

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE A.C.T.

OUTING TO GINNINDERRA FALLS AND GORGE - 28th JUNE 1964

Rendezvous: Junction of Weetangarra and Coppin's Crossing Road
at 10 a.m.

Route: Continue along Weetangarra Road. Turn Right into Charnwood Road. Turn Left to Parkwood. Turn Right into Parkwood. Continue along road to homestead but turn left (do not go up to House). The McLeans will act as guides along track to Gorge.

Gates should be closed after cars pass through.

PROGRAMME:

1. Before Lunch: Leave cars and walk to Upper Falls along the edge of the gDrge. Easy walk but watch small children on rocks above and around Falls. Return to cars.

2. Lunch near cars. Please do not light fires.

3. After Lunch:

(i) Party will descend into Gorge and follow it to junction with Murrumbidgee. Descent is steep but not difficult.

Return can be either up steep gully near end of Gorge (See Sketch Map) or from Murrumbidgee and up on to the pasture slopes.

(ii) Those who do not wish to enter the Gorge with small children or because of steepness there are walks along its edge or cars can be taken along a track to the Murrumbidgee. NOTE: Part of this track especially near the river may be steep and stony:

If desired some members might like to arrange to be picked up on this track to save the return walk.

PLEASE HELLLIMBER The Falls and Gorge are on private property. Do not disturb stock.

Wet rocks are slippery. Do not throw stones into Gorge - You might hit someone. Do not damage plants or birds.

Note: Sketch Map is not to scale.

BIRD NOTES

About the open paddocks and sitting along fences Flame Robins should be fairly common and obvious. They are winter migrants from the higher mountains and the male has a beautiful and extensive area of flame red from the chin to the abdomen. By contrast, occasional Scarlet Robins (the male has a black throat) should be found in the Eucalypt growth about the Falls.

Other birds to be seen will be the Currawongs, with possibly the Grey Currawong on the Eucalypts about the Falls. Prevalent honeyeaters are the Yellow-faced and White-eared Honeyeaters. With luck, you may also see the Diamond Firetail Finch about scrub edges and the Fantail Cuckoo with its barred tail, chestnut breast and melancholy bubbling call about the Falls.

R.Schodde.

BOTANICAL NOTES FOR OUTING TO GINNINDERRA GORGE, June 1964

Along the Weetangarra Road the trees are similar to those near Canberra. They include: Yellow Box (Eucalyptus melliodora) Red Box (E. polyanthemos), Blakely's Red Gum (E. blakelyi) and Red Stringybark (E. macrorrhyncha).

GORGE: Along the top of the Gorge near the lunch place there are small trees with pale grey bark which is rough on main trunk - White Box (E. albens) There are also Yellow Boxes, Red Stringybark, White Brittle Gum and Apple Box.

On the steep sides of the Gorge there are well grown and old trees of Cypress Pine (Callitris endlicheri). Along the Creek at the bottom there are Sheoaks (Casuarina cunninghamii)

Among the small trees and tall shrubs are the Silver Wattle (Acacia dealbata), Mint Bush (Prostanthera lasianthos) and Australian Blackthorn (Bursaria spinosa). You will also see Winter Wattle (Acacia diffusa) which should be in flower, Creek Wattle (A. sicutiformis) Red-leaf Wattle (A. rubida) and others but as they may not be flowering they may be missed.

Bushy shrubs 1-2 feet high with scurfy leaves and hanging flowers which may be pale yellow or reddish are Correa reflexa. Melichrus urceolatus is a low growing heath that flowers during winter. It has sharp leaves and greenish white bell shaped flowers narrowed at the top. Helichrysum semipapposum is a yellow everlasting with bunches of small heads. These will now be dry. A small twiner with bunches or small violet to white pea-flowers is Glycine clandestina.

Watch for: Bushes with pink flowers like a Boronia, or Eriostemon. This is CROWEA EXALATA and it is rare in this part of Australia.

Another rare plant for the A.C.T. is CASSIA SCHULTESII (formerly placed under Cassia australis). The flowers are orange-yellow and loosely bell-shaped.

DO NOT DAMAGE THESE IF YOU SEE THEM

Mosses: For those interested in these tiny plants the Gorge is a happy-hunting ground. You may note a very common one forming low cushions on dry rocks. This moss has leaves with fine hair tips. If you wet a dry piece you can see the hair points move as they become wet. This moss is Grimmia pulverulenta.

Toadstools: Dr. Shepherd would be interested to see specimens of any found. They may be collected in a plastic bag (or bags). DO NOT pull them up or they will break away from the base of the stem. USE a knife or pointed stick and get the whole toadstool.

REMEMBER: Our Association is interested in Conservation of Wild Life. Do not pick flowers - they soon die. However if you cannot find someone to tell you what a flower is at the right moment then you may (if really necessary) cut off a very small piece with one or two flowers so that you can ask later. Place such pieces in a plastic bag or between the pages of a notebook.

N.T.B.

