



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

No. 84 July 1991

## CALENDAR

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General Meetings are held on the last Friday of the month at 7.30pm at the Conservation Hut at the western end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls, in the National Park.

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|-------------------|--------|---|
| July 26 1991      | Friday | <u>General Meeting.</u> Speaker is Peter Bliss on "Nepal - Walking, and the Effect of Tourism on that Environment."   |
| August 30 1991    | Friday | <u>General Meeting.</u> Speaker is Bill Tomasetti on "New Guinea's Modern History Highlighting Societal and Environmental Pressures." Rescheduled from May. |
| September 27 1991 | Friday | <u>General Meeting.</u> Speaker is Margaret Baker on "The Development of the Natural Landscape of the Blue Mountains."                                      |
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## NOTICE BOARD

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you to all those people who have renewed their membership promptly this year. If you have not already done so and wish to continue as a member please send in your subscription as soon as possible. Otherwise this will be your final newsletter.

Beverley Thompson. Membership Development

### NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Guest speaker in February, the Reverend Bob Evans is returning to us in October by popular request. You will remember his amazing knowledge of supernovae, and the planets and stars that stretch to forever. To make the talk even more vital Bob has requested notice of questions and/or special interests. He does not mind venturing into theories of the origin of the universe, steady state or evolutionary, or the factors of the expanding universe and so on. Muriel Healey will be pleased to pass on your questions. 586575

### UPDATE

SUBMISSIONS have been sent to :

Blue Mountains City Council about Civil Aviation project to erect hf masts at Kings Tableland facility and the care required there. Thank you to those who wrote to Council about this matter.

Roads and Traffic Authority on Draft Management Plan for Great Western H'way.

BMCC on Grace Hill, Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba. Development Application for accommodation and restaurant buildings and change of zoning for same.

BMCC on amendments to Local Environment Plan 1991, Written Statement May 1991.

BMCC on bad road work in Woodbury Street, Woodford, which is causing erosion.

### REFERENCES GIVEN TO SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mine-ha-ha Catchment Restoration Group.  
BMCC for Nellies Glen restoration.  
BMCC for one year's employment for Environmental Health Officer.

## CONSERVATION HUT

The name appears to be recognised by our landlord, National Parks and Wildlife Service. At time of writing we have access limited to meeting nights and then not always. The tender document for the concession for the tea room and shop is in preparation. The Society has submitted information on our anticipated needs for the next few years, which hopefully will be included in the tender. The management committee is examining options to replace our finance generation base which was lost with the destruction of the old Conservation Hut. Paramount is the importance of retaining our identity.

There will be an official opening, date not set, which in addition to airing the politicians will also mark the transfer of Reinis Zuisters' famous paintings which the new building has been designed to accommodate. Then later in the year the Society will have our very own real OPENING. A prominent conservationist will be guest of honour but it us all of you, members and friends, who will make that a day to remember. Date and details to be announced in October newsletter.

## PUBLICITY AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The coverage of Society activities in the local press has been better than usual. Congratulations Jan Ardill. The first of the public board displays, which more or less advertised the Society and its work, has been at K.Mart, Katoomba, then at Katoomba library. At K Mart members handed out our brochure "A Precious Heritage". The Society was well received but it was noticed that the age group 30-40 was the least interested. The fact has been drawn to the attention of the Environmental Health Section of the Council as an appropriate target in future "environment" campaigns.

Jan is presently preparing the next display. Subject is "Waste REduction". She would appreciate some help on this large job. ph. 586385

Experience in mounting displays would be useful.

## WORLD HERITAGE AND BUSH REGENERATION

The Society is pursuing the goal of a Blue Mountains Heritage Listing. Pamphlets designed by the Colong Committee will be letter-boxed in the near future. The area embraces the Wollemi to the Kanangra-Boyd National Parks excluding the narrow Blue Mountains City corridor. It behoves us to be a bit smarter about righting the city's environmental wrongs that have accumulated in the urban bush which feeds into these national parks. Major and minor catchments on both sides of the Highway are dying from weed infestation, water pollution and siltation. There are groups working methodically to restore the valleys. Your help is needed. Areas and contacts from R.Corringham. ph. 586561.

The council has been helpful in an ad hoc way. The requirements of each site differ and what each one desperately needs is a qualified Bush Regenerator to advise on the best possible method and to co-ordinate volunteers and the various expert opinions. How about joining in? Harrass council and your ward representatives, and what about talking it up with all the hopefuls for the council elections in September?

## WALKS AND NATURE TALK

Highlights from the Excursion Program are to be recorded for future reference by Olive Noble. Walks leaders please note.



KANANGRA - BOYD NATIONAL PARK has been nominated by the Colong Committee for Wilderness classification. Ten Society members visited the Park office in Oberon and toured principle accessible locations. The NPWS assessment is extending the Wilderness boundary as far as the definition allows. In practical terms, Wilderness in the Kanangra-Boyd means passive self-reliant recreation and an absence of human impedimenta. This sort of learning trip combining information and experience is essential to understand the issues we engage. More will be arranged. Thank you Wyn.

TRANSIT OF VENUS TRACK was opened with tremendous éclat by the Society and the Water Board on Sunday June 30 1991. More than 100 people gathered in brilliant sunshine to see Ranger Terry Farmer open the track and your truly explain that the Transit of Venus was observed officially in 1874 from a knoll nearby. Then that the track itself has been used since the first crossing of the Mountains and developed recreationally when leisure became possible and Mountain country homes fashionable.

Actually, the track is a by-product benefit gained by the community in the Water Board's Management Plan for the Woodford Dam catchment to prevent erosion and siltation.

**Highlight of the day was President Reg Toseland cutting the ribbon on the bridge over the creek.** (David burst the balloons.) This stout iron bridge, beautifully fitted to the creek banks, was paid for by \$3000 earned from the Society's fauna survey completed in May 1991. A plaque by the bridge marks this.

Track work is by a NPWS team. It is excellent work, not only easy on the feet but also on the eyes with its curving grades.

As a bonus to the historic element, Transit of Venus offers a demonstration of many vegetation types and the inter-relationship of terrain to flora and birds and animals. It is an easy accessible walk which, with extensions, visits three waterfalls and is highly recommended. The Society visits it again on August 15.

## TALKS RESUME

April. Norfolk Island. An interesting commentary with film on land use and societal association in the confines of a small island.

May. A change here from the advertised speaker. Our Secretary, Margaret Turton, is researching the spotted-tailed quoll in the Blue Mountains. An excellent description of the local species and its ecology was given. About the size of a cat the quoll has a diminishing distribution which can be attributed to an inter-relation with expanding human settlement, pollution and lack of prey. While it is effectively adapted for an arboreal capacity, it has been pushed into rocky gullies and forested rock ledges. It is a carnivore but is now in competition with the fox and the cat. Margaret has found that there may be more around than had been expected. Her research continues.

June. Joe Bannfy from Ellison Road Public School, Springwood, spoke to us a year ago and this time gave an update on the magnificent work he and his group is accomplishing in the sphere of "Earth Education". The programme teaches ecological principles and their application to everyday life. It develops strong feelings for earth and encourages harmony with earth's ecological systems. Joe works with young school children but he gave the meeting a taste of the awareness concept with a practical touch activity. In a nutshell - BE AWARE. HAVE RESPECT. The meeting wished Joe the greatest success in this most important programme. If you wish to know more contact 586561.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Let us get out of these indoor narrow modern days, whose twelve hours somehow have become shortened, into sunlight and the pure wind. A something that the ancients thought divine can be found and felt there still." (E. Thomas. The Amateur Poacher")

\* \* \* \* \*

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY. P.O.Box 29, Wentworth Falls. 2782

### **Membership / Renewal Form**

Name.....	Family	\$15	per year
Address.....	Single	\$10	" "
.....	Pensioner Family	\$10	" "
.....	Single Pensioner	\$6	" "

Membership corresponds to the year April 1991 to 31 March 1992. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope if a receipt is required.



# THE CONSERVATION NURSERY

Wyn Jones, Nursery Manager.

From the germ of an idea in the autumns of 1990 to a going concern in winter 1991. Such has been the rapid development of the Conservation Nursery at Blackheath. The Society "inherited" an unused glasshouse and basic shadehouse from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Since then the glasshouse has been filled with fresh cutting material of many types of Blue Mountains native plants and the shadehouse, rebuilt to more than double the original size, now houses a steadily increasing number of larger, healthy growing stock ready for sale at the spring sale on November second 1991. They will supplement the excellent variety that always comes from the Hazelbrook nursery.

Every week a small bunch of hardy "propagators" from the Society arrives for a morning of green industry. Sometimes it's potting out the struck cuttings to bigger pots, or preparing new material for propagating. Recently we had a seed collection day and on another day an expedition with NPWS staff to Deep Pass on Newnes Plateau to collect seeds and plant material for future rehabilitation of a badly eroded 4WD track.

We paid a visit to the Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens Annex. This was an informal official visit. We met Tony Currie, the Garden Superintendent, Christine Turner, the propagator and Ross, a computer records keeper.

The first part of the day we spent inside. What with the thick mist obliterating the view outside and tea, (great) coffee and Devonshire scones and cream and jam inside, there was little choice. During the enforced captivity the staff showed us how the Gardens keeps a check on plant material from the day it is collected in the wild to its ultimate place in the Botanic Garden. Or it may be sold or sent to another Botanic Garden or nursery like our own. And although it's a lot of information it certainly appears worthwhile. Our nursery records are tiny by comparison but similar, so we can trade information with the Mt. Tomah people and see what good conservers and propagators we can be - and better.

Then it was out into the lifting mist. By this time Robin had lost husband Ron. So the wee plants trying to roots in a glasshouse. But oh, so cool! We were all amazed that our glasshouse was warmer, even if it was wetter. Quite a few pointers were learnt from Christine about getting better results. In summary they are:

- \* clean pots, mix, cuttings and house.
- \* bottom heat.
- \* hormone gel for cuttings.
- \* enough light.

In the nursery yard there were many types of alpine and cold climate species from all over the world. But mostly we homed in on the natives and particularly the Mountains rare and endangered ones. Wyn thought the trigger plants looked too exotic, they were so well grown and lush. On another bench was an unnamed *Olearia* from below Mt. Tomah and a *Pultenaea* species very much like the *Clarence subspicata*. It was all too much for Grete who obviously looked at home in there with these hundreds of beautiful healthy green beings.

Altogether a valuable and vital trip for the nursery goers. We had a good roll-up with Shirley and Jo from the Hazelbrook nursery. It was a joy to have Grete along - an inspiration to all, and Ron Corringham who enjoyed especially the camellias; a total of ten propagators. What's more we have a standing invite for regular joint projects with the Gardens and possibly two speakers for a meeting later on.

The Gardens are doing a great job over there and with our members' support we can do it too on the Upper Mountains. So come and join in at Blackheath or Hazelbrook nursery's conservation.

Contact : Wyn - 877511 - Blackheath Shirley - 843348 - Hazelbrook.

\*\*\*\*\*

Never mind swanning around, Wyn, back in the engine room we need:

- \* Return of clean pots, preferably 6" and tumbler shape/size is appreciated.
  - \* We can also use clean jars, 40-100gm size, or equivalent, for seed storage.
  - \* And we have a shortage of seed of some species. Can you help here please?
- The harvest time for most seeds is summer through to autumn. So observe the spring flowering and return for the fruit. The following species can be collected now.

*Allocasuarina nana*. (dwarf casuarina)  
*A. littoralis* (black she-oak)  
*Banksia*. All Mountains species.  
*Eucalyptus*. All Mountains species. A reward of a potted plant for the first *E. oreades* (mountain ash) to be delivered.

It would be helpful if seeds were presented cleaned and labeled with name, date and place of collection.  
 To extract *Banksia* seeds - heat the cone or cob in a warm oven. The heat causes the valves to open exposing a dark winged seed. Soak the seeds out or gently prise out. For the other listed - leave in a container in a warm dry place. The wood of the fruit shrinks as it dries and the seed is released.

You will have noticed that a lot of these woody-fruited plants belong to the Proteaceae family. The New Zealanders grow and export the waratah as the "Kiwi Rose". Fair dinkum!

1991	COMMITTEE	REL. 1983
President .....	Reg. J. TOSLAND	841682
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Second Vice-President ...	Wyn Jones	573149
Secretary .....	Margaret TURTON	842121
Treasurer .....	Elyane THOMAS	572076
Membership Development ...	Beverley THOMPSON	586561
Land Use .....	Robin CORRINGHAM	586561
Newsletter Editor .....	Reba CARLINGHAM	586561
Walks Convenors .....	Olive NOBLE	878342
Plant Nursery .....	Bob Jones	588316
Publicity .....	Wyn Jones	877511
Committee Members .....	Jan ARDILL	586385
	David Thomas ....	
	John Noble ....	
	Muriel Healey ..	
	Val Carlless	
	Reg TOSLAND	
	Judy FERGILLIA	
	Joe FERGILLIA	

## Excursion Programme August - October 1991

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members carry at least 1 litre of water.

Please carry on all walks: First Aid Kit, Torch, Matches, Warm shirt or Sweater, Protective Rainwear, Hat. Wear safe footwear

All people attending excursions do so at their own risk

Members arriving by train should advise contact prior to the excursion.

### Walks

#### **August 4th Sunday - Slacks Stairs - Wentworth Pass**

Meet at Wilson Park, Falls Road, Wentworth Falls at 9.00 am. 6-7 hours

Contact: David Thomas 84 2121 Sydney train arrives at 9.02 am; Lithgow train arrives at 8.39 am

#### **August 15th Thursday - Woodford Transit of Venus Walk**

Meet at car park side (south) of Woodford Station at 10.00 am. 3½ - 4 hours

Contact: Robin Corringham 58 6561 Sydney train arrives at 9.51 am; Lithgow train arrives at 9.54 am

#### **August 17th Saturday - Old Coach Road and Glow Worm Tunnel**

Meet at Mt Victoria Station Car Park at 8.45 am. 6-7 hours

Contact: Olive Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 8.36 am

#### **September 1st Sunday - Upper Marrangaroo Creek Area**

Meet at Mt Victoria Station Car Park at 9.30 am. 6-7 hours

Contact: John Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 9.31 am

#### **September 19th Thursday - Nepean Gorge Lookout (The Rock)**

Meet on Great Western Highway side of Warrimoo station car park at 9.30 am.

Travel by car to Mulgoa 5 hours

Contact: Grace Bayley 59 1955 Sydney train arrives 9.31 am; Lithgow train arrives 9.05 am

#### **September 21st Saturday - Exploration of trackless area beyond Queen Victoria Hospital (along Kings Tableland Road) - SCRATCHY and HARD**

Meet at Wentworth Falls Station car park at 10.15 am. 6 hours

Contact: Lloyd Jones 57 2270 Sydney train arrives 10.09 am

#### **October 6th Sunday - Banks Wall - Mt Banks**

Meet at Mt Victoria Station car park at 9.30 am. 5-6 hours

Contacts: Len and June Baxter 87 7312 Sydney train arrives 9.31 am

#### **October 17th Thursday - Water Nymphs Dell (Optional car trip to rock carvings Kings Tableland Road)**

Meet at Wentworth Falls Station car park at 10.00 am. 3½ hours

Contact: Reg and Dulcie Toseland 84 1682 Sydney train arrives 10.07 am; Lithgow train arrives 9.39 am

#### **October 19th Saturday - Exploration Mystery Walk Faulconbridge**

Meet at Faulconbridge Railway Station at 9.00am 5-6 hours

Contact: Alan Macauley 39 2767 Sydney train arrives 8.38 am; Lithgow train arrives 9.03 am

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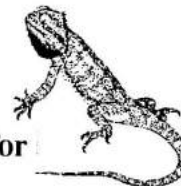
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