Saves for Tomorrow's People" "Nature Conservation

August General Meeting

Our speaker will be Lee Morgan, Manager, Environmental Management in BMCC's Strategic Planning Group. Lee will be talking about the Integration of Environmental Protection and Land Use Management.

The meeting will be held on Friday 27 August 1999 at the Conservation Hut, Street, Wentworth commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors are very welcome.

Action Against Aisport

Jame James down

An Anti-Badgerys Rally at Penrith on July attracted some 3000 angry residents, many from the Mountains.

Faye Lo Po voiced the Carr Government's rejection of any kind of airport at Badgerys Creek, affirmed that the State Government would not be kicking in billions in infrastructure funding and said that she was prepared to take on the bulldozers.

Bob Debus vowed to do the same and said that the State Government was set to deliver a 'thumbs down' response to the Badgerys EIS

Jackie Kelly, Federal Sport and Tourism Minister, is, it seems, far less confident than she was prior to the last election, of her ability to influence her Government's decision on Badgerys Creek. Jackie was heckled by the crowd when she could only take a swipe at the "Without Government, Government support no airport can be built at Badgerys Creek."

A decision is imminent. There is still time to write letters to the Prime Minister and members of cabinet (a full list of names were in July Hut News), address Parliament House, Canberra 2600. Points raised in the Final EIS which will affect Mountain residents are listed on page 2.

There will be another Protest Rally at 1.30 pm. on Sunday 8 August at the Marconi Club, Bossley Park.

Further action in the form of buses to Canberra has been fore-Mountains residents shadowed. interested please phone Colin Anderson on 4739.4374.

Cohabiting With Wildlife

Cohabiting with our wildlife will be the theme for an informal workshop. Jill Dark, a well known botanist and WIRES rescuer will be the guest speaker and will help us

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST

Council Elections 1999:

With so many candidates standing for the Council elections on September 11 it is important that we know, before we vote, which candidates will support the environment.

A letter and questionnaire is soon to be sent to each candidate. This questionnaire will have two sections. The first, which requires yes/no answers will be published in the Blue Mountains Gazette with the names of all candidates and their answers.

The second section, which has open ended guestions, (such as "What do you think are the five most important things Council should do to protect the Blue Mountains environment?" "What ideas do you have for increasing community involvement in Council's decision making process?" "What is your position on land clearance in the Blue Mountains?") will be reviewed for a press release to be written by the Society.

The entire questionnaire and candidates' answers will be published in the September issue of Hut News.

develop lots of ideas on how to share our backyard with wallabies, possums and lyrebirds, that are notorious for digging up gardens!

Jill will also answer queries, such as, how to stop Kookaburras attacking glass windows and how to create a snake free garden. This workshop is an opportunity to learn of a new way to live with our wildlife.

2-4 pm, 14 August, Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson. Childcare will be available. Any enquiries, phone Meredith 4782.2423 (after hours).

Will be Sozely Missed

Philippa Fincher has resigned as Land-Use Officer for health reasons. Kevin Bell has also resigned as Meetings Secretary for reasons associated with Philippa's resignation.

Philippa and Kevin have given a great deal of time and energy to the work of the Society, and will be sorely missed. Our

thoughts remain with them.



Campaign: Victoria's Central Highlands are home to the world's greatest Mountain Ash forests. The Mountain Ash is the world's tallest flowering plant and habitat for rare and threatened species like the Leadbeater's Possum.

These forests are being clearfelled to meet demand for woodchips by paper companies such as Kimberly-

Clark which uses woodchips from Victoria's Central Highlands to make Kleenex brand tissues.

AVOID Kleenex, Wondersoft, Petal, Chiffon, Sorbent, Scotties, Snowtext, Symphony, Purex, Paseo, Farmland Soft and EarthCare.

USE ALTERNATIVES: The following products are made from 100% post-consumer waste office paper. All are Australian made.

Toilet Paper: Safe, Earthwise (Paper Converting Co); Softex, Elite, Avantiss, Tenderly, Value Pack (Cosco Holdings); Valu Soft (Austissue); Naturale (ABC Tissue Products); Tree Free (Encore Tissue); Nature Soft, Nice and Soft.

Facial Tissues: Softex, Elite, Eco (Cosco Holdings); Ocean Soft (Austissue); Tree Free (Encore Tissue); or use a handkerchief, the best alternative!

Generic brands: These are often, but not always, made from 100% recycled paper. Brands to consider include Black & Gold, Payless, and No Frills.

"Hut News", the newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782. Phone 4757 1872. Fax 4757 1753

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Lucky It Wasn't Any Bigger!

"Lucky There Were No Greenies then!" said an advertisement exhibited at Penrith Markets on July 21, promoting a reunion of workers who helped build Warragamba Dam in the 1950s.

Good point! Warragamba Dam has helped promote wasteful water use by Sydney residents. It caused local of numerous species, extinction especially fish, and the inundation of important natural and Aboriginal cultural It is a key factor in the concentration of supply and treatment installations which led to the undermining of confidence in almost the whole of Sydney's drinking water since 1998. We know now that there were better alternatives.

On the credit side, Warragamba Dam blocked access from Sydney to what is now the Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness. Without Warragamba, the 60s and 70s would have seen pressure for various developments, of the type allowed on sloping land elsewhere, to encroach on the Cox's, Kowmung and Kanangra Creek valleys and the Wild Dog Mountains. These include weed-infested hobby farms for neglectful Sydney professionals, horse-racing studs and No doubt the yuppie fat clinics. developers would have invoked Lady Luck to help them conquer objecting Greenies!

Who Should Uphold Environmental Law?

It's been an exciting tussle in the letters pages of the Byron Shire Echo between EPA Director Neil Shepherd and former EPA employee Adrian 'Gatto' Gattenhof. It was initiated by an apparent major pollution spill into the Brunswick River by a company that soon after went into (don't laugh!) liquidation,

The state-wide issue being discussed is whether the \$80 million annually spent on the Environment Protection Authority should instead be given to selected nongovernment environment organisations and to an upgraded Environmental Defender's Office along with research and investigation powers and facilities that currently rest exclusively with the EPA. Gattenhof argues (in colourful language) that the current systems lets

Membership Enquiries

Contact Ross Coster (Phone - Work) 02 4759.1247 (Phone - Home) 02 4759.1837 (Fax) 02 4759.1095 (Email) haytech@pnc.com.au (Post) PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls environmental offenders off the hook! This is a very important dispute!

Don't Mention Dame Nellie Melba!

Ralph Williams and Dick Harris are in "I'm really retiring from Council this time" mode. In the tearful sentimentality of their farewells, they've found time to mention which of their fellow councillors they didn't like ... Coincidentally these are the same ones who are most often supportive of Blue Mountains Conservation Society's policies.

You may not really notice that they've gone after September 11. Previously when not on Council, Ralph has spent much of his time giving interviews to the Gazette implying that the Council should be sacked and replaced by a State-Government appointed administrator.

Don Morison.

World Heritage Nomination

Most members will know that the World Heritage Nomination has run into trouble in Paris. The outcome from the July 1999 UNESCO meeting will mean that the nomination will not go forward to the December 1999 UNESCO meeting the forum that makes the final decisions about which areas will be added to the World Heritage Register.

During the Paris debate Australian conservation groups faxed the World Heritage Bureau in Paris with strong support for the nomination — a massive display of unity from Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Wilderness Society, NPA, NCC, Australian National Parks Council, ACF, World Wide Fund for Nature, Colong Foundation, Australian Association of Bush Regenerators — and BMCS.

The report prepared by IUCN Union for Nature (International Conservation) expressed concerns about adjoining developments (eg Badgerys Creek and proximity of Blue Mountains townships) and the extent of the inholdings in the nominated area. There were concerns that the area did not comprehensively cover the Eucalyptus varieties.

We have just learned that the cultural heritage aspects of the nomination were not satisfactory to ICOMOS (The International Council for Monuments and Sites) but the details of their concern are not yet known.

Clearly, the Blue Mountains nomination was not helped by the Jabiluka controversy.

Where does this leave the Blue Mountains nomination? Opinion within conservation circles is that there are insurmountable political difficulties involved in preparing a fresh nomination covering Eucalyptus forests in a number of states.

There is still support for the original nomination from both Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

We will be pressing for a comprehensive review of the IUCN and ICOMOS reports and the preparation of a Specifically, we will be response.

lobbying the State Government to address the matter of inholdings - including the acquisition of privately owned lands and the incorporation of lands owned by Sydney Water in the nominated area. We will also be lobbying for the strengthening of Regional Environment Plans, to protect the integrity of the nominated area.

We will continue our opposition to Badgerys Creek — a factor that may prove to be pivotal to the success of the nomination.

Badgerys Ereek: Final EIS

"It should .. be noted that in reducing noise impacts, only impacts in populated areas have been considered. The result is that in some cases, impacts over nonpopulated areas, particularly the Blue Mountains National Park, would increase under these (noise abatement) scenarios. In addition, most management procedures involve 'trading' higher noise exposure for a smaller number of people against lower exposure for a larger number.' (EIS Supplement 8-71)

In other words, the Blue Mountains is western Sydney's equivalent of Botany Bay and, where possible, will be used as a flightpath to avoid the more populated

areas of Western Sydney.

"Modelling undertaken for this supplement predicts that when operating at maximum capacity, the airport would rise to increased concentrations in areas 10 to 50 kilometers to the west of the airport." (Supp 11-24)

Ozone is a key component of smog. It is also a carcinogen and tree killer. An airport at Badgerys Creek would effectively take the Sydney smogzone to

Katoomba.

"Surface water discharge from the airport would be of a better quality than existing run-off, due to the use of procedures to prevent contaminants entering the drainage system and treatment of all surface water in water quality control ponds prior to discharge. This would have beneficial impacts on the .. Hawkesbury-Nepean River System." (EIS Summary p31)

An airport-led recovery of the Hawkesbury-Nepean, no less! We should perhaps use this approach to reclaim the

Murray and Darling ...

"The impacts of aircraft noise on wildlife inhabiting the area of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Nomination are not likely to significant." (EIS Summary p37) Not likely = We have no idea.

Welcome to New Members

B and C Myors, Springwood Karen Roberts, Mount Riverview Ms M Ryder, Hazelbrook Robin Sproule and David Gill, Wentworth Falls Don and Lyn Steven, Coal Point Ms Jan Steven, Leichhardt Diana Levy, Springwood Ian Baird, Katoomba

Macquarie Marshes

October long weekend

A tentative booking has been made for Society members to visit the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve on the October long weekend (3 – 5 October). The marshes are an important habitat for a great diversity of flora and fauna. Extensive reedbeds support many species of birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians and mammals. More than 60 species of waterbirds have been recorded there.

The October long weekend is one of the two weekends per year that the marshes are "open". Field Officer Olivia Bush from the NPWS at Dubbo will be in attendance and there will be walks, talks and slides evenings run by

local discovery rangers

Basic camping will be available at the Quambone Racecourse for a small fee. Board could be available for early birds at the Quambone Hotel for around \$35 per day

limited! Places are Anyone interested should contact Jan Craney on 47 87 1734 as soon as possible.

Looking Back ...

(From Newsletter No 10, September

The Red Breasted Robins

In the Upper Mountains we have three of the five species of red breasted robins.

The Rose Robin lives in the rain forest gullies and is not often seen. The male bird is soft grey with a vivid rose pink breast, a little gem. The female is grey-

brown, faint pink breast.

The Scarlet Robin and the Flame Robin live on the dry open sclerophyll ridges and are familiar birds in parks and gardens. The species could be confused, but the red is different, as the names imply. Also the Scarlet Robin has a black head, back and throat, whereas the back of the Flame Robin is grey-black and the flame colour of the breast continues right up to the chin. The female Flame Robin is a plain greybrown bird. The female Scarlet Robin has a pink wash on the breast.

The Flame Robin is migratory, coming from the low country to the high mountains to breed in the Spring. They are arriving now, pairs taking up breeding territories. They prefer lightly timbered rocky places. The Scarlet Robin takes up similar territories but generally

more heavily timbered.

Breeding Territory Fight
On Thursday August 31 at Minna Ha Ha Falls Reserve, we witnessed a fight over a breeding territory between a pair of each species. What was surprising was that the female Flame Robin attacked the male Scarlet and vice versa. One aerial combat, female S.R. versus male F.R. breast to breast, wings flapping finished with both contestants on the ground. Then the female Scarlet Robin flew to a branch and gave the call usually given by the male!

The whole contest was extraordinary, not only for the female versus opposite male attacks, but also the contending Usually fights for breeding species. territories are between pairs or males, of the same species. *Graham Alcorn* August Busheare Group

South Lawson Park Bushcare Group

South Lawson Park Bushcare Group has been ticking away in South Lawson Park since 1995. They have defined themselves by the consistency and conviction of a core group of people strongly attached to their reserve and very willing to inject some positive change into it. Erst Carmichael has led the group, but she has always been strongly supported by a small group of local residents and BMCC's Bushcare Section.

They have spent most workdays of the last 12 months working on a revegetation project along Waratah St. The area has been weeded, mulched and planted but the Montbretia still keeps coming back! Nonetheless, the group continues to fight

this hardy invader.

The Bushcare Group has warmly accepted the support of TAFE classes which have done a fantastic job at upgrading about 100m of track that crosses the reserve, and also helped out with planting and weeding on the site.

An Urban Runoff Control Program Bush Regeneration contract is currently under way on the reserve. A team of professionals from Total Earth Care has greatly expanded the works begun by the Bushcare Group and their progress has always been a source of excitement.

Well done South Lawson Park Bushcare Group, a fine example of what can be achieved by a dedicated group of

individuals.

(Chris Dewhurst, Bushcare Officer, Blue Mountains City Council.)

The Power of the Poem ...

At Lawson one day, one of the bushwalkers said, "Look, that bird is moving like a treecreeper, but it is walking down the tree." "That's a walking down the tree." "That's a Sitella," I said without hesitation, (even though I couldn't see the bird and had never seen a Sitella), "Graham Alcorn wrote a poem about it."

Out came the bird book to confirm my identification, and out came Graham Alcorn's book of poetry "The Bird Baths of Umbigumbi" for someone to read the poem. We saw a number of Sitellas that They are described as being found "all over Australia, wherever there are

trees". CD.

Balance of Nature

One day a Sitella, going down, Passed a Tree Creeper, going up. And how are the insects, up? And how are the insects, down?' 'The insects up on which I sup Are juicy and divine. The insects down on which I dine Are sweet as honey wine. And so they live in harmony Though they forage the bark of the selfsame tree.

-Graham Alcorn.

Volunteers for Intelife

I am a member of the Conservation Society and a volunteer for InteLife in Wentworth Falls. I am writing to ask other members if they might be interested

Greenhouse Corner

The worst thing we all do every day for the greenhouse effect is heat water!

Water heating for the average Australian household produces 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year. To minimise this impact there are a few things you can do:



Use cold water to wash your clothes. Each wash with cold water can save up to 4 kilograms of greenhouse gas compared to a hot wash.

Buy an energy efficient water heater. Gas water heaters carry energy labels to help you choose an efficient model.

Use less hot water. Every 15 litres of hot water used from an electric water heater generates about a kilogram of greenhouse gas. Take shorter showers: save up to half a kilogram per minute.

Install a AAA-rated water efficient shower rose or flow control washer: save up to a kilogram per 5 minute shower - more than a tonne each year for a family.

Avoid using small amounts of hot water if cold water will do. Each time you run the hot tap, a litre or more of cold water that was previously heated goes down the sink before hot water is delivered. Greenhouse gas has been generated in heating this wasted water.

Reduce heat losses from an electric storage water heater by wrapping the tank with extra insulation; save up to half a tonne of greenhouse gas each year. An insulated outdoor water heater will need to be protected from the weather.

Fix dripping hot taps: save up to 100 kilograms each year per tap.

If the hot water thermostat is adjustable, turn it down to 55°C: save up to 250 kilograms each year.

If the overflow pipe from your hot water service runs continuously, or significantly more than the typical overflow of 10 litres per day, call a plumber and save hundreds of kilograms each year.

Ensure exposed hot water pipes are well insulated, with insulation at least 10mm thick.

When installing a hot water service, position it so that pipes to often-used outlets are as short as possible

Avoid mixer-taps unless they are springloaded to supply cold water. Otherwise you may unintentionally use some hot water each time you turn on the tap.

Buy a Solar hot water heater. I have a friend who runs their Solar hot water year round without using any booster energy, and they live at Wentworth Falls!

Ross Coster, Membership Secretary

in becoming a volunteer at InteLife.

At this time of the year there is a great deal to do in the gardens and in the area for propagation, as well as some other developing an ecologically sustainable environmental project.

Anyone who might be interested in giving a few hours a week or even just a few hours, please contact me on 0413.652.620 at any time and leave your name and contact number, or contact InteLife directly on 4757.2451 and talk to the staff there.

Margery Sherman.

August Bushwalks

On Saturday 21 August, Jim Smith will lead a walk along Bruce's Walk, Bullaburra to Wentworth Falls section.

Bruce's Walk was the longest walking track ever constructed in the Blue Mountains. Opened in 1931, it followed the transmission line which carried

electricity from Lithgow.

The 1931 booklet summed up the 'It leads through a walk as follows: succession of mountain brooks, fern prominent peaks and gullies, commanding extensive panoramic views. Over the whole region is a dense growth of native flowering shrubs which in season, present a wealth of colouring and fill the air with that fragrant charm which is peculiar to the Australian bush.

In World War 2 the track received no

maintenance and was forgotten.

Society member Dick Rushton tried to find the remains of the walk and in 1980 led a party from the Society along his line between Bullaburra and Wentworth Falls. In his notes on how to find parts of the walk, he concluded: 'The main attraction of this walk is the peace and tranquillity of the area, and the knowledge that you will not come across any wanton destruction or man made litter to mar the surrounding bushland.'

Inspired by Dick's work, Jim Smith and Wilf Hilder set about trying to find the segments of track formation that he had not found and in 1986, with ten helpers, cleared the track between Bullaburra and Wentworth Falls.

118 people attended the reopening of the Bullaburra to Wentworth Falls section on 24 May 1986. 80 year old Dick Rushton walked the track. (Bruce's Walk has been listed as having State Heritage Significance in the Blue Mountains

Walking Tracks Heritage Study.)
(Notes are from 'How To See The Blue Mountains' by Jim Smith. There is more information about Bruce's Walk in that book. Details about this and other bushwalks are in 'Dates for Your Diary'.)

Grading of Bushwalks

It is difficult to grade bushwalks in the Blue Mountains where even the easiest walk might have some steep and uneven sections or other unforeseen hazards. Our new grading system is that used by the Springwood Fitness Walkers. We hope it will be helpful.

Bushwalks have been graded:

Easy — Relatively easy grades and good surfaces. Suited to most people.

Medium - Mostly good surfaces, but some rough or steep sections. Suited to people of average fitness.

Medium/Hard - includes rough or steep sections some of which may require

clambering over natural obstacles.

Hard — Strenuous walks involving steep ascents or descents over rougher terrain. Suited to fit and experienced walkers.

If this is your first walk, or you are in any doubt, contact the leader or Bushwalks Convenor Jim Wallace 4784.3305.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
AUGUST	Lucsung					1 Bushwalk
					7 KidsClub	8 Bushwalk
2 LeisWalk					14 Bushwalk	
9 LeisWalk					21 Bushwalk	
16 LeisWalk	17 Bushcare	18 Bushcare			21 MCMeet	
23 LeisWalk		//		27 GenMeet		29Excursion
30 LeisWalk					C738048877 - 10 - 29781	
SEPT					4 Bushwalk	L
6 LeisWalk					11Bushwalk	
13 LeisWalk	N. C	15 Bushcare			18 MCMeet	19Excursion
20 LeisWalk	21 Bushcare			24 GenMeet	25Bushwalk	
27 LeisWalk						

AUGUST

Management Committee, 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre. 21 (Sat) General Meeting, 7.30 pm, at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls. 27 (Fri) Guest speaker Lee Morgan, Manager, Environmental Management in BMCC's Strategic Planning Group, talking about the Integration of Environmental Protection and Land Use Management.

SEPTEMBER

General Meeting, 7.30 pm, at the Conservation Hut. Guest speaker: 24 (Fri) Jeff Angel from the Total Environment Centre.

KIDS' CLUE

11 Sept (Sat) Find out about Animals of the Night.

BUSHCARE (Tools provided — bring morning tea and gloves.)

17 (Tues) Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group. Contact Jessica 4757.2783 for meeting place. (following Tuesday if wet).

Digger Cooper Reserve Bushcare Group. Meet 9 am at the Reserve (GWH, West of Sorenson Bridge). Contact Ross Coster 4759.1247.

BUSHWALKS (Usually day walks — bring lunch and minimum 1 litre water.)

*Please read notes on grading of walks)

01 (Sun) Mount Solitary. Meet Katoomba Railway Station 9.30 am. Contact Warwick Mosman 4757.1354. Grade Hard.

Victory Track. Meet Faulconbridge Railway carpark 9.30. Contact 08 (Sun)

Anne Pemberton 4757.4248. Grade Medium. 14 (Sat)

Empire Pass. Meet Lawson Railway carpark (north side) 9.30. Contact Les Coyne 4757.3327. *Grade Medium/Hard*.

Bruce's Walk — an Historic Walk led by Jim Smith. Meet Bullaburra Station, north side, 9.40 am to meet train. Phone enquiries to Jim 21 (Sat) Wallace 4784.3305. Grade Medium/Hard. Car shuttle required.

Bus Excursion to Long Neck Lagoon. Contact Christine Davies 29 (Sun) 4787.7246 to book your seat (20 seats available). Cost \$6 per person. Easy walking.

SEPTEMBER

Grand Canyon (one of the oldest — and still a treasure). Meet Blackheath commuter car park 9.30. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958. 04 (Sat) Grade Medium. (Steep climb at end of walk.)

Kanimbla Valley Walk. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.30. Contact Jim Wallace 4784.3305. *Grade Easy*. (Drive to valley). Bring lunch 11 (Sat) morning tea supplied.

Bus Excursion to Mount Annan. (Details next month.) 19 (Sun)

Faulconbridge Point. Meet Faulconbridge Railway Station 9.30. Contact Liz Stark 4754.4966. Good time for flowers; excellent view of 25 (Sat) Grose Valley. Grade Easy, but fairly long.

LEISURE WALKS (Usually morning walks — bring a drink and morning tea.) *Slippery and uneven surfaces. Please wear shoes with a good tread. If this is your first Leisure walk with the Society please contact the leader.

Note: Leisure Walks will start at 9 am.)

02 (Mon) Ikara Head. Meet Mt Victoria Station 9 am. Kees Putting 4759.1958.

09 (Mon) Mount Wilson. Meet Mt Vic Station 9 am. BBQ afterwards. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079.

Lost City. Meet Mt. Vic Station 9 am. Contact Marion 4759.2575. 16 (Mon)

Baltzer Lookout. Meet Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre 23 (Mon) (BANC) at 9 am. Contact Gillian Janus 4787.6181.

Walls Cave (steps). Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9 am. Norah Gahnor 4757.4058. 30 (Mon)

SEPTEMBER

Grand Canyon. Meet Blackheath N/hood Centre 9 am, Lee 06 (Mon) Tredennick 4757.4030. (4 hour walk, steep climb. Bring lunch.) Lockley's Pylon. Meet Leura Station carpark 9 am. Contact Kees 13 (Mon)

Putting 4759.1958. Bring Lunch. Rachel's Track. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9 am.

20 (Mon) Contact Mervyn Bird 4787.7959.

Pope's Glen. Meet Blackheath N/hood Centre 9 am. Don Hart 27 (Mon) 4787.6447.