

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO., 37. AUGUST. 1979 PRICE 20¢

Registered for posting as a publication -- Category (B)

Editor. G. N. Alcorn. Rutland Road, Medlow Bath. N.S.W.



REDBACK
SPIDER

Patron. Allen A. Strom A.M.

Plutonium is thalidomide
for ever.

Dr. Helen Caldicot.

OUR SOCIETY

COMING MEETINGS

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Blue Mountains National Park.

Venue...The Hut, Valley of Waters, Wentworth Falls
Time... 8pm.

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Venue...The Hut Wentworth Falls.

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the Barrier Reef. Time 8pm. Venue..The Hut..

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New Zealand, The Long White Cloud. 8pm. The Hut.

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group of which he referred to a map. He said "the slides were
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What great adventures this young bushwalker has had in this
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Usually a short walk in the vicinity prior to the annual barbeque. Really Barbecue and social evening at the Hut. Bring your own snags etc. to burn.

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Walks reports June/August

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A cloudless perfect day attracted 29 walkers for this interesting route. We met at the end of White Cross Road, Winmalee. The party descended a short distance to the junction of the track from Blue Gum Swamp and took the right hand track to follow Shaws Ridge, a pleasant, undulating track with good displays of some of the earlier Spring flowers, these included bossias, hardenbergias, leucopogon, banksias and some lovely patches of boronia ledifolia, a few hoveas and also grevilleas and many others all welcome signs of warmer weather to come. Lunch was eaten after the descent into Blue Gum Swamp and the creek was followed back. This is a delightful area with some fine eucalypts (*E. deanei*) and angophoras, the swamp also has some large melaleucas, some macrozamia were also observed; the only orchids in flower were in a patch of *Acianthus fornicatus*, the area looked as if it should have had plenty of greenhoods, however none were seen. This was a reasonably long walk but fairly easy as it did not involve any very steep climbing. A number of branch tracks exist but if walkers keep to the left hand tracks there is small chance of getting lost. The area is remarkable for the number of birds present and would reward those interested in birdwatching.

Another super outing enjoyed by all.

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- (a) There are members who come to the Mountains on Friday to weekend here, and wish to attend meetings.
- (b) There are members who commute and find it too inconvenient and/or arduous to attend meetings on a night followed by a working day.

To help the committee decide whether an appropriate resolution should be presented to a general meeting, it would like members to have ample time for consideration, and then if they have a decided view to inform the committee, and if possible their reasons for it.

To avoid extra work for our overworked secretary members are asked to send submissions to the Acting Assistant Secretary, 28 Buena Vista AV. Wentworth Falls, who will collate the information and present it to the Management Committee.

It is anticipated that many members will not have a strong preference in this matter, and the committee will make this inference unless you make your wishes known.

WILSON'S PROMONTORY

Ranger Peter Thomas, now a ranger at Wilson's Promontory, National Park, Victoria, writes with enthusiasm about the place. "It is a beautiful park with good variety of habitats, plenty of birds, animals and plants", his letter says 'Crescent honeyeaters are as common here as pied currawongs on the Mountains.' Ground thrush and beautiful firetail are also easily come by. Wedgetailed and white-breasted sea eagles nest on the Promontory regularly. We also saw 50 Cape Barren geese on the mainland last week'.

"There are lots of animals here as well, mobs of 'roos, wombats, koalas and around the islands there is a colony of fur seals. On the beach the other day there was a pygmy sperm whale washed up. It was approximately 10 feet long and light grey in colour. This was apparently only the second complete specimen in Victorian waters"

Petersays he has started finding a few orchids and photographing them and hopes to photograph a wedge tailed eagle at its nest later on this year.

Any of our members visiting Wilson's Promontory can be assured of a warm welcome from Peter.

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A checklist of birds in the Blue Mountains National Park and the Greater Southern Blue Mountains National Park has been issued by the Park authorities. It does not include sightings on the Warragamba Dam or the agricultural land in the Megalong Valley. The list is attractively printed with brief notes on the occurrence and habitat of each species. A total of 178 species has been recorded.

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This beautiful spotted marsupial predator had broken into the fowl yard, eaten the 4 fowls therein, either couldn't get out again or couldn't be bothered after such a gargantuan feast, and curled up and went to sleep!

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Some species, including a giant toad with a voracious appetite for the destructive Army-worm moth, were in danger of extinction. As a result, Agricultural Communes this year had to use large quantities of expensive insecticide.

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One of the most exciting ornithological events in the southern hemisphere for many years was its rediscovery in north east South-Australia. Mr Sean Parker the curator of birds at S.A. Museum, and Mr Rex Ellis were the discoverers. Their expedition used camels to minimise disturbance to wildlife. As its name suggests, the Night Parrot is strictly nocturnal. They move about at night in search of spinifex seed and water. During the day they roost in holes or burrows in the ground. The bird makes its nest on a platform of sticks in the middle of prickly low-level spinifex.

Never numerous, the birds' nesting and feeding habits have made it vulnerable to feral cats and foxes.

The expedition was financed by the recently formed World Wildlife Fund (Australia).

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FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES IN JULY - - It is good to be able to report that the Art Exhibition, Hugh Speirs' talk 'The Landscape Art of the Blue Mountains' and the Members' Wine Supper were very enjoyable and successful. A total of 303 Dollars was raised for the Land - preservation Fund.

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Inquiries: please 'phone Dick Rushton (58-6746) or Winsome Gregory (57-1573).

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS if a red dot appears in this space.....
..... we have not received your Subscription for 1979
if 2 dots are shown then 1978 and 1979 are owing.

Adults & Families Juniors & Pensioners \$1

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in August 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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