of these bodies.

.....

COMING EVENTS.

The talk on March 25th (Monday), at 7.45 p.m. at the Swimming Club Hall, Myall Street, Oatley, will be given by Dick Wyatt, Chief Forecaster of the Bureau of Meteorology, N.S.W. You will have heard him giving long range forecasts on the radio. Everyone is affected by the weather and it also has importance for flora and fauna. We have all been exasperated at times by the apparent inaccuracy of the forecasts and Mr. Wyatt will talk about the "how" and "why" of forecasting, as well as such things as cyclones. He says he welcomes questions and has a very tough hide, so you need not be afraid of upsetting him. It should be an interesting and lively evening. There will be some slides.

Please bring your small folding chairs with you (if you have any). We were short of seating at the last meeting when some of us had to stand while we admired Mr. Trounson's unbelievably beautiful and successful photographs of birds.

FIELD DAY, SUNDAY, 31st March at 10 a.m. at GIRRAKOOOL.

Meet in the Car Park (opposite Ranger's House) inside GIRRAKOOOL Wildlife Refuge - large sign on right of the Pacific Highway this side of Gosford (not on the Expressway). There are picnic areas, nature trails, wildflowers, birds, cascades and lookouts. A conducted tour will be led by an officer of Brisbane Water National Park of which these 1700 acres are part. If anyone prefers to come for the day on Saturday, we will try to arrange for a guide, if we know a week beforehand. For those with tents, camping will be arranged for Saturday night near Mooney Creek Bridge (a week's notice is required for this - Phone Cec Sainty 759-4735).

Mr. Allen Strom has ceased duty with the N.P. & W.L. Everyone will regret that Mr. Strom's knowledge and experience in conservation are no longer available to the Service and we express our deep and sincere appreciation of the magnificent and untiring work he has done and wish him well in the future.

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Annual admittance tickets giving unlimited entry to certain parts administered by the N.P. & W.S. are now available. Price \$6.00. Enquire at the Royal National Park or at the Service.

.....

Hurstville Council has decided to close Oatley Park to vehicular traffic between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in an effort to reduce vandalism.

.....

In the Library we now have "Wild Australia" by Michael Morcombe, a former high school teacher and an outstanding nature photographer whose work has appeared in overseas magazines. This book is a splendid collection of plant and animal life - about 90 colour plates as well as many black and white ranging from the giant Karris and intriguing Pitcher Plant of the West to the delightful Blue Wren. An ideal book for that spare half hour!

.....

Last call for Subs. if you want to get further OFF News.

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EDITORIAL

Last month we wrote about the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service. Each Australian State has its own department corresponding more or less to the N.S.W. authority but there was until recently no Commonwealth-wide body who could co-ordinate the activities of the States or speak for Australia as a whole. The spotlight was focussed on this lack when in 1963 H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh suggested that Australia should become a contributing member of the World Wildlife Fund and as a result the idea of the Australian Conservation Foundation was conceived. We will not attempt to outline the Foundation's activities as Dr. McMichael, the Director, is coming to Oatley in July to talk to us. We will outline its structure and next month we will report on the N.S.W. Conservation Council.

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THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION.

This Foundation is a private body that has been established to promote the understanding and practice of conservation throughout Australia and its Territories. It has been incorporated as a non-profitmaking association in the Australian Capital Territory but its permanent

April 1968.

centre under the directorship of Dr. D.F.McMichael is located in the grounds of Macquarie University at Eastwood, N.S.W. Its Patron is H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh and its President the Rt. Hon. Sir Garfield Barwick, G.C.M.G. There is a Governing Council, members of which include university professors, business men, landholders, and experienced research and conservation workers who are elected by the Ordinary Members.

The Foundation receives an annual grant of \$20,000 from the Commonwealth Government. Anyone interested in the objects of the Foundation can become an Ordinary Member (annual subscription \$5), or an Associate Member, without voting rights, at half the cost. The Constitution also provides for Life Members (single payment of \$200) and welcomes Benefactor Members (donations of \$2500 or more). Societies, businesses, government departments and other bodies wanting to be associated with the Foundation, and kept in touch with its activities, can become Member Bodies at an annual subscription of \$5.00, nominating a representative who has the same rights as an Ordinary Member.

Our Society has joined the Foundation as a Member Body but we would like to point out that this does not preclude any individual member of our Society from becoming an Ordinary Member of the Foundation, which would welcome you.

.....

COMING EVENTS.

22nd April, Monday, at 7.45 p.m., at Swimming Hall, Myall St. "Birds of the Inland" by Jack Purnell.

27th April, Saturday afternoon. Geological Field Day at 2 p.m. with Dr. Albani (University of N.S.W.)

(the meeting, Mrs. Grundy, Sunday, 21st April, 8pm. (at Calan)

VERY GOOD - HAS OTHER COLLECTIONS

April 1968.

Mr. Jack Purnell is the Maintenance Engineer at the Sanatorium Hospital, Wahroonga. His hobbies are bird study and photography. He spends his holidays in winter or spring looking for birds and has been out with Ellis Macnamara whose remarkable pictures many of you have seen. Mr. Purnell talks more about the birds and their habitats than Ellis does and he has an excellent collection of inland birds which are different from the coastal birds around Sydney. So bring your interested friends and note the date April 22nd (the 4th Monday happens to be early this month).

Dr. Albani who is attached to the Dept. of Applied Geology (University of N.S.W.), is particularly good on Field Days. We meet him at 2 p.m. on April 27th near the bus stop at the northern end of Bondi Beach. (Park your car in a side street). The afternoon will be spent examining the structure of the northern headland (Ben Buckler) which illustrates many geological features in the one area.

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CONSERVATION FRONT

A Home for Hairy Nosed Wombats.

The Natural History Society of South Australia has launched an appeal for 3,000 South Australians to buy an acre each of Mallee Scrub at Portee near Blanchetown to provide a sanctuary and fauna reserve to be known as the Moorunda Wild Life Natural History Reserve. The purpose is to provide a home for the hairy nosed wombat (*Lasiornhinus latifrons*) which is listed as one of the world's rarest animals, and survives now only in South Australia.

The appeal is reported to have made a good start, but I am sure that the Society would be happy to accept donations from interested persons interstate - even as far away as Oatley.

.....

at the station and shall move off at 10.5 a.m. promptly. First stop will be at the bottom of Frederick Street (near the northwest arm of the river), second stop at Oatley Point (Algernon Street) so if you can't be there at 10 a.m. you should be able to find us. Morning tea near cars. Then visits to various other reserves, followed by lunch near cars at our native flower bed in Oatley Park (West). Entrance in Oatley Park Rd. past the school.

DROPPING OF POISON BAITs BY AIR OVER NATIONAL PARKS.

Early this year the N.P. and W. Service announced a grant to the University of New England for research into the effects on wildlife of aerial baiting with meat impregnated with 1080 poison. The Minister for Lands has now ordered that all laying of poison baits by aircraft over National Parks shall cease. This is good news, and the Minister is to be congratulated.

CAMPING IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.

The authorities have decided to close Wattamolla and Garie because of poor sites and lack of facilities.

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May 1968.

EDITORIAL

Our application for registration for transmission by post as a periodical has been approved and this issue is the first to take advantage of the bulk rates available. Under the terms of the registration copies may be sent only to bona fide subscribers. If you hear anyone saying that they are not receiving their copy, get them to check their financial standing. We will be only too happy to send them "Off News" in return for their sub.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Last month, we wrote about the Commonwealth-wide conservation authority. Now back to N.S.W. to the Conservation Council as it is generally called which speaks for fifty-three organisations in N.S.W., interested in conservation.

This is a very worthwhile organisation but, unlike the Australian Conservation Foundation, it has no government grant and is entirely dependent on subscriptions from members. Lack of finance could be a very limiting factor for the Council in pursuit of some of its aims and a careful watch must be kept to avoid duplication of activities either in work which should be done by the N.P. and W. Service or which belongs to the sphere of the A.C.F.

May 1968

"The Council came into being in the year 1955 to promote the cause of conservation of N.S.W. It is a voluntary association of member bodies who subscribe to the aims and aspirations laid down in the Council's constitution. The Council is an independent, private, non-profit, public service organisation with strong interests in education and scientific activities. It seeks to co-operate with government agencies charged with the responsibility of administering the State's activities in the fields of conservation, but it is completely independent of them and seeks to offer constructive criticism where it deems it necessary.

The Council does not seek to take over the functions of any individual society nor to impose uniformity on conservation philosophy in the State. On the contrary it seeks, by bringing the different societies together, to stimulate discussion and thought so that together things will be achieved which could not be accomplished alone."

The above quote is taken from the Preamble to a draft constitution which is before members of the Council for comment and sets out its aims and objects. The need for a formal constitution became clear during the turbulent period when the N.P. and W. Bill was under consideration.

Office bearers for 1967 are -

Chairman - Mr. Ivor Wyatt (National Trust).
 Hon. Secretary - Dr. Bruce Grant (Sutherland Con.Soc.)
 Hon. Treasurer - Mrs. Beryl Nipperess (National Parks)
 Committee - Mr. J. J. Brown (Wildlife Preservation)
 Dr. V. Serventy (" ")
 Miss J. Mendell (" ")
 Mrs. T. Y. Stead (Wirrimbirra)
 Mr. L. Willan (Sutherland Con.Soc.)

May 1968

These members are not on it as direct representatives of their Societies as the Committee is elected by the delegates at the Annual Conference from members nominated and any delegate may be nominated.

The Council holds an Annual Conference attended by delegates and observers. This is followed by the Annual Dinner open to interested persons which is well worth attending. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the various personalities in the conservation field. The date this year is 21st September. Make a note of it in your diary and we will let you know when tickets are available.

COMING EVENTS

MONDAY, May 27th, Swimming Club Hall, Myall St., 7.45p.m.
"THE SEA AROUND US" by Dr. Bruce Grant, bio-chemist at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, CSIRO, Cronulla. His talk will be on aspects of the sea new to us and will be something quite different from the rest of this year's talks. He will deal with the interaction of man and the sea and tell us about some of the most interesting or important forms of life in the sea (not fish), the food chain upon which these depend and their importance to man. His talk will be illustrated by some slides and also blackboard drawings.

The hall will be heated if it is at all cold, so don't be put off by the weather.

FIELD DAY, Sunday, June 2nd at 10 a.m. Meet on the east side of Oatley Station (near the bus shelter). George and Mary Dibley know every nook and cranny of Oatley and as a member of a conservation society based on Oatley, wherever you live, you will want to know about what there is to save, what is being lost and where there are pleasant picnic spots. It will be a leisurely day with short walks, suitable alike for children and adults. We will find you a seat in a car

representatives from over 50 conservation bodies. (Ted Allsop and Cec Sainty represented our Society). A resolution was carried asking, inter alia, that the Government and Parliament review Cabinet's decision to allow mining in the Coolong area, and a Committee has been formed to take the matter further.

Do your part by trying to raise indignation amongst your friends at this unjustifiable grab by commercial interests of much needed and valuable reserve land.

...

NEW DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE.

Dr. Donald F. McMichael, a 36 year old Australian, has been appointed as director of the N.P. & W.S. in succession to Mr. Sam Weems who is returning to the U.S.A.

Dr. McMichael is an honours Science graduate of Sydney and also holds a Master's degree and Doctorate in Biology from Harvard University. Prior to his appointment as Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation last year, Dr. McMichael was Deputy Director of the Australian Museum in Sydney. One of his primary aims in his new position will be the establishment of a marine park along the N.S.W. Coast.

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EDITORIAL

The announcement of Dr. McMichael's appointment as Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service is pleasing after such a long delay. It is good to see a top ranking, well qualified Australian appointed and we wish Dr. McMichael every success in his new role and look forward to co-operating with him and his Service. But New South Wales' gain is the Commonwealth's loss. Who will fill the vacancy on the Australian Conservation Foundation caused by Dr. McMichael's resignation? And who will be appointed to the position of Assistant Director (Wildlife) in the N.S.W. Service vice Mr. Allen Strom? We wait for the announcements of these appointments with interest.

COMING EVENTS

Monday, 24th June at 7.45 p.m. sharp, at the Swimming Hall Oatley:

"Bird Seeking in Northern Australia" by Norman Chaffer, R.A.O.U..

Mr. Chaffer is a bird photographer of world renown and he has made several lecture tours in America. Last year he went via North Queensland to Central Australia and Darwin by caravan with two companions, covering 11,000 miles. Over 400 species of birds were recorded, including between 40 and 50 not previously seen by Mr. Chaffer. His talk will be illustrated by large colour slides of birds, scenic views and habitats.

June 1968.

From this you will realise that Mr. Chaffer's visit to Oatley is one of the highlights of our 1968 Programme and something you won't want to miss. Your interested friends are welcome but come early. Last time Mr. Chaffer came to Oatley there were 80 present, so if you have any small folding chairs please put them in your car in case we need them. The Hall is heated.

Sunday, June 30th at 9.30 a.m. at LODDON RIVER (off Bulli-Appin Rd.)

Bird Banding with Harry Battam (Sec., R.E.S.)

We meet Harry at the junction of the Loddon River and the Bulli-Appin Rd. at 9.30 a.m. Go south down the Princes Highway and turn right along the Appin Road for about 2 miles. The Loddon River is signposted. The Appin turning is a little before the Bulli Pass turning.

Permission has been obtained from the Water Board for us to go on to their property but no fires are allowed and no rubbish should be left. Bring your lunch and a thermos. Bird banding is very interesting and there are excellent opportunities for photographing the birds while Harry is holding them.

.....

CONSERVATION FRONT

COOLONG CAVES: The fight over the granting of mining leases in the Coolong Caves area still goes on. Briefly -

1. Coolong Caves area was part of an area set aside for the preservation of the caves in 1899, was proclaimed a bird and animal sanctuary in 1928 and in 1939 reserved for public recreation. So we (who do not know the area intimately) can assume it is an area worthy of preservation. Statements that the area lies outside the

June 1968.

proposed Kanangra-Boyd Park are in themselves accurate now but only because the boundaries have been altered to meet the demand and 5000 acres lopped off the reserve. Legally the company is within its rights to work the leases. But this is a real grab of valuable park land.

2. Working the limestone will deface the area. The Minister denies this, the Company admit they can't put the mountain back. Make your own decision whether the landscape will be the same without a mountain! Damage (such as an increase in siltation and risk of pollution in rivers in the Warragamba Catchment Area) would also occur in the making of subsidiary workings such as water reticulation, access roads, and the slurry pipe to carry the material to Maldon. Points such as these have been ignored by the Minister in his correspondence with the conservationists.

3. It is argued that limestone is necessary to the N.S.W. economy and that Coolong limestone is the nearest deposit which can be profitably worked at Maldon. Reputable geologists dispute this fact and say that if two rival companies would co-operate in the management of the Marulan deposits there is enough limestone for at least 35 years there. There is also the question of the demand for NSW cement. It has been stated that cement can be obtained more cheaply from Tasmania and that, if NSW production doubles, there will be a problem of finding markets for the surplus. The company is expanding its works at Maldon and without any attempt to discuss possible alternatives by which costs could be reduced, it would seem that the company's immediate economic interests are receiving much more consideration than the long term interests of the people of N.S.W.

All these matters, together with the impossibility of getting definitive information from the authorities, were discussed in Sydney on 29th May, at a meeting of

July 1968.

Our Society is a member of the N.P.A. and now that you know about it and after looking at its Journals you may care to join it yourself. Several of us already belong to it.

LIBRARY

We now have copies of "The National Parks Journal" for the months of February, March, April, May and June of this year. For those of you not already familiar with this Journal, we mention it contains a fund of very interesting and useful information including articles on the various National Parks, bushwalks, forests, flora and fauna, etc. It really "puts you in the picture" regarding current controversial issues affecting mining, protected plants, the use and abuse of our natural resources, also there is a very full description of the functions and administration of the N.P. & W.S.

We also have copies of some early "Yarrawonga", journal of the defunct Caloola Club, which provide interesting reading on early thoughts on National Parks.

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At the Special Meeting of the National Parks Association on 28th June, it was decided not without much discussion that the Association was opposed to the taking of native animals (excluding fish) for sport but agreed that it did not oppose the admission of Game Bodies to associate membership of the Nature Conservation Council. As a Society we approve this decision because while we too oppose the killing of animals for sport we believe in the principle of co-operation and discussion and think that admitting Gaming Bodies to the N.C.C. will promote discussion and encourage co-operation.

COMING EVENTS.

Monday, July 22nd at 7.45 p.m. at Swimming Hall, Myall Street, Oatley.

"Some Present Problems of the Australian Conservation Foundation" by Dr. Don McMichael, illustrated by slides.

As you know Dr. McMichael has been appointed Director of the N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service where he will take up duty in November. Until then he remains in charge of the Australian Conservation Foundation. He will tell us about the sort of things which have to be done in Australia to keep our unique wildlife and wildflowers, our coastline and scenery.

He will show slides and talk about what is already being done and the problems. We are indeed lucky to have him talk to us as what he believes in will affect all conservationists for the next few years. We expect a large audience so put your folding chairs in the car in case of need. The Hall is heated.

Sunday, 28th July at 10 a.m. at Appin Sports Ground.
Wildflower Field Day with Nancy Beattie assisted by Cec
and Rita Sainty.

The native flowers will be beginning to bloom and because there is no public access to Appin Falls, they are particularly plentiful in the area. This may be our last visit as the Water Board has indicated that we cannot make a habit of visiting this delightful spot.

We meet the Ranger at 10 a.m. on Appin Sports Ground. (Have morning tea before he arrives please). He will take us through the locked gates to a parking area about three quarters of a mile from the Falls. Lunch will be near the Falls. No fires, no paddling, no latecomers (the gates will be locked once the party is through) and no rubbish. Every bit of rubbish must be taken away.

Following this outing the monthly meeting on 26th August will be on wildflowers and methods of growing them.

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THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

In preceding issues we have written about three conservation bodies, one the Australian Conservation Foundation (A.C.F.) which is the Australian-wide body, the others being the National Parks and Wildlife Service (N.P. & W.S.), the New South Wales State Government authority and the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. (N.C.C.) an association of interested private bodies.

In this issue we deal with the National Parks Association, one of these private bodies which has done much for national parks.

In early N.S.W. history, some conservation minded people secured the Royal National Park, Kuringai Chase and other parks for posterity. In the 20's Miles Dunphy founded the Mountain Trail Club from which proliferated many bushwalking clubs. In 1955 the N.C.C. was formed as a brain child of Allen Strom (Caloola Club) and Thistle Harris (Wild Life Preservation Society). About the same time Joe Turner and Rod Earp in the Hunter-Manning District began to ask for some state body which would press for proper control of national parks. The Caloola Club joined in this move and in "Yarrowonga" (Caloola's magazine) of that year appear the first co-ordinated thoughts towards a National Park Bill.

In 1957, as a result of the work of Rod Earp, Allen Strom, Tom Hoppett and others, the National Parks Association (N.P.A.) was formed for the purpose of pressing for the reservation and preservation of natural and scenic areas suitable for national parks, and for the introduction of suitable legislation.

Since then the N.P.A. has increased in membership and amongst them are many conservationists whose names may be familiar to many of you - Gordon McKern, Allen Fox, Henry Fairlie-Cunningham, Paul Barnes (present President) to mention only a few. These men have done or are doing much to carry out exploratory work, looking for suitable areas, mapping areas, etc. and the organisation keeps in close contact with the national parks section of the N.P. and W.S..

The Association organises a very full programme of activities, meetings, walks and camp-outs through which members get to know much territory otherwise unavailable to the average person. It also publishes an excellent Journal which from now on will be available in our Library (Read what our Librarian says about it).

The Colong Caves Committee asks that societies and members do what they can to protest further. The most effective way seems to be letter writing to local members, to the Premier, to the Minister for Mines and the Minister for lands as well as to the press. Another way is by refusing to use concrete marketed by the Portland Cement Company, the company concerned in this exploitation, 74% of whose shares are held by an English company.

Any letters should demand revocation of all mining leases in and near Colong Caves Reserve and the restoration of the 500 acres excised from the proposed Kanangra/Boyd National Wilderness Park. Do your bit.

OATLEY PARK

Hurstville Council has advised that it will erect a fence around the swings area in the Park to ensure a safe playing area for children.

WOODCHIP INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Aust. Cons. Foundation has advised that no woodchip industry will be established on reserves in the N.T.

O.F.F. NEWS



Mrs. N. Grundy
4 Edna Ave.,
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O.F.F. News

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EDITORIAL

Browsing through a scientific journal the other day, I came across two separate notes which caught my interest as a conservationist.

One of these was headed "DDT - a new warning". DDT is now believed to poison those minute aquatic plants, plankton. Those of you who heard Dr. Grant's talk in May will know how important plankton is in the food chain. But this note emphasised a new angle. A great part of the total world photosynthesis (the process by which the supply of oxygen in the air is maintained) is carried out by plankton in the ocean, and any interference with it could have disturbing effects on the supply of oxygen without which man cannot live.

The second note "The Dustman's Growing Burden" stated that rubbish disposal is one of our affluent society's greatest headaches. The USA spend about \$3000 million a year in storing, collecting and disposing of solid waste and in the past forty years the paper content of the waste has doubled. Paper comes largely from the pulp of trees whose green leaves are also active in the process of photosynthesis.

What kind of a society is it that permits the risk of upsetting the atmospheric balance and thereby could endanger our very existence? The immediate urgent necessity for well-informed and wisely planned conservation of resources on a world scale seems obvious but at present equally impossible of realisation. What can a society like ours, interested primarily in the preservation of flora and fauna, do in the overall world picture? Nothing much of immediate effect. But we all know what conservation means. We realise the need for it and know that with some things what is lost cannot be replaced. We appreciate the danger of going ahead with what looks like a good thing from an economic point of view without adequate testing and knowledge. If each of us refuses to use insecticides containing dangerous chemicals, keeps himself well informed of what is going on, spreads his knowledge among his friends and gets them interested in conservation, and supports genuine conservation moves, we will be doing our bit. By creating a live, well-informed grass roots attitude we may be able to influence the action of those higher up, but we must get busy right now.

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, September 23rd, at 7.45 p.m. sharp at the Swimming Hall, Myall Street -

"Zoos and Conservation" by Ronald Strahan, Director of Taronga Park Zoo.

About a year ago Mr. Ronald Strahan became the first scientist to be Director of Taronga Park Zoological Gardens. He is a striking personality, an excellent speaker and has a capacity for getting things done. Many improvements have already been made and a Veterinary Surgeon and an Education Officer added to his staff. In the past the Zoo and the Conservation Societies seemed

to be pulling in opposite directions but Mr. Strahan aims to breed rare species of fauna and work with conservation societies in several ways. Members of a large city society have been seen sitting spellbound listening to him, and it is gratifying that he is giving up his time to come to Oatley to tell us of his ideas and plans.

Bring your interested friends, but we could need extra chairs, so will members bring any they have please.

September 29th, 9.30 a.m. at National Park Station Audley. -

Field Day in Royal National Park.

There is a train leaving Oatley at 8.49 a.m., due Audley 9.11 a.m. (change at Sutherland). We intend to go along the Warumbal Road and eventually turn off to the right to a place where we hope to find waratahs and *Boronia pinnata* in flower. You will be taken from the station in cars, if you don't possess one. Bring your lunch in a form which you can carry as we may not picnic near the cars. There will not be a lot of walking, and this outing will be suitable for all ages. However some may wish to go further than others off the track (or to visit Winifred Falls in the afternoon). Cec and Rita Sainty are unable to lead this Field Day, so the leaders will be Harry and Doris Newbould.

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COLONG CAVES

The Special Colong Caves Committee appointed in May has been active. One publicity stunt to arouse public interest was a Colong Marathon from the Caves to Parliament House carrying a piece of limestone and a petition. One of our members, Mr. Fred Wrightson, ran three of these miles in 25 minutes and earned special mention for himself and the Society by doing so. Our thanks to Mr. Wrightson.

schools and councils of a nature which would involve considerable knowledgeable planning and would seem to be too big for some member societies to deal with. However, this should not deter members from thinking about how we could co-operate should occasion arise, and we hope to have suggestions from you at our annual general meeting.

The administration of small nature reserves was also debated and as some, if not all, of these are not well managed, the Minister for Lands is to be asked to set up a Committee (on which N.P. & W.S. and N.C.C. should be represented) to review the matter.

After the Annual Dinner which was well attended, the Minister for Mines spoke briefly, hinting at possible forthcoming announcements which would be agreeable to conservationists. The announcements form the subject of the Editorial in this issue!

The Guest Speaker, Professor, Gustav Swanson, a Fulbright Scholar at present at the University of New England and a leading American authority on wildlife and wildlife conservation, spoke from his wide personal experience of the role played by gaming bodies in American conservation. His interesting talk may perhaps have persuaded some of those who were disappointed with the way voting on the subject had gone, that the admission of gaming bodies as ~~associated~~ members will not prove the evil they predict.

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OCTOBER 1968

EDITORIAL

A little break this month from background information to keep members abreast of actual happenings in the conservation world which are not too pleasing.

The Government has confirmed its decision to grant mining leases in the Colong Caves area. It is little consolation that the company must deposit \$100,000 as a guarantee that they will observe the conditions of the lease. Money is not unspoiled bush and most of us will feel it a bad bargain. We could only hope that the outcry would make a Government think twice before embarking on any future granting of leases in reserves.

But has it? The report of the Sims Committee has just been made public. This Committee, consisting of representatives of mining and conservation interests under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sims of the State Planning Authority was to solve a dispute over the proper use of North Coast beaches. Although nine new National Parks will be created (the fate of three areas is still undecided) with areas for scientific study in each, the entire N.S.W. coastline north of Sydney except for four miles will be available for mining. This is bad news, although the companies are to re-establish the area after mining, this is not really possible. So it seems that even while the Colong outcry was still being raised, the Government was thinking in terms of mining rather than nature conservation.

COMING EVENTS

Monday, 28th October, at 7.45 p.m. sharp at the Swimming Hall, Myall Street -

"The Physiology of Insects" by Len Willan, illustrated by specimens and colour slides.

Mr. Willan, a keen amateur entomologist, is a member of Sutherland Conservation Society and also of the 500 strong Entomological Society of N.S.W. Many of you will remember the interesting field day we had with Len last year when members thought he must be a professional entomologist because he knew so much about moths and insects.

Len hopes to use very few long words and names but will talk about the behaviour of insects, how their eyes work and how they react to environment and how they are adapted to feel and move. He will bring specimens and colour slides. Very few of us know much about insects so come and bring your friends.

Field day at Wirrimbirra will be over before you get this notice but there will be the November outing to look forward to. We would like to remind you that the Xmas Party is on Saturday, November 30th, so don't book that date for any other function.

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OATLEY PARK

Our local park has been very beautiful this Spring with a wonderful display of wildflowers in the lesser used parts. Birds do not seem to mind people, and a frogmouth, a butcher bird, an oriole and a red wattle-bird have their nests very close to roads and are easily seen.

Work is starting on the erection of gates to enable the park to be locked overnight in order to prevent vandalism in the park.

The Committee is following up the question of the preservation of the saline swamp area at the head of

Limekiln Bay and has written to the Dept. of Education and to the Chief Secretary's Department from the point of view of its use as a special study area for schools and of the conservation of fish stock in the Georges River.

The Committee has also written to Hurstville Council opposing the permission granted to a local boatshed owner to have a private telephone on the landing at Oatley Park.

....

N.P.A. BUSH FIRE FIGHTING FORCE

More volunteers are needed to fight fires in national parks under the scheme launched by the N.P.A. Volunteers as fighters should be healthy and fit. Older or less fit people can serve in the support force to provide first aid, transport, food and drinks for the fighters. (Think it over and see how you can help.) Mr. A. R. Catford at 21 Kingsford Avenue, South Turramurra, 2074, is the man to whom applications should be sent.

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL CONFERENCE 1968.

This was the first conference held since the adoption of the new constitution which came into force on the date of the meeting, 21st September. In August 1968 there were 51 member bodies.

The new Committee will have to look into the question of obtaining permanent headquarters (probably in association with some other bodies) and secretarial assistance. The work of the Council is growing tremendously.

The most keenly debated matter during the conference was that of Council policy re the taking of game and the admission of gaming bodies to the Council. Voting was very close indeed, but the "Yes" won the day.

All motions submitted were carried with slight or no amendment except those proposed by the Conservation in Education Committee which have been referred to a Standing Committee on Conservation Education. These motions foreshadow greater co-operation between local societies and

im Committee Report: This 100 page report had just been released at the time of going to press for October and there was little time for full consideration of it. At present it is being studied by the members of the executive of the Nature Conservation Council who will make a full public statement of its views in due course.

Bouddi State Park - Plan of Management: The first of the plans of management prepared by N.P. & W.S. is in relation to Bouddi and can be inspected at its office, L.D.C. Building, Kent Street. The N.C.C. has studied the plans and is submitting detailed comments to the service.

O.F.F. NEWS

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EDITORIAL

During the recent debates in many places over the taking of native animals for sport, it has become clear that the word conservation means different things to different people. For the first time many people are becoming aware of a difference in meaning between "preservation" or "conservation" where they equal "unqualified protection" and where they mean "controlled cropping".

The idea of preservation meaning protection is held strongly by those who oppose the killing of native animals at any place and at any time, most particularly in reserves. Those who hold to this interpretation quote the shooting of wildlife such as kangaroos and duck for sport, the cutting of timber for woodchips and in general are for the total protection of native flora and fauna.

Those who favour the newer concept of conservation want to preserve species but where and when it becomes necessary for the good of the species are willing to allow any excess to be destroyed.

In nature a good season produces a great increase in the number of a species, the excess of which will die off, under natural conditions, from the competition of its own species. It would appear to be a matter of personal opinion as to whether it is better to let

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animals die from hunger or other natural causes or by a shooter's bullet. From the point of view of preserving the species it would appear to matter not at all how the animals die, so long as a good healthy stock is preserved.

This is where controlled cropping comes in. Is it better or worse for kangaroos and ducks (the only native animals which reach numbers which endanger commercial interests and so are the animals most concerned) to be shot (as shot they will be) by uncontrolled individuals and/or commercial undertakings or by duly licenced shooters when and where their numbers are considered by an authorised authority to be excessive and then only under supervision.

This question was thoroughly debated by your Committee which eventually decided in favour of controlled cropping. Consequently as authorised by members at the August monthly meeting, your delegates at the N.C.C. Annual Conference were amongst those who voted in favour of the motions regarding the taking of game and for the admission of Gaming Dodies to associate membership of the Council.

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COMING EVENTS

Saturday afternoon, November 23rd at 1.30 p.m.

Seashore Field Day at Long Reef
with Barbara Dew.

Please note that the Field Day is on the Saturday BEFORE the next meeting. The meeting place, marked on the map (Gregory's) as Griffith Park, is beyond Dee Why, off the Pittwater Road to the right towards Long Reef Golf Course. Pass the Club Gates to the part of Griffith Park adjoining the Beach. Wear short clothes and preferably sandals. There are the most amazing creatures in those rockpools. Meet at 1.30 p.m. sharp. You can picnic or swim before that if desired.

November 1968.

Monday, November 25th at 7.45 p.m. at Swimming Hall, Myall St., at 7.45 p.m. sharp.

Movie Films arranged by Harry Battam.

Three Films - (a) "Wildlife in Danger", mainly about rare Australian animals.
(b) "Wild Wings" by Peter Scott.
(c) "The Beach - a River of Sand", a most informative geological film.

This is the last meeting in 1968, so be sure to come and bring interested friends.

Saturday, November 30th at 7.30 p.m. at Swimming Hall, Myall St.

Members' Xmas Party.

Note the time. This annual party run by June Lane and Rita Sainty is always a friendly, happy evening and you have time to get to know and talk to other members. There are games and competitions for children as well as interesting competitions, games and music for adults. Adults please bring a contribution towards supper.

Phone numbers: Lane 57-4291. Sainty 759-4735.

.....

CONSERVATION FRONT

Oatley Park: A section of the park was burnt out towards the end of October. As a result of representations by local residents, a strip of bush along the eastern fence is being cleared. We understand from Mr. Curlisa (Mayor of Hurstville) that this area will be replanted with native trees.

Colong Caves: As a result of representations by this Society, Mr. Arthur, M.H.R. raised in the Commonwealth Parliament the question of the possible pollution of the Warragamba Catchment Area by the proposed mining in the Colong Caves area and quoted our letter. We are very grateful to Mr. Arthur for his interest. A Hansard extract of his speech in Parliament is available from our Librarian.

OATLEY PARK

The Hurstville Council has decided to spend \$2000 to clear the park of dead timber in an effort to reduce the high fire danger existing in it. We have written asking the Council to consult some conservation experts on how to best do this without damaging the recuperative power of the park too much. We hope some worthwhile means will be evolved because there is a very real fire danger, both to nearby homes and to the park itself, should a fire get going.

BUSHFIRES:

There is hardly need to mention the terrible summer so far. Everyone will know of the damage, but it is sad and depressing to report that Barron Grounds, Girrakool, the Blue Mountains National Park and the Royal National Park have all suffered extensive damage. Here's hoping that by the time you read this issue, the so necessary rain will have fallen - but it will take a long time to repair the ravages of the fires, that is if they can be.

OFF News wishes you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. See you then!

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EDITORIAL

Now that the year is running to a close and your children have finished their examinations and every one is on holiday, would you like to test yourself on some facts about conservation and the people who are concerning themselves with it. You will find the answers to the following quiz at the end of this issue, but don't be lazy! See if you can answer the questions yourself before you turn to the back.

QUIZ: What organizations do the following initials stand for? In what sphere do they operate? Who are the people at the head?

1. A.C.F.
2. N.P. & W.S.
3. N.C.C.
4. N.P.A.

LIBRARY

The following additions were made to our library during the last few months:

"A Treasury of Australian Wildlife", edited by Dr. McMichael, a most comprehensive coverage of Australian land and marine fauna.

"Plants of Prey" by Rica Ericson - this deals with those plants (such as the Pitcher Plant) which trap animals; it includes all the Australian species and covers quite a different field from our many wildflower books.

"Landforms of Australia" by Vincent Serventy (Editor of 'Wildlife' quarterly journal). A fascinating book, explaining just how our Continent came to look as it does today as a result of heat, erosion, rains, drying winds, etc.

"A Continent in Danger" - by the same author. The title speaks for itself, and it is a "must" for our readers.

"Fossils" by W. Mathews. This was recommended to us by Dr. Albani who has led some of our most interesting field days. We had several enquiries from our members for such a book, so please make use of it.

In addition to the above books, we are now getting regular leaflets and small publications from the A.C.F. "The Newsletter" is being published quarterly and we have issues for April and July. Also the Foundation's "View Point" Series - No. 1 "Conservation of Kangaroos", No. 2 "Waterfowl Conservation" and No. 3 "The Cape Barren Goose". These are all very well worth the little time it takes to read them, so please ask for them.

We look forward to some brisk business in the library during the coming year - also some further valuable additions.

COMING EVENTS:

There will be no monthly meeting or field day till February. Our first function of the New Year will be the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 5th February, at our usual meeting place - the Swimming Hall, Myall St.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ:

1. A.C.F. - Australian Conservation Foundation, sometimes called "The Foundation", a private Australia-wide organization whose newly appointed Director is Mr. F.D. Piesse. Its office at present located at Macquarie University, Sydney, will soon be transferred to Melbourne.
2. N.P. & W.S. - National Parks and Wildlife Service, sometimes called "The Wildlife Service" or "Service", is the N.S.W. Government Department charged with the administration and care of national parks and wildlife. Its newly appointed director is Dr. D. F. McMichael (formerly of the A.C.F.). There are three Assistant Directors -
Management - Mr. D. A. Holmes,
Administration - Mr. Howard Stanley,
Wildlife - Still Vacant.
3. N.C.C. - Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., sometimes called "Conservation Council", a private organisation consisting of delegates of large N.S.W. conservation bodies such as the N.P.D. and smaller ones such as ours. It is run by a committee elected by member bodies. At present the President is Mr. I. Wyatt and the Secretary Dr. Bruce Grant.
4. N.P.A. - National Parks Association of N.S.W., another private organisation whose membership consists of private members and affiliated clubs. Its interest is in national parks, and it does excellent work in this field. It also offers excellent programmes for its members. President - Mr. Paul Barnes, Secretary - Mr. Bruce Hamon.