

KATOONEA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No.24

MAY \*(= 1976

Price 10¢



CREATED: TERN  
SPARE THOSE BIRDS  
I AM NOT YOURS THEN  
RISPARMIATE A QUESTI UCCELLI LA VITA  
MH KAKOIOIETE AVTA TA DOVAIA.

Patron, Mr. Allen A. Strom  
Dept. of Education N.S.W.  
Conservation Adviser

"Every great and commanding  
moment in the annals of the  
world is the triumph of some  
enthusiasm"

Emerson

\*\*\*OUR SOCIETY\*\*\*

COMING MEETINGS: May 27th. - Mr. J. Govern, Superintendant, Blue Mountains National Park.

June 24th. - Beverly Fiedler - Facets of Nature.

July 29th. - Friends of The Earth spokesman - The Case against Nuclear Fuels and the Mining and Export of Uranium.

OTHER MEETINGS: - The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, Sydney Branch Meetings as follows :-  
May 25th Tuesday 8 p.m.; "What Bird is That - In a Pine Plantation" Speaker is Mr. H.J. de S. Disney, Curator of Birds, Australian Museum.  
June 22nd Tuesday 8 p.m.; "The Story of the Fauna Protection Panel of N.S.W." Speaker is Mr. Allen Strom.  
Venue for these meetings is; - The English Speaking Union, Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Naval House, 32 Grosvenor St., Sydney. (A few minutes walk from Wynyard Station.)

BUSHFIRE REGENERATION STUDY: - Our quarterly species count in the Ingar area will be conducted again on Saturday, May 22nd. Meet behind Brown Horse Inn, 9.30 a.m.

TALK ON REPTILES: - Guest speaker for our February meeting was Mr. Bill Routledge, who spoke on reptiles. He provides a valuable service to those residents worried by the presence of a snake, in being prepared to come and collect any reptiles in such situations, especially as snakes and other reptiles are now protected by law.

Mr. Routledge posed the question - How dangerous are snakes? He went on to point out the factors on which this depended, such as standards of medical service, speed of transport to specialised attention and population density. Australia is rich in venomous snakes, yet only four deaths resulted from snakebite last year, due largely to rapid transport, availability of antivenines, and of course, relatively low population density. India, on the other hand, lost 20,000 people over the same period from snakebite, due not to more snakes but because the above factors were reversed.

It was also explained that, generally speaking, the Blue Mountains had a high reptile population, but the dense scrub surrounding towns and villages is the reason for our being less aware of it. It appears that different species have their years of prominence. Thus, 1976 is expected to be a good year for diamond pythons, if the number of sightings so far is any guide. Mr. Routledge went on to display some of his live specimens, which include the following:-

Blue Tongue Lizard - very common, and closely related to Shingle Back Lizard - found in drier areas of Southern Australia



Cunningham Skink - Found in various pockets in the Blue Mountains, e.g. Linden Dam, Kanangra Walls. These three lizards belong to the skink family, generally sun-loving lizards, which have the ability to replace their tail, when broken off.

Leaf Tailed Gecko - Nocturnal, found under bark, on trees, or in caves, rock crevices.

Eastern Water Dragon - Occurs in Blue Mountains. Dragons are characterised by a ridge along the back and tail.

Tiger Snakes - Some say that this snake is placid, but the speaker always found them lively and aggressive. They have a venom of high toxicity, especially neurotoxins.

Brown Snake - Dangerous and unpredictable. These form a perfect S when striking position, unique among snakes.

Copperhead - Theoretically, not supposed to be found below 4,000 feet. But here in the mountains they are found at 3,000 feet.

Red Bellied Black Snake - The most common. Very fast. They eat frogs, lizards, mice, etc.

Death Adders - Found at Linden and Glenbrook.

Pythons - Non-venomous, which was lucky for the speaker for while he was handling one, it bit him, having become excited by the crowded atmosphere. These snakes kill their prey by constriction. The Diamond Python is found in this area. It averages about six feet.

On the whole, the occasion created a great amount of interest, judging by the lively question period. Our thanks go to Mr. Routledge for an evening of information both planned and unplanned.

THE ANNUAL MEETING in March was very good, with no lack of volunteers to fill positions of responsibility at the Election of Officers. A most encouraging feature was the number of new members elected to various positions.

AN OUTSTANDING NATURE FILM "The Web of Life" was shown to a large audience at the April meeting. Thanks to the BP Film Library for this fascinating film.

APRIL OUTING TO PULPIT ROCK - This turned out to be one of those rare days when the weather really was perfect, especially for the views across Govett's Gorge and Grose Valley. Our small party nearly got lost before they started, going off on the wrong track. However after a bit of quick polishing up of fading memories on the part of those who had been there before, we were soon well on the way. Frequent stops were made to admire the views, which was made all the more inviting by the unusual warmth of the sun for the time of the year.

One member was lucky to see a lyrebird, a privilege that comes with being well ahead and away from a group of talking people. After reaching pulpit rock, the group enjoyed lunch at the stone shelter, a building which must have taken much time and patience to erect, with its carefully laid small flat sandstones mortared together.

Having had our refreshments around the campfire, or rather, out of the thermos (for it seems the art of making billy tea is a dying one these days), we split up. Some remained at Pulpit Rock to botanise or otherwise enjoy the interval to pick-up time, while others made the return journey over the same route, some laboriously in the heat of the day, and some a little more quickly. In particular, one member moved extremely quickly after almost standing on a snake. We were disappointed - she didn't stop to find out what kind it was.

Kevin Smith.

Megalong Valley Outing

Fifteen of us arrived at the Paeksaddlers down at the far end of the Megalong Valley on Saturday May 1st. We enquired of the owner Mr. Carlan, for the best walk. He directed us to the Cox's River via the Tin Pot Track, and we were soon enjoying one of the loveliest walks ever. Birds were everywhere, Bell Birds of course, they are always to be found there, and then there were treecreepers whistlers, finches, and the most beautiful yellow honey eater with his rather quieter mate.

At 1 o'clock we boiled the billy beside the track. After lunch we split up as usual, some to make their way back, others to go on to the Cox's. On the way home we saw the Golden Orb spider sitting in her web, a big one she was. By her side, her tiny mate. His ultimate fate we were told, was to be gobbled up by his not very loving spouse; carrying woman's Lib a little too far perhaps? On reaching Tin Pot Creek we were met by the returning river party, so we decided to return as well. At the car-park after a quick "Cuppa" and chat we parted. A beautiful sunny day and a very good walk.

M. & J. Vaughan

FUTURE OUTINGS

June 5th. Mount Hay. Meet 10a.m. at Leura School  
July 3rd. Wirrimbirra Reserve. Meet Wentworth Falls 9 a.m.  
August 7th. National Park, Glenbrook. Meet Park Gates 10 am  
September 4th. Faulconbridge Point. Meet Faulconbridge Station 10a.m.

A SAD LOSS

Since our last issue the founder and first Editor of this newsletter, Martin Kaub, has passed away. President of our Society in 1969-70 and Vice-President until his death last March, Martin was a man of tremendous energy, most of which was channelled, in co-operation with his wife Betty, into advancing the Conservation Movement in many forms. He will be greatly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to Betty and other members of his family.

HONARARY LIFE MEMBER

There was unanimous agreement at the last monthly meeting to confer Honorary Life Membership on Fred Astle. Described as "our first member" Fred has been in the Society since it's inception, and still plays an active part.

MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY IN NATURE

In the last Newsletter an item, titled "The Patron Saint of Ecology", questioned Man's position in relation to Nature and Conservation. It stated that "Man is both part of the earth and over it"; it likened animals to imbecile humans. An item on the previous page quoted "The eagle that rides the winds millions of years in the making ---to ultimate perfection for the world in which they live".

Can one compare animals which have adapted their special characteristics to a role in the whole creation with an isolated failure of the human species, unadaptable in any situation? Perhaps Man's position in regard to Nature is neither equality nor mastery, but development and use of his own special human characteristics, in order to adapt to HIS place in the Whole.



May 1976

It seems to me that in the sense of adaptation the eagle and other "lower" animals are far superior to man. Man's superior potentials bring with them responsibilities which he has not yet accepted.

The cultural ideas and institutions by which man fumblingly develops his potentials will need, in words the previous item quotes, "endless sorting, endless discarding, endless change" before mankind can be said to have adapted to the world in which he lives.

Unfortunately Man seems to have little faith in the precious potentials creation has given him. Some of the flaws still in his make-up, as yet undiscarded (which he has not yet tried to understand) render it difficult to develop them. Surely it is these potential human characteristics - reason awareness and knowledge, imagination, creativeness, and spiritual values, justice, mercy, humility, tolerant unselfish love, and the rational, responsible, compassionate morality of human maturity that will form his relationship to Nature (as well as to his fellow humans) when he learns how to use them to fit himself for his place in the whole?

B. C.

#### ALTERATION JUNE MEETING

The speaker will now be Jim Armstrong from Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney. Subject :- "The devious ways in which our native plants attract animals to their flowers". Miss Fiedler will speak at a later date.

#### PLANNING THE FUTURE OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER VALLEY

The Symposium on this subject, held at the Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath, in March was a great success. In its press release of 22nd. March, the National Trust outlined the results of the Symposium as follows;

The Symposium resolved to seek, through the National Trust the establishment of a Hawkesbury Valley Authority vested with such functions as; -

- \*Planning of Controls for extractive industry.
- \*Planning & provision of recreation areas.
- \*Planning of service infra-structure and main roads.
- \*Bushfire co-ordination control.
- \*Participation in preparation of regional planning.
- \*Public education on the conservation of the valley.
- \*Data collection and research into matters affecting the conservation of the valley.

The Symposium further resolved that; -

\*A Hawkesbury River foreshore park system should be established for public recreation, using the concept of public access rights over private land (similar to the English National Park System).

\*Planning controls within the Hawkesbury Valley be reviewed so as to; -

-Ensure the retention of historic buildings and areas, with control over the scale of buildings to be erected in or near such areas.

-Avoid small rural subdivisions except where these are designed for bona fide agricultural purposes.

-Specifically zone prime agricultural land to ensure its retention as such.

\* That serious consideration, based on actual research as to people's wishes, be given to the possibility of planning to phase out the growth of Sydney by the year 2000.

\*That on the introduction of the new planning legislation, the Government be asked to declare the Hawkesbury Valley catchment as a sub-region.

The press release also stated;- "Many of the papers and a great deal of the discussion centred on population pressures which threaten the scenic beauty and other natural qualities of the Hawkesbury Valley, and the need for co-ordinated planning to protect the region for recreational use".

A splendid feature of the Symposium was the large number of Government Departments and other Statutory Bodies represented. Drawing attention to this, one delegate said it would not have been possible five years ago.

Our delegates have ordered copies of the proceedings, and others wishing to obtain a copy should contact the National Trust.

The Hawkesbury River Association, who initiated the project, and the National Trust, who organised it, deserve the warmest congratulations.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE'S ACTIVE YEAR

Our Society's Committee on Blue Mountains Planning was strengthened at the Annual Meeting, when three new members volunteered to join the original four. Much activity was shown in the Convenor's report on the years work, main points of which are as follows:-

Urban Systems Corp'n. presented their final "statement of Objectives, Policies and Action Priorities" to the BMCC on 5th Dec. 1975. When the aldermen adopt this statement the basis and machinery for forward planning in the Blue Mts. will have been laid, and it will remain then for our Society to be a watchdog and ensure that the excellent basis is implemented without delay.

During the last twelve months your Committee has attended to the following:-

##### Land-use in the Blue Mountains Strategy Plan;

1. Committee's preparations to initiate an ecological study as a basis for land use in planning, resulted in consultations with Urban Systems Corp'n., and then in Committee's submission on 3rd June last to Urban Systems Corp'n. in regard to "Definition of the Distinctive Characteristics and Role of the Blue Mountains as a Special Region, and Definition of Threats to these". This was followed by Urban Systems' own "Critical Environmental Areas Report to the Blue Mountains City Council". Also there was the appointment, by means of the R.E.D. Scheme, of two ecology graduates, and Committee has not considered it necessary to proceed further in the matter.
2. We sent Urban Systems Corp'n. our comments on their report of their "Public Participation Programme".
3. We also studied and commented on their excellent "Critical Environmental Areas Report".
4. We have been in touch with the staff of the BMCC's Planning Department.
5. One member was elected to the 530A Public Planning Advisory Committee to BMCC, and as our Representative attended the T.E.C. Conference on planning at Springwood in Sept., and the Hawkesbury Valley Symposium (21.3.76)
6. Members of Committee have been vigilant in regard to specific matters of local land use as threats appeared.

##### Public Relations and Publicity for our policies:-

Committee prepared a leaflet to be distributed at the Hut entitled "Help to Preserve the Blue Mountains". Articles on our policy have been sent for publication to "The Blue Mountains Advertiser". Committee has taken immediate action where considered necessary; such as inspection of sites, of application details, and on verbal or written communications.

##### Monitoring

Members have attended meetings of BMCC, and have studied the Council's Business Papers for items which require the attention of Committee. Members have perused local and state newspapers for such items. Committee has taken immediate action where considered necessary; such as inspection of sites, of application details, and on verbal or written communications.



### National Estate Survey

Committee forwarded a submission in regard to threatened areas in the Blue Mountains and has had other contacts with the National Trust. One member attended a National Estate Conference in regard to King's Tableland.

### New Planning Scheme for N.S.W., Dept. Of Planning and Environment.

Committee studied and forwarded comments on the P.E.C.'s first and second reports towards a new planning scheme, and finally prepared a brief submission for the Minister regarding the Act now before parliament. It also contacted the National Trust in regard to this matter.

### Copies of Submissions prepared by Committee.

Committee recommended to the Management Committee that two copies of each be placed in our Society's library, one for lending and one to be retained for reference.

Committee consisted of four members, with almost full attendance at meetings.

Convener of Committees 16/2/76

EDITOR; G. N. ALCORN, 43 RUTLAND ROAD, MEDLOW BATH. N.S.W. 2780

*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in March 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. 24      May 1976      Price 10 cents

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

“Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm”      Emerson

### \*\*\*OUR SOCIETY\*\*\*

Coming Meetings; May 27<sup>th</sup>. – Mr J. Govern, Superintendent, Blue Mountains National Park.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. – Beverly Fielder – Facts of Nature.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. – Friends of The Earth spokesman – The Case against Nuclear Fuels and the Mining and Export of Uranium.

OTHER MEETINGS; The Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, Sydney Branch Meetings as follows:-

May 25<sup>th</sup> Tuesday : 8 pm; “What Bird is That – In a Pine Plantation” Speaker is Mr HJ de S Disney, Curator of Birds, Australian Museum.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 8 pm; “The Story of the Fauna Protection Panel of NSW. “ Speaker is Mr Allen Strom. Venue for these meetings is;- The English Speaking Union, Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Naval House, 32 Grosvenor Street, Sydney. (A few Minutes walk from Wynyard Station.)

BUSHFIRE REGENERATION STUDY;- Our quarterly species count in the Ingar area will be conducted again on Saturday, Mat 22<sup>nd</sup>, meet behind Brown Horse Inn, 9.30am.

TALK ON REPTILES;- Guest speaker for our February meeting was Mr Bill Routledge, who spoke on reptiles. He provides a valuable service to those residents worried by the presence of a snake, in being prepared to come and collect any reptiles in such situations, especially as snakes and other reptiles are now protected by law.

Mr Routledge posed the question – How dangerous are snakes? He went on to point out the factors on which this depended, such as standards of medical service, speed of transport to specialised attention and population density.

Australia is rich in venomous snakes, yet only four deaths resulted from snakebite last year, due largely to rapid transport, availability of anti-venines, and of course, relatively low population density. India, on the other hand, lost 20,000 people over the same period from snakebite, due not to more snakes but because the above factors were reversed.

It was also explained that generally speaking, The Blue Mountains had a high reptile population, but the dense scrub surrounding towns and villages is the reason for our being less aware of it. It appears that different species have their years of prominence. Thus, 1976 is expected to be a good year for diamond pythons, if the number of sightings so far is any guide. Mr Routledge went on to display some of his live specimens, which included the following:-

Blue Tongue Lizard – very common, and closely related to

Shingle Back Lizard – found in drier areas of Southern Australia.

Cunningham Skink – Found in various pockets in the Blue Mountains, e.g. Linden Dam, Kanangra Walls. These three lizards belong to the skink family, generally sun-loving lizards, which have the ability to replace their tail, when broken off.

Leaf Tailed Gecko – Nocturnal, found under bark, on trees, or in caves, rock crevices.

Eastern Water Dragon – Occurs in Blue Mountains. Dragons are characterised by a ridge along the back tail.

Tiger Snakes – Some say that this snake is placid, but the speaker always found them lively and aggressive. They have a venom of high toxicity, especially neurotoxins.

Brown Snake – Dangerous and unpredictable. These form a perfect S when striking position, unique among snakes.

Copperhead – Theoretically, not supposed to be found below 4,000 feet. But here in the mountains they are found at 3,000 feet.

Red Bellied Black Snake – This most common. Very fast. They eat frogs, lizards, mice, etc.

Death Adders – Found at Linden and Glenbrook.

Pythons – Non-venomous, which was lucky for the speaker for while he was handling one, it bit him, having become excited by the crowded atmosphere. These snakes kill their prey by constriction. The Diamond Python is found in this area. It averages about six feet.

On the whole, the occasion created a great amount of interest, judging by the lively question period. Our Thanks go to Mr. Routledge for an evening of information both planned and unplanned.

THE ANNUAL MEETING in March was very good, with no lack of volunteers to fill positions of responsibility at the Election of Officers. A most encouraging feature was the number of new members elected to various positions.

AN OUTSTANDING NATURE FILM “The Web of Life” was shown to a large audience at the April meeting. Thanks to the BP Film Library for this fascinating film.



APRIL OUTING TO PULPIT ROCK – This turned out to be one of those rare days when the weather really was perfect, especially for the views across Govett's Gorge and Grose Valley. Our small party nearly got lost before they started, going off on the wrong track. However after a bit of quick polishing up of fading memories on the part of those who had been there before, we were soon well on the way. Frequent stops were made to admire the views, which was made all the more inviting by the unusual warmth of the sun for the time of year.

One member was lucky to see a lyrebird, a privilege that comes with being well ahead and away from a group talking people. After reaching Pulpit Rock, the group enjoyed lunch at the stone shelter, a building which must have taken much time and patience to erect, with its carefully laid small flat sandstones mortared together.

Having had our refreshments around the campfire, or rather, out of the thermos (for it seems the art of making billy tea is a dying one these days), we split up. Some remained at Pulpit Rock to botanise or otherwise enjoy the interval to pick-up time, while others made the return journey over the same route, some laboriously in the heat of the day, and some a little more quickly. In particular, one member moved extremely quickly after almost standing on a snake. We were disappointed – she didn't stop to find out what kind it was.

Kevin Smith.

#### Megalong Valley Outing

Fifteen of us arrived at the Packsaddlers down at the far end of the Megalong Valley on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. We enquired of the owner Mr Carlan, for the best walk. He directed us to the Cox's River via the Tin Pot Track, and we were soon enjoying one of the loveliest walks ever. Birds were everywhere, Bell Birds of course, they are always to be found there, and then there were treecreepers whistlers, finches, and the most beautiful yellow honey eater with his rather quieter mate.

At 1 o'clock we boiled the billy beside the track. After lunch we split up as usual, some to make their way back, others to go on to the Cox's. On the way home we saw the Goldern Orb spider sitting in her web, a big one she was. By her side, her tiny mate. His ultimate fate we were told, was to be gobbled up by his not very loving spouse; carrying woman's Lib a little too far perhaps? On reaching Tin Pot Creek we were met by the returning river party, so we decided to return as well. At the carpark after a quick "Cuppa" and chat we parted. A beautiful sunny day and a very good walk.

M. & J. Vaughan.

#### FUTURE OUTINGS

<u>June 5<sup>th</sup>.</u>	Mount Hay.	Meet 10 am, at Leura School.
<u>July 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	Wirrimbirra Reserve.	Meet Wentworth Falls 9 am.
<u>August 7<sup>th</sup>.</u>	National Park Glenbrook	Meet Park Gates 10 am.
<u>September 4<sup>th</sup></u>	Faulconbridge Point	Meet Faulconbridge Station 10 am.

### A SAD LOSS

Since our last issue the founder and first Editor of this newsletter, Martin Kaub, has passed away. President of our Society in 1969-70 and Vice- President until his death last March, Martin was a man of tremendous energy, most of which was channelled, in co-operation with his wife Betty, into advancing the Conservation Movement in many forms. He will be greatly missed and we extend our deepest sympathy to Betty and other members of his family.

### HONARARY LIFE MEMBER

There was unanimous agreement at the last monthly meeting to confer Honorary Life Membership on Fred Astle. Described as "our first member" Fred has been in the Society since it's inception, and still plays an active part.

### MAN'S RESPONSIBILTY IN NATURE

In the last Newsletter an item, titled "The Patron Saint of Ecology", questioned Man's position in relation to Nature and Conservation. It stated that "Man is both part of the earth and over it"; it likened animals to imbecile humans. An item on the previous page quoted "The eagle that rides the winds – millions of years in the making --- to ultimate perfection winds for the world in which they live".

Can one compare animals which have adapted their special characteristics to a role in the whole creation with an isolated failure of the human species, unadaptable in any situation? Perhaps Man's position in regard to Nature is neither equality nor mastery, but development and use of his own special human characteristics, in order to adapt to HIS place in the Whole.

It seems to me that in the sense of adaption the eagle and other "lower" animals are far superior to man. Man's superior potentials bring with them responsibilities which he has not yet accepted.

The cultural ideas and institutions by which man fumblingly develops his potentials will need, in words the previous item quotes, "endless sorting, endless discarding, endless change" before mankind can be said to have adapted to the world in which he lives.

Unfortunately Man seems to have little faith in the precious potentials creation has given him. Some of the flaws still in his make-up, as yet undiscarded (which he has not yet tried to understand) render it difficult to develop them. Surely it is these potential human characteristics – reason awareness and knowledge, imagination, creativeness, and spiritual values, justice, mercy, humility, tolerant unselfish love, and the rational, responsible, compassionate morality of human maturity that will form his relationship to Nature (as well as to his fellow humans) when he learns how to use them to fit himself for his place in the whole?

B.C.



### ALTERATION JUNE MEETING

The speaker will now be Jim Armstrong from the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney. Subject; - "The devious ways in which our native plants attract animals to their flowers". Miss Fiedler will speak at a later date.

### PLANNING THE FUTRE OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER VALLEY

The Symposium on this subject, held at the Hydro Majestic Hotel, Medlow Bath, in March was a great success. In its press release of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the National Trust outlined the results of the Symposium as follows:

The Symposium resolved to seek, through the National Trust the establishment of a Hawkesbury Valley Authority vested with such functions as:-

- Planning of Controls for extractive industry.
- Planning & provison of recreation areas.
- Planning of service infra-structure and main roads.
- Bushfire co-ordination control
- Participation in preparation of regional planning.
- Public education on the conservation of the valley.
- Data collection and research into matters affecting the conservation of the valley.

The Symposium further resolved that;-

- A Hawkesbury River foreshore park system should be established for public recreation, using the concept of public access rights over private land (similar to the English National Park System).
- Planning controls within the Hawkesbury Valley be reviewed so as to;-
  - Ensure the retention of historic buildings and areas, which control over the scale of buildings to be erected in or near such areas
  - Avoid small rural subdivisions except where these are designed for bona fide agricultural purposes.
  - Specifically zone prime agricultural land to ensure its retention as such.
- That serious consideration, based on actual research as to people's wishes, be given to the possibility of planning to phase out the growth of Sydney by the year 2000.
- That on the introduction of the new planning legislation, the Government be asked to declare the Hawkesbury Valley catchment as a sub-region.

The press release also stated:- "Many of the papers and a great deal of the discussion centred on population pressures which threaten the scenic beauty and other natural qualities of the Hawkesbury Valley, and the need for co-ordinated planning to protect the region for recreational use".

A splendid feature of the Symposium was the large number of Government Departments and other Statutory Bodies represented. Drawing attention to this, one delegate said it would not have been possible five years ago.

Our delegates have ordered copies of the proceedings, and others wishing to obtain a copy should contact the National Trust.

The Hawkesbury River Association, who initiated the project, and the National Trust, who organised it, deserve the warmest congratulations.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE'S ACTIVE YEAR

Our Society's Committee on Blue Mountains Planning was strengthened at the Annual Meeting, when three new members volunteered to join the original four. Much activity was shown in the Convenor's report on the years work, main points of which are as follows:-

Urban Systems Corporation, presented their final "statement of Objectives, Policies and Action Priorities" to the Blue Mountains City Council on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1975. When the alderman adopt this statement the basis and machinery for forward planning in the Blue Mountains, will have been laid, and it will remain then for our Society to be a watchdog and ensure that the excellent basis is implemented without delay.

During the last twelve months your Committee has attended to the following:-

#### Land-use in the Blue Mountains Strategy Plan:

1. Committee's preparations to initiate an ecology study as a basis for land use in planning, results in consultations with Urban Systems Corporation, and then in Committee's submission on 3<sup>rd</sup> June last to Urban Systems Corporation in regard to "Definition of the Distinctive Characteristics and Role of the Blue Mountains as a Special Region, and Definition of Threats to these". This was followed by Urban Systems own "Critical Environmental Areas Report to the Blue Mountains City Council". Also there was the appointment, by means of the R.E.D. Scheme, of two ecology graduates, and Committee has not considered it necessary to proceed further in the matter.
2. We sent Urban System Corporation our comments on their report of their "Public Participation Programme".
3. We also studied and commented on their excellent "Critical Environmental Areas Report".
4. We have been in touch with the staff of the Blue Mountains City Council's Planning Department.
5. One member was elected to the 530A Public Planning Advisory Committee to Blue Mountains City Council, and as our Representative attended the Total Environment Centre's Conference on planning at Springwood in September, and the Hawkesbury Valley Symposium (21-Mar-1976)
6. Members of Committee have been vigilant in regard to specific matters of local land use as threats appeared.

#### Public Relations and Publicity for our policies:-

Committee prepared a leaflet to be distributed at the Hut entitled "Help to Preserve the Blue Mountains". Articles on our policy have been sent for publication to "The Blue Mountains Advertiser". Committee has taken immediate action where considered necessary; such as inspection of sites, of application details, and on verbal or written communications.



### Monitoring

Members have attended meetings of Blue Mountains City Council, and have studied the Council's Business Papers for items which require the attention of Committee. Members have perused local and state newspapers for such items. Committee has taken immediate action where considered necessary; such as inspection of sites, of application details, and on verbal or written communications.

### National Estate Survey

Committee forwarded a submission in regard to threatened areas in the Blue Mountains and has had other contacts with the National Trust. One member attended a National Estate Conference in regard to King's Tableland.

### New Planning Scheme for New South Wales, Department of Planning and Environment.

Committee studied and forwarded comments on the P.E.C.'s first and second reports towards a new planning scheme, and finally prepared a brief submission for the Minister regarding the Act now before Parliament. It also contacted the National Trust in regard to this matter.

### Copies of Submissions prepared by Committee.

Committee recommended to the Management Committee that two copies of each be placed in our Society's library, one for lending and one to be retained for reference.

Committee consisted of four members, with almost full attendance at meetings.

Convener of Committees 16-Feb-2976

EDITOR; G. ALCORN, 43 RUTLAND ROAD, MEDLOW BATH. N.S.W.2780