

Newsletter No. 4, March 1971.

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom,  
Advisor in Conservation,  
Dept. of Education, NSW.

"What we save in this generation is all we will be able to save"  
(Vincent Serverty).

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In this Issue:

Our Society: Meetings; Outings; The Conservation  
Hut; Pamphlets, Petitions.

Activities of Members:

Walkabout with Graham;  
New Nature Flora Reserve;  
Conservation Publicity;  
Youth Action in Conservation.

Blue Mountains Items:

Mining in the Blue Mountains;  
The Scar from Mt. Hay to Mt. Whitton;  
Help "Save Myall Lakes"-action.

Senates Committee on Wildlife Conservation.

Miners Delight.

R. S. V. P.

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Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those  
of the authors and not necessarily those of the Society or its Editor.

Editor: Martin KAUB, 1 Clarecest. KATOOMBA, 2780

(Phone Leura 41754)

Contributions for the next issue are anticipated before May 30 1971.

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OUR SOCIETY.

Meetings: December: The December meeting always is the Christmas-  
barbecue, in- or outside the Hut, depending on  
the weather. It was a great success; about 50  
persons being present for the Carol singing and  
discussion afterwards.

January: The ~~28th~~ arrived blanketed in mist, to hear Mr. &  
Mrs. White. A knowledgeable and interesting address  
was given and colour movies were shown on living  
shells, birds and other natural beauty of out-  
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We hope to hear from Mrs. & Mr. White again.

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Subjects: "The Shadow of Progress" (Pollution);  
"The Biggest Bug" (Litter Control) and  
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Our thanks go both to B.P. and Allen Smith.  
Although a mistake was made in the advertisement  
for these films, it all still worked out alright,  
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April: (29) A Members Night; members wanting to give a talk on  
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or films, please contact the Secretary (50 Flet-  
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venor: Miss N. Dillon, 114 Backhouse St. W.W. Falls,  
Phone: 293. Outings on first Saturday of each month)

In March: The outing is planned to go to Megalong Valley, most likely to Nellies Glen. Assembly: 9.45 South of the Railway Gates at Blackheath.

Further news on Outings:

The Nat. Parks Ass. has planned thirteen outings in the Blue Mountains for the first 6 months of 1971. For our local members we add a list for further details. (Limited stock prevents us from adding a list to every newsletter, however on request the editor can provide particulars to interested persons)

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In the Hut: Store Room: Work on the new Store room-extension has at last commenced. Heavy rain has delayed the work for a considerable time.

Exhibits: Shells were added to our Shell-collection by Mr. & Mrs. Hildebrand. We appreciate the nice gift.

Visitors: The Hut has been open every day during the holidays (except Christmas Day) and on some days a full day was not possible)  
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Library: A welcome back to Danny Monk, our librarian, who will again loan to you our books with a smile. Thanks go to Miss Margaret Pinneger for looking after the books in Danny's absence.

Petitions: As Conservationists we want a better living in a better landscape and no further breakdown. Two Petitions to this effect are awaiting your signature.

- 1/ A request to the Commonwealth Government for protection of the KANGAROOS (by the Kang.Prot.Comm.).
- 2/ A request to the State Government by supporters of the Colong Committee for revoking the Lease 444 for mining limestone in the Colong Caves Reserve; and rejecting the planned bulldozing and planting to Pines of the Boyd Plateau.

If you like to assist with collecting signatures, extra copies can be obtained from M.Kaub, 1 Clarence street, KATOONUA, 2780 or the Colong Comm

New Pamphlets: "Hints to Hikers" by the Search and Rescue Section of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs together with the N.S.W. Police Department; are obtainable at the Conserv.Hut at special request.

Around the Hut:

A dozen native plants have been added to the grounds around the Hut.

Our 530A Committee has been attending to the Creek Crossing on the Nature Trail. The Committee is also investigating the damage to the tracks around the Hut caused by the recent heavy rains.

It would help the Committee if you will report tracks in need of attention to its Secretary: Mr. Leslie Hill, Phone Katoomba 1101.

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Activities of our Members:

WALKABOUT WITH GRAHAM:

# A Lesson from Birds.

The breeding season being over for most birds, they have left their breeding territories and are foraging around in flocks - mixed - old and young birds and very often mixed species.

For instance in a grove of casuarinas near Leura Kiosk on Feb. 26th, the writer saw: Striated Thornbills (several), Spinebills (several), Silver-eyes (several), White browed Scrub Wrens (2), Grey Shrike Thrushes (1), Yellow Robin (1), Rufous Fantail, adult feeding young --- 7 species, very active, chirping and feeding.

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New Nature Flora Reserve:

A 15 acre Native Plant Reserve is planned in the Upper Blue Mountains.

It is refreshing that in the middle of so much scarrying in our area, realistic action is taken to retain some of our National Heritage.

Negotiations are not yet finalised, but we will be pleased to publish soon further details.

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B/ Betty & Martin Kaub were received by the Bl.Mtns. Home Garden Club to give a talk on conservation and show some slides of Kanangra-Boyd Nat.Park. The Garden Club-members are very interested in conservation.

Seminars attended:

Beginning of 1971 saw in Sydney an international scientific congress on Automated Analysis. In the Section "Environmental Sciences" the editor was sitting in minding his professional business. Papers were read by U.S. Pollution Consultants, NSW Dept. of Public Health, NSW Institute of Technology, Dept. of ~~Master~~ Science, Vic. and the Queensland Division of Air Pollution Control. The papers were too technical to abstract in this Letter, but your editor is available for further information for interested readers.

Letters to the Editor:

In local and city papers regularly appear Letters written by our members on conservation matters and Wildlife aspects. These letters are most effective for arousing the public interest. The effectiveness would even be increased if new names would appear under those so valuable contributions.

By the way: Our member Les Hill is eagerly collecting local press-clippings on Conservation to compile into a scarpbook for the Conservation Hut.

Youth Action in Conservation:

Our member, Ranger Graham Alcorn will be very busy in May. 750 Scouts from Lane Cove to Mt.Victoria will come to the Blue Mountains for the C.C.C.-(Cumberland - County-Conservation) Project.

Maintenance and improvements to walks, tracks and parks in Katoomba/Leura area will be their target.

Help "Save Myall Lakes"-action:

This is the heading of a brochure of the Myall Lakes Committee. Purpose: "To provide basic information for citizens who are concerned about the steady disappearing naturalness of the N.S.W. coastal areas, and who wish to make some effort towards saving it."

The Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Socy wishes to make such an effort and it invites everyone to a barbecue on March 27th at 3 P.M. at Euroka, Glenbrook Nat.Park. Entry \$ 1.- per adult; \$ 0.50 per child. Proceeds will go to "National Aid Pty.Ltd", a voluntary body created to buy scenic land for addition to the Myall Lakes Park. Mining leases cover 9000 of the 12000 acres of Crown Land of the proposed Park. Mining-free extensions to the Park can only be achieved by private purchase.

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Mining in the Blue Mtns?

Have the Bl.Mtns been chosen as a mining opportunity? Mining Exploration Licenses No. 246 and 345 have been issued by the Dept. of Mines to CLUTHA DEVELOPMENT Pty.

Ltd (U.S.) to explore for coal. The area covers almost all of the Blue Mtns east of W.W.Falls, excluding the Nat.Parks area.

It is almost certain, that these licenses will be renewed when they expire in 1971, unless action is taken. Under the present and outdated goldrush-mining laws no private property will be safe from intruding miners and no prewarning is required. Referring to the B.M. area the Minister for Mines wrote: "Tenders will be called from time to time for the right to carry out prospecting or drilling operations in the areas which will be designed by my Department".

We still remember that in 1967 1000 acres were taken out of the Blue Mountains Nat.Park at the scenic rim of the Grose Valley for one coalmine; this represents an area of 1.4 miles diameter around the drilled hole!

At least 8 locations have been granted for exploratory drilling:

- 1/ Off the Old Bathurst Road, Woodford;
- 2/ At Davis Avenue, Springwood.
- 3/ .15 miles South of Bodington Hosp. or .55 miles South of the Western H'way at W.W.Falls.
- 4/ West of Mc.Mahons Lookout (inside Catchment area).
- 5/ 2 Miles North of Mt.Harris, straddling the Mc. Mahons Lookout Road.
- 6/ 2 Miles South-east from Qu.Victoria Homes.
- 7/ .5 Mile North of Waratah Trig.station, straddling Mc.Mahons Lookout Road.
- 8/ Garbage Dump, Ridge street Lawson, .9 mile south of the Great Western H'way.

The future looks like: 8 holes in the ground and 8 heaps of coaldust on top!

It means that 8 areas of 1.4 mile dia.will:

absorb the Bodington area, sit on the doorstep of Q.V. Homes, cover part of the Western H'way and marr a considerable part of the scenic Mc.Mahons Lookout Road!!

Will we have the beauty of our area scarred for the benefit of a short term profit of a foreign investor or will we retain our environment for generations to come?

We depend on the wisdom of our aldermen, who are considering the matter.

#### Miners Delight: (From Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle, 1834.)

"The Chilean Government, or rather the old Spanish Law, encourages by every method the searching for mines.

The discoverer may work a mine on any ground by paying five shillings, and before paying this he may even try in the garden of another man for twenty days."

(Contribution by Miss I.K.Bowden)

#### THE FIRETRAIL SCAR FROM MT.HAY to MT.WHITTON.

The Blue Mtns. Conservation Federation requested the Minister for Lands through their local M.P.'s to preserve as a wilderness area that whole area between W.W.Creek-trail and Grose river- east of Mt.Hay, as minor alterations to existing firetrails would suffice.

Answer has now been received that attention will be given to maintain this primitive area, but further planning-details will depend on a Management Plan for the surrounding park of the Nat.Parks & Wildlife Service (This may take years!).

It seems clear that the voice and the power of the small Conservation Societies has had its effect.

There is no room for complacency in our Wildlife Conservation

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

We were fortunate to receive an invitation to attend the first Sydney Public Hearing of this Committee.

A/Vincent Serventy spoke on the Ecological Ombudsman; the Shortage of National Parks and the desirability of Federal Conservation Actions.

B/ Allen Strom presented the case for reservation of Wilderness areas and for Conservation Education. The Wirrimbirra Sanctuary was put up as an example of what could be done and could be further developed with proper assistance. The Committee committed itself to a further inspection of Wirrimbirra Sanctuary.

C/ Milo Dunply, representing the Colong Committee as well as the National Parks Ass., stressed the need for saving Mt. Armour from limestone mining and the Boyd-Plateau from destructive bulldozing and replacing the native forest by a monoculture of Radiata Pines. His evidence was supported by a great amount of facts and written evidence. Two academics supported him with scientific statements.

Further hearings of the Committee will soon be held in Sydney. Suggestions for Wildlife Conservation are still requested and can be submitted to:

The Chairman of the Senate Committee for Wildlife Conservation, Mr. E.M.C. Fox M.P., c/- Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

At the end of 1970 over 500 recommendations have been submitted and over 50 major witnesses have been heard, resulting in over 1200 pages of transcript of proceedings. The Committee proceeded its hearings throughout the Parliamentary recess, travelling many thousands of miles listening to conservation issues put before them. Your editor could assist for invitations to following Sydney hearings.

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R. S. V. P.

It seems incredible that the editor has - as yet - never received a complaint or a remark about this newsletter, and most of all no suggestions for the newsletter.

Be my guest and put your ideas on paper! Constructive criticism should be most welcome!

M.A.K.

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KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

(Take Nature's path and mad opinions leave --Pope)

Dear Member,

Our own Newsletter is coming out now every third month. A yearly subscription - delivered my mail - can be taken out now at costprice: 50cts.

It will be convenient to you to be on the mailinglist, because you donot miss out on the news if you are unable to attend the monthly meeting. It is convenient to the Editor also to have a mailinglist; it cuts out wastage of paper if I know the number.

If we do get a sufficient number of subscribers the Newsletter can become more interesting with colouring and illustrations. Non-members of the Society can subscribe also; if you would like some copies for introduction to your friends, let me know, then I will provide you with extras. Also, if you haven't as yet procured the Dec. '70 issue, please inform me, sothat I can mail it to you.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN KAUB (Editor),  
1 Clarencest.KATOOMBA; 2780;  
(Phone: LEURA: 4-1754)

----- (Please tear off) -----

Application for Annual Subscription:

Please put me on the mailing list for the Newsletter of the  
KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION Society:

NAME ( in Blockletters) . . . . .

ADDRESS ( in full) . . . . .

(Enclosed is \$ 0.50 for yearly subscription)

. . . . . (signature).

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

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Subjects: "The Shadow of Progress" (Pollution);

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Our thanks go to both B P and Allen Smith. Although a mistake was made in the advertisement for these films, it all still worked out all right, judging from the fact that several new members joined the Society at this meeting.

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In March: The outing is planned to go to Megalong Valley, most likely to Nellies Glen. Assembly: 9.45 South of the Railway Gates at Blackheath.

Another Outing by some members on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> was to Glenbrook Reserve, where some of the members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) showed the visitors along the hot trails, noting the growth of many plants and also the commencement of the Visitors Centre was viewed. Thanks to the members of SGAP for receiving us.

Further news on Outings. The National Parks Association has planned thirteen outings in the Blue Mountains for the first 6 months of 1971. For our local members we add a list for further details. (Limited stock prevents us from adding a list to every newsletter, however on request the editor can provide particulars to interested persons)

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We were fortunate to receive an invitation to attend the first Sydney Public Hearing of the Committee.

A/ Vincent Serventy spoke on the Ecological Ombudsman; The Shortage of National Parks and the desirability of Federal Conservation Actions.

B/ Allen Strom presented the case for reservation of Wilderness areas and for Conservation Education. The Wirrimbirra Sanctuary was put as an example of what should be done and could be further developed with proper assistance. The Committee committed itself to a further inspection of Wirrimbirra Sanctuary.

C/ Milo Dunphy, representing the Colong Committee as well as the National Parks Association, stressed the need for saving Mt Armour from limestone mining and the Boyd- Plateau from destructive bulldozing and replacing the native forest by a monoculture of Radiata Pines. His evidence was supported by a great amount of facts and written statements. Two academics supported him with scientific statements.



Further hearings of the Committee will soon be held in Sydney. Suggestions for Wildlife Conservation are still requested and can be submitted to:

The Chairman of the Senate Committee for Wildlife Conservation, Mr E M C Fox MP, c/- Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600.

At the end of the 1970 over 500 recommendations have been submitted and over 50 major witnesses have been heard, resulting in over 1,200 pages of transcript of proceedings. The Committee proceeded its hearings throughout the Parliamentary recess, travelling many thousands of miles listening to conservation issues put before them. Your editor could assist for invitations to following Sydney hearings.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

R.S.V.P.

It seems incredible that the editor has- as yet – never received a complaint or a remark about this newsletter, and most of all no suggestions for the newsletter.

Be my guest and put your ideas on paper! Constructive criticism should be most welcome! M.A.K.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

(Take Nature's path and mad opinions leave –Pope)

Dear Member,

Our own Newsletter is coming out now every third month. A yearly subscription – delivered by mail – can be taken out now at cost price: 50 cts.

It will be convenient to you all to be on the mailing list, because you don't miss out on the news if you are unable to attend the monthly meetings. It is convenient to the Editor also to have a mailing list; it cuts out wastage of paper if I know the number.

If we do get a sufficient number of subscribers the Newsletter can become more interesting with colouring and illustrations. Non-members of the Society can subscribe also; if you would like some copies for introduction to your friends, let me know, that I will provide you with extras. Also, if you haven't as yet procured the December 1970 issue, please inform me, so that I can mail it to you.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN KAUB (Editor)  
1 Clarence St  
Katoomba 2780  
(Phone Leura: 4-1754)

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