

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter Number 39.

March 1980. Price 20¢.

Registered for transmission through Post, Category (B).....

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

TAILED SPIDER



Patron. Allen A. Strom A.M.

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---William A. Jones

"Yosemite"

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CHANGE OF MEETING NIGHT

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"Paradise Lost --- Shetland before the Oil".

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(N.B. Rienits Pass has recently been restored).

* * Saturday 7th June. Mount Hay Summit, Cars meet near Leura Public School, Mt Hay Road at 10. a.m. (Cars can get to within about 3 kms of the mountain however the track up the mountain is rough and steep.

KDWCS LAND PRESERVATION FUND --- SOCIETY HONOURED

The Australian Conservation Foundation has listed our Society as an organisation eligible to receive grants from it in aid of our Land Preservation Fund.

This will enable members who wish to do so, to make a tax deductible donation by sending money direct to the Australian Conservation Foundation stating a preference that it be used for the purposes of the KDWCS Land Preservation Fund. A special form to facilitate this will be posted to members with the Society's 1980 Annual Report.

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Colin Mason stressed that there is no alternative but frugality, that we must meet the substitutes and be determined to reduce consumption. He said people with money have no right to use up our resources. This point he suggest we should put strongly to our politicians. Concerning possible substitutes for motor spirits he elaborated on their costs and feasibility.

The urgency of permanent alternatives and frugality in consumption is a matter for all to become familiar with. As conservationists we should study the position, convince ourselves of the necessity to reduce consumption and persuade others to follow.

THE NEXT DAY MEETING will be at 11 am on Wednesday, 16th April, at The Hut. Again bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. The Speaker will be announced later. (SEE STOP PRESS)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY This year will be on June 5th. Our Society plans to co-operate with the ACF again by holding a picnic on June 8th. As part of the general theme "The Conserver Society" we will be helping

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Details will be published in the local press and in Mountain villages, and hopefully 2KA. Any wishing to help or enquire for further information please contact Flo Graham 047 58 6274.

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Beside the sheer scenic beauty, viewpoints from social, economic and conservation forces are presented. There will be a speaker, music - specially recorded and literature free and for sale. The ACF has given this unique area top priority and published "the South West Book" now in its second edition.

To give some idea of the dedication of a committed group The Tasmanian Wilderness Society has a voluntary full time staff of SIX.

Don't miss this night of pleasure and concern. Support the efforts and example of this group in their endeavour and enterprise to save this World Heritage.

Film To Be Shown on Saturday, 12th April, 8 pm in the pre-school Kindergarten, corner Day and Armstrong streets Wentworth Falls.

APOLOGY

Sorry our newsletter is late but our editor has been lost in the wilds of West Australia for some months. He has been camping in and tramping around Stirling Ranges in south, fishing and exploring on Rottnest Island where he saw a lot of waders, including 2phalaropes and about 1,000 banded stilts on the salt lakes.

Last report he was on the way to Dryandra Forest Reserve for a few days. This small reserve is especially to preserve the Numbat, a beautiful animal. --W.Alcorn (Acting Editor)

Books For Library

Fred Astle, Honorary Life Member, has generously donated some excellent books to our library including -- Naturecraft in Australia; Australian Landscapes; Australian Wildflowers, Sydneyside Scenery, by Professor Griffith Taylor; The Face of Australia, by Charles F. Laseron....also a copy of 'The New Walk' published in 1931 by the Department of Railways describing Bruce's Walk. All are excellent and we thank you Fred.

Reports on Walks

On Saturday Jan. 5th over 30 walkers did the Neates Glen; Beauchamp Falls & return via Evans Lookout walk. It was a fine day for this very beautiful walk & it proved to be much easier, after considerable repair work had been done to creek crossings & ladders etc. by National Parks & wildlife Rangers. Lunch was eaten at Beauchamp Falls a delightful area where some very early shales can be observed & sometimes an interesting fossil may be found. Birds were plentiful especially several honey-eater species, plus tree-creepers whip-birds & occasional lyre-bird calls, wildflowers were not plentiful probably reflecting the long drought conditions existing for some months.

An enjoyable outing for the large group of walkers.

On Saturday February 2nd twenty-odd adventurous folk set out to negotiate the once popular Bruce's Walk, which had fallen into disrepair since W.W. II. In fact very few maps show the track which received a good deal of publicity in the years between the two Great Wars. The part of the walk between Wentworth Falls & Bullaburra was re-pioneered by Dick Rushton, who led the walk. The going was fairly difficult into & out of the first glen known as Burgess' Glen, which is the deepest of the 3 glens negotiated, a few mountaineers decided to return along the first ridge to Railway Pde near Rhondda Valley, they were rewarded by finding a fine colony of orchids in full flower (*Cryptostylis leptochila*), and a fairly level walk back; the hardier walkers kept on through the remaining two glens, known as Podger's & Claire's Glens. Many traces of the original Bruce's Walk were found, rails, steps & lookouts etc. An arduous day enjoyed by all. It's a great pity that this very beautiful track could not be restored to its former condition, it would make a most useful addition to the walks available to tourists and residents alike. The weather whilst cloudy was particularly humid, an interesting walk deserving more use by bush lovers. The gullies were particularly beautiful with pteridophytes (fern & fern-allies), the area having been untouched for many years. Birdlife was plentiful although few "birdoes" had much time to identify the many species, being too occupied watching where they were going to walk. Cars were waiting at the end to help the weary explorers back to civilization.

Saturday 1st March. Thirty folk turned up for this long walk from Mountain Lagoon (off Bell's Line of Road) near Bilpin, along a ridge to a point with superb views of the upper Colo River region, now a part of the recently declared Northern Blue Mountains National Park. The walk was a most interesting with a number of plant species not found in the upper mountains. Burrawangs (*Macrozamia* spp) being plentiful, some superb Sydney Red Gums (*Angophora*) and some Geebung (*Persea* spp) unlike commoner B.M. species. A walk with some unusual scenery of the Colo area. -K.G.

Alcoa's can recycling programme collected 719.3 million cans or 2,651 tonnes of aluminium, last year. The collection represents more than eight cans returned for every man, woman and child in Australia. This was said to represent a recovery rate of about one can in four. Collectors received Nearly \$1million for their efforts.

WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY

This document prepared by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was released by the Prime Minister in Canberra on March 6th. This body has a membership of about 450 Gov't. and non Government organisations, plus United Nations organisations and 700 scientists. Joseph Glasscott of the S.M.H. reviews it in the Herald of 6th March and to quote:

"The mutual dependance of Conservation and sustainable development is illustrated by the plight of the rural poor it says. For the 500 million people who are malnourished, of the 1.5 billion people whose only fuel is wood, dung or crop wastes, or the almost 800 million with incomes of \$50 or less a year, conservation is the only thing between them and abject misery or death.

People on the margins of survival are compelled by their poverty to destroy the few resources available to them. In widening circles around the villages they strip trees and shrubs for fuel until they wither away and they are forced to burn dung and stubble. The 400 million tons of dung and crop wastes the rural poor burn annually are badly needed to regenerate soils, which, with the plants gone, are already highly vulnerable to erosion."

From the report itself -- "The combined destructive impacts of a poor majority struggling to stay alive and an affluent minority consuming most of the world's resources are undermining the very means by which all people can survive and flourish."

Other points are the threat to genetic diversity with 25,000 plants and 1000 animals facing extinction - loss of agricultural land to erosion or roads and buildings - over exploitation threatening fish supplies which provide 6% of world protein while 65% comes from Plants - Overstocking and mismanagement resulting in widespread erosion and desertification.

Among the points proposed as a priority programme for world Governments, are (1) Good croplands must be reserved for crops not human settlement.

(2) Croplands must be managed for soil and water conservation. Petroleum based fertilisers will be very expensive and the 113 million tons of nutrient potentially available from human and livestock wastes and crop residues should be returned to the soil.

(3) The principal goal for forests and pastures should be protection of the watershed. Fragile or critical areas, especially the steep slopes and the source areas of major rivers should never be cleared.

(4) Excessive yields should be reduced to sustainable yields.

(5) Environmental planning to integrate conservation and development.

The Union is hoping that all governments will adopt its strategy to ensure the survival of mankind.

.....W.A.....

The State Government has added about 4,000 hectares to Myall Lakes National Park on the North Coast, stopping new sand mining on the coast between Hawks Nest and Seal Rocks.

The largest addition of 2,654 hectares, is south of the present park and a mining depot a few kilometres from Hawks Nest.

Sand mining in the north of the park will continue, however as it is on existing leases for which development has been approved.

***** REMEMBER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28th MARCH. I

To be elected President, Vice Presidents 2, Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, Membership Secretary; Editor Newsletter; Librarian; Publicity Officer; Roster Supervisor; Hut Supplier; Walks Organiser; Research Officer
Four Members of committee (Management)

?	Members	Land Use
?	Members	Land Preservation

Thanks to You Working Bees for your effort at the Hut in February

Robert Bee.....

STOP PRESS. The Speaker for the Day meeting, Wednesday 16th April is Mr Ern. Constable - He will tell us his recollections of collecting specimens for the Botanic Gardens.
Sydney.
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This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in September 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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Four Members of committee (Management)

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? Members	Land Preservation

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