JULY 1989 No. 76

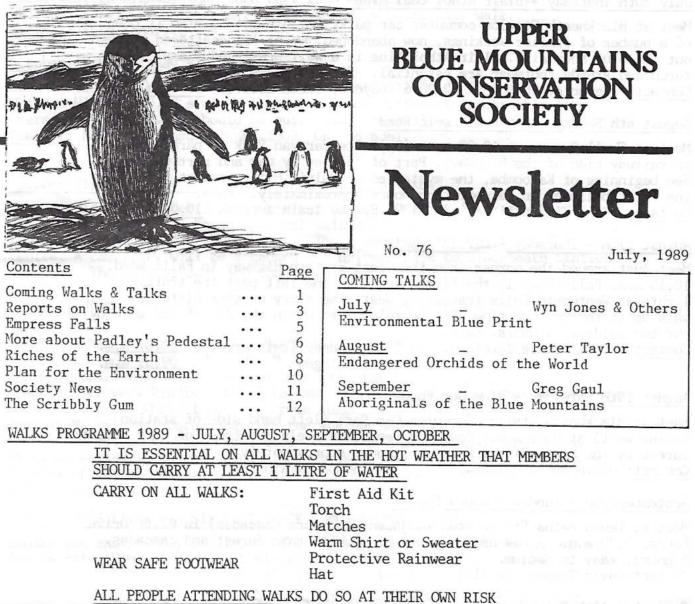
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Black Cockatoos by G.J. Broinowski

Newsletter

Registered by Australia Post-Publication No. NBHO 925

Antarctica under threat



July 2nd Sunday Cliff Walk - Gordon Falls - Echo Point

Meet at Gordon Falls Picnic Area (corner of Olympian Parade and Lone Pine Avenue) at 9.30 a.m. The walk is the Prince Henry Cliff Walk. There is a valley view most of the way and a number of lookouts. 5 hours. Medium. There will be a car ferry for drivers.

Contact: Elvine Thomas 84.2121

July 15th Saturday - Bird Watch

Meet at the end of Gladstone Road (just past Links Road) Leura 10 a.m. Short walk to see migrating Honey Eaters. Several localities may have to be visited depending on birds.Easy. Time Optional - Binoculars. Contact: David Thomas 84 2121

July 20th Thursday - Blair Athol Coal Mine

Meet at Blackheath Station commuter car park. 10.30 a.m. The mine is one of a number of similar workings, now abandoned, which are scattered throughout the Blue Mountains. Blair Athol Mine is a well preserved example. A torch and sturdy footwear are essential. 3 hours. Easy Contact: Beverley Thompson 87.2076 Sydney Train arrives 10.29 a.m.

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August 6th Sunday - Cox's Historic Road

Meet at Shell Corner at 10.00 a.m. (Opposite Caravan Park in parking area on railway side of the Highway). Part of journey by car and part walking. See beginning of Katoomba, the mysteries of Pulpit Hill, convict pits and the first building in Katoomba. 6 hours approximately. Easy. Contact: Ross Fitzpatricke 82.3139 Sydney Train arrives 10.04 a.m.

August 17th - Thursday - Darwin's Walk

Meet just around the corner from the Great Western Highway in Falls Road. 10.15 a.m. Falls Road is the first street on the left past the traffic lights at Wentworth Falls travelling West. The story of this historic walk up to the present time will be related to us on the day of the walk by our two guides. 4 hours. Easy.

Contact: Reg & Dulcie Toseland. 84 1682 Sydney Train arrives 10.07 a.m. Lithgow " 09.39 a.m.

August 19th Saturday - Blue Gum Forest

Meet at Blackheath Station Commuter Car Park (left hand side of station facing west) at 9.00 a.m. Come and see the stately gum trees of this beautiful forest by the Grose River. Hard. 6-7 hours approximately. 08.29 a.m. Contact: Olive Noble 87.8342 Sydney Train arrives

September 3rd - Sunday - Leura Forest

Meet at Leura Baths Picnic Area (adjacent to Leura Cascades) in Cliff Drive Leura. 9.30 a.m. A new area to some of us with rain forest and cascades. 5 hours. Easy to Medium. Contact: David Thomas 84 2121

September 16th Saturday - Linden Ridge to Mt Twiss

Meet at Woodford Post Office (opposite Woodford Station) in Great Western Highway. 9 a.m. We will visit Kings Cave if time permits. 5 hours easy to medium. Sydney Train Arrives 08.46 a.m.

Contact: Dick Western 53.1003

September 21st Thursday - Mount Wilson Round Walk

Meet at Mt Victoria Station car park. 9.30 a.m. The drive to Mt Wilson itself is a pleasant experience. The Round Walk includes a waterfall and a mixed sample of flora. Some side exploration and sightseeing for those inclined. Easy. 32 hours.

Lithgow "

08.54 a.m.

Contact: Grace Bayley 59 1955 Sydney Train Arrives 08.57 a.m.

October 1st Sunday - Blue Gum Swamp

Meet at the end of Whitecross Road, Winmalee 9.30 a.m. To reach this road drive towards Winmalee approximately 52 k.m. along Hawkesbury Road from the Great Western Highway then turn left into Whitecross Road. The walk will include Grose Head Trig Point. A delightful 4 hours easy walk. Contact: Enid Schaffer 54.1244

October 19th Thursday - Evans Reserve

Meet at Blackheath Community Hall (corner Hat Hill Road) in the Great Western Highway 10.30 a.m. We shall take some different tracks this time, where the wild flowers should be out. Cliff views also. Easy. about 4-5 hours. Contact: Rachel Makinson 87.1302 OR 58 8361

Sydney Train arrives 10.27 a.m.

October 21st Saturday - Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath

Meet at Blackheath Station commuter car park 9.30 a.m. After the Garden's Inspection, there will be an optional walk down Pope's Glen to Governer Phillip's Look Out and Govett's Leap Look Out. Those who wish can visit the Heritage Centre. A car ferry will be arranged for drivers back to Blackheath Station car park. The walk is easy and the time depends on when you wish to leave the walk.

Contact: Joan Storey 87 8226 Sydney Train arrives 08.29 a.m.

WALK - CAMEL'S HUMP - THURSDAY MARCH 16TH

Chris McDonald was unable to lead this walk due to a leg injury so Grace Bayley very kindly offered to take her place. As we decided to save the Camel's Hump for Chris later on, Grace suggested a walk the Society had not done at Mt Wilson. Unfortunately, the weather was very much against us. Four of us met at Mt Victoria Station, Grace and her husband, myself and my wife. We waited the usual extra time but as no-one else turned up, we voted in view of the heavy rain to cencel the walk. Thanks for helping out, Grace and a speedy recovery to Chris.

Bob Jones

WALK - COX'S RIVER VIA SIX FOOT TRACK - SUNDAY MARCH 19TH

Sunday was another day similar to the Thursday when the walk was cancelled due to rain. Four of us met at Blackheath. Joan Storey, Val Carlos, my wife Ruth and myself. After a vote all around we decided to go down into the valley to the start of the walk and see what the weather was like there.

We based our decision on past experience when we have found reasonable conditions in the valleys when it has been raining on the ridges. We struck it lucky, the weather was overcast but dry, we even had a short spell of sunshine in the afternoon. This is what probably brought the snake out.

The Cox was running well and after a bit of sightseeing we started back. The snake, a long black one, tried to join the walk just before the Fairy Pool It came up almost onto the track just in front of me. Joan and Val who were in front had just passed this spot. I did some fancy footwork and loud yelling and frightened everyone including the snake. When everything settled down, we admired the snake, a beautiful creature, from a safe distance then both parties went their own way. We reached the cars about four then up into the fog and rain again.

It was a good walk. I would like to comment that I was impressed to see how clean the runners and their supporters had left the track- unless one knew, it was impossible to tell such an event had been held the previous day. A credit to the organisers.

Bob Jones

WALK - BEDFORD CREEK, HAZELBROOK - THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 1989

There were 17 walkers and the weather was perfect for a day walk. We left Hazelbrook Car Park about 10.15 a.m. and walked to the fire road which leads to Bedford Creek. The fire road starts at the end of Terrace Falls Road. The track directly down to Bedford Creek near The Lake (Jim Smith's Map No 26) was muddy in parts but drying out fast.

On this part of the walking track and at the Victor Falls end selected trees are well marked with name plaques. Dulcie Toseland reported that some of the plaques at the Victor Falls end had been vandalised. Dulcie saw there damaged plaques during an inadvertent short side trip some of the party made due to the fact that the leader was dreaming along in the warm sunshine and failed to wait at a branch off track.

The water was down in Terrace Falls Creek so the two crossings were negotiated with almost dry shoes. As it was damp in the undergrowth, we came up out of the valley at Terrace Falls to have lunch in the sun.

After lunch because it was pleasant in the sunshine we stayed out of the valley and strolled along the last part of the fire road to the car park, arriving about 3 p.m.

Bob Jones

WALK - SLACKS STAIRS - SUNDAY, MAY 7TH

From the Hut to Wentworth Falls Sixteen started off on a damp, overcast day. the dampness must have brought out the aroma of Woollsia pungens. The walk from the top of the Falls to National Pass is now made much safer and comfortable by the NPWS with new handrails and supports. Slacks Stairs themselves are a great improvement on the old rickety, missing-a-step ones, providing one obeys the illustrated signs - again much effort and thought has gone into the renovation of However, after descending to the bottom with ease there are one or the stairs. two awkward rocks to be negotiated with care but they shouldn't cause any problems. By this time the number had increased with the addition of several members who The bottom of the having missed the start came round the other way to meet us. falls was as beautiful as ever although the beach was too damp for us to stop there for morning tea. We all enjoyed Wentworth Pass with its interesting and varied vegetation especially the colourful fungi which is superb this year. The party broke up somewhat at lunchtime owing to the fact that some were more mobile than others. At one spot the leeches gave us a welcome, the word having gone round 'Fresh tucker has arrived', but by keeping ourselves alert they went hungry after Then came the long pull up the Valley of the Waters to a welcome at the Hut all. and a large pot of tea.

Elvine & David Thomas

WALK - THE ROUND WALK, LAWSON - THURSDAY MAY 18TH 1989

In the midst of weeks of rain, this one day of almost unbroken sunshine was a delight, and 18 people turned up to share in it, even though they prudently The clay areas of the creek were treacherous, many pools of carried raincoats. Brightly coloured fungi and thick water caused us to step very carefully. emerald moss clothed the rocks and trees and stumps. Miniature waterfalls dripped on to our heads as we passed under the rocks.

The creek and waterfalls were rushing noisily, trying to drown out the echoes from a dozen voices in unison at Echo Bluff. The leader had one small regret. She had reconnoitred the walk in the mist on the previous day, and had seen many pale green native tree-slugs looking like large leaves with red edges and diamond designs, feeding on the smooth wet trunks of the angophoras, She hoped to point out these interesting creatures to the walkers, but could only show the pattern of their So you will just have to take my word for it that grazing on the now dry trunks. they had been there.

Grace Bayley

This Grand Canyon Walk was the one cancelled due to heavy rain on Sunday January 1st. Six months later the weather on June 4th was not much better. There were six starters, John and Olive Noble, Joan Storey, Bert Davies, Kathy a new girl from Penrith and myself.

After a vote all around we decided to try the Grand Canyon come rain or high water. As expected all the tracks were very sloppy but the intermittant light rain was not a problem. The wetting we did get was mainly from the dripping cliffs. Some birds were braving the weather as we heard some Whip & Lyre bird calls.

At first the creek crossings were reasonable but the further we went down the Canyon the higher the water became due to the added water from small side waterfalls. The water height was not dangerous but we would have had to wade some lower creek crossings and it was not the kind of day to get footwear unnecessarily wet. We were about half an hour's walk from the Evans ascent when we decided to return to Neate's Glen back along the Grand Canyon to avoid crossing the creeks lower down.

After lunch in a dry overhang we continued the return journey to the top of Neate's Glen. We arrived at the cars about 2 p.m.

Although the walk didn't go to where it was intended, we all agreed it was good to get out and have a walk despite the weather, so the day wasn't a failure after all. Thanks for coming along.

Bob Jones

At first

you worry about

your shoes getting wet

then you realise

you are walking

on poetry.

You think

I'd better go and open the shop

but the falling streams hold you

in their crystal veils

as in a syren's tresses.

Let them wait

to drink

their cups of tea

for I am

intoxicated

by nectar draughts

drawn down steps

hewn of brute stone

by poets.

EMPRESS FALLS

C Brendan Doyle 1989

MORE FROM PADLEY'S PEDESTAL

In an earlier Newsletter I described a few of the many items of physical geology visible from Padley's Pedestal Lookout on Hassan's Walls. Perhaps you would like to read some thoughts on how these things happened. Geological exactitude is not claimed but ideas are given as to how over the millions of years of geological time the land came to look as it now does. This may persuade some to think a little about our hills and perhaps read for themselves available texts. The rough stratigraphic table hereunder may help.

eological Period	Relevant Formation	in millions of years	
Tertiary	Lapstone Monodine.	1 - 70	
Triassie	Wianamatta Shales Hawkesbury Sandstone Narrabeen Group	180 -220	
Permian	Coal Measures Marine Beds	220 -275	
Carboniferous	Granites are only local evidence	275 -355	
Devonian	Lambian Series	355 -410	

earlier formations not occurring locally.

In the late Devonian Period, the whole of this area was covered by a sea. Exposures of rock from the floor of this sea, now known as the Lambian Series, may be seen on Mt Lambie, near Yerranderie, at Kanangra, in the Wolgan Valley and at Capertee Valley and Cullen Bullen. The exposure on Mt Lambie is about 4000' above sea level and contains marine fossils. I have earlier mentioned an exposure in Jamison Valley.

The weight of sea water and of sediments washed into the Devonian Sea caused the land to sink and due no doubt to continued sinking the Devonian Sea was succeeded by a Permian Sea but during the intervening Carboniferous Period there occurred the Kanimblan Orogeny (an orogeny is a period of mountain building) during which time a hugh granite batholith was formed deep within the Devonian rocks. Another effect of this orogeny is that Devonian marine sediments laid down in horizontal pattern were tilted by the mountain building forces so that in several of the places where they are now exposed e.g. Kanangra, Capertee and Cullen Bullen, they appear as the lower section of spectacular angular unconformities.

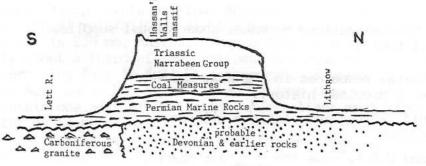
Permian Sea	Old surface of Devonian marine rocks
Devonian A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Devonian and earlier rocks
······································	granite formed deep within Devonian rocks

THE INCURSION OF THE PERMIAN SEA BROUGHT THE START OF SYDNEY BASIN SEDIMENTATION. Deposition of sediments into the Permian Sea caused further sinking of the Sydney Basin. Marine sediments filled the sea and in places lay upon the granite. Continued sinking provided a surface upon which Permian Coal Measures were laid down conformably in a vast series of shallow lakes

Time before present

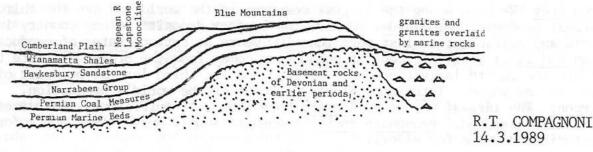
Devonian Carboniferous \triangle Devonian de arlier de granite \triangle \triangle \triangle Devonian de arlier de granite \triangle \triangle de arlier de arlie				Extension of earlier diagram. Devonian
, rocks	? ? ?	A A ? ?	rocks	rocks into which granite was intruded first uplifted then eroded to form new surface upon which Permian Marine Sediments were laid down.

Subsidence continued with the weight of continuing sedimentation. Deposition of coal measures ceased just after the close of the Permian Period. The Triassic Period, that most exposed in the Upper Blue Mountains, consists of three series of rocks. Creeks flowing from the North carried sediments into lakes and deltas to form the Narrabeen Group. The weight of the Narrabeen Group, which Group is responsible for the dramatic clifflines of the upper mountains, caused further subsidence and sedimentation came from the West, carried, it has been suggested, by a stream with a very extensive delta. These are the Hawkesbury sandstones, widespread in the Lower Blue Mountains, and north and south of Sydney. Wianamatta Shales on parts of the lower mountains and widespread on the Cumberland Plain, complete the sedimentation of the Triassic Period but do not come into the area being discussed.



IDEALISED CROSS-SECTION DEPICTING THE GEOLOGICAL VIEW ON APPROACHING HASSAN'S WALLS FROM HARTLEY

At the end of the Triassic Period the land remained generally flat and dry, but after a long period of quiet, the Lapstone Monocline caused gentle uplift, lifting from a line through Penrith, (as it now is) in the form of a peneplain, from close to sea level to over 3500 feet near Hassan's Walls. This increased the gradient of uplifted rivers and creeks giving them the increased erosive power which together with wind and rain has shaped our spectacular mountains, with deep gorges such as the Warragamba, Cox's and Grose Rivers. These are probably streams which existed prior to the uplift but which, in effect, eroded their courses as their drainage basins were uplifted and their erosive forces strengthened.



14.3.1989

SUGGESTED READING

Branagan, Herbert, Langford-Smith 'The Sydney Basin 1976 Department of Geology and Geophysics, Sydney University.

P.T.O.

Herbert & Helby 'A Guide to the Sydney Basin' 1980 - Geological Survey of N.S.W.

Laseron, Chas (revised Brunnschweiler) 'Ancient Australian 1969' Angus & Robertson

Nashar, Beryl 'Geology of the Sydney Basin' Jacaranda Press (believed out of print)

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletters No 64 Compagnoni: R.T. 1986 'Unconformity at Kanangra' No 74 Compagnoni: R.T. 1989 'From Padley's Pedestal'.

CHAPTER 7 OF CONFRONTING THE FUTURE BY CHARLES BIRCH - RICHES OF THE EARTH

In it he points out that the three basic commodites for man's welfare, wood metal and water are not inexhaustable. Such an observation would not have been believed by the ancients and judging by the exploitation of these commodities in this day and age, there are still many with the same opinion. Birch points out how unevenly distributed these materials are spread over the globe and discusses Australia's position.

The following are some of the generalizations he makes about global supplies of minerals: (other than fossil fuels)

- Mankind will need more mineral resources in the next half century than in the whole of previous history.
- Copper lead tin, zinc, gold, silver and platinum will be exhausted before the year 2000.
- . Australia, USSR, Canada and U.S.A. have the greatest share of these minerals.
- There may be undiscovered quantities of minerals but they would be low grade deposits or so placed that their extraction would be uneconomical.
- For a peaceful world, Birch believes that the reallocation of supply must be made to allow needy countries some access. He also ventures to suggest the rich countries should reduce their growth in consumer goods.

He then gives us an inventory of Australia's mineral resources.

<u>Iron Ore:</u> We have among the largest reserves in the world and are the third largest producer. <u>Aluminium</u>: We have the largest deposits of any country in the world and sufficient to last more than 100 years at current rates of production. <u>Lead and Zinc</u>: Sixty per cent of production comes from the Broken Hill ore body. We are the fourth largest producer of lead and the third largest producer of zinc in the world. <u>Titanium</u>: Ninety per cent of the world's production. <u>Zircon</u>: The largest producer. <u>Copper</u>: More than self-sufficient - resources not fully assessed. <u>Phosphate rock</u>: Enough to supply Australia's needs for centuries and some for export.

Minerals are our largest export earner but they go to developed countries and to the highest bidders.

Birch questions the ethics of this. He suggests that 'the marketing could be more closely geared to the needs of the needy instead of the appetites of the rich'.

8.

He suggests alternative options - cartels could be formed with developing countries in the 'development management and distribution of common, non renewable resources'. Altruistic these proposals may seem but Birch in earlier chapters points out they are realistic if we think in the long term about removal of conflict. Or, he writes, we could keep the minerals in the ground 'except those necessary for sustaining the Australian society and for limited export.' There may even be occasions when despoilation of the environment could warrant leaving the deposit untouched.

Timber: Birch's comments on the state of Australia's timber supplies are all too familiar to most people. Such facts as the 5.6 per cent of Australia that is forested today is half the area that was forested at the time of European settlement less than 200 years ago; that grazing and cropping are killing off all the offspring of the remaining old trees on the western slopes, the clearing of rain forest for sugar and dairy farms, and worst of all, the insatiable appetite of the wood chip industry. He advocates a reduction of demand for packaging and large newspapers, a review of timber getting procedures, particularly clear felling and wood chipping operations, development of methods of wood production that conserve the nature of the forests. He points out the role of forests in providing water catchment, in preventing soil erosion, in providing homes for wild life but since his book was published thirteen years ago, the value of forests in preventing soil salination has come to the fore.

<u>Water:</u> Birch points out that Australia is the world's driest continent. "The mean annual rainfall for all the land of the globe is 660 mm and the mean annual run off is 250 mm, Australia has a mean of only 420 mm with a run off of 50 mm. Only about a third of the continent has reasonably moist conditions. I quote one interesting fact in full "A consequence of unreliability of rainfall is that much more water has to be stored in dams than would otherwise be the case. To maintain one acre of irrigation, Australians must store on average twice as much water as is necessary in U.S.A. Sydney for example has to store four times the quantity of water stored per head for New York, giving it the largest storage of water per head of any major city in the world.

Birch suggests that sewerage and industrial waste should be recycled, native shrubs and trees instead of water-hungry exotic trees should be planted, a National Water Resources Development Commission should be formed to develop all aspects of water handling.

Well the speed of change in public attitude towards environmental issues has been astonishing over the last three months. The success of the 'greens' in the last Tasmanian election seems to have broken down the hesitancy of those who were reluctant to be counted amongst that fraternity. It should be remembered however that the 'greens' only received 16% of the votes and their strength is due to them holding the balance of power. Even so all branches of the media are pushing environmental issues with unprecedented enthusiasm. A plethora of informative screening and articles were available during Environment Week.

In my opinion, they brought home the problems with a bang, but gave us few solutions. Our whole culture and affluence have been obtained through exploitation of the environment.

We can recycle our paper and glass, reduce our use of fuel, electricity and water, scrape the black off our spoilt toast and squeeze the tooth paste tube a little harder but meanwhile our population rises - Immigration sees to that even though the native born had achieved a zero growth figure.

Without consumerism and exploitation of the environment unemployment would reach catostrophic figures and the social service pay out likewise. Please oh please if there is some reader out there with more economic know how than I, kindly submit some suggestions that would cast a little light over the gloom.

Lloyd Jones

A PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

As all members will know by now from our special circular, the Society has been preparing a submission for the Blue Mountains City Council concerning the Environmental Management Plan. This Plan offers the community a great opportunity to rescue the seat of conservation in Australia from further degradation by man.

As I write this our local paper reports that Lake Medlow, one of our own upper Blue Mountains water suplies is so polluted we can't use it even after treatment. Algae and weedy ivy grow on our tourist waterfalls and the same visitors who spend vast sums for a unique experience in the Mountains also get sick from drinking the streams under the cliffs.

That is why so many members have been so forthcoming in helping piece together the Society's own Environmental Plan for the middle and upper Blue Mountains.

After many visits by over 30 members to sites all over the area, we have nearly finished five overlay Planning Maps to present to council. This is our version of how to zone the city land in order to protect the bushland, streams, the air and the views.

As a "sort of writer" I have enjoyed long nights piercing together this jigsaw puzzle with many of the field workers. Special thanks to your Secretary, Reg Toseland and mate Dai Thomas who have been regular visitors to Sara and myself at Blackheath and who have been a great encouragement during our nocturnal mapping sessions.

Well the writing will be over and you as members will be able to 'see' the completed plan and submission at our July meeting. A number of our main field coordinators such as Robyn Corringham, Meredith, Lyndal, Shirley, Stewart, Olive, John, Barry, Eric, June, Winsome Carol will tell you about their special experiences. It was nice to see young and old troopers pulling together!

This of course is only the start. So many issues have been raised that must be followed up. Your help is urgently needed. You could become a local area coordinator to assist residents in their actions to protect the environment and repair the damage of the past. It is after all up to you from now on. The Plan is only a beginning of the light in the tunnel. It is the start of a process of community education.

So many people out there are hungry for knowledge; about how to carefully clear for fire, growing native trees and shrubs, landscaping, constructing walking tracks, weeding, where to find grey currawongs (even what <u>is</u> a grey currawong). Give them a little and watch the change; fewer bare paddocks, carefully built houses, no resorts on cliffs, people treading carefully.

There are many things to comment about and I hope that in future newsletters we can get a few notes from those who slogged through the rain to look depressingly at urban silt going over the waterfalls. Lastly my thanks to Shirley and Geoffrey who patiently waited for each scrape of pen and needled me regularly just in case I was asleep - alas, no chance. As I said to those involved, this is your Plan, over to you.

> Wyn Jones June 1989

Adiamond slug and its trail (see P.4)

- 11 -Society News

KOSCIUSKO AND ANTARCTICA. Beautiful pictures of Kosciusko accompanied by beautiful music by Haydn made the General Meeting of the Society in April a very pleasant experience indeed. The slides showed every aspect of the seasons at Kosciusko with great clarity and sensitivity. The colours of the snow gums in winter and the acres of snow daisies covering the hillsides in summer, the simple forms of the snow drifts with their cool green depths were a delight to the eye while the ear was beguiled by the lovely music of Haydn. There was no need for any commentary.

The Antarctic pictures which were taken on a Greenpeace Expedition, called for a different music and were the better for comment. The environment was chilling and the havoc wrought by humans more so. Every person who ever set foot on Antarctica seems to have left his rubbish behind him. The Greenpeace boat met pollution from the American base 15 miles out to sea, very like that at Bondi. Huge colonies of penguins were being shifted to make room for airstrips. Remote European countries were laying claim to territories with an eye to mineral exploration. Tourism is a fast growing industry there. If ever there was a case for conservation surely the saving of this vast beautiful wilderness is one.

POETRY OF THE MOUNTAINS. At the General Meeting in May, Mark O'Connor read some of his poems inspired by the Blue Mountains. These were beautifully illustrated by slides taken by Ian Brown, a National Parks Ranger. In 1984-85, the N.S.W National Parks Service, as part of an innovative scheme known as the Park Writers Fellowship arranged for Mark O'Connor to spend some months in the sandstone mountains round Sydney. The result was a hundred poems designed to be heard as well as seen on the page. Mark is also a member of "Writers for an Ecologically Sustainable Population" Group and a concerned conservationist and spoke on the necessity to limit population growth to a sustainable degree. This is in accord with the concern expressed in Charles Birch's book "Confronting the Future" as reviewed by Lloyd Jones in our Newsletters. We must husband our resources if the world is to achieve ecological viability. Mark's book "Poetry of the Mountains" with superb colour photographs by Ian Brown is on sale at the Hut.

B. Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society member, Paul Nagle, is organising a camping trip to Kinchega National Park, Flinders Ranges and Little Desert National Park in September. The tour will take 13 days and departs Saturday, September 23rd. The cost is \$525.00 per person and includes transportation, food and an experienced ornithologist as your guide. If you would like further information on this tour give Paul a ring on 047-573181 after 7p.m. but be quick as places are limited.

THE SCRIBBLYGUM MOTH * (Ogmograptis Scribula)

Ogmograptis scribula, The first graffiti artist, Of the order Lepidoptera, Family Yponomeutidae, Long ago has found a way To avoid the strife Of graffitists' life, For it lives in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree.

It is easy to see where Ogmo went, Chewing and chomping and scribbling away, Long after Ogmo's days are spent, Off to the left for a week or two, Gulping and gorging as Ogmos do, Then to the right for a similar time, Gormandising along the line, There in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree.

Eucalyptus sclerophylla, Racemosa, rossii, Haemastoma and signata, Pauciflora, dendromorpha And dalrympleana -Here come the Ogmos, doing fine. Chewing the left right, right left line, Delicate caligraphy, Ogmograptis graffiti, On all of these species of gum tree. Some chew up and some chew down, This the philosophers might explain, But the thing that causes me to frown, The thing that I'd dearly love to learn Is what makes every Ogmo turn? Off to the left, then to the right, Another about turn, very tight, Chomping a track, Forward and back, On various species of gum tree.

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Very young Ogmos tend to wander, Skittish, no doubt, as young folks are, Filled with the spirit of adventure, Suddenly they get much fatter. Adventurings no longer matter. But what I yearn and Yearn to learn Is how do they know just when to turn There in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree?

At last there comes that glorious day When this gyrating artistic grub Turns into a moth and flies away. No more chewing and scribbling and shoving, Now is the time for dancing and loving. Having thus drained life's cup to the dregs, Before it dies it lays its eggs Into the dark, Beneath the bark Of its chosen species of gum tree.

Although the new Ogmos can't be seen, Next year when the gum tree sheds its bark, It becomes quite obvious where they've been. Off to the left for a week or two, Gulping and gorging as Ogmos do, Then to the right for a similar time. Gormandising along the line, There in the dark Under the bark of gum trees.

*A COLLECTIVE POEM! A number of Society members contributed to "The Scribblygum Moth" composed over several weekly bush outings - <u>David Thomas</u> the amusing scientific name; <u>Jill Dark</u> the scientific names of scribbly gums; <u>Carol Probets</u>, <u>Deirdre</u> <u>Morton</u>, <u>Mick Dark & Shirley Brown</u> gave unflagging encouragement. I wrote it all down --

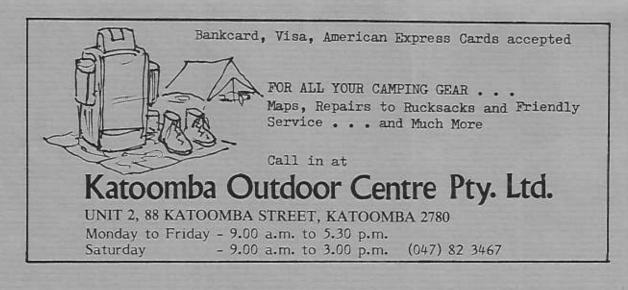
Graham Alcorn.

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Objects of the Society as set out in the Constitution are:

- (a) To disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation among members of the Society and the public generally, particularly in relation to the unique resources of the Blue Mountains.
- (b) To conduct meetings, excursions and research, and such other activities as may be determined by the Society in relation to Wildlife Conservation, and especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls, to provide information on Conservation matters.
- (c) To maintain friendly relations with other Conservation Societies especially local bodies.

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	or
Single	\$6.00
Family	\$10.00
Concession	\$4.00
	Single Family Concession



This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in February 2024 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

July 1989 No. 76

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER.

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COMING TALKS

<u>July</u> – Wyn Jones & Others Environmental Blue Print <u>August</u> – Peter Taylor Endangered Orchids of the World <u>September</u> – Greg Gaul Aboriginals of the Blue Mountains

WALKS PROGRAMME 1989 - JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

IT IS ESSENTIA	AL ON ALL WALKS IN THE HOT WEATHER THAT MEMBERS		
SHOULD CARRY AT LEAST 1 LITRE OF WATER			
CARRY ON ALL WALKS:	First Aid Kit		
	Torch		
	Matches		
	Warm Shirt or Sweater		
	Protective Rainwear		
	Hat		

WEAR SAFE FOOTWEAR

ALL PEOPLE ATTENDING WALKS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK

July 2nd Sunday Cliff walk – Gordon Falls – Echo Point

Meet at Gordon Falls Picnic Area (corner of Olympian Parade and Lone Pine Avenue) at 9.30 am. The walk is the Prince Henry Cliff Walk. There is a valley view most of the way and a number of lookouts. 5 hours. Medium. There will be a car ferry for drivers. <u>Contact</u>: Elvine Thomas 84.2121

<u>July 15th Saturday – Bird Watch</u>

Meet at the end of Gladstone Road (just past Links Road) Leura 10 am. Short walk to see migrating Honey Eaters. Several localities may have to be visited depending on birds. Easy. Time Optional – Binoculars. <u>Contact</u>: David Thomas 84 2121

July 20th Thursday – Blair Athol Coal Mine

Meet at Blackheath Station car park 10.30 am. The mine is one of a number of similar workings, now abandoned, which are scattered through-out the Blue Mountains. Blair Athol Mine is a well preserved example. A torch and sturdy footwear are essential. 3 hours. Easy. <u>Contact</u>: Beverly Thompson 87.2076 Sydney Train arrives <u>10.29 am.</u>

<u>August 6th Sunday – Cox's Historic Road</u>

Meet at Shell Corner at 10.00 am. (Opposite Caravan Park in parking area on railway side of the Highway). Part of journey by car and part walking. See beginning of Katoomba, the mysteries of Pulpit Hill, convict pits and the first building in Katoomba. 6 hours approximately. Easy. <u>Contact</u>: Ross Fitzpatricke 82.3139 Sydney Train arrives <u>10.04 am.</u>

<u>August 17th – Thursday – Darwin's Walk</u>

Meet just around the corner from the Great Western Highway in Falls Road. 10.15 am. Falls Road is the first street on the left past the traffic lights at Wentworth Falls travelling West. The story of this historic walk up to the present time will be related to us on the day of the walk by our two guides. 4 hours. Easy.

Contact: Reg & Dulcie Toseland. 84 1682

Sydney Train arrives <u>10.07 am.</u> Lithgow Train arrives <u>9.39 am.</u>

<u>August 19th Saturday – Blue Gum Forest</u>

Meet at Blackheath Station Commuter Car Park (left hand side of station facing west) at 9.00 am. Come and see the stately gum trees of this beautiful forest by the Grose River. Hard. 6-7 hours approximately.

<u>Contact</u>: Olive Noble 87.8342 Sydney Train arrives <u>08.29 am</u>.

<u>September 3rd – Sunday – Leura Forest</u>

Contact: Dick Western 53.1003

Meet at Leura Baths Picnic Area (adjacent to Leura Cascades) in Cliff Drive Leura. 9.30 am. A new area to some of us with rain forest and cascades. 5 hours. Easy to Medium. <u>Contact</u>: David Thomas 84 2121

September 16th Saturday – Linden Ridge to Mt Twiss

Meet at Woodford Post Office (opposite Woodford Station) in Great Western Highway. 9 am. We will visit Kings Cave if time permits. 5 hours easy to medium.

Sydney Train Arrives <u>08.46 am.</u> Lithgow Train Arrives 08.54 am.

September 21st Thursday – Mount Wilson Round Walk

Meet at Mt Victoria Station car park. 9.30 am. The drive to Mt Wilson itself is a pleasant experience. The Round Walk includes a waterfall and a mixed sample of flora. Some side exploration and sightseeing for those inclined. Easy. 3 ½ hours.

<u>Contact</u>: Grace Bayley 59.1955 Sydney Train Arrives <u>08.57 am.</u>

October 1st Sunday – Blue Gum Swamp

Meet at the end of Whitecross Road Winmalee 9.30 am. To reach this road drive towards Winmalee approximately 5½km along Hawkesbury Road from the Great Western Highway then turn left into Whitecross Road. The walk will include Grose Head Trig Point. A delightful 4 hours easy walk.

Contact: Enid Schaffer 54.1244

October 19th Thursday – Evans Reserve

Meet at Blackheath Community Hall (corner Hat Hill Road) in the Great Western Highway 10.30 am. We shall take some different tracks this time, where the wild flowers should be out. Cliff Views also. Easy. About 4-5 hours.

Contact: Rachel Makinson 87.1302 or 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 10.27 am.

October 21st Saturday – Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath

Meet at Blackheath Station commuter car park 9.30 am. After the Garden's Inspection, there will be an optional walk down Pope's Glen to Governer Phillip's Look Out and Govett's Leap Look Out. Those who wish can visit the Heritage Centre. A car ferry will be arranged for drivers back to Blackheath Station car park. The walk is easy and the time depends on when you wish to leave the walk.

<u>Contact</u>: Joan Storey 87 8826 Sydney Train arrives <u>08.29 am.</u>

WALK – CAMEL'S HUMP – THURSDAY MARCH 16th

Chris McDonald was unable to lead this walk due to a leg injury so Grace Bayley very kindly offered to take her place. As we decided to save the Camel's Hump for Chris later on, Grace suggested a walk the Society had not done at Mt Wilson. Unfortunately, the weather was very much against us. Four of us met at Mt Victoria Station, Grace and her husband, myself and my wife. We waited the usual time but as no-one else turned up, we voted in view of the heavy rain to cancel the walk. Thanks for helping out, Grace and a speedy recovery to Chris.

Bob Jones

WALK - COX'S RIVER VIA SIX FOOT TRACK - SUNDAY MARCH 19th

Sunday was another day similar to the Thursday when the walk was cancelled due to rain. Four of us met at Blackheath. Joan Storey, Val Carlos, my wife Ruth and myself. After a vote all around we decided to go down into the valley to the start of the walk and see what the weather was like there.

We based our decision on past experience when we have found reasonable conditions in the valleys when it has been raining on the ridges. We struck it lucky, the weather was overcast but dry, we even had a short spell of sunshine in the afternoon. This is what probably brought the snake out.

The Cox was running well and after a bit of sightseeing we started back. The snake, a long black one, tried to join the walk just before the Fairy Pool. It came up almost onto the track just in front of me. Joan and Val who were in front had just passed this spot. I did some fancy footwork and loud yelling and frightened everyone including the snake. When everything settled down, we admired the snake, a beautiful creature, from a safe distance then both parties went their own way. We reached the cars about four then up into the fog and rain again.

It was a good walk. I would like to comment that I was impressed to see how clean the runners and their supporters had left the track – unless one knew, it was impossible to tell such an event had been held the previous day. A credit to the organisers.

Bob Jones.

WALK - BEDFORD CREEK, HAZELBROOK - THURSDAY 20th APRIL 1989

There were 17 walkers and the weather was perfect for a day walk. We left Hazelbrook Car Park about 10.15am and walked to the fire road which leads to Bedford Creek. The fire road starts at the end of Terrace Falls Road. The track directly down to Bedford Creek near The Lake (Jim Smith's Map No 26) was muddy in parts but drying out fast.

On this part of the walking track and at the Victor Falls end selected trees are well marked with name plaques. Dulcie Toseland reported that some of the plaques at the Victor Falls end had been vandalised. Dulcie saw there damaged plaques during an inadvertent short side trip some of the party made due to the fact that the leader was dreaming along in the warm sunshine and failed to wait at a branch off track.

The water was down in Terrace Falls Creek so the two crossings were negotiated with almost dry shoes. As it was damp in the undergrowth, we came up out of the valley at Terrace Falls to have lunch in the sun.

After lunch because it was pleasant in the sunshine we stayed out of the valley and strolled along the last part of the fire road to the car park, arriving about 3 pm.

Bob Jones

WALKS - SLACKS STAIRS- SUNDAY, MAY 7th

Sixteen started off on a damp, overcast day. From the Hut to Wentworth Falls the dampness must have brought out the aroma of Woollsia pungens. The walk from the top of the Falls to National Pass is now made safer and comfortable by the NPWS with new handrails and supports. Slacks Stairs themselves are a great improvement on the old rickety, missing-a-step ones, providing one obeys the illustrated signs – again much effort and thought has gone into the renovation of the stairs. However, after descending to the bottom with ease there are one or two awkward rocks to be negotiated with care but they shouldn't cause any problems. By this time the number had increased with the addition of several members who having missed the start came round the other way to meet us. The bottom of the falls was as beautiful as ever although the beach was too damp for us to stop there for morning tea. We all enjoyed Wentworth Pass with its interesting and varied vegetation especially the colourful fungi which is superb this year. The party broke up somewhat at lunchtime owing to the fact that some were more mobile than others.

At one spot the leeches gave us a welcome, the word having gone round "fresh tucker has arrived', but by keeping ourselves alert they went hungry after all. Then came the long pull up the Valley of the Waters to a welcome at the Hut and a large pot of tea.

Elvine & David Thomas

WALK - THE ROUND WALK, LAWSON - THURSDAY, MAY 18th 1989

IN the midst of weeks of rain, this one day of almost unbroken sunshine was a delight, and 18 people turned up to share it, even though they prudently carried raincoats. The clay areas of the creek were treacherous, many pools of water caused us to step very carefully. Brightly coloured fungi and thick emerald moss clothed the rocks and trees and stumps. Miniature waterfalls dripped on to our heads as we passed under the rocks.

The creek and waterfalls were rushing noisily, trying to drown out the echos from a dozen voices in unison at Echo Bluff. The leader had one small regret. She had reconnoitred the walk in the mist on the previous day, and had seen many pale green native tree-slugs looking like large leaves with red edges and diamond designs, feeding on the smooth wet trunks of the angophoras. She hoped to point out these interesting creatures to the walkers, but could only show the pattern of their grazing on the now dry trunks. So you will just have to take my word for it that they had been there.

Grace Bayley

WALK – NEATE'S GLEN, GRAND CANYON, EVANS LOOKOUT – SUNDAY JUNE 4th 1989

This Grand Canyon Walk was the one cancelled due to heavy rain on Sunday January 1st. Six months later the weather on June 4th was not much better. There were six starters, John and Olive Noble, Joan Storey, Bert Davies, Kathy a new girl from Penrith and myself.

After a vote all around we decided to try the Grand Canyon come rain or high water. As expected all the tracks were very sloppy but the intermittent light rain was not a problem. The wetting we did get was mainly from the dripping cliffs. Some birds were braving the weather as we heard some Whip & Lyre bird calls.

At first the creek crossings were reasonable but the further we went down the Canyon the higher the water became due to the added water from small side waterfalls. The water height was not dangerous but we would have had to wade some lower creek crossings and it was not the kind of day to get footwear unnecessarily wet. We were about half an hour's walk from the Evans ascent when we decided to return to Neate's Glen back along the Grand Canyon to avoid crossing the creeks lower down.

After lunch in a dry overhang we continued the return journey to the top of Neate's Glen. We arrived at the cars about 2 pm.

Although the walk didn't go to where it was intended, we all agreed it was good to get out and have a walk despite the weather, so the day wasn't a failure after all. Thanks for coming along.

EMPRESS FALLS c Brendan Doyle 1989

At first you worry about your shoes getting wet then you realise you are walking on poetry. You think I'd better go and open the shop but the falling streams hold you in their crystal veils as in a syren's tresses. Let them wait to drink their cups of tea for I am intoxicated by nectar draughts drawn down steps hewn of brute stone by poets.

MORE FROM PADLEY'S PEDESTAL

In an earlier Newsletter I described a few of the many items of physical geology visible from Padley's Pedestal Lookout on Hassan's Walls. Perhaps you would like to read some thoughts on how these things happened. Geological exactitude is not claimed but ideas are given as to how over the millions of years of geological time the land came to look as it now does. This may persuade some to think a little about our hills and perhaps read for themselves available texts. The rough stratigraphic table hereunder may help.

Geological Period	Relevant Formation	Time before presented in millions of years.
Tertiary	Lapstone Monocline	1 – 70
Triassie	Wianamatta Shales Hawkesbury Sandstone Narrabeen Group	180 – 220
Permian	Coal Measures Marine Beds	220 – 275
Carboniferous	Granites are only local evidence	275 – 355
Devonian	Lambian Series	355 - 410

Earlier formations not occurring locally.

In the late Devonian Period, the whole of this area was covered by a sea. Exposures of rock from the floor of this sea, now known as the Lambian Series, may be seen on Mt Lambie, near Yerranderie, at Kanangra, in the Wolgan Valley and at Capertee Valley and Cullen Bullen.

The exposure on Mt Lambie is about 4000' above sea level and contains marine fossils. I have earlier mentioned an exposure in Jamison Valley.

The weight of sea water and of sediments washed into the Devonian Sea caused the land to sink and due to continued sinking the Devonian Sea was succeeded by a Permian Sea but during the intervening Carboniferous Period there occurred the Kanimblan Orogeny (an orogeny is a period of mountain building) during which time a huge granite batholith was formed deep within the Devonian rocks. Another effect of this orogeny is that Devonian marine sediments laid down in horizontal pattern were tilted by the mountain building forces so that in several of the places where they are now exposed eg. Kanangra, Capertee, and Cullen Bullen, they appear as the lower section of spectacular angular unconformities.

DIAGRAM NOT COPIED

THE INCURSION OF THE PERMIAN SEA BROUGHT THE START OF SYDNEY BASIN SEDIMENTATION.

Deposition of sediments into the Permian Sea caused further sinking of the Sydney Basin. Marine sediments filled the sea and in places lay upon the granite. Continued sinking provided a surface upon which Permian Coal Measures were laid down conformably in a vast series of shallow lakes.

DIAGRAM NOT COPIED

Subsidence continued with the weight of continuing sedimentation. Deposition of coal measures ceased just after the close of the Permian Period. The Triassic Period, that most exposed in the Upper Blue Mountains, consists of three series of rocks. Creeks flowing from the North carried sediments onto lakes and deltas to form the Narrabeen Group. The weight of the Narrabeen Group, which is responsible for the dramatic clifflines of the upper mountains, caused further subsidence and sedimentation came from the West, carried, it has been suggested, by a stream with a very extensive delta. These are the Hawkesbury sandstones, widespread in the Lower Blue Mountains, and north and south of Sydney. Wianamatta Shales on parts of the loser mountains and widespread on the Cumberland Plain, complete the sedimentation of the Triassic Period but do not come into the area being discussed.

DIAGRAM NOT COPIED

At the end of the Triassic Period the land remained generally flat and dry, but after a long period of quiet, the Lapstone Monocline caused gentle uplift, lifting from a line through Penrith, (as it now is) in the form of a peneplain, from close to sea level to over 3500 feet near Hassan's Walls. This increased the gradient of uplifted rivers and creeks giving them the increased erosive power which together with wind and rain has shaped our spectacular mountains, with deep gorges such as the Warragamba, Cox's and Grose Rivers. These are probably streams which existed prior to the uplift but which, in effect, eroded their courses as their drainage basins were uplifted and their erosive forces strengthened.

DIAGRAM NOT COPIED

SUGGESTED READING

Branagan, Herbert, Langford-Smith 'The Sydney Basin 1976' Department of Geology and Geophysics, Sydney University Herbert & Helby 'A guide to the Sydney Basin' 1980 – Geological Survey of NSW

Laseron, Chas (revised Brunnschweiler) 'Ancient Australian 1969' Angus & Robertson

Nashar, Beryl 'Geology of the Sydney Basin' Jacaranda Press (believed out of print)

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Newsletters No 64 Compagnoni: R.T. 1986 'Unconformity at Kanangra' No 74 Compagnoni: R.T. 1989 'From Padley's Pedestal'.

CHAPTER 7 OF CONFRONTING THE FUTURE BY CHARLES BIRCH - RICHES OF THE EARTH

In it he points out that the three basic commodities for man's welfare, wood, metal and water are not inexhaustible. Such an observation would not have been believed by the ancients and judging by the exploitation of these commodities in this day and age, there are still many with the same opinion. Birch points out how unevenly distributed these materials are spread over the globe and discusses Australia's position.

The following are some of the generalizations he makes about global supplies of minerals: (other than fossil fuels)

- Mankind will need more mineral resources in the next half century than in the whole of previous history.
- Copper lead, tin, zinc, gold, silver and platinum will be exhausted before the year 2000.
- Australia, USSR, Canada and the USA have the greatest share of these minerals.
- There may be undiscovered quantities of minerals but they would be low grade deposits or so placed that their extraction would be uneconomical.
- For a peaceful world, Birch believes that the reallocation of supply must be made to allow needy countries some access. He also ventures to suggest the rich countries should reduce their growth in consumer goods.

He then gives us an inventory of Australia's mineral resources.

<u>Iron Ore</u>: We have among the largest reserves in the world and are the third largest producer. <u>Aluminium</u>: We have the largest deposits of any country in the world and sufficient to last more than 100 years at current rates of production. <u>Lead and Zinc</u>: Sixty per cent of production comes from the Broken Hill ore body. We are the fourth largest producer of lead and the third largest producer of zinc in the world. <u>Titanium</u>: Ninety per cent of the world's production. <u>Zircon</u>: The largest producer. <u>Copper</u>: More than self-sufficient – resources not fully assessed. <u>Phosphate rock</u>: Enough to supply Australia's needs for centuries and some for export.

Minerals are our largest export earner but they go to developed countries and to the highest bidders.

Birch questions the ethics of this. He suggests that 'marketing could be more closely geared to the needs of the needy instead of the appetites of the rich'.

He suggests alternative options – cartels could be formed with developing countries in the 'development management and distribution of common, non renewable resources'. Altruistic these proposals may seem but Birch in earlier chapters points out they are realistic if we think in the long term about removal of conflict. Or, he writes, we could keep the minerals in the ground 'except those necessary for sustaining the Australian society and for limited export.' There may even be occasions when despoilation of the environment could warrant leaving the deposit untouched.

<u>Timber</u>: Birch's comments on the state of Australia's timber supplies are all too familiar to most people. Such facts as the 5.6 per cent of Australia that is forested today is half the area that was forested at the rime of European settlement less than 200 years ago; that grazing and cropping are killing off all the offspring of the remaining old trees on the western slopes, the clearing of rain forest for sugar and dairy farms, and worst of all, the insatiable appetite of the wood chip industry. He advocates a reduction of demand for packaging and large newspapers, a review of timber getting procedures, particularly clear felling and wood chipping operations, development of methods of wood production that conserve the nature of the forests. He points out the role of forests in providing water catchment, in preventing soil erosion, in providing homes for wild life but since his book was published thirteen years ago, the value of forests in preventing soil salination has come to the fore.

<u>Water</u>: Birch points out that Australia is the world's driest continent. "The mean annual rainfall for all the land of the globe is 660 mm and the mean annual run off is 250 mm, Australia has a mean of only 420 mm with a run off of 50 mm. Only about a third of the continent has reasonably moist conditions. I quote one interesting fact in full "A consequence of unreliability of rainfall is that much more water has to be stored in dams than would otherwise be the case. To maintain one acre of irrigation, Australians must store on average twice as much water as is necessary in USA. Sydney for example has to store four times the quantity of water stored per head for New York, giving it the largest storage of water per head of any major city in the world.

Birch suggests that sewage and industrial waste should be recycled, native shrubs and trees instead of water-hungry exotic trees should be planted, a National Water Resources Development Commission should be formed to develop all aspects of water handling.

Well the speed of change in public attitude towards environmental issues has been astonishing over the last three months. The success of the 'greens' in the last Tasmanian election seems to have broken down the hesitancy of those who were reluctant to be counted amongst that fraternity. It should be remembered however that the 'greens' only received 16% of the votes and their strength is due to them holding the balance of power. Even so all branches of the media are pushing environmental issues with unprecedented enthusiasm. A plethora of informative screening and articles were available during Environment Week.

In my opinion, they brought home the problems with a bang, but gave us few solutions. Our whole culture and affluence have been obtained through exploitation of the environment.

We can recycle our paper and glass, reduce our use of fuel, electricity and water, scrape the black off our spoilt toast and squeeze the tooth paste tube a little harder but meanwhile our population rises – Immigration sees to that even though the native born had achieved a zero growth figure.

Without consumerism and exploitation of the environment unemployment would reach catastrophic figures and the social service pay out likewise. Please oh please if there is some reader out there with more economic know how than I, kindly submit some suggestions that would cast a little light over the gloom.

Lloyd Jones

A PLAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

As all members will know by now from our special circular, the Society has been preparing a submission for the Blue Mountains City council concerning the Environmental Management Plan. This Plan offers the community a great opportunity to rescue the seat of conservation in Australia from further degradation by man.

As I write this our local paper reports that Lake Medlow, one of our own upper Blue Mountains water supplies is so polluted we can't use it even after treatment. Algae and weedy ivy grow on our tourist waterfalls and the same visitors who spend vast sums for a unique experience in the Mountains also get sick from drinking the streams under the cliffs.

That is why so many members have been so forthcoming in helping piece together the Society's own Environmental Plan for the middle and upper Blue Mountains.

After many visits by over 30 members to sites all over the area, we have nearly finished five overlay Planning Maps to present to council. This is our version of how to zone the city land in order to protect the bushland, streams, the air and the views.

As a "sort of writer" I have enjoyed long nights piecing together this jigsaw puzzle with many of the field workers. Special thanks to your Secretary, Reg Toseland and mate Dai Thomas who have been regular visitors to Sara and myself at Blackheath and who have been a great encouragement during our nocturnal mapping sessions.

Well the writing will be over and you will be able to 'see' the completed plan and submission at our July meeting. A number of our main field coordinators such as Robyn Corringham, Meredith, Lyndal, Shirley, Stewart, Olive, John, Barry, Eric, June, Winsome, Carol will tell you about their special experiences. It was nice to see young and old troopers pulling together!

This of course is only the start. So many issues have been raised that must be followed up. Your help is urgently needed. You could become a local area coordinator to assist residents in their actions to protect the environment and repair the damage of the past. It is after all up to you from now on. The plan is only a beginning of the light in the tunnel. It is the start of a process of community education.

So many people out there are hungry for knowledge; about how to carefully clear for fire, growing native trees and shrubs, landscaping, constructing walking tracks, weeding, where to find Grey Currawongs (even what <u>is</u> a grey currawong). Give them a little and watch the change; fewer bare paddocks, carefully built houses, no resorts on cliffs, people treading carefully.

There are many things to comment about I hope that in future newsletters we can get a few notes from those who slogged through the rain to look depressingly at urban silt going over the waterfalls. Lastly my thanks to Shirley and Geoffrey who patiently waited for each scrape of pen and needled me regularly just in case I was asleep – alas, no chance. As I said to those involved, this is your Plan, over to you.

Wyn Jones June 1989

Society News

<u>KOSCIUSKO AND ANTARCTICA</u>. Beautiful pictures of Kosciusko accompanied by beautiful music by Haydn made the General Meeting of the Society in April a very pleasant experience indeed. The slides showed every aspect of the seasons at Kosciusko with great clarity and sensitivity. The colours of the snow gums in winter and the acres of snow daisies covering the hillsides in summer, the simple forms of the snow drifts with their cool green depths were a delight to the eye while the ear was beguiled by the lovely music of Haydn. There was no need for any commentary.

The Antarctic pictures which were taken on a Greenpeace Expedition, called for a different music and were the better for comment. The environment was chilling and the havoc wrought by humans more so. Every person who ever set foot on Antarctica seems to have left rubbish behind him. The Greenpeace boat met pollution from the American base 15 miles out to sea, very like that at Bondi. Huge colonies of penguins were being shifted to make room for airstrips. Remote European countries were laying claim to territories with an eye to mineral exploration. Tourism is a fast growing industry there. If ever there was a case for conservation surely the saving of this vast beautiful wilderness is one.

<u>POETRY OF THE MOUNTAINS</u>. At the General Meeting in May, Mark O'Connor read some of his poems inspired by the Blue Mountains. These were beautifully illustrated by slides taken by Ian Brown, a National Parks Ranger. In 1984-85, the NSW National Parks Service, as part of an innovation scheme known as the Park Writers Fellowship arranged for Mark O'Connor to spend some months in the sandstone mountains round Sydney. The result was a hundred poems designed to be heard as well as seen on the page. Mark is also a member of "Writers for an Ecologically Sustainable Population" Group and a concerned conservationist and spoke on the necessity to limit population growth to a sustainable degree. This is in accord with the concern expressed in Charles Birch's book "Confronting the Future" as reviewed by Lloyd Jones in our Newsletters. We must husband our resources if the world is to achieve ecological viability. Mark's book "Poetry of the Mountains" with superb colour photographs by Ian Brown is on sale at the Hut.

N.B. Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society member, Paul Nagle, is organising a camping trip to Kinchega National Park, Flinders Ranges and Little Desert National Park in September. The tour will take 13 days and departs Saturday, September 23rd. The cost is \$525.00 per person and includes transportation, food and an experienced ornithologist as your guide.

If you would like further information on this tour give Paul a ring on 047-573181 after 7 pm. but be quick as places are limited.

THE SCRIBBLYGUM MOTH* (Ogmograptis Scribula)

Ogmograptis scribula, The first graffiti artist, Of the order Lepidoptera, Family Yponomeutidae, Long ago has found a way To avoid the strife Of graffitists life, For it lives in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree.

It is easy to see where Ogmo went, Chewing and chomping and scribbling away, Long after Ogmo's days are spent, Off to the left for a week or two, Gulping and gorging as Ogmos do, Then to the right for a similar time, Gormandising along the line, There in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree.

Eucalyptus sclerophylla, Racemosa, rossii, Haemastoma and signata, Pauciflora, dendromorpha And dalrympleana Here come the Ogmos, doing fine. Chewing the left right, right left line, Delicate caligraphy, Ogmograptis graffiti, On all of these species of gum tree.

Some shew up and some chew down, This the philosophers might explain, But the thing that causes me to frown, The thing that I'd dearly love to learn Is what makes every Ogmo turn? Off to the left, then to the right, Another about turn, very tight, Chomping a track, Forward and back, On various species of gum tree. Very young Ogmos tend to wander, Skittish, no doubt, as young folks are, Filled with the spirit of adventure, Suddenly they get much fatter. Adventurings no longer matter. But what I yearn to learn Is how do they know just when to turn There in the dark Under the bark Of various species of gum tree?

At last there comes that glorious day When this gyrating artistic grub Turns into a moth and flies away. No more chewing and scribbling and shoving, Now is the time for dancing and loving. Having thus drained life's cup to the dregs, Before it dies it lays its eggs Into the dark, Of its chosen species of gum tree.

Although the new Ogmos cant's be seen, Next year when the gum tree sheds its bark, It becomes quite obvious where they've been. Off to the left for a week or two, Gulping and gorging as Ogmos do, Then to the right for a similar time. Gormandising along the line, There in the dark Under the bark of various species of gum trees.

*A COLLECTIVE POEM! A number of Society members contributed to "The Scibblygum Moth" composed over several weekly bush outings – <u>David Thomas</u> the amusing scientific name; <u>Jill Dark</u> the scientific names of scribbly gums; <u>Carol Probets</u>, <u>Deidre Morton</u>, <u>Mick Dark</u> & <u>Shirley Brown</u> gave unflagging encouragement.

I wrote it all down - - Graham Alcorn.