

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No.32 May 1, 1978. Price 10¢.

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION - CATEGORY B.



RU

PATRON. Mr. Allen A. Strom, A.M.

"Eventually world opinion must accept the two imperatives: that nuclear technology of all sorts must be permanently banned, and that the bio-sphere, fuelled only by solar energy, shall be maintained in all those respects that are necessary for healthy life."

--Sir Macfarlane Burnet.....

OUR SOCIETY

COMING MEETINGS May 25th at 8pm in The Hut, Valley of Waters
Panel Discussion on Bushfire control.

PANEL:- Mr Jim Chivas, Group Captain, local bushfire brigades;

Mr Kit Denton, ABC Producer

Mr Bob Richmond, director of fire fighting
Forestry Commission.

Mr Terry Macartney, Our President.

June 29th Members' Night. Bring your six best slides

July 27th See Local Press. Speaker to be advised.

Water Supply

On February 23rd Mr Kevin Tomlinson of the B.M.C.C. gave a most informative talk on our water supply and also the methods used for treatment of sewerage in several locations. Our thanks for increasing our knowledge of two of the most important problems facing our world; waste disposal and pure water.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM. was held on 30th March and report is enclosed. The Society is in a sound financial position and is fortunate to have enthusiastic New Members joining as we shall need to do a fair amount of maintenance on The Hut and Nature Trail this year. Volunteers to do duty at The Hut are always needed by our Supervisor Mary Griffiths. 57-1597

EDITOR G.N. ALCORN RUTLAND ROAD MEDLOW BATH. 82-2096

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| 2) Wildflowers of Australia | Thistle Y. Harris |
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Don't forget to use our library. See Our Librarian, Iris Hall at monthly meetings.
Our library contains some excellent books, most were bought on recommendation of our most erudite and much loved Margaret Pinniger who handed over the librarian job this year.

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Single.....\$3.00,

Family.....\$4.00,

Pensioner...\$1.00,

Junior.....\$1.00.

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One function of this committee will be to recommend suitable land. All members of the Society are invited to take part in the Field Surveys. If interested, please get in touch with Dick Rushton (58-6746).

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This is especially an opportunity for those members who because of distance or other commitments are unable to support

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OBITUARY..... Since our last issue we have learned of the death of Miss Kitty Juleff, a very likeable member and one who very regularly attended meetings, we miss her!

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Another of our members has left these Mountains and is not likely to be seen frequently at our meetings, and that is Miss Bullard who has gone to reside at Mowll Village.

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Following objections by some members to the use of 1080 poison for wild dogs in the National Park, our President interviewed National Park Officers who explained their procedures. The Management Committee, after hearing the President's report, decided to endorse National Parks action. Baits were numbered, laid by hand along known dog trails and uneaten baits collected and destroyed.

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Mammals are more susceptible to 1080 than birds. dogs and foxes are extremely susceptible. For instance 0.10 mg per kg bodyweight is a lethal dose for a dog. For pigeons and doves 4 to 15 mg; ducks 8 to 10 mg several hawks and owls 10.0 mgs approx cattle 0.39 mg, rabbit 0.6 mg. (overseas figures) So baits prepared of lethal strength for dogs would not destroy birds or other native animals.

Compared with other methods of destruction such as trapping shooting and other poisons such as strychnine and cyanide; 1080 is considered to be more humane and more effective.

References

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GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES FOR CONSERVATION

WITHIN THE CITY OF BLUE MOUNTAINS

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Protect the natural character of the Mountains as a vital part of the National and State heritage, and as an attraction to residents and visitors, by eliminating creek and stream pollution caused by inadequate sewerage and excessive clearing of bushland; by sensitive pre-planning and design of all development to minimise clearing of bushland and disturbance of views, and by accelerated reservation and purchase of critical environmental areas by Governments.

We regard the implementation of this Objective as a matter of urgency.

The guidelines suggested by the Society, and the reasons upon which they are based, are as follow -

GUIDELINES

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- (a) as a recreational and fresh-air region for people from the densely populated cities;
- (b) as an outstanding and world-renowned scenic and natural area for tourists;
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Preservation of cliff-edges and cliff-tops in both residential and non-urban zones because of their ecological and aesthetic importance;

Preservation of the swamps at the head of creeks and of the wooded slopes that feed them

Development and Management of the City of blue mountains should be based on an optimum population figure determined by what population pressure the sensitive environment can withstand. Determination of this figure would require --

- (a) an understanding of the ecology of the region
- (b) rejection of the outdated views that population growth should be related to 1) that of the Sydney area; 2) the rate at which municipal services can be provided; and 3) the need for a dormitory for the adjacent industrialised plain.

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The whole of the City of Blue Mountains lies within the Hawkesbury River Catchment. We quote from the background report on the Hawkesbury River Valley Environmental Study commissioned by the Minister for Environment Control:-

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As the National Scenic Reserves under Council Trusteeship, the National Park, and Water Catchment areas are such a large and important part of the Blue mountains, it is our opinion that all planning and development within the City should be related to, and, preferably, subservient to the preservation of these areas.

Determination of Optimum Population.

Consideration of an optimum figure of population should be based on ecological factors with a view to maintaining the special features of the region, and recognizing the City's position between a large (polluted) city to the east and a proposed city (Bathurst-Orange) to the west.

Some work was done on the ecology of the Blue Mountains by the Town Planning Research Team, 1975-6, see Folio 2.4 Environment, C. Riley, of "City of B.M. Structure Plan". Other studies by individual scientists are available.

The City of Blue Mountains, unlike other cities, is a string of townships scattered along forty miles of important watershed. Geologically this sandstone tableland is susceptible to eroding and drying factors. The continuance of its popular bushland character is threatened by the pressures of closer settlement and the consequent adverse environmental effects need to be recognized and guarded against. The danger is not only pollution of the creeks but their degeneration into gutters, flushing when it rains, dry at other times. Permanent water is held in vegetation, particularly in the swamps. Many of these have already succumbed to population growth; implementation of measures to preserve those which remain is urgent.

TURN to LINE 7

Centennial 27 or

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Linden "

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The continued existence of our tourist attractions, such as the floodlit Katoomba and Leura Cascades, the ferny dells and water falls of the famous Federal and National Passes, etc., depend on the retention of the swamps and wooded slopes above the headwaters of the streams. Also to be considered are the effects on stream biology of both diminution of supply and pollution.

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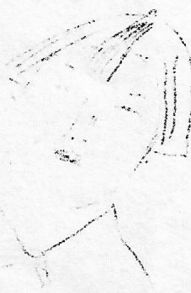
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Habitats for Flora and Fauna.

XXXX To conserve wildlife it is necessary to conserve the habitat of the species. Attention to this principle in planning and management will assist the survival of the wonderful variety of plants and animals which inhabit the Blue Mountains.

Vulnerability and Over-use.

Already reports have been received that the Glenbrook section of the National Park, and the Blue Gum Forest, Grose River Valley are suffering from over-use. This demonstrates the need for additional areas (especially for camping) and the control and guidance of visitor-usage.



This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in July 2021 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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We submit that in the whole of the Hawkesbury Basin there is no more important or more vulnerable area than the Blue Mountains, more so because the vital central watershed is the main corridor to the west.

As the National Scenic Reserves under Council Trusteeship, the National Park, and Water Catchment areas are such a large and important part of the Blue Mountains, it is our opinion that all planning and development within the City should be related to, and, preferably, subservient to the preservation of these areas.

Volume 1 of the City of Blue Mountains Structure Plan is an excellent draft framework for planning and management of our City. We hope its adoption and implementation by the Blue Mountains City Council will not be delayed too long.

Determination of Optimum Population.

‘The flight of metropolitan residents to the Lower and Middle Blue Mountains, to escape the congestion and air pollution of the coastal plain and the Sydney urban pressures, could conceivably gather such momentum that it generates conditions akin to those from which the same people are seeking to escape.’ (HRVES Report, p.17.)

Consideration of an optimum figure of population should be based on ecological factors with a view to maintaining the special features of the region, and recognizing the City's position between a large (polluted) city to the east and a proposed city (Bathurst-Orange) to the west.

Points of importance for ecological and hydrological study are effects of residential development on the swamps and creeks (depletion and/or pollution) and on the viability of the National Park and other open space areas with their important functions of "fresh air" and recreation for the cities around; demands on the future water supply (shared with Bathurst and district); the environmental effects of greater sewage disposal.

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