



Patron Mr Allen A Strom
Advisor in Conservation
Department of Education N.S.W.

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2nd: Nov: Walk up Mount Banks. Meet Mt. Victoria Station 9.30 a.m.

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Dates to Remember continued... Saturday October 19th--Land Use Planning Symposium. This is being organised by the Conservation Society of N.S.W., and will commence 9.30 am. The cost of \$10-- includes buffet luncheon, afternoon tea, and papers. The list of speakers reads like a Who's Who amongst planning people. The place-- Menzies Common Room, Women's College, University of Sydney. Contact Conservation Society of N.S.W. 195 Macquarie St., Sydney, or Phone 2211769 if you wish to attend.

Unfortunately, this date clashes with A.C.F. Annual Meeting, to be held in Sydney this year.

Saturday October 26th... Nature Conservation Council Annual Dinner. after-dinner Speaker will be Dr. Alan Newsome, who has worked on Kangaroo, Dingo and other wildlife management problems. His subject will be "Wildlife Management--a real responsibility but few facts". Venue--Police Citizens Boys Club, 224 Falcon St., North Sydney. Tickets-- Contact Jim Brown, 12 Fox Valley Rd., Wahroonga. Ph.481236.

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The Club has written asking our members to send in observations of the number of birds seen, the location and the date of observation. If a flock is seen, the direction of flight is also required.

Send information or enquiries to "Rainbow Bird/Heron Surveys", The Bird Observers Club, Box 2167T, G.P.O. Melbourne Vic. 3001, or to the Editor and he will forward it.

As far as we know, Rainbow Birds have not been seen in the Blue Mountains, but White-faced Herons (known to some as Blue Cranes) are common around dams and swamps.

AN INTERESTING BANKSIA

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Editor G Alcorn, P.O.Box 39 Blackheath N.S.W.

Notes From the Journals

A.C.F. Newsletters, July & August issues, include news of a proposed new zoning called "Residential Conservation". It is suggested that it would allow low-density housing on private bushland, while setting strict conditions on its residents, visitors and public authorities to ensure preservation of the native flora and fauna. The idea is being championed by Neil Douglas, landscape artist, and others in Victoris. Could this be part of the answer for the Blue Mountains?

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Kevin Smith and Graham Alcorn are our delegates to the annual conference of the Nature Conservation council to be held in Sydney on October 26th. Our Society has submitted two resolutions.

O U R T O W N P L A N S

by Beryl Cooley,

Convener, K&DWCS Planning Scheme Committee.

Last year a new town plan was exhibited to give citizens an opportunity to comment or appeal to a commissioner. The amended plan would not stand forever, of course, but would be followed, from time to time, by other such statutory plans drawn up by "back room boys". Our Society formed a committee to comment on the plan. A submission was drawn up by this committee, endorsed by a meeting of the Society, and forwarded to the Blue Mountains City Council last January.

Then something unforeseen occurred: a grant from the Australian Government, to be used before 30th May 1974. The BMCC commissioned Urban Systems Corporation to investigate and compile a framework for future planning. The result, the Blue Mts. Strategy Plan, in two volumes, was presented to Council at the end of May. Copies are to be available to the public, but Council has had delays in having them printed.

Citizen participation

The new plan is not a statutory town plan like the previous one, but a strategy -- a planning process. It uses citizen participation. (This means new attitudes and methods of co-operation instead of the actions of confrontation that have been the most effective way of public expression in the past). Whereas previous statutory plans have been drawn up by authorities, such as the State Planning Authority with the BMCC, planning in future is to be a result of co-operation between the authorities and the citizens they serve.

Three stages

The Strategy Plan is divided into three stages. The first stage was commenced by Urban Systems Corporation by preparing the Strategy Plan, and this stage consisted of four steps: (1) An identification of major issues and problems; (2) the postulation of alternative futures for selection by the community later; with an evaluation of the impact of each of these postulated alternatives; (3) Step 3 was the BMCC's acceptance of the Consultants' report, (4) the commencement of urgent priority actions.

That leads to stage two, again with four steps; the first being the priority action of public involvement. And that is where we are now. BMCC retained the services of Mr Mikel Ball of Urban Systems Corporation to implement this step.

Citizens' Planning Committee

At a public meeting at Springwood on 6th September, a steering committee was elected to liaise with Council re the formation of Citizens' Planning Committee(s). Our secretary Mr Kevin Smith, was one of the six elected to this steering Committee.

Step 2 will be Council policy making (a process which will include Council together with citizens and their groups, as constituted by the steering Committee). The Consultants stress the urgency of Council policy making for two reasons: (1) before irreparable damage has been done, and (2) to enable a financial base for action to be established. Policy making will be centred around three main subjects: Environment, Tourism, City framework.

Then the time will come for step 3: Choice and initial assumption of one of the five alternative futures. This choice need not be the same everywhere on the Mountains. Then Step 4 will be short-term action planning; leading to stage three.

Stage three: Step 1: Evaluation of chosen future at local level; Leading to Step 2: modification of it, and Step 3: modification of Council policies; followed by Step 4: long-term action

planning.

Let us return to the present, at the end of stage one, and to its recommended urgent Action Priorities. A priority in regard to Tourism is the need for a policy on the role of the Blue Mountains for tourism. In regard to City Issues: To decide whether the environment should be the delimiter of City expansion. In regard to Regional Issues: To decide whether self-containment is desired for the Blue Mountains. (There are other priorities).

Environmental Priorities

We state all the "urgent priorities" in regard to Environment, because it is our main concern. The BMCC must clearly state its environmental policies before irreparable damage is done, and in order to secure funds from outside bodies.

- (1) Critical environmental areas: Council Must urgently delineate these, implement protective measures, and evolve suitable uses for them;
 - i. Within intermediate (between villages) environmental areas, which are proposed non-urban, and subject to alienation.
 - ii. Special areas (Megalong Valley, Mt Wilson, Mt Irvine, Mt Tomah), which are under threat by development.
 - iii. Escarpment and views from these natural environmental areas in National Parks, State Forests and Water Catchment Areas.
 - iv. Historical and Aboriginal Sites.
- (2) Council must review non-urban policies.
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- (4) Council must act towards enhancement of views from roads.
- (5) Council must act towards funding for preservation of escarpment.
- (6) Council must act towards monitoring of non-conforming and destructive activities.
- (7) Council must act towards rationalisation of fire-control policies.

Urban Systems Corporation acknowledged our submission on the Town Planning Scheme as one of the references it used. Most of the main guideline points made by our submission were incorporated in Urban Systems' analysis of issues or recommendations for priority actions, but one important point seems to have been overlooked: the urgency of preservation of creek catchment areas (unless it is included in (3)).

Thus the Strategy Plan incorporates the modern concept of democracy as responsible, informed participation at grass-roots level, with the principle of feed-back.

This means that We must inform ourselves, We must act responsibly and rationally, and co-operate with others in forward planning.

Correction;

In July issue it is regretted that some words were omitted from the final paragraph of Nancy Douglass's article: "the final paragraph should have read--a large straggly shrub, formerly classified as *Cudrania cochinchinensis* is now classified as *Maclura cochinchinensis*.....

Ed.

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in January 2021 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 18 September-October 1974. Price 10 cents

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