



GOLDEN WHISTLER

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

"Growth for growth's sake is
the policy that a cancer cell
works on"

Len Willan at N.C.C. Conference

FOREWARD-LOOKING STRUCTURE PLAN FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS

The vision of a Blue Mountains City which can become renowned for its distinctive character is contained in the draft "City of Blue Mountains Structure Plan", issued by the B.M.C.C. planning department.

Much practical wisdom, based on varied surveys and studies, has been shown in drafting this plan to manage future development aligned to existing structure, showing the B.M.C.C., its staff and consultants to be up to date in their methods and realistically forward-looking in their appreciation of trends and needs of the world today and tomorrow.

The Structure Plan follows the Statement of Objectives adopted by the B.M.C.C. arising from the Strategy Plan Study conducted by the Council's Consultants, Urban Systems. All of these were funded by the previous Federal Government under the Department of Urban and Regional Development (DURD) and the Regional Employment (RED) scheme. This funding certainly meant a lot to the future of the Blue Mountains.

At the State level, the NSW Planning and Environment Commission's new State Planning Bill, if and when passed, will require local Councils to produce local Structure plans. The City of the Blue Mountains Structure Plan, produced ahead of this requirement, should eventually be gazetted by the Minister and provide the statutory planning basis for development control within the Blue Mountains City.

Independent Research Team

The brief Statement of Objectives sets the direction of action and change. The much larger Structure Plan follows on from the intentions outlined in the Statement, and is a firm and continuing framework.

Its preparation was undertaken by qualified individuals of an independent Town Planning Research Team, funded by DURD. The "Survey and Analysis" carried out by the team is printed in eleven separate folios, which constitute Volume 11. Volume 1, titled "Structure of the City of Blue Mountains" is a concise resume of the planning responsibilities and activities of Council. After assessment by the Planning Department it will ultimately be submitted to Council for adoption.

The Plan describes the structure of our City as a City within a National Park, with a linear form of development of settlements of individual village character and a commercial hierarchy governed by transport; a unique scenic national asset. One of the Principles of Design is Conservation-orientated development to maintain the basic attractions of the Blue Mts both as living area and recreational areas, and to preserve its attributes related to the National Estate.

The National Park is described as an area of natural bushland where visitors can enjoy the 'natural experience', where sample wilderness areas can be preserved and water catchment protected. Regional open space is described as providing the amenities for tourists and residents, as well as buffer strips; to be managed by Trusts or Committees, with a plan of management for each R.O.S. locality. Tourism is seen as the main industry and stress is placed on the economic importance of its improvement, and its expansion, with Conventions, Sports, Entertainment, etc., against "the backdrop of the mountains". A balanced growth of other suitable and acceptable industries is to be encouraged, Indoor sporting facilities are recommended for Blaxland, Springwood and Blackheath. There should be a Highway with 4lanes and a hierarchy of arterial, feeder, collector and local roads.

Preserve Streams, Swamps

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The plan is based on an eventual population of 85,000 the expansion to be contained within the fully serviced areas of the existing urban boundaries. One Action Priority for Local AREA Development Control Plans is to "Define in priority order all areas and places which merit preservation because of their visual, ecological, cultural, historic or other environmental significance; request the NSW Government to appropriately designate, zone or reserve---, to progressively finance the purchase of selected areas and places". The biggest problem is seen as the limited amount of publicly owned land required to implement proposals: financial aid must be sought.

The general orientation is consistent through most of the folio of volume 11. For example the following points are stated in Folio 2.3 which surveys social aspects: the B.M. City should be looked at as a total entity and managed by one coordinating regional body; a long term comprehensive approach should include social as well as economic evaluation of development.

Council should look at qualitative aspects of life and realise that development will not necessarily follow from increasing population. Population should be restrained to ecological limits. To attempt to bring the uniquely placed B.M. City into Sydney's urban type of regional framework does not seem appropriate. It is important that the B.M.C.C. be clear where it stands on the matter of regional identity. The natural environment has a strong influence on peoples' choice of residence; residents have little awareness of their impact on the natural environment. The B.M. City should be seen as an integral part of the national parks complex, with special problems of environmental management.

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Of course there are matters in the Plan that we think may need to be modified. For example: we agree that Tourism is the appropriate industry for this area, but should expansion get under-way before studies have been undertaken to determine optimum visitor usage and the proportion and limits of tourists' population.

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structure, is not typical. It contains a greater proportion of retired people who choose a natural environment and a greater proportion of white collar workers and of people with tertiary education who can find suitable employment only in the city.

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As stated in Volume 1, implementation of the Structure Plan will be a matter of compromise and will depend on public participation and cooperation, and on effective monitoring. It will depend on an informed and interested public and its aldermen.

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On the bird front we have made friends with a pair of rock warblers at an old shed we are using as a depot. These lovable little birds not only sit on our boots for morning tea but are building their enormous nest in the back part of the shed. I should say trying to as they have been working on it for 2 months so far. Another morning tea guest, a grey thrush, stole some of it and whole nest fell down once. However in the last two days they added 7 inches to the nest which then partially collapsed so they are still battling on. A pair of these attractive little birds, sometimes called rock-robins (robins) or cave warblers, can usually be found on every large rock outcrop in the sandstone areas around Sydney. With their dark back, chestnut front and ground feeding they are very much like the pilot bird. They however are smaller and have a white bib not found in the pilot bird. They are a unique species in that their origins and relatives are obscure. They are confined to the Hawkesbury sandstone and associated limestone areas and are the only bird species not found outside N.S.W. Also they are the only Australian bird which builds a hanging nest fastened to the roof of a cave. Arnold McGill mentions one that attached its nest to the wire mattress of a bed in a bush cottage!

Minihaha Falls track is well worth a visit at present as Boronia microphylla and floribunda are both out in force as well as Grevilleas etc. The young trees stand in groups like ballet dancers, the swamps and slopes teem with bird life and I surprised a wallaroo with a really black coat drinking at the stream. In the top park was a male raven resplendent in the sunshine but looking rather dejected. Then along came Mrs Raven to snuggle up to him and bow her head to be preened. Birds are worth study and Alex Chisholm's Book "Mateship With Birds" is a good place to start.

LETTER ON URANIUM

The Editor,

Dear Sir,

Your report about the discussion, following the lecture given by Mr. Fenn on Uranium Mining in the last issue of your Newsletter disappointed me and, I think, other members too.

Uranium Mining and the use of its products is at the present time The problem of conservation. The opinion of this meeting was very clearly expressed by the vote of 32 to 3 only for a motion moved by Ms. Thorpe and seconded amongst others by me. This result seems to be particularly important as it was taken after a statement opposing such a stand, was brought before the audience. This statement was sent by Prof. Max Hatherly and read at his request, by yourself.

I consider it appropriate, that this motion should be brought to the knowledge of your readers--nearly 200 of them so that they too should be able to express their view on the question.

I should be grateful, if you could reprint it together with my above letter, in your next issue.

Sincerely yours

Frank Vanry. LEURA

(The resolution reads as follows:-

"That this Society strongly oppose the mining of uranium, its enrichment and the dumping of nuclear waste in Australia. This resolution to be sent to Mr Clough, MLA, Mr Gillard MP, Mr Anthony and to the local press".

The voting is not stated in the minutes, but I confirm that it was as stated in your letter, for which I Thank you.

*

---Ed.)

GREEN MOUNTAINS & CULLENBENBONG by Bernard O'Reilly.

This tale of the pioneering O'Reillys, in the valleys here and later in what was to become the Lamington National Park in Queensland, is a book to read and treasure. Every line breathes a love of nature and kinship with the creatures of the wild, while no better picture could be drawn of the early days here when the horse was king.

The writer speaks with great affection of the area beyond the Megalong through which the Cox's River flows. Bounded by the Kanangra Walls, Blue Mountains and Burragorang, it is "a wild tumbled, lonely land of savage and tormenting beauty which will never know the taming hand of man; destined forever to be the kingdom of the wallaroo and wombat, the lyre bird and the wedgetail eagle. A haunting land that once seen will always call you back."

---W.A.

OUR SOCIETY

COMING MEETINGS: Christmas Barbecue. Saturday 4th. December meet at the Hut Valley of Waters WENTWORTH FALLS 10 a.m. for ramble along tracks.....Barbecue at 5.30 p.m. (don't forget food)..... Carolin evening. Be Good Neighbours with the Good Neighbour Choir.

JANUARY 27th, 1977 8p.m. Monthly Meeting at Hut Valley of Waters; scan local press for details and be there or else.

Editor.G.N. ALCORN. RUTLAND ROAD MEDLOW.

COMING NATURE WALKS.

DECEMBER 4th Valley of Waters 10 am. Barbecue 5.30pm.
Extra reminder Carols in Evening

Saturday, January 1st 1977. Porter's Pass. Meet over
the level crossing. BLACKHEATH. 9.30 am.

FLORA DAY 2pm. Saturday Nov 27th 1976; at the Hut Valley of
Waters, Wentworth Falls. The public are invited for
short walks in the reserve, with able field naturalist
leaders to answer questions and explain facets of nature.

BIRD OUTING...Saturday Nov. 27th...Meet at Leura Baths Picnic ground
9.30 am. for a day's ramble through the Leura Forest and
up by the Scenic Railway. conducted by the Alcorn brothers
for the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society.
All are Welcome.

BEREAVEMENTS. We learn with regret of the death of Mrs Tennant-
Moss, a regular attender at our meetings.
We regret also the death of Mr Edwards an early member
and an expert on butterflies. Mr Edwards provided our
butterflies exhibited in the Hut.
Our sincerest sympathy to the relatives of these two members.

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SCHOOL OUTING Our Hut Curator, Ken Gorringer assisted two of the
teaching staff of the Wentworth Falls Primary School, who
took more than 30 children of the 5th and 6th class through
the Nature Trail on November 11th.

BLACKHEATH EXHIBIT Through the courtesy of the Blackheath and
District Horticultural Society, Our Society again had a
most successful exhibit at the Rhododendron Festival
Flower Show. Nov. 13th/14th. We also had a table of
native plants for sale, provided by S.G.A.P. from the
Glenbrook Reserve, and most welcome by the public.

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Thanks to those willing members who designed and set up the
show and staffed it throughout.

SWAMP SAVING

Of great concern to the Society is the threat, caused by
human pressure on the Blue Mountains, to the natural water
courses and their catchments, especially swamps and their
surrounds.

For some years the Society in its various submissions,
has been stressing the importance of preserving these
and will continue to do so.

To help in a practical way we are now conducting inspections
with the idea of working for the preservation of specific
areas.

We would like members to participate in these inspections
and in other aspects of our Planning Committee's work.
For further information please get in touch with the
Editor G.N. Alcorn Rutland Road Medlow Bath.

BUSH RAMBLE to Clarence area on Sat. Nov. 6th a small group of
ten ramblers, enjoyed a day in the vicinity of the old
reservoir on Dargans Creek, which flows into the Lett River.
The area proved to be picturesque and rich in plant & birdlife.
Those interested in orchids had a feast day as no less than
14 species were found & identified, including some of the less
common caladenias & telemitras (sun-orchids), there were also
Bearded/

Bearded Orchids (*Calochilus*), Donkey orchids (*Diuris*) & Greenhoods (*Pterostylis*). a number of other interesting plants were recorded including some lovely boronias, especially the lovely *B. anemonifolia*. The area was bright with many "Pea-flowers" including *Daviesias*, *Pultenaea*, *Dillwynia* etc., and many other species too numerous to mention. Birdlife was also plentiful and a pair of nesting Striated Pardalotes were observed using a hole in an eucalyptus; identification of birds was difficult as unfortunately the group did not include any of our bird experts. Two large kangaroos were seen pursued by two large dogs who stopped to look at us before returning to the scrub. Feral dogs, a sad note on an otherwise delightful outing.

--K.R.G.

BARRALLIER'S EXPLORATIONS. Illness prevented Mr W Breach, our advertised speaker, from attending the September meeting.

Mr Terry Macartney very ably stepped in with an interesting account illustrated with splendid slides, on various theories as to where the explorer Barrallier actually went on his journeys west of Sydney.

FACETS OF NATURE was the title of Beverly Fiedler's TALK TO THE October meeting. She showed some most beautiful slides of very close up photographs of flowers and insects. Some showing the camouflage of certain spiders were particularly remarkable.

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NEW BOOKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Christmas Shopping Treat for all people interested in the environment... on display and for sale at Total Environment centre Third Floor (The Argyle Arts Centre) 18 Argyle Street Sydney.

Six major Australian and overseas publishers display their best and newest publications on environment and conservation, alternate life styles and the outdoors. POSTERS AND PRINTS.

WITH

ACCOMPANYING

DISPLAY BY THE

COLONG COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED BORDER RANGES NATIONAL PARK,

The proposed Greater Blue Mountains National Park and Botany Bay.

26th, 27th, 28th, November 1976

9am to 5pm.....

Profits to TEC. Bring your Friends

GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK PROPOSED

Delegates from our society attended a most impressive meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park Committee in Sydney on Nov. 4th. The following day the case for the creation of this Park was put to the NSW Premier Mr Neville Wran by representatives of the various organisations which had prepared submissions.

The concept, which was earlier endorsed by the 1976 annual conference of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. embodies the proposals put forward by the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council in 1932. It would include the Colo wilderness area, the headwaters of the Capertee and Wolgan Rivers the Nattai river, the Bindook Tableland and the bulk of the Warragamba Catchment together with the interesting Crown lands between these areas, the existing

P7

National Parks (Blue Mountains National Park and Kanangra-Boyd National Park) and the Hunter National Park proposal of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The many threats include power lines, new highways, coalmining, pine plantations trailbikes etc.

The Park would be over one million hectares and would be unique in the world in being so close to a great city. The Colong C'tee, Bushwalkers of NSW, Colo C'tee, TEC, and other organisations have done great work in preparing submissions.

Funds are needed for a continuing campaign. Fees for preparing and printing the main submissions with elaborate photos and maps amount to \$1,000 or more and it is proposed to prepare and print a special issue of the National Parks Journal in the New Year, which will embody the whole proposal. A fund of \$3000 has been launched. Donations are tax deductible. If you are able to donate, fill in and post both forms on the next page.

**KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER.**

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Miss I. BOWDEN
50. FLETCHER ST.
WENTWORTH FALLS 2782

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please return to 32 Third Ave., Katoomba

THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK FUND

The Australian Conservation Foundation has kindly agreed to set up a special fund to assist the Bushwalkers of N.S.W. campaign to create a Greater Blue Mountains National Park.

Donations to the fund are tax-deductible.

If you wish to take advantage of this concession fill in the following forms and (1) post the first form to the Australian Conservation Foundation with Cheque, (2) post the second form to the Bushwalkers of N.S.W.

Cheques for this fund must be made payable to the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The Director,
Australian Conservation Foundation
206 Clarendon Street
East Melbourne, Victoria, 3002

I attach a specific donation for the Greater Blue Mountains National Park Fund in connection with The Bushwalkers of N.S.W. I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

Name (Block letters).....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....
\$.....Signed.....Date.....

The Treasurer,
Bushwalkers of N.S.W.,
Box 2090, G.P.O.
SYDNEY 2001

I have forwarded today to the Australian Conservation Foundation a specific donation for The Greater Blue Mountains National Park Fund in connection with The Bushwalkers of N.S.W.

Amount of donation \$.....

Name (Block letters).....

Address.....

.....Postcode

Signed.....Date.....

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

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No 26. November 1976. Price 10 cents.

Patron Mr Allen A. Strom
Advisor in Conservation
Department of Education NSW

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BEREAVEMENTS We learn with regret of the death of Mrs Tennant Moss, a regular attender at our meetings.

We regret also the death of Mr Edwards an early member and an expert on butterflies. Mr Edwards provided our butterflies exhibited in the Hut.

Our sincerest sympathy to the relatives of these two members.

SCHOOL OUTING Our Hut Curator, Ken Gorringer assisted two of the teaching staff of the Wentworth Falls Primary School, who took more than 30 children of the 5th and 6th class through the Nature Trail on November 11th.

BLACKHEATH EXHIBIT Through the courtesy of the Blackheath and District Horticultural Society, Our Society again had a most successful exhibit at the Rhododendron Festival Flower Show, November 13th/14th. We also had a table of native plants for sale, provided by Society for Growing Australian Plants from the Glenbrook Reserve, and most welcome by the public.

Thanks to those willing members who designed and set up the show and staffed it throughout.

SWAMP SAVING

Of great concern to the Society is the threat, caused by human pressure on the Blue Mountains, to the natural water courses and their catchments, especially swamps and their surrounds.

For some years the Society in its various submissions, has been stressing the importance of preserving these and will continue to do so.

To help in a practical way we are now conducting inspections with the idea of working for the preservation of specific areas.

We would like members to participate in these inspections and in other aspects of our Planning Committee's work. For further information please get in touch with the Editor Graham Alcorn Rutland Road Medlow Bath.

BUSH RAMBLE to Clarence area on Saturday November 6th a small group of ten ramblers, enjoyed a day in the vicinity of the old reservoir on Dargans Creek, which flows into the Lett River. The area proved to be picturesque and rich in plant and birdlife. Those interested in orchids had a feast day as no less than 14 species were found and identified, including some of the less common caladenias and the lemitras (sun-orchids), there were also Bearded Orchids (Calochilus), Donkey orchids (Diuris) and Greenhoods (Pterostylis), a number of other interesting plants were recorded including some lovely boronias, especially the lovely B. anemonifolia. The area was bright with many "Pea-flowers" including Daviesias, Pultenaea, Dillwynia etc., and many other species too numerous to mention.

Birdlife was also plentiful and a pair of nesting Striated Pardalotes were observed using a hole in an eucalyptus; identification of birds was difficult as unfortunately the group did not include any of our bird experts. Two large kangaroos were seen pursued by two large dogs who stopped to look at us before returning to the scrub. Feral dogs, a sad note on an otherwise delightful outing...K.R.G.

BARRALLIER'S EXPLORATIONS. Illness prevented Mr W Breach, our advertised speaker, from attending the September meeting.

Mr Terry Macartney very ably stepped in with an interesting account illustrated with splendid slides, on various theories as to where the explorer Barrallier actually went on his journeys west of Sydney.

FACETS OF NATURE was the title of Beverly Fielders TALK TO THE October meeting. She showed some most beautiful slides of very close up photographs of flowers and insects. Some showing the camouflage of certain spiders were particularly remarkable.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Christmas Shopping Treat for all people interested in the environment..on display and for sale at Total Environment Centre, Third Floor (The Argyle Arts Centre)18 Argyle Street Sydney.

Six major Australian and overseas publishers display their best and newest publications on environment and conservation, alternate life styles and the outdoors.

POSTER AND PRINTS WITH ACCOMPANYING DISPLAY BY THE COLONG COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED BORDER RANGES NATIONAL PARK,

The proposed Greater Blue Mountains National Park and Botany Bay.

26th, 27th, 28th, November 1976

9 am to 5 pm.

Profits to Total Environment Centre. Bring your Friends.

GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK PROPOSED

Delegates from our Society attended a most impressive meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park Committee in Sydney on November 4th. The following day the case for the creation of this Park was put to the NSW Premier Mr Neville Wran by representatives of the various organisations which had prepared submissions.

The concept, which was earlier endorsed by the 1976 annual conference of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW embodies the proposals put forward by the National Parks and Primitive areas Council in 1932.

It would include the Colo wilderness area, the headwaters of the Capertee and Wolgan Rivers the Nattai river, the Bindock Tableland and the bulk of the Warragamba Catchment together with the interesting Crown lands between these areas, the existing National Parks (Blue Mountains National Park and Kanangra-Boyd National Park) and the Hunter National Park proposal of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The many threats include power lines, new highways, coal mining, pine plantations, trailbikes etc,.

The Park would be over one million hectares and would be unique in the world in being so close to a great city. The Colong committee, Bushwalkers of NSW, Colo Committee, Total Environment Centre, and other organisations have done great work in preparing submissions.

Funds are needed for a continuing campaign. Fees for preparing and printing the main submissions with elaborate photos and maps amount to \$1,000 or more and it is proposed to prepare and print a special issue of the National Parks Journal in the New Year, which will embody the whole proposal. A fund of \$3,000 has been launched. Donations are tax deductible.

If you are able to donate, fill in and post both forms on the next page.