



Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

No 91
April 1993

The meetings are held in the Conservation Hut at 7.30 pm on the last Friday of every month.



PROGRAMME

April 30: Speaker: Virginia Bear, the Bush Regeneration Officer from Blue Mountains City Council.

May 28: "Kimberley Experiences": Jill Dark.
In winter 1992 Jill and Mick Dark and friends including Graham Alcorn and Deirdre Morton took a grand tour in their 4WD vehicles to northwest Australia, returning with glowing reports and beautiful pictures. These will be shown at this meeting and we are in for a treat.

June 25: Members' night - ten slides each.
Also Book Launching of member Grace Bayley's book which is entitled 'Take It Slowly' and is based on her diaries of walks in the Blue Mountains since 1930 era. Conservation Society walks, personalities and history are interwoven in this book which is illustrated by the author.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Environmental Law Workshop held on 27 March in The Conservation Hut was a great success. Eighty people attended, there was good discussion and the members of the Environmental Defender's Office answered many important questions. It was a valuable service. Thanks to the solicitors and to all who made this possible.

THE NEW COMMITTEE FOR 1993

(Well, not all of them are new)

President: Mr Thor Schache 57 3272
First Vice-President: Chris Cole 82 5731
Second V. Pres: Robin Corringham 58 6561
Secretary: ? Minute Secretary: ?
Treasurer: Joe Ferfoglita 84 3232
Membership Development: Judy Ferfoglita
Land Use Secretary: Mr Thor Schache
Newsletter Editor: Grace Bayley 59 1955
Walks Organiser: Christine Davies

Plant Nursery: Robin
Corringham

Publicity: Chris Cole

Committee members

Muriel Healey
Lloyd Jones
Jennifer Healey



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

These folk have joined the society since October 1992:

Pat Dowdell, John A.G. Gibbs, C. Mowbray, Karen Taylor, Dianne Chin, Stephanie Dunne, Edna and Barry Rook, Bonnie Canty, Ruth Devine, Gary Humble, Alastair and Sue Wilson, Elizabeth Giddy, Mrs J.A. Gersie, Janice Morning, Michael, Virginia, Chris and Marion Reed, Jenny Thoms, Chris Cole, Jennifer Healey.

HEARD AT SOME OF OUR MEETINGS

"Where are the missing books from our library?"

Perhaps you borrowed a book from the library in the old 'Hut' and have forgotten all about it. Have a look on your shelves, please.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY.

It was disappointing that only seven members turned up to collect rubbish on the Cliff Drive and Golf Links area in Katoomba on that Sunday in February, but we can always be on the alert to collect rubbish on our regular walks. Thanks to the faithful seven.

THE GROTTTO

Half-a-dozen turned up on Thursday 18th March. We visited The Grotto on Blue Gum Swamp creek at Winmalee. This place has an interesting history. Father Coughlin, a keen bushwalker and key member of the Catholic Bushwalking Club, acquired the rights over the Grotto many years ago and installed a life-sized statue of Our Lady of the Way, made of Carrara marble. For some years it stood among the ferns, then disappeared. From the Blue Mountains Historical Society I learned that the statue has been relocated at Wooglemai on the Oakdale-Picton Road. The plaques which were once in the grotto have also been relocated to the Catholic Bushwalking shack in Burragorang Valley. These were in memory of bushwalkers Frank Cooper, Jack Murphy and Judith Burke.



THE FORTRESS WALK

We were lucky to have a sunny day, and judging by the butterflies and birds spinning around us as we walked the high path, they were rejoicing too. A highlight was the sight of two wedgetailed eagles above the Fortress wall, and a falcon perched on a rock pillar beside the track.

OBITUARY

Frank Vanry, who died on January 6 1993, was intensely involved with the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society for many years, as well as National Parks Association, Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace and Amnesty International.

He was born on 20.5.1893, and named Franz Maximilian Weinreb. His parents were Jewish, living in Vienna at the time of the Hapsburgs, Hohenzollers and Romanoffs. His father died when he was 4 and Frank's young mother taught him the importance of democratic decision making. He joined the Social Democratic Party at the age of 15 and remained an active member most of his life. He graduated in Engineering at the Vienna Technical University, was in the army and captured as a P.O.W. in W.W.1. but managed to escape.

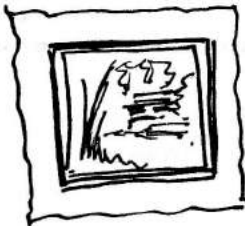


He married in 1921 and had a daughter, then a son. After Hitler's takeover in 1938 Frank was a double target of Nazi persecution and escaped across the mountains into Switzerland, just in time. The family arrived in Australia in 1939. After a few years his wife died and he met Grete, who had a little house on the Blue Mountains, had also escaped from Vienna, shared his view of society, music and nature. They married and after travelling to Europe, settled down in Leura.

Frank saw Australia largely as a continent that had been ruthlessly exploited and thoughtlessly destroyed. The damage could only be mitigated by strenuous conservation and repair work, and Frank and Grete have certainly practised what they preached.

(Thanks to Frank's daughter Trudi for this information.)

HISTORIC PAINTING



The Conservation Society is fortunate in the talents of the members and Lloyd Jones has offered to us an oil painting of the old Hut. It will be framed and, we hope, hung in a place where all can see and enjoy it. Thankyou, Lloyd.

4/93

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENT

In July 1963 the 'Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Service' attended the official opening of 'The Hut', a rather delapidated building which had been repaired and reconditioned with a lot of personal effort from the original members, to become their headquarters. Since then there have been some changes, not only in members and office-bearers, but also in the name of the Society and in the building itself. The new building bears the more descriptive title of 'Conservation Hut' and whilst it does not have the exclusive use and control by our members, as did the first building, it still presents an excellent conservation message to the public. Even more to the point, we are not faced with the problems of maintenance of buildings and surroundings, etc. Thirty years has also seen a change of public and political attitudes towards conservation, with most folk realising that this is the only hope for the future of our planet. As retiring vice-president I am certain that the efforts and achievements of the last thirty years will continue successfully with our new office-bearers and members.

Reg Toseland

Thanks to Reg, Dulcie and all the office bearers of 1992.



REPORT

Land Use

Land Use continues to be of vital significance but the guidelines of the city's Environmental Management Plan seem to be taking effect. Whenever necessary the Society puts its views about inappropriate land use. Development and building applications have been fewer this year because of close scrutiny by council aldermen. While this situation has altered recently with the appointment of a City Manager the backlog of applications is being cleared up rather fast and sometimes without the conditions and constraints that ought to be imposed. It behoves every member then to keep an eye on the immediate neighbourhood and not be shy about telling the Council of your concerns in that context.

The Society has been pressing Council to conduct a field workshop for training both its own staff and for others engaged in any form of earth-moving, road building, etc., The basic principles seem not to be fully understood but the demonstration of correct methods of erosion and sedimentation control may go some way to alleviate a serious problem of down-hill earth disturbance.

The Society has representation on the Blue Mountains District Bush fire Committee but on occasion is depressed that the conservation view is being swamped. Two things will help, 1) think seriously about joining your local bushfire brigade and 2) make an audio/visual presentation of "The Nature of the Blue Mountains" suitable for bushfire brigade education.

The Blue Mountains District Weeds Committee meets rarely but there has been some reawakening of interest in the problem because of the fine work of bush regeneration being fostered. We expect weed control and eradication to be better directed in future.

Through its local bush plant industry the Society is being drawn into an educative and facilitating role in bush regeneration. This fits nicely with the Society's constitution.

Land Preservation

Negotiations were started and are continuing with National Parks and Wildlife Service about the purchase of a privately owned block in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. The Land Preservation monies have been offered to go to the purchase price. We are assured that at this moment the submission "is on the Minister's desk".

Nursery Report

Autumn and spring sales at the Hut continue to both spread the word about the value of native plants in home gardens and raise about \$2500 net. The Society is grateful to Jill Dark and her team who continue their unflagging interest in growing the plants.

There is also success at Blackheath where that team concentrates on large orders and contracts of local bush plants. Projects that have been supplied include Council reserves, Nellies Glen, Minne-ha-ha Falls Reserve and Fairy Dell Reserve restorations and Blue Mountains National Park. We are on target for the Woodford Bends highway rehabilitation job due in September.

During the year there have been casual seed gathering forays and these may be formalised into an education programme.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

WATER

The NSW Government Pricing Tribunal has been formed to review prices for monopoly services such as electricity, water and public transport. The first inquiry is into water and related services. An editorial in the Sydney Morning Herald stated that "any change should encourage households and business to reduce the amount of pollution they put in the river.... It can be done by putting up levies and taxes. But the very much better way is to reform the system of water pricing and development charges so that households and businesses have a reason to reduce the amount of pollution they cause."

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

Because of its geography and climate the Blue Mountains area does not have a serious potential for unnatural algal blooms. However, bodies of slow-flowing and still water can be affected. The principal cause is chemical nutrients, particularly phosphorus. These enter the Blue Mountains streams from sewerage treatment works, septic tanks, tips, household waste, garden fertilisers and road run-off.

Selected key points are being monitored by the City Council with the Blue Mountains Total Catchment Management Committee exercising an overview. Remedial works such as the sewerage tunnel will help provided that there is a complete treatment of the sewerage before effluent reaches the Nepean River. You personally can try a few simple things like phosphorus-free detergent. Don't wash the car so often. What a good excuse to save water and phosphorus!

E. L. GOLDSMITH
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT


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P.O. BOX 250
TEL: (047) 82 2189
82 2543 A.H.

26 March 1993

AUDITORS REPORT

I have examined the books and financial records of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Incorporated in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organisation and the result of its operations for the period of one year ended 28 February 1993 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.


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E.L. Goldsmith CPA

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR
ENDED FEBRUARY 1993

INCOME		
4547.89	Gross Profit/(Loss) b.f.	7224.36
2201.00	Subscriptions	1529.00
20.00	Advertising Income	0.00
163.50	Donations	668.25
6837.08	Investment Income	4164.21
0.00	Bank Interest	342.37
- 0.00	Sundry Income	993.45
<u>13769.47</u>		<u>14921.64</u>
LESS EXPENSES		
319.92	Advertising	212.95
0.00	Audit Fees	0.00
23.41	Bank Fees	105.40
0.00	Hut Expenses and Functions	100.77
87.70	Depreciation	150.00
1651.85	Donations	1015.00
0.00	Electricity and gas	0.00
0.00	Fees and Licences	0.00
0.00	Freight and Cartage	0.00
0.00	Function Costs	0.00
41.86	Filing Fees	20.00
0.00	Grants	2000.00
167.25	Insurance	300.53
0.00	Licencing Fees	0.00
0.00	Loss Disposal Fixed Assets	321.41
709.69	Newsletter Costs	542.16
143.61	Petty Cash Expense	0.00
74.00	Telephone, Printing/Stationary	166.00
30.00	Rent	0.00
0.00	Subscriptions	0.00
<u>3249.24</u>	Total Expenses	<u>4934.22</u>
<u>10520.23</u>	Surplus/(Deficiency) for year	<u>9987.42</u>

TRADING STATEMENT

For Year Ended 28 February 1993

6936.47	Sales	0.00	
0.00	Sales of Plants	<u>11749.35</u>	
6936.47	Total Sales		11749.35
LESS COST OF GOODS SOLD			
0.00	Opening Inventory	0.00	
160.86	Purchases	0.00	
2227.72	Other Nursery Costs	<u>4524.99</u>	
2388.58		4524.99	
0.00	Closing Inventory	<u>0.00</u>	
(2388.58)	Cost of Goods Sold		(4524.99)
4547.89	Gross Profit/(Loss)		<u>7224.36</u>

EXCURSION PROGRAMME MAY - JULY 1993

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. Train timetable on week-days might be altered. Walks starting times and meeting places will remain as stated.

MAY

Sunday 2nd May: Top of Murphy's Glen to Ingar Picnic Ground.
(Road walk) Meet Woodford Station carpark,
Railway Parade, 8.30am. Contact Bob Jones 588361

Sat. 15th May: North Lawson area. Meet Lawson Bowling Club carpark
9.30am. Contact Ron Wheeler 571526

Thurs. 20th May: Transit of Venus Walk. Meet Hazelbrook shopping
centre carpark, 10am. Contact Bert Davies 588586

June

Sunday 6th June: Blue Gum Forest. Meet Blackheath Station carpark
8.30am. Contact Val Carloss 878837

Thursday 17th June: Darwins Walk and Rocket Point. Meet south end of
Falls Road (Wentworth Falls Reserve) at 10am.
Contact Dulcie Toseland 841682

Sat. 19th June: Kedumba Pass. Meet Wentworth Falls Station carpark
9am. Contact David Thomas 842121

July

Sun 4th July: Exploration walk. Meet Mt Victoria Station carpark
8.30am. Contact Olive Noble 878342.

Thursday 15 July: Pippa's Pass (Blaxland). Meet Blaxland shopping
area carpark beside Hardware store at 10am. Contact Grace Bayley 591955

Sat. 17th July: Exploration walk. Meet Mt Victoria station carpark
8.30am. Contact John Noble 878342
.....

WALKING WITH MURPHY

A sensible bushwalker will always make notes. 'Which is the easier way?' 'Where might that ridge go?' 'What did we do wrong?' (We hope not to do that again) After reading mine and the notes of other walkers the following distilled wisdom is offered for your consideration and safety. It has all really happened to SOMEONE.

Murphy's Law has been known for many years, from the 12th century statement made by the philosopher Catweazle - 'Nothing works!'
Murphy's Law as applied to bushwalking says 'All roads lead to home, but none of them will take you there.'

1. The shortest way back takes longest.
2. The most used track is the dead-end.
3. The walker who gets lost is the one in the MIDDLE of the party.
4. When found, the lost person did not know he/she was lost.

Thanks to Noel May of North Rocks for this, and there'll be more in our next.

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Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletter

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Membership / Renewal Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Family \$15 per year

Single \$10 " "

Pensioner Family \$10 " "

Single Pensioner \$6 " "

Membership corresponds to the year April 1993 to 31 March 1994 Please enclose
stamped addressed envelope if a receipt is required.