

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY LTD.

NEWSLETTER NO. 55 - FEBRUARY, 1984 - PRICE: 20¢.

EDITOR: R.W. Alcorn, 43 Rutland Road, Medlow Bath.



Patron: Mr. Allan A. Strom, A.M.

"The world we must seek is a world in which the creative spirit is alive, in which life is an adventure full of joy, and hope.....Such a world is possible, it waits only for men to wish to create it."

- Bertrand Russell.

OUR SOCIETY

COMING MEETINGS:

For speakers at coming meetings held at The Hut, last Friday of the month, please see Public Notices in the Gazette. Don't forget the Annual Meeting, March 30th.

COMING WALKS:

MARCH URGENT ADDITIONAL WALK

SUNDAY, 10TH: Wieslaw Lichacz - 10.30 a.m. Mt. Victoria Railway Station (Sydney train arrives at 10.29 a.m.) - Bell - Wallangambe Wilderness. Car convoy - easy bushwalk - Sand Quarry proposal, overview - evidence gathering for land and environment court hearing (10th April, 1984). (Bring cameras, binoculars, coloured balloons, note pads). Smaller working parties to form over lunch and investigate specific issues for the court case. Should prove to be an enjoyable and collectively fruitful day for all members.

Wieslaw is well qualified to show us the location of the area proposed for sandmining. As well as a degree in Environmental Biology, he has had experience as a ranger with the N.P.W.S. Further enquiries ring L. Jones 57-2270.

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SATURDAY, 7th: John & Olive Noble 87-8342 - Meet at Mt. Victoria Station 9.30 a.m. (Sydney train arrives 9.29 a.m.). Something really new - Gibraltar Rocks. After travelling about 2/3 of the way to Jenolan Caves, we enter Jenolan State Forest and follow a ridge eastward to a point where a short untracked walk takes us to the Rocks. Sweeping views of the Cox River and Kanimbla Valley from a new aspect.

THURSDAY, 19th: Jill Dark 58-7061 - 10.00 a.m. Wait where Springwood to Richmond Road leaves the Highway. A car will meet the 10.20 from Sydney at Springwood to collect possible walkers - Blue Gum Swamp - an easy walk on a track - plentiful bird life - a flying squad could dash further on for a view of the Grose from Grose Head South.

MAY: -

SATURDAY, 5th: Graham & Judy Kerr. 87-7139. The Hut 9.30 a.m. Participants from Sydney will find someone providing transport from the Wentworth Falls bus stop shelter at the Highway corner. The leaders propose to walk the old favourite Wentworth Pass which is the lowest track below the cliff face facing Jamison Valley. There is a steep ascent at the end but the leaders assure us that it will be done slowly. We should be up in time for people to catch the 4.30 p.m. train to Sydney.

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MONTHLY WALKS (Cont.)

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YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU:

The elected positions within the Society which will become vacant at the next Annual General Meeting in March are set out below.

Some flexibility in the duties and responsibilities of most positions is both possible and usual so as to suit the skills and time available of the elected person.

Your management Committee urges you to increase your active involvement with the Society and to consider nomination to one of the following positions.
(SEE NOTE BELOW).

- * President
- * Vice President (2 positions)
- * Treasurer **
- * Secretary **
- * Minute Secretary **
- * Membership Secretary
- * Correspondence Secretary **
- * Publicity Officer
- * Newsletter Editor - with one or two production assistants
- * Librarian
- * Walks Co-Ordinator (2 positions) **
- * Hut Contents Curator)
- * Hut Maintenance Curator**) With two assistants
- * Hut Roster Co-Ordinator **
- * Hut Supplies Officer **
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NOTE: Positions marked with an asterisk ** indicate that the current holder is
re-elected for a further term

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Three elected Committees operate:-

- * Management Committee (8 positions)
- * Land Use Committee (3 positions)
- * Land Preservation Committee (3 positions)

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If you feel you are in a position to help, please ring Barry Barnes 88-1053 or Graham Kerr 87-7139.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

After 13 years as publisher and/or Editor, I am relinquishing the position as I wish to spend some time having a good look around this beautiful land. It has been a great pleasure to belong to this fine organisation over the years, to take part in its many battles on the local and national scene to preserve the environment, and to tramp through the bush with people who maintain their idealism uncorrupted by the prevailing cynicism. I'll be happy to assist the new Editor while I'm still here and wish the Society all the best in its role as a focal point in the environmental struggle.

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NATIVE PLANT WEEKEND

Native plants will be on sale in the Hut from 10 am to 4 p.m. on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th February.

As usual, there will be a good selection of healthy plants at very reasonable prices. Early Autumn is the ideal time for planting on the Blue Mountains.

On Saturday, 25th at 11 a.m., Jill Dark will conduct a native plant workshop to give members of the Society and the public an opportunity to find out what they wish to know about caring for natives. Jill will also be happy to identify specimens.

At 1.30 p.m. on Saturday, Jill will lead a walk along the Nature Trail. This is sure to be a very rewarding experience.

These activities are a must for anyone interested in learning more about our native plants. Jill is one of the very best people on the Blue Mountains to encourage appreciation of their special appeal and their diversity.

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Continuing our policy of keeping members abreast of Society business, the following are extracts of more important correspondence over the last few months.

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- Request from Total Environment Centre for input from our Society on the

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protection of native forests in New South Wales.

- Letter from Society to Council regarding erosion control at drainage works - Oaklands Road, Hazelbrook and other locations. Our concern was and is that severe erosion is being caused to the light, friable soil of the Blue Mountains with the resultant siltation of many of the mountain streams.
- Letter to the Premier of N.S.W. urging that the original National Parks and Wildlife Service boundaries for reserves in the Hastings Valley be upheld.
- Letter from Graham Alcorn requesting that he be relieved of duties for the remainder of 1983. Graham is improving slowly and it is hoped that he will be back with us in the not too distant future. In the meantime, Vice-President Mick Dark has most capably taken over the leadership of our Society and is doing a most sterling job during a period of many difficulties for the Society.
- Letter from Dr. J.C. McIlroy of the C.S.I.R.O. requesting information on the distribution of wombats in the Blue Mountains area. Society Management Committee member Keith Sherlock undertook this task and subsequently supplied to Dr. McIlroy a detailed paper which we trust helped him in his study of the "Vombatus Ursinus".
- Letter from Petter Collins, M.P., Shadow Minister for Planning & Environment in the N.S.W. Opposition requesting that he be placed on our mailing list and seeking the opportunity to address our Society.
- Letter from the National Parks Association of N.S.W. expressing concern about the increasing use of vehicles on beaches.
- Letter to the Water Board objecting to the release of 9,000 litres of sludge into the bushland at the Board's treatment works at Blackheath. In a reply, the Board advised that the usual method of removal was by drying but owing to an industrial disagreement, the 9,000 litres had to be released into the bush. Our Society feels that this is not a long term satisfactory solution to the disposal of sludge on the Blue Mountains and it is one which is bound to become worse as the population increases.
- Letter to the Blue Mountains Council asking that Council carry out regeneration work in the Nellies Glen area. To date no reply has been received to this letter.
- Numerous correspondence in connection with the proposed Leura Golf Course Resort including many to Council, one of the final ones being that based on the Report of Commissioner Simpson.
- Letter to the President of the National Trust of Australia expressing concern at the apparent support given to the Leura Resort as reported by the local paper and also by the Mayor. In a recent letter to the Society the Trust emphatically states its objections to the proposed development and goes on to state that...."The Trust is perturbed at the increasing number of large scale recreation development proposals being approved without requiring an Environmental Impact Statement.
"It is the Trust's opinion that the list of designated developments in Schedule 3.....is too narrow and should be expanded and regularly reviewed to include such developments.
"The Trust intends to seek the cooperation of local Councils throughout the State in protecting environmentally sensitive areas by designating large scale recreation/accommodation developments under their local environmental plans.
"The Trust regards the natural areas of the Blue Mountains as a most important part of our environmental heritage and will continue to take every available action to protect and mitigate against the affects of any adverse development."

- Letter to Council congratulating them on their decision to close Glen Raphael Road to Narrow Neck except to authorised vehicles. This we understood would be Council vehicles, fire fighting vehicles and the like. It now turns out the Golden West Tours have been given the sole right to operate four-wheel vehicles. In a reply the Mayor Peter Quirk has advised that Council had deemed that the 4 W.D. vehicle be an authorised vehicle under the terms of their earlier resolution and that a close monitor be kept on the situation to ensure that no harmful side effects arise. The Society still feels that the road should be closed to all vehicles and the area be regenerated.
- A letter to the Water Resources Commission seeking greater control over the sinking of bores in the Blue Mountains. In a reply the Commission advise that there were about 90 bores in the Blue Mountains region and that the withdrawal rate of generally less than 1 litre/second is considered low.
- In further correspondence with Council regarding the dumping of tyres at Lawson, Council advise that the tyres have been dumped for the purpose of constructing a water hole to supply drinking water to domestic stock. They are waiting on a Development Application.
- Letter from Total Environment Centre asking our Society to furnish them with details of any alienation or threatened alienation of parks or bushlands.
- Letter from Senator Don Chipp requesting that the Society submit a submission to a Senate Select Committee which is inquiring into the question of animal welfare in Australia.
- Letter to the Water Board requesting them to control the intrusion of noxious weeds on Water Board property at Wentworth Falls. In their reply the Board advise each of the Board's properties is treated according to its own needs ... and then the area is treated accordingly. The plant at Wentworth Falls is scheduled for follow-up treatment in March/April, 1984.
- The organisation of a public meeting prior to the local elections held in September, 1983 to hear the aims and undertakings, if elected, of all potential candidates for Wards 1 and 2 regarding the preservation of the environmentally sensitive Blue Mountains area.

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DAVID LAWTON: SOME NOTES ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.

Since being elected to Council in September, I've had my hands fairly full with the Laura resort and retirement village. As local newspapers have well reported, I've had little success within Council, but outside it the propaganda impact of my being there to put the case has been considerable. It has also helped in negotiation with Bob Debus and the Department on the hydrological study, and helped bring in new artillery. I believe that we can still defeat these developments, and that lately events, and public opinion, have begun to turn our way.

However, I've had many other issues to take up - the conservation of "Selwood House" in Hazelbrook; the Laura park oval plan; the Laura car park; and many individuals' problems (cost of pump-out; unsealed roads; drainage; land clearing), almost all of which stem from overdevelopment and/or inappropriate development.

All these form a pattern. I'm therefore glad of a chance to put down a few thoughts on environmental issues generally, before I take part in the forthcoming Environmental Management Scheme.

1. DEVELOPMENT: It seems to me that we cannot and should not oppose all development. But we should not let the bizarre fact that we are a "City"

DAVID LAWTON (Cont.)

Council lead us to seek and approve urban or suburban types and scale of development. The present system is unsatisfactory: "delegated authority" to the Chief Town Planner to approve development applications without reference to the aldermen is undesirable (except for the fact that the Chief Town Planner may well be more aware of environmental factors than some aldermen). More important, the criteria for development need to be re-examined thoroughly. We need to scrap Local Environmental Plan No. 4 and start again. What "development" occurs should be a real development of the Blue Mountains, not an excuse for financial gain or an attempt to solve a housing crisis in the Western Suburbs. It should be slow, controlled, sensitive and careful.

2. TARGET: These last four adjectives are empty without a specific set of targets. I suggest as the key to this a population limited to 90,000. I agree entirely with the Society that this must be the priority for environmental management, given the fact that our so-called "city" is a narrow ridge, a watershed, the major arterial road to the West, and is cruelly exposed to bushfire hazard and water shortages. I cannot see that a figure of less than 90,000 is feasible, because I believe that the present Council whose tenure runs until 1987 will probably not implement any population target. We are crazy to allow development in the absence of proper services: the present "pump-out" crisis should never have been allowed to happen, and I am disturbed by the presence in my ward and elsewhere of major estates built on known bushfire routes and/or water catchments. State policies give Council too little power to reject such development, but even if these were reversed, Council would probably not exercise what I consider to be the right level of control - a ban. The Environmental Management Plan should incorporate these controls and should override State government policies and Council lethargy.

3. PLANNING BY CONTROL: The best environmental planning for this area is, I suspect, negative in approach. That is, we should begin by banning all development that is a bushfire hazard or would interfere further with water catchments, and so on; and we should make a comprehensive inventory of environmentally important land in the Blue Mountains. I have borrowed the phrase "environmentally important land" from Jim Smith's environmental policy for the Mountains Action Group; it is as yet undefined in detail. But I cannot think that we would have many problems in agreeing on a reasonable and detailed definition. In the built environment, it would include historic precincts. The point is that we then ban all further development on such land, and begin a programme of land acquisition to bring as much of it as possible under public control.

By this means we also designate areas of land as suited to development wherever environmental criteria are satisfied. Such development could be freed from many of the petty controls and restrictions currently imposed, so long as more pressing criteria - safety, appropriate design, environmental protection - are met. The major control on all such development and subdivision (if any) should be the population target/limit. Quality of life is a finite resource.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY: I do not want to see local powers handed over to the State Government, nor am I convinced that Council is the right sort of body to hold them. An environmental officer independent of both State and Council, with powers, would be a good solution, supported by a powerful local body for environmental protection and a framework that lays much more emphasis - without the loopholes in the State's EPA Act - on environmental study and public participation. Such a body would also supervise lookouts, reserves and picnic areas, and the renovation of historic buildings; and, I would argue, should have a big say in road systems.

I should like to see the Blue Mountains become a by-word for environmental harmony between people, fauna and land - a place people visit from all over the world to learn how it can be done, and why it should be.

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THE LEURA RESORT BATTLE

The Leura Resort Battle now seems certain to enter the Land and Environment Court.

This Society has joined the Leura Preservation Society, which was recently formed with the immediate aim of fighting the Leura Resort project by legal means. The committee of the Leura Preservation Society consists of Ald. David Lawton (chairman), Mr. John Diekman (see - treasurer), Mr. John Holt, Q.C., Dr. Rod Davis and myself.

Ald. Lawton and myself will be acting as co-plaintiffs in the proposed legal action.

If members have any enquiries regarding the Leura Preservation Society, please ring me on PH: 58-7061 or David Lawton PH: 84-1945.

I must stress that I am taking this action as an individual, and not in any degree as a member of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society, which is involved only insofar as it is a member of the Leura Preservation Society.

M. Dark,
Acting President.

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A Contribution from Paul Nagle as preparation for his outing on March, 3rd.

Longneck Lagoon is part of the ancient course of the Hawkesbury River. It consists of a large billabong that has two creeks running into it and one creek leaving it.

The area is a wildlife refuge and is administered by a trust who are responsible for the plan of management for the Lagoon. In recent years, the lagoon has been used by school and community groups as a field studies centre. An amenities and classroom block was built with funds from the Gould League in the late 1970's.

Longneck was originally put aside as a refuge because of its unique birdlife especially its water birds. As wetlands are being drained for farming, water bird habitats are becoming less and less. This is particularly true of the Sydney basin. Longneck Lagoon therefore offers a wetland environment where many waterfowl congregate. Its most renowned visitor is the Japanese snipe which arrives from Japan about October and leaves again towards the end of March. This bird does not breed in Australia but spends the northern winter here. The sedges which grow around the edges of Longneck Lagoon make an ideal camouflaged habitat for this bird.

Other birds found at Longneck include various ducks, shovellers, egrets, herons, spoonbills, cormorants, darter, pelican, black swan, ibis, teal as well as wrens, robins, rosellas, red rumped parrots, galahs, kingfishers, tailorbird, thornbills and magpies. Often swamp barriers, whistling kites and sea eagles have been observed.

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SOCIETY MEMBERS TOUR OF SOME OF N.S.W. NATIONAL PARKS:

A number of members have decided to tour some of the N.S.W. national parks staying two or three days in each. Commencing on Friday, 6th April, we propose drive to the Myall Lakes National Park, thence to Yuraygir and Bundjalung, both coastal parks with varied scenery, vegetation and plenty of bird life.

After the coastal parks we move inland, pausing for a day or two at Washpool and Gibraltar Range where some further walks will be undertaken. The day before Easter weekend should see us at New England National Park where we plan to spend the weekend.

After leaving New England, we plan for a leisurely drive home-wards, spending a day in Tamworth. Some may wish to deviate inland to visit the Warrumbungles, but we expect to be back for the April Meeting on the 27th.

For further information, contact Keith Sherlock on 57-1927.

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CONSERVATION SOCIETY LTD.
P.O. BOX 29, WENTWORTH FALLS 2702

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5 BARRATT ST.
BLACKHEATH
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This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in November 2022 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

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"The Trust regards the natural areas of the Blue Mountains as a most important part of our environmental heritage and will continue to take every available action to protect and mitigate against the effects of any adverse development."

- Letter to Council congratulating them on their decision to close Glen Raphael Road to Narrow Neck except to authorised vehicles. This we understood would be Council vehicles, fire fighting vehicles and the like. It now turns out the Golden West Tours have been given the sole right to operate four-wheel vehicles. In reply the Mayor Peter Quirk has advised that Council had deemed that the 4 WD vehicle be an authorised vehicle under the terms of their resolution and that a close monitor be kept on the situation to ensure that no harmful side effects arise. The Society still feels that the road should be closed to all vehicles and the area be regenerated.

- A letter to the Water Resources Commission seeking greater control over the sinking of bores in the Blue Mountains. In a reply the Commission advise that there were about 90 bores in the Blue Mountains region and that the withdrawal rate of generally less than 1 litre/second is considered low.
- In further correspondence with Council regarding the dumping of tyres at Lawson, Council advise that the tyres have been dumped for the purpose of constructing a water hole to supply drinking water to domestic stock. They are waiting on a Development Application.
- Letter from Total Environment Centre asking our Society to furnish them with details of any alienation or threatened alienation of parks or bushlands.
- Letter from Senator Don Chipp requesting that the Society submit a submission to a Senate Select Committee which is inquiring into the question of animal welfare in Australia.
- Letter to the Water Board requesting them to control the intrusion of noxious weeds on Water Board property at Wentworth Falls. In their reply the Board advise each of the Board's properties is treated according to its own needs...and then the area is treated accordingly. The plant at Wentworth Falls is scheduled for follow-up treatment in March/April, 1984.
- The organisation of a public meeting prior to the local elections held in September, 1983 to hear the aims and undertakings, if elected, of all potential candidates for Wards 1 and 2 regarding the preservation of the environmentally sensitive Blue Mountains area.

DAVID LAWTON: SOME NOTES ON ENVIROMENTAL POLICY.

Since being elected to Council in September, I've had my hands fairly full with the Leura resort and retirement village. As local newspapers have well reported, I've had little success within Council, but outside it the propaganda impact of my being there to put the case has been considerable. It has also helped in negotiation with Bob Debus and the Department on the hydrological study, and helped bring in new artillery. I believe that we can still defeat these developments, and that lately events, and public opinion, have begun to turn our way.

However, I've had many other issues to take up – the conservation of "Selwood House" in Hazelbrook; the Leura park oval plan; the Leura car park; and many individuals problems (cost of pump-out; unsealed roads; drainage; land clearing), almost all of which stem from overdevelopment and/or inappropriate development.

All these form a pattern. I'm therefore glad of a chance to put down a few thoughts on environmental issues generally, before I take part in the forthcoming Environmental Management Scheme.

1. DEVELOPMENT: It seems to me that we cannot and should not oppose all development. But we should not let the bizarre fact that we are a "City" Council lead us to seek and approve urban or suburban types and scale of development. The present system is unsatisfactory: "delegated authority" to the Chief Town Planner to approve development applications without reference to the aldermen is undesirable (except for the fact that the Chief Town Planner may well be more aware of environmental factors than some aldermen). More important, the criteria for development need to be re-examined thoroughly. We need to scrap Local Environmental Plan No. 4 and start again. What "development" occurs should be a real development of the Blue Mountains, not an excuse for financial gain or an attempt to solve a housing crisis in the Western Suburbs. It should be slow, controlled, sensitive and careful.
2. TARGET: These last four adjectives are empty without a specific set of targets. I suggest as the key to this a population limited to 90,000. I agree entirely with the Society that this must be the priority for environmental management, given the fact that our so-called "city" is a narrow ridge, a watershed, the major arterial road to the West, and is cruelly exposed to bushfire hazard and water shortages. I cannot see that a figure of less than 90,000 is feasible, because I believe that the present Council whose tenure runs until 1987 will probably not implement any population target. We are crazy to allow development in the absence of proper services: the present "pump-out" crisis should never have been allowed to happen, and I am disturbed by the presence in my ward and elsewhere of major estates built on known bushfire routes and/or water catchments. State policies give Council too little power to reject such development, but even if these were reversed, Council would probably not exercise what I consider to be the right level of control – a ban. The Environmental Management Plan should incorporate these controls and should override State government policies lethargy.
3. PLANNING BY CONTROL: The best environmental planning for this area is, I suspect, negative in approach. That is, we should begin by banning all development that is a bushfire hazard or would interfere further with water catchments, and so on; and we should make a comprehensive inventory of environmentally important land in the Blue Mountains. I have borrowed the phrase "environmentally important land" from Jim Smith's environmental policy for the Mountains Action Group; it is as yet undefined in detail. But I cannot think that we would have many problems in agreeing on a reasonable and detailed definition. In the built environment, it would include historic precincts. The point is that we then ban all further development on such land, and begin a programme of land acquisition to bring as much of it as possible under public control.

By this means we also designate areas of land as suited to development wherever environmental criteria are satisfied. Such development could be freed from many of the petty controls and restrictions currently imposed, so long as more pressing criteria – safety, appropriate design, environmental protection – are met. The major control on all such development and subdivision (if any) should be the population target/limit. Quality of life is a finite resource.

4. LOCAL AUTHORITY: I do not want to see local powers handed over to the State Government, nor am I convinced that Council is the right sort of body to hold them. An environmental officer independent of both State and Council, with powers, would be such a good solution, supported by a powerful local body for environmental protection and a framework that lays much more emphasis – without the loopholes in the State's EPA Act – on environment study and public participation. Such a body would also supervise lookouts, reserves and picnic areas, and the renovation of historic buildings; and, I would argue, should have a big say in road systems.

I should like to see the Blue Mountains become a by-word for environmental harmony between people, fauna and land – a place people visit from all over the world to learn how it can be done, and why it should be.

THE LEURA RESORT BATTLE.

The Leura Resort Battle now seems certain to enter the Land and Environment Court.

This Society has joined the Leura Preservation Society, which was recently formed with the immediate aim of fighting the Leura Resort project by legal means. The committee of the Leura Preservation Society consists of Ald. David Lawton (chairman), Mr John Diekman (see – treasurer), Mr John Holt, Q.C. Dr Rod Davis and myself.

Ald. Lawton and myself will be acting as co-plaintiffs in the proposed legal action.

If members have any enquires regarding the Leura Preservation Society , please ring me on PH: 58-7061 or David Lawton PH: 84-1945.

I must stress that I am taking this action as an individual, and not in any degree as a member of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society, which is involved only insofar as it is a member of the Leura Preservation Society.

M Dark
Acting President.

A Contribution from Paul Nagle as preparation for his outing on March, 3rd.

Longneck Lagoon is part of the ancient course of the Hawkesbury River. It consists of a large billabong that has two creeks running into it and one creek leaving it.

The area is a wildlife refuge and is administered by a trust who are responsible for the plan of management for the Lagoon. In recent years, the lagoon has been used by school and community groups as a field studies centre. An amenities and classroom block was built with funds from the Gould League in the late 1970's.

Longneck was originally put aside as a refuge because of its unique birdlife especially its water birds: As wetlands are being drained for farming, water bird habitats are becoming less and less. This is particularly true of the Sydney basin. Longneck Lagoon therefore offers a wetland environment where many waterfowl congregate. Its most renowned visitor is the Japanese snipe which arrives from Japan about October and leaves again towards the end of March. This bird does not breed in Australia but spends the northern winter here. The sedges which grow around the edges of Longneck Lagoon make an ideal camouflaged habitat for this bird.

Other birds found at Longneck Lagoon include various ducks, shovellers, egrets, herons, spoonbills, cormorants, darter, pelican, black swan, ibis, teal as well as wrens, robins, rosellas, red rumped parrots, galahs, kingfishers, tailorbird, thornbills and magpies. Often swamp barriers, whistling kites and sea eagles have been observed.

SOCIETY MEMBERS TOUR OF SOME OF NSW National parks:

A number of members have decided to tour some of the NSW National Parks staying two or three days in each. Commencing on Friday, 6th April, we propose drive to the Myall Lakes National Park, thence to Yuraygir and Bundjalung, both coastal parks with varied scenery, vegetation and plenty of bird life.

After the coastal parks we moved inland, pausing for a day or two at Washpool and Gibraltar Range where some further walks will be undertaken. The day before Easter weekend should see us at New England National Park where we plan to spend the weekend.

After leaving New England, we plan for a leisurely drive homewards, spending a day in Tamworth. Some may wish to deviate inland to visit the Warrumbungles, but we expect to be back for the April Meeting on the 27th.

For further information, contact Keith Sherlock on 57-1927.
