

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 2, September, 1970. Price: 70 cents.

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom,
Advisor in Conservation,
Dept. of Education, N.S.W.

"Conservation is the triumph of a sensible minority over a bewildered mass." -- Leon Perez.

In this Issue: Our Society's Activities--locally and in the wider "Conservation" scene.

Our Patron on "The Myall Lakes National Park Proposal."
Member Nancy Douglass gives her thoughts on "WE the Conservationists, Pollution, and Waste."

Our busy Secretary finds time to contribute some telling stanzas on Pollution of our "Bright Waters".

"Banks' Paradise Lost"--a quotation, and an appeal to

~~SAVE KURNELL, appropriate to this Bi-centenary Year~~ NEXT LETTER.

Contributions are again invited by your Editor--articles, reports, book-reviews, comment, on Conservation matters--; copy to be in the hands of the Editor (Mr. Martin Kaub, 1 Clarence St., Katoomba--'Phone Leura 4--1754) before the first day of month of issue.
Next Deadline: 30 NOVEMBER, 1970.

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OUR SOCIETY.

Meetings: Regular meetings are held on the last Thursday in each month at our Conservation Hut, Valley of the Waters.

In May members greatly enjoyed the pleasant talk by Mr. Mel Williams, Supt. of Blue Mts. National Park, and his very fine photographs of National Parks across North America and of our own B. M. Nat. Park.

On Members' Night in June Mr. Herman Burg showed his slides of Lightning Ridge, and Mr. and Mrs. Astle told of their adventures with Lyre-birds--one male and three females--now frequenting the Faulconbridge garden--with devastating results to many treasured plants, the visitors being often hungry and thirsty. One slide showed a Lyre-bird in the front garden but a few feet from the street.

In July a regrettably small gathering had the benefit of Our Secretary, Miss Isobel Bowden's extensive knowledge of our native flora and her illustrative slides. Many who were unavoidably absent owing to illness, lack of transport in the winter weather, or attendance at Seminars, hope for a "repeat" from Miss Bowden.

When the advertised guest-speaker for August did not attend, Graham Alcorn kindly spoke on "Honey-eaters on the Ridges". Once again, an important Conservation meeting in Sydney on the same night drew some of our members as the Society's delegates.

We hope Mrs. Thistle Y. Stead will be able to address us in September.

Please keep in mind: the OCTOBER meeting will be in St. Hilda's Hall, Katoomba and on Friday, 30th, 8 p.m. Do make a special effort to come and bring your friends to hear Dr. D.F. McMichael, Director, Nat. Parks & Wildlife Service, N.S.W.

Outings: (Inquiries: Miss N. Dillon, Convenor, 'phone: Wentworth Falls 293, welcomes new participants.) An outing to Woodford was enjoyed, but the track to the Falls was found to have been destroyed by bull-dozing (Landscape Pollution!). After a dirty and rough walk the picnic area was reached. The July outing was cancelled owing to illness among members and friends.

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OUR SOCIETY (contd.)Outings (contd.):

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Exhibits: Fish have been included in the Hut Display. The specimens being the gift of Mr. Breach, who also added to our collection of Timber with further samples of local species. Dr. and Mrs. Dark arranged their transportation. Mr. and Mrs. Howlett donated birds' eggs and shells set up in three showcases. Our thanks to all these friends and members for their interest and generosity.

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Newly arrived: "Top End"--The Northern Territory Wildlife. "Botanic Gardens Canberra".
(both Dept. of Interior publications.)
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-- Address by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh;
and addresses by Mr. Piess and Mr. Downes.
(Of this publication, Member Nancy Douglass writes: "Will you ask Members to take time to read these addresses--in wisdom, informativeness, and cogency they are very useful to conservationists in clarifying thought and providing facts?" I do, indeed, commend them.
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Milo Dunphy: "The Colong-Boyd Story."
Especially: Allan A. Strom: "Comments on the Myall Lakes Proposal".
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OUR SOCIETY (contd.)Members' Activities in Conservation--Local and Afar:

In Local Schools:
Twenty-two schools on the Higher Mountains were provided with the new Colour Posters of the Nat. Parks and Wildlife Service, and with a selection of Conservation pamphlets. Martin Kaub, assisted by five keen youngsters of St. Canice's, gave a talk to the assembled pupils of their school, introducing Conservation Week.

The Katoomba Business and Professional Women's Club was addressed last month by Miss Isobel Bowden on Conservation.

With great pleasure we report the appointment of one of our members, Graham Alcorn, as "Bossman" of the Rangers, Katoomba/Leura Parks and Reserves. It is highly satisfactory that such a job is in the hands of a convinced and active Nature Conservationist, knowledgeable as to the native fauna and flora, and all the ecology of our bushland. We look forward to a contribution: "Walkabout with Graham" in further issues.

In the Local Press: In Conservation Week The Society's Committee contributed a letter to the local Press on Pollution of Our Environment--referring in general to its many forms, and, in particular, calling upon citizens of our Blue Mountains to stop using the "hard"--non-bio-degradable--detergents, in home and business, which are contributing largely to pollution of the streams. This letter was printed fully and given excellent display, in two Blue Mountains weeklies. This editorial courtesy is appreciated.

(It is a sad fact that so long ago as 1965 the Blue Mts. City Council sought to get action on this matter through legislative action by the State Government, but both its original recommendation and its second attempt in '67 were passed from one "body" to another, "getting nowhere".)

As the Press Cuttings will show, some of our Blue Mts. conservationists have thoughtful, and forceful, contributions to the local Press: Miss Bowden in letters and Mr. James Anderson, in rhyme, questioned the desirability of "controlled Burn" procedures; Mrs. Kaub and Mr. Michael Dark opposed the destruction and alienation of the Boyd Plateau.

Seminars, "Sit-In", Sanctuary: Betty and Martin Kaub attended the Seminar at the A.N.U., Canberra, on "Processes and Problems of Seeking Conservation", returning well aware that words have different meanings to different people.

Our Society's representatives at the "Fire Sit-in" at the Museum were Miss Bowden, and Messrs. Astle, King, and Smith. No clarification emerged on the subject of burning to produce specific ecological units. Opinion on the value of prescribed fire techniques varied as usual.

R. Douglass and M. Kaub "stood-in" for Mel Fackender, Ranger of Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, whilst the latter was in hospital. (The Sanctuary "did not look worse when they left"--R.D.) A request by some visitors "to see the Lions" could not be met, and Allan Strom was not at hand!

Symposium: Conservation Week symposium "Crisis -- Pollution 1970", at Sydney University was attended by Mr. R. Douglass, representing this Society. He brought back tape-recordings and transcripts. Prof. Birch's address began: "There is something very wrong about the way we are living on the surface of the earth. Within a few decades the earth has been despoiled on a scale unprecedented in the entire history of human inhabitation of this planet."

With Miss Bowden and Mrs. Douglass, R.D. also represented our Society at the Public Meeting convened by The Sydney Harbour--Parramatta River Anti-Pollution Committee (representing 16 Riverside and Harbourside Councils.) A strong 5-point Resolution for transmission to Government was endorsed. The film "The Shadow of Progress", British Petroleum's contribution to European Conservation Year, 1970, was shown--an appalling pictorial confirmation of Prof. Birch's statement. Organizations are invited to borrow this film.

The following transcript was kindly lent to your Editor to use in our Newsletter. It comprises the second half of an extensive address by our Patron, Allen A. Strom to a Seminar on Conservation at the Australian National University, Canberra. We should like, in a future Newsletter, to give you a resumé of Mr. Strom's thesis: "The Value of Natural Environment".

THE MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL.

General: Reserves of Naturalness on the N.S.W. Coastline.

The preservation of natural environment as a resource for the use of man has unfortunately waited almost to recent times for recognition. This is understandable in a land like Australia where resources appear to be vast and naturalness inexhaustible. It was not until some research was undertaken that it became evident: the situation was desperate.

Almost at the same time, man's capacity to exploit, to get about rapidly and to find more time for leisure, were accomplished facts. Management of the seaboard and the fringing waterways in the interest of top quality reserves of naturalness, received scant attention in this State prior to 1950, particularly north of Newcastle.

Shortly after its establishment in 1949 the erstwhile Fauna Protection Panel decided to fashion its selection of areas for nature reserves upon a sampling of differing kinds of natural environment. One such environment considered was the complex vegetational coverage on the sand ridges of the coast. The area suggested as the first sampling of coastal sand ridge environment was the Myall Lakes system. The proposal never got off the ground, firstly, because the Department of Lands said: its officers were too busy to consider the proposal, and, secondly, because the Forestry Commission later entered the field, seeking to secure the land from Treachery Headland to the Big Gibber for a State Forest.

Aware of the diversity of land forms and plant and animal communities existing on the beach-sands strands of the North Coast, and aware of the pressure of time against securing a sampling of the few remaining areas of Crown Lands for the preservation of natural environments for human enjoyment of naturalness, the Fauna Panel and the National Parks Association of N.S.W. have, within the last fifteen years, surveyed the coastline and recommended the establishment of some ten National Parks and Nature Reserves. All were substantially over Crown Lands and in total length about one-tenth of the coastline would be involved--mostly on sand-dune formation. This selection, it was believed, would provide the minimum requirements in samplings of environmental types, and in sites for low-density recreation. Any additions to this system of parks and reserves would serve to consolidate the minimum proposals.

It is well-known that none of the ten parks and reserves has been dedicated to this time. Conflicts have arisen with beach-sands mining, proposals to develop beach frontages for uses which nullify pristine condition, development of agricultural pursuits on so-called wallum country and similar activities.

The whole purpose in selecting ten sites was to define the minimal limits acceptable to those prepared to foster the needs of environmental conservation and in terms of the principles stated earlier in a former paper it is emphasised that conflicting usages within the defined areas are not acceptable. The forms of exploitation beyond the defined areas were not the immediate concern of the proposals. This, it was felt, would be a reasonable compromise for the guidance of administration and resource-use interests.

The remainder of the story is now public property. Beach-sands mining interests would not accept such a compromise and subsequently used their influence to secure approval to expand mining procedures, not only into specially selected sites, but ones nominated by reputable authority to be of unique value.

This paper does not accept that beach-sands mining is compatible with management of natural environment on the beach strands of the North Coast; it does not question the ability of man to stabilise sand dunes or mined sands, but it does reject

THE MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL (contd.)

such stabilisation as a substitute for the maintenance of naturalness.

Conclusion: Little more needs to be said to justify the Myall Lakes National Park proposal from the standpoints of purposes, principles and the evolution of a scheme on one of the sites on the North Coast proposed for reserves of naturalness. The Myall Lakes proposal, in essence, is at least twenty years old.

The value of the proposal put forward by the Myall Lakes Committee rests on its completeness, in that it makes maximum use of all the natural values within the region and it seeks to manage these natural values unaltered for all time. That the natural values are present in great diversity and, therefore, available for all the contributions which a national park can make towards recreation, science, and education, the publication of the Myall Lakes Committee makes quite clear and is probably not denied on any front.

The position is that the best site of all those selected for reserves of naturalness on the North Coast has now been planned for the culmination of its purpose. In order that its precious values may remain available as a resource for human benefit, my understanding of present boundaries of human knowledge and my observation of the administration of areas of natural systems convinces me that the management of the Myall Lakes National Park as proposed should countenance no multiple land usage if the existent naturalness is to survive. If survival of naturalness is the aim of this paper, then the determination of our attitude must be clear.

COOLOOLA SAVED? -- Rejoicing, with a Proviso!

Members who signed postcards to the Premier of Queensland protesting against the mining of the Cooloola Sandmass will have rejoiced to learn (Press, 31.8.70) that a majority of Members of the Joint Government Parties, in secret ballot, voted against the recommendation of the Minister for Mines that mining leases be granted. The Press (S.M. Herald's report seen) stated that it was understood that the Government would now proceed to dedicate this area as a National Park. The "proviso" to our rejoicing: provided that the area is secured by dedication against any kind of exploitation--commercial, or over-use (which is abuse) of the delicate ecological environment for recreation.

This vote encourages us to throw our weight, individually and corporately, behind such campaigns as "Cooloola", "Barrier Reef", "Myall Lakes", "Colong", and "Boyd Plateau". It is an argument we can advance to those who say: "But what's the use of my writing to Members of Parliament ...". And it reminds us that "Australia is One" not "Seven". What is saved for Queensland is saved for all.

The Cooloola outcome should also encourage our Society to continue its corporate membership of the Australian Conservation Foundation. When the ACF Director and Assistant Director gave evidence on Cooloola in the Mining Warden's Court, Gympie, they were representing us. Similarly, when the ACF secured Commonwealth provision of legal representation of the conservation groups before the Barrier Reef Royal Commission. And the ACF is lending its weight to N.S.W. conservationists' campaigns for "Colong", "The Boyd", "Myall Lakes".

But the ACF needs the financial support of individual members, many more, for its research, its publications, and to strengthen its representations to Governments. See ACF LITERATURE at the Hut.

Any of the following ACF Members will be happy to tell of ACF Aims, provide an Application for Membership, show you ACF publications: Mr. A.A. Strom, Dept. of Education, Sydney; Katoomba: Dr. E.P. Dark, Miss M.M. Esson (Kat. High School); Mr. and Mrs. M. Kaub; Leura: Mrs. N. Douglass (5A East View Av.); Lawson: Mr. N. Drielsma; Hazelbrook: Mrs. H. Hoffman, Mrs. S.P. Ratte; Faulconbridge: Mr. F.R. Astle, Miss M.M. Esson (home); Springwood: Miss J.M. Baldwin, Mr. D.G. Perrin; Blaxland: Mr. A.R. Davies (20 Glenell Rd.); Glenbrook: Mr. S.M. Dark. (Except those given, addresses in Tele. Directory.) Address of the ACF: 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, Vic., 3052.

--N.M.D.

 /..Editorial: ..

Editorial: TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE BOYD PLATEAU.

The "Colong Committee this month reports: "logging is taking place NOW preparatory to the bulldozers moving in for the full clearing operation (that is, destruction of native forest to be replaced with Radiata pines,--Ed.) which is expected to begin in November 1970. Only the unremitting attention and persistence of every N.S.W. conservationist during the next two months can save the Boyd Plateau."

Our Society subscribes to the "Colong Committee", National Parks Association of N.S.W., Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia, and Australian Conservation Foundation, all active to "Save the Boyd Plateau". However, to win they need to be backed by a great many electors making their wishes known to the Government. Even at this eleventh hour a great wave of protest could stop the felling of the native forest on the Plateau and save it for incorporation in Kanangra-Boyd National Park. An avalanche of letters falling upon Parliament House is called for.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr. J. Beale, last March told the Colong Committee deputation that the decision to clear the Boyd of native forest and plant pines had been made by State Cabinet and that it was his job to implement that decision. In view of this statement and of the adamant stand which Mr. Beale and the Minister for Lands, Mr. Lewis, have taken up despite all representations (from Members of Parliament, conservation and other citizen organizations, and individuals) our letters now need to be addressed to the Premier, Mr. Askin, as Leader of the Government and Convenor of the Cabinet.

Reader, will you write at once to the Premier strongly urging that the Forestry' Commission's planned planting of the Boyd Plateau with pines be immediately abandoned, and the whole area, with its native vegetation, be incorporated in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park without delay?

For your information we quote the relevant figures as to acres, supplied in a communication from the Minister for Conservation himself:- The Boyd Plateau has an area of about 33,500 acres. The Forestry Commission's original tenure on the Plateau, granted in 1921, was over 9,774 acres only. The area now under the Commission, since Gazettal of 30.1.70, is 24,190 acres.

From these figures it is seen that only 9,310 acres of the Plateau, considerably less than one-third of it, remains to the National Park and in its native state all the rest (except a small strip of "buffer zone") has been passed to the Commission for pine plantation.

As indicated to the Government by many who know the region (including the Member for Blue Mountains, speaking in Parliament), there are alternative lands--some already alienated and disturbed--available for pine plantations, but for this specific area, the Plateau, as an integral part of the National Park there is no possible substitute.

AND NOW THE FISH RIVER?

"Pollution", "antipollution". Every day now the words are in our ears. The reality of pollution is constantly before our eyes--and within our ears, our noses, too! "Atmospheric pollution", "Landscape Pollution", "Soil pollution", "river pollution". Pollution from Noise, Minerals, Detergents, from Thermal Systems; from Sewage Out-fall, and Nuclear Fall-out. ^{from Thermal} Where do we start? We expect to have the Final Report of the Senate Select Committee on Water Pollution soon available to our members.

Is another form of Water Pollution threatening us, in this region? The March/May issue of the Forestry Commission's official journal, "Forest and Timber" the establishing of a Pulp and Paper plant at Oberon is foreshadowed. This industry requires huge amounts of water, releasing vast quantities of highly pollutive, foul-smelling effluent. At Oberon, from where would the water be drawn? Into what water-course would the effluent (treated, or not) be discharged? The Fish River Supply is contracted for as Town's Water. Already it is serving the eastern areas in City of Blue Mountains. With increased population on the Upper Blue Mountains it will be needed there. Below the Dam at Oberon the streams /

Editorial: (contd.) AND NOW THE FISH RIVER?.

serve farms and are stocked with trout. In all, hardly an appropriate area for siting a pulp and paper plant.

Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. is on the coast, right at the beach, at Burnie. Australian Newsprint Mills, at Boyer, on the Derwent, is up-river from Hobart; and, we think (we are open to correction on the point) that Australian Paper Mills have a plant on the Yarra, up-river from Melbourne. However, the people of Hobart and Melbourne do not draw their household water from their respective famous Rivers.

Not only in the Journal was the possibility of such a plant at Oberon mentioned, but also in the communication from the Minister on the Boyd Plateau (referred to above) appears the following: "For greatest economy, plantation areas need to be concentrated into certain zones, where very large volumes of timber (in excess of 250 million super. feet a year) can be supplied to large processing plants. (This is about the minimum requirement for an economically viable kraft pulp plant.) This in turn means that an area of at least 100,000 acres, and preferably much more, should be available within about 40 miles radius of the processing complex. Oberon is one centre where such a reserve of raw material is being created,".

The experience gained in the "Colong" and "Boyd" cases we are forewarned not to let undesirable exploitation of a resource or an environment proceed to a stage where either a commercial undertaking or a Crown Agency is "dug in". So we must seek all possible information forthwith. Members will find an informative chapter on pulp and paper-making in Australia in "Forests of Australia" by Alexander Rule (publ. 1967). Let us inform ourselves and see whether "Action is Required" so that it will not be a case of the proverbial "too little, too late". (Please convey to the Editor any facts known to you about "the Big Stink" that spoiled the district of Bomaderry when the Shoalhaven plant was set up.)

MOUNT HAY'S NATURALNESS ENDANGERED?

Report has reached us of a fire-trail's being planned from Mount Hay to Mount Whitton (south of the Grose River). Dr. McMichael has been asked for further information.

CASUALTY IN SNOW: Early in August the nest of a Brown Thornbill was discovered in course of construction--a beautiful little domed nest with side entrance--suspended among leaves of a broad-leaved Geebung, about 18 ins. above ground. By the end of August the nest held 3 tiny eggs. On later inspection the small bill and shining eyes of a sitting parent bird were seen through the entrance. By end of first week of September the eggs were stone-cold, the nest deserted. In that week a foot of snow had fallen which would certainly have buried the nest. Two more nests of this species have since been discovered nearby.

Miss Bowden and Mrs. Douglass each relinquished allotted space in this issue. Their contributions will appear next time. They wished to afford space to the urgent Boyd and Oberon matters--and a wee bit for the little birds in the snowstorm. However, in order that 3 months' collections will not be missed, from Mrs. Douglass's article on "Environment and Waste" we wish to tell Members and their friends Mr. G. Sadler, O/C, Katoomba Wing, Blue Mts. Squadron, Australian Air League informs us that his organization are collecting for sale to depots and eventual re-cycling, Milk and Cream Bottle Tops, "All-Aluminium" drink-cans, Drink-can pull-rings, any kind of scrap aluminium. Bottle-tops, rings, being very light, may be handed in to Mr. Sadler, C/o Drawing Office, Blue Mts. City Council Chambers. Cartons of scrap, also of empty bottles, may be left any time at his residence: 44 Clissold St., Katoomba. If you have no transport for your collections, or any enquiries, telephone Mr. Sadler, (at week-end or evening) and he will be pleased to help. Besides aiding the League, such collections help in tidying up our environment and towards re-use of non-renewable resources. Will you help?

Our thanks for duplicating our Newsletters, free of charge, go to Mr. Wolthers and Mr. Egan, June issue, and Miss Mathews, this issue.

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in July 2020 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

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Twenty two schools on the Higher Mountains were provided with the new Colour Posters of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and with a selection of Conservation pamphlets. Martin Kaub, assisted by five keen youngsters of St Canice's, gave a talk to the assembled pupils of their school, introducing Conservation Week.

The Katoomba Business and Professional Women's Club was addressed last month by Miss Isobel Bowden on Conservation.

With great pleasure we report the appointment of one of our members, Graham Alcorn, as "Bossman" of the Rangers, Katoomba/Leura Parks and Reserves. It is highly satisfactory that such a job is in the hands of a convinced and active Nature Conservationist, knowledgeable as to the native fauna and flora, and the ecology of our bushland. We look forward to a contribution: "Walkabout with Graham" in further issues.

In the Local Press:

In Conservation Week The Society's Committee contributed a letter to the local Press on Pollution of Our Environment, referring in general to its many forms, and in particular, calling upon citizens of the Blue Mountains to stop using the hard non-bio-degradable detergents, in home and business, which are contributing largely to pollution of the streams. This letter was printed fully and given excellent display, in two Blue Mountains weeklies. This editorial courtesy is appreciated.

(It is a sad fact that so long ago as 1965 the Blue Mountains City Council sought to get action on this matter through legislative action by the State Government, but both its original recommendation and its second attempt in 1967 were passed from one "body" to another, "getting nowhere".)

As the Press Cuttings will show, some of the Blue Mountains conservationists have thoughtful, and forceful, contributions to the local Press: Miss Bowden in letters and Mr James Anderson, in rhyme, questioned the desirability of "controlled burn" procedure: Mrs Kaub and Mr Michael Dark opposed the destruction and alienation of the Boyd Plateau.

Seminars "Sit-In" Sanctuary:

Betty and Martin Kaub attended the Seminar at the A.N.U. Canberra on "Processes and Problems of Seeking Conservation", returning well aware that words have different meanings to different people.

Our Society's representatives at the "Fire Sit-in" at the Museum were Miss Bowden and Messrs Astle, King and Smith. No clarification emerged on the subject of burning to produce specific ecological units. Opinion on the value of prescribed fire techniques varied as usual.

R Douglass and M Kaub "stood in" for Mel Fackender, Ranger of Wirrimbirra Sanctuary, whilst the latter was in hospital. (The Sanctuary "did not look worse when they left" RD) A request by some visitors "to see the Lions" could not be met, and Allan Strom was not at hand!

Symposium:

Conservation Week symposium "Crisis –Pollution 1970", at Sydney University was attended by Mr R Douglass, representing this Society. He brought back tape recordings and transcripts. Prof Birch's address began: "There is something very wrong about the way we are living on the surface of the earth. Within a few decades the earth has been despoiled on a scale unprecedented in the entire history of human inhabitation of this planet."

With Miss Bowden and Mrs Douglass, RD also represented our Society at the Public Meeting convened by The Sydney Harbour Parramatta River Anti-Pollution Committee (representing 16 Riverside and Harbourside Councils.) A strong 5 point Resolution for transmission to Government was endorsed. The film "The Shadow of Progress", British Petroleum's contribution to European Conservation Year 1970, was shown, an appalling pictorial confirmation of Prof Birch's statement. Organizations are invited to borrow this film.

The following transcript was kindly lent to your Editor to use in our Newsletter. It comprises the second half of an extensive address by our Patron Allen A Strom to a Seminar on Conservation at the Australian National University Canberra. We should like, in a future Newsletter, to give you a resume of Mr Strom's thesis: "The Value of Natural Environment".

THE MYALL LAKES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL.

General: Reserves of Naturalness on the NSW Coastline.

The preservation of natural environment as a resource for the use of man has unfortunately waited almost to recent time for recognition. This is understandable in a land like Australia where resources appear to be vast and naturalness inexhaustible. It was not until some research was undertaken that it became evident: the situation was desperate.

Almost at the same time, man's capacity to exploit, to get about rapidly and to find more time for leisure, were accomplished facts. Management of the seaboard and the fringing waterways in the interest of top quality reserves of naturalness, received scant attention in this State prior to 1950, particularly north of Newcastle.

Shortly after its establishment in 1949 the erstwhile Fauna Protection Panel decided to fashion its selection of areas for nature reserves upon a sampling of differing kinds of natural environment. One such environment considered was the complex vegetational coverage on the sand ridges of the coast. The area suggested as the first sampling of coastal sand ridge environment was the Myall Lakes system. The proposal never got off the ground, firstly, because the Department of Lands said: its officers were too busy to consider the proposal and secondly, because the Forestry Commission later entered the field, seeking to secure the land from Treachery Headland to the Big Gibber for a State Forest.

Aware of the diversity of land forms and plant and animal communities existing on the beach sands strands of the North Coast, and aware of the pressure of time against securing a sampling of the few remaining areas of Crown Lands for the preservation of natural environments for human enjoyment of naturalness, the Fauna Panel and the National Parks Association of NSW have, within the last fifteen years, surveyed the coastline and recommended the establishment of some ten National

Parks and Nature Reserves. All were substantially over Crown Lands and in total length about one tenth of the coastline would be involved mostly on sand dune formation. This selection, it was believed, would provide the minimum requirements in sampling of environmental types, and in sites for low density recreation. Any additions to this system of parks and reserves would serve to consolidate the minimum proposals.

It is well known that none of the ten parks and reserves has been dedicated to this time. Conflicts have arisen with beach sands mining, proposals to develop beach frontages for uses which nullify pristine conditions, development of agricultural pursuits on so called wallum country and similar activities.

The whole purpose in selecting ten sites was to define the minimal limits acceptable to those prepared to foster the needs of environmental conservation and in terms of the principles stated earlier in a former paper it is emphasised that conflicting usages within the defined areas are not acceptable. The forms of exploitation beyond the defined areas were not the immediate concern of the proposals. This, it was felt, would be a reasonable compromise for the guidance of administration and resource use interests.

The remainder of the story is now public property. Beach sands mining interests would not accept such a compromise and subsequently used their influence to secure approval to expand mining procedures, not only into specially selected sites, but ones nominated by reputable authority to be of unique value.

This paper does not accept that beach sands mining is compatible with management of natural environment on the beach strands of the North Coast; it does not question the ability of man to stabilise sand dunes or mined sands, but it does reject such stabilisation as a substitute for the maintenance of naturalness.

Conclusion: Little more needs to be said to justify the Myall Lakes National Park proposal from the standpoints of purposes, principles and the evolution of a scheme on one of the sites on the North Coast proposed for reserves of naturalness. The Myall Lakes proposal, in essence, is at least twenty years old.

The value of the proposal put forward by the Myall Lakes Committee rests on its completeness, in that it makes maximum use of all the natural values within the region and it seeks to manage these natural values unaltered for all time. That the natural values are present in great diversity and, therefore available for all the contributions which a National Park can make towards recreation, science, and education, the publication of the Myall Lakes Committee makes quite clear and is probably not denied on any front.

The position is that the best site of all those selected for reserves of naturalness on the North Coast has now been planned for the culmination of its purpose. In order that its precious values may remain available as a resource for human benefit, my understanding of present boundaries of human knowledge and my observation of the administration of areas of natural systems convinces me that the management of the Myall Lakes National Park as proposed should countenance no multiple land usage if the existence of naturalness is to survive. If survival of naturalness is the aim of this paper, then the determination of our attitude must be clear.

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COOLOOLA SAVED? ---Rejoicing with a Proviso!

Members who signed postcards to the Premier of Queensland protesting against the mining of the Cooloola Sandmass will have rejoiced to learn (Press, 31.8.70) that a majority of Members of the Joint Government Parties, in secret ballot, voted against the recommendation of the Minister for Mines that mining leases be granted. The Press (Sydney Morning Herald's report seen) stated that it was understood that the government would now proceed to dedicate this area as a National Park. The "proviso" to our rejoicing: provided that the area is secured by dedication against any kind of exploitation commercial, or over use (which is abuse) of the delicate ecological environment for recreation.

This vote encourages us to throw our weight, individually and corporately, behind such campaigns as "Cooloola", "Barrier Reef", "Myall Lakes", "Colong" and "Boyd Plateau". It is an argument we can advance to those who say: "But what's the use of my writing to Members of Parliament.....". And it reminds us that "Australia is One" not "Seven". What is saved for Queensland is saved for all.

The Cooloola outcome should also encourage our Society to continue its corporate membership of the Australian Conservation Foundation. When the ACF Director and Assistant Director gave evidence on Cooloola in the Mining Warden's Court, Gympie, they were representing us. Similarly, when the ACF secured Commonwealth provision of legal representation of the conservation groups before the Barrier Reef Royal Commission. And the ACF is lending its weight to NSW conservationists campaigns for "Colong", "The Boyd", "Myall Lakes".

But the ACF needs the financial support of individual members, many more, for its research, its publications, and to strengthen its representations to Governments. See ACF LITERATURE at the Hut.

Any of the following ACF Members will be happy to tell of ACF Aims, provide an Application for Membership, show you ACF publications: Mr A A Strom, Department of Education Sydney: Katoomba: Dr E P Dark, Miss M M Esson (Katoomba High School); Mr and Mrs M Kaub: Leura: Mrs N Douglass (5A East View Av); Lawson: Mr N Drielsma: Hazelbrook: Mrs H Hoffman, Mrs S P Ratte: Faulconbridge: Mr F R Astle, Miss M M Esson (home); Springwood: Miss J M Baldwin, Mr D G Perrin: Blaxland: Mr A R Davies (20 Glenell Rd); Glenbrook: Mr B M Dark. (Except those given, addresses in Telephone Directory.) Address of the ACF: 191 Royal Parade Parkville Victoria 3052.

Editorial: TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR THE BOYD PLATEAU.

The Colong Committee this month reports: "logging is taking place NOW preparatory to the bulldozers moving in for the full clearing operation (that is, destruction of native forest to be replaced with Radiata Pines) which is expected to begin in November 1970. Only the unrelenting attention and persistence of every NSW conservationist during the next two months can save the Boyd Plateau."

Our Society subscribes to the "Colong Committee", National Parks Association of NSW, Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia, and Australian Conservation Foundation, all active to "Save the Boyd Plateau". However, to win they need to be backed by a great many electors making their wishes known to the Government. Even at this eleventh hour a great wave of protest could stop the

felling of the native forest on the Plateau and save it for incorporation in Kanangra-Boyd National Park. An avalanche of letters falling upon Parliament House is called for.

The Minister for Conservation, Mr J Beale, last March told the Colong Committee deputation that the decision to clear the Boyd of native forest and plant pines had been made by the State Cabinet and that it was his job to implement that decision. In view of this statement and of the adamant stand which Mr Beale and the Minister for Lands, Mr Lewis, have taken up despite all representations (from Members of Parliament, conservation and other citizen organisations, and individuals) our letters now need to be addressed to the Premier Mr Askin, as Leader of the Government and Convenor of the Cabinet.

Reader, will you write at once to the Premier strongly urging that the Forestry Commission's planned planting of the Boyd Plateau with pines be immediately abandoned, and the whole area, with its native vegetation, be incorporated in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park without delay?

For your information we quote the relevant figures as to acreages, supplied in a communication from the Minister for Conservation himself:- The Boyd Plateau has an area of about 33,500 acres. The Forestry Commission's original tenure on the Plateau, granted in 1921, was over 9,774 acres only. The area now under the Commission, since Gazettal of 30.1.70 is 24,190 acres.

From these figures it is seen that only 9,310 acres of the Plateau, considerably less than one third of it, remains to the National Park and in its native state all the rest (except a small strip of "buffer zone") has been passed to the Commission for pine plantation.

As indicated to the Government by many who know the region (including the Member for Blue Mountains, speaking in Parliament), there are alternative lands, some already alienated and disturbed, available for pine plantations, but for this specific area, the Plateau, as an integral part of the National Park there is no possible substitute.

AND NOW THE FISH RIVER?

"Pollution", "antipollution". Every day now the words are in our ears. The reality of pollution is constantly before our eyes, and within our ears, our noses, too! "Atmospheric pollution", "Landscape Pollution", "Soil Pollution", "River Pollution". Pollution from Noise, Minerals, Detergents, from Thermal Systems; from Sewage Out Fall, and Nuclear Fall Out. Where do we start? We expect to have the Final Report of the Senate Select Committee on Water Pollution soon available to our members.

Is another form of Water Pollution threatening us, in this region? The March/May issue of the Forestry Commission's official journal, "Forest and Timber" the establishing of a Pulp and Paper plant at Oberon is foreshadowed. This industry requires huge amounts of water, releasing vast quantities of highly pollutive, foul smelling effluent. At Oberon, from where would the water be drawn? Into what water course would the effluent (treated or not) be discharged? The Fish River Supply is contracted for as Towns Water. Already it is serving the eastern areas in the City of Blue Mountains. With increased population on the Upper Blue Mountains it will be needed there. Below the Dam at Oberon the streams serve farms and are stocked with trout. In all, hardly an appropriate area for siting a pulp and paper plant.

Associated Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd is on the coast, right at the beach, at Burnie. Australian Newsprint Mills, at Boyer on the Derwent, is up river from Hobart; and, we think (we are open to correction on the point) that Australian Paper Mills have a plant on the Yarra, upriver from Melbourne. However, the people of Hobart and Melbourne do not draw their household water from their respective famous Rivers.

Not only in the Journal was the possibility of such a plant at Oberon mentioned, but also in the communication from the Minister on the Boyd Plateau (referred to above) appears the following: "For greatest economy, plantation areas need to be concentrated into certain zones, where very large volumes of timber (in excess of 250 million super feet a year) can be supplied to large processing plants. (This is about the minimum requirement for an economically viable kraft pulp plant.) This in turn means that an area of at least 100,000 acres, and preferably much more, should be available within about 40 miles radius of the processing complex. Oberon is one centre where such a reserve of raw material is being created,..."

The experience gained in the "Colong" and "Boyd" cases we are forewarned not to let undesirable exploitation of a resource or an environment proceed to a stage where either a commercial undertaking or a Crown Agency is "dug in". So we must seek all possible information forthwith. Members will find an informative chapter on pulp and paper making in Australia in "Forest of Australia" by Alexander Rule (published 1967). Let us inform ourselves and see whether "Action is Required" so that it will not be a case of the proverbial "too little, too late". (Please convey to the Editor any facts known to you about "the Big Stink" that spoiled the district of Bomaderry when Shoalhaven plant was set up.)

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MOUNT HAY'S NATURALNESS ENDANGERED?

Report has reached us of a fire trail being planned from Mount Hay to Mount Whitton (south of the Grose River). Dr McMichael has been asked for further information.

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CASUALTY IN SNOW:

Early in August the nest of a Brown Thornbill was discovered in course of construction—a beautiful little domed nest with side entrance, suspended among leaves of a broad leaved Geebung, about 18 ins above ground. By the end of August the nest held 3 tiny eggs. On later inspection the small bill and shining eyes of a sitting parent bird were seen through the entrance. By end of the first week of September the eggs were stone cold, the nest deserted. In that week a foot of snow had fallen which would certainly have buried the nest. Two more nests of this species have since been discovered nearby.

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Miss Bowden and Mrs Douglass each relinquished allotted space in this issue. Their contributions will appear next time. They wished to afford space to the urgent Boyd and Oberon matters and a wee bit for the little birds in the snowstorm. However, in order that 3 months collections will not be missed, from Mrs Douglass's article on "Environment and Waste" we wish to tell Members and their friends Mr G Sadler, O/C, Katoomba Wing, Blue Mountains Squadron Australian Air League informs us that his organization are collecting for sale to depots and eventual re cycling, Milk and Cream Bottle Tops, "All Aluminium" drink cans, Drink can pull rings, any kind of scrap aluminium. Bottle tops, rings, being very light, may be handed in to Mr Sadler, C/o Drawing Office, Blue Mountains City Council Chambers. Cartons of scrap, also of empty bottles, may be left any time at his residence: 44 Clissold St Katoomba. If you have no transport for your collections, or any enquiries, telephone Mr Sadler, (at weekend or evening) and he will be pleased to help. Besides aiding the League, such collections help in tidying up our environment and towards reuse of non-renewable resources. Will you help?

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Our thanks for duplicating our Newsletters, free of charge, go to Mr Wolthers and Mr Egan, June issue and Miss Mathews, this issue.

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