KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILELIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 40

JUNE 1980 PRICE 20¢.

Registered for transmission through post - Category (B)

R. J. Alcorn, Rutland Road, Medlow Bath. N.S.W.



Patron. Allen A. Strom A.M.

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Mahatma Gandhi.

OUR SOCIETY

MALE MUSK DUCK

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July 25th A film night.

August 29th

A members' night.

WALKS PROGRAMME FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5th July, 1980.

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Glenbrook National Park

Cars meet on southern side of Woodford Station at IOa.m. near Railway Station, thence by road to the National Park, a stop will be made at Tobys Glen lunch probably at "The Oaks Picnic Ground" then to Woody Pear Dam 7 other parts of the park. The object of this safari will be to observe early spring flowers in various parts of the park. People feeling like a longer walk could visit "Red Hands Cave" and follow the walk from there down to the causeway, meeting drivers at the causeway.

N.3. The Katoomba and District Conservation Wildlife Society always walks - wet or fine. Freguently the rambles taken during mist or rain prove to be most enjoyable, adding a completely new dimension to a walk which might otherwise be mundane or stale. So don't think, "that nobody will turn up!-" they always do. I'm not sure if its a convention or a habit!

FROM OUR LAND USE COMMITTEE

WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

We were pleased to read in the very informative March Newsletter the item in regard to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and its formulation of the necessity for the mutual dependence of conservation and sustainable development, and its World Conservation Strategy priority programme; which, of course, includes the Blue Mountains.

WHAT is being done to APPLY THIS PROGRAMME to our Blue Mountains Region?

POINT (3) of the programme is very relevant here: "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."

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Newsletter No. 40 - page 3 - June1980. Price 20¢.

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- 2. The Forestry Amendment Bill is now before the Government. If passed this will transfer management authority of State Forests in Conservation Areas from the National Parks & Wildlife Service to the Forestry Commission. This could not then be altered without permission of the Commission or the timber companies. Not even the Minister of Forests would be able to intervene to stop the companies from extracting every tree in their concession areas. About 30% of the Tasmanian Wilderness would be lost if the concessions were fully exploited.

Our Society has sent a letter of protest against the above. I appeal to all individual members who have not yet done so to express their objections by sending a post card (obtainable from the Hut) or, preferably, by writing to the Premier of Tasmania.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources considers South West Tasmania to be one of the world's three largest temperate wilderness areas. Its Director General has pleaded with the Premier to gazette the whole area as a National Park.

INGAR PLANT REGENERATION STUDY

It is now over two years since wild fire swept through the study area in December, 1977.

After consulting NPWS Naturalist Ranger, Ann Jelinek, it has been decided to record progress annually in future. This means the next plant count will be in

GARAGE SALE

This will be held in aid of the KDWCS Land Preservation Fund at 23 Edward Parade, Wentworth, Falls, on Saturday, 19th July, 10a.m. - 3p.m.

Anything suitable for sale will be most gratefully accepted. Goods may be left at the above address from Thursday, 17th July, or 'phone Winsome Gregory (571573). (571573).

ATTEMPT TO SAVE LAND

At the May general meeting of the Society it was confirmed that Portions II and I2 bordering Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls, met the environmental requirements for acquisition under our land preservation scheme. (The Society's Land Preservation Fund was set up to secure preservation, by purchase and dedication as Reserve through the Blue Mountains City Council, of some endangered environmentally sensitive land on the Blue Mountains.

Portion I2 may have been sold already, but the new owner could perhaps be prepared to resell the whole or part of it.

Portion II is owned by the Margery Anderson Estate. Through its senior executor, Mr. J. Anderson, the Society has been given three months' option to purchase (till 27.7.80) He would like the land to become Reserve. The price of \$22,000 includes deductions for a) the area being called "Margery Anderson Memorial" and b) waiving of a right of way through Por. I2.

Members are urged to visit this beautiful area (see plan). It abounds with birdlife and a wide variety of native plants. The easiest way to find it is to walk down the track to the Wentworth Falls and follow the signs to Weeping Rock. From Weeping Rock walk upstream about 200 ft. till you see an old post and wire fence partly obscured by undergrowth on the left. This is the southern boundary of Por. II. Follow the track up the creek. The northern boundary is marked by an old concrete post near a low waterfall, below which is a wide sandy creek bed. Portion I2 adjoins to the north. To the west the land extends to just beyond the treeline of the swamps.

Reasons for need for Reservation

I) Ecological and Hydrological: As the swamplands of the Jamison Creek immediat ly above the Falls contribute significantly to the flows of water over the Falls, the Society fears that development of any kind in this fragile terrain, particularly interference with the drainage, could result in the destruction of the catch ment for the Falls and subsequent diminution of flow.

This view is confirmed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (BMCC Business Paper 21.8.78); BMCC (Environmental Inventory, Feb. 1980); Jim Smith B.Sc. Dip. Ed., Lecturer in Ecology Sydney Technical College (Jamieson Creek Survey, Feb. 1980).

- 2) Historical Importance: Attractiveness of the Jamison Creek valley has been acclaimed since first seen by the Three Explorers in 1813. Charles Darwin recorder walking along a pathway through the valley to the Falls in 1836. This was first track used by sightseers on the Blue Mountains, and Jamison Valley creek was the earliest mamed stream.
- 3) Proposed Community Project. Following a request from the Wentworth Falls Reserve 530a Committee, BMCC has given approval for the re-opening of this pathway subject to consent of owners of private land through which the track would run Portions II and I2. These two blocks prevent the Reserve extending from the Great Western Highway to the Falls. Some Blue Mountains Grammar School boys are eager to undertake this work with help from other members of the community.

HISTORY OF CONCERN, AND ACTION, TO DATE BY THE SOCIETY.

Since I974 this Society has been stating its concern about the Jamison Creek Valley in submissions to various authorities. It considers that the whole area is of ecological, historical and scenic importance, being virtually part of a State tourist attraction containing the Wentworth Falls and Weeping Rock.

At present we are waiting for the Minister for Planning and Environment to receive a deputation from the Society. It will stress the importance of this land and the need for urgent action by the Minister.

The Society is seeking direct purchase by the State Government or funding to cover both portions; failing that, part funding. This could involve the Society in raising the remainder.

The Society's Land Preservation Fund stands at \$2774 which (subject to member's approval at the July general meeting, see proxy form) could be used through BMCC towards purchase and dedication as Reserve.

In addition, recognition of the importance of saving PortionII has led concerned citizens and members to promise donations amounting to nearly \$9,000 towards its purchase.

Until the Government's intention and the legal position are clarified no money is being accepted, however the Land Preservation Fund Committee would be grateful for other promises of financial help should the need arise. Please 'phone the Society's Treasurer, Mrs. Betty West (57 I285) or the LPFC Convener, Winsome Gregory (57 I573).

The goal is a big one for the Society and members' wholehearted support is sought.

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Poreion 12 may have meen soid already, but the new owner could perhaps be

WENTWORTH FALLS (3AEAT bed has at heroul eke kîdat bomûn Tanîr Doğamak I CCATION PLAN -Såno giff ni tro inc - sancii (in to) dino - sancii (in to) dino you ture now, way? are er -ekstedmel .coll

There's Many a Slip 'Twixt Cup and Lip

It's instinctive patterns of behaviour have enabled the animal and its species to survive, therfore glimmerings of intelligence have a hard task to make any impact. (After all, do humans do much better in their complex world, where intelligence has become necessary for survival.) Currawongs have been able to adapt to the intrusion of my house and myself into their territory; they show inquisitiveness, learning, innovative behaviour———but instinct wins.

A parent Currawong brought its fledgling along to meet my verandah and my tucker; compliantly, I threw a nourishing morsel. Parent collected it and had started to poke it into junior's open, waiting mouth when, out of the corner of its eye, it saw other Currawongs approaching. Instead of quickly completing the feeding Schior withdrew it's beak, dropped the food and dashed off some distance to chase the others; leaving Junior's mouth open — and empty! Of course, another Currawong made a smart raid and snapped up the morsel, and when parent returned there was nothing to put into that squawking open mouth! A silly act; I've noticed that response to danger (real or imagined) takes priority over feeding, but in this case no time would have been lost by releasing the food in Junior's mouth (or swallowing it himself). The instinct of protective agression was just too strong and blinding; it immediately inhibited the nurturing instinct, and left no room for glimmers of intelligence.

Birds are interesting to watch, and probably the easiest form of wildlife to observe from one's own verandah. There seem to be fewer honeyeaters now, why? Drier times, reduction of understory, ---?

Beryl Cooley.

(Editors note; It may well be that the birds are just in another place. There is an enormous flow of nectar this year from the Banksias and earlier, Lambertia Formosa the 'Honey Flower' and birds congregate in large numbers on sheltered sunny slopes. At bottom of Leura is Olympian Rock close to road and here large numbers of Yellow Winged, Yellow Faced Honey Eaters with Eastern Spinebills and large flocks of Wattle Birds can be seen. The usual vast migration from Victoria to Queensland went through earlier and also large numbers of Spotted and Striated Pardalotes travelling together. Seem to be increased numbers of aptly named Origma Solitaria the Rock Warbler hopping about tracks and rocks eating tiny ants? Usually seen as odd pair on suitable rock it is difficult to see how their numbers could jump. This small bird looking like a pilot bird builds an enormous nest in a dark cleft or cave and I would have thought would suffer predation by bush rats etc. The whitish throat is way to tell them from pilot bird and they are a most lovable and friendly little bird who has at times eaten crumbs off my boots.)

CORRECTION: The President referred to a statement at the previous meeting implying that there was \$2000 available from Hut repairs. This was incorrect. There was in fact only \$1300 in the general and No. 2 account. The account was not for repairs or renewal of the Hut but was available for a variety of purposes.

(Editor's note; The figure at 20th June for the two accounts was \$1559 plus of course another \$1700 available if required from our Interest Bearing Deposit account; a total of \$3259 available for conservation projects. A staggering sum compared to our earlier days. John Hibberd, that fine conservationist and exchairman of the N.C.C., pointed out we are one of only two Societies that have the use of premises to raise money. The W.A. Naturalist Society have over the years purchased the Naturalist Hall there. John also pointed out how our donations ranging from \$50 to \$200 have been used to such good effect to pay printing costs etc. by such notable fighters as the Fraser Island Defence Committee, the Myal Lakes Defence Committee and the latest complete victory The Project Jonah. Our members can be very proud of their part in these things and I think of one of these marvellous monsters with their as yet little understood communications system wallowing along in peace because of our contribution with a wish that I could say to him or her in that strange singing language "I am your friend and may you live forever."

We are very fortunate that we have never had any parochial views in our Society and I feel sure that our members realise a defeat for conservation anywhere is a defeat for all conservationists. This Editors Note seems to have developed into an essay so I'll close by saying we will have to spend some of the enormous affection given to our pets on the wilderness and the creatures of the wild if we wish them to remain part of our lives.

Newsletter No. 40 - page 6 APOLOGY: Sorry, our Annual Report is sti later. Under the circumstances, below is to send in with your proxy form. Rates a pensioner or junior 31.00.	ll at the printers and will have to follow an application for renewal of membership
Enclosed please find	Name
	Address
paste on page 8 of your Constitution Book	set out in convenient form to cut out and
Amendment to (I2)	
The Management Committee shall set the day and time of monthly meetings from year to year.	In the text of the book, Rule I2, please alter Thursday to Friday.
VOTING ON USE OF LAN	D PRESERVATION FUND
N.B. For details of the land under consid	eration please see pages 3, 4 and 5.
VOTING ARRANGEMENTS "That due notice be given of any resemble enditure, allocation or distribution of such notice be in writing, submitted to the such such such such such such such such	olution that would commit the Society to f funds for the purchase of land. That he Secretary and circulated in an edition efore the meeting at which it will be pro-
(On I6.6.80 the Land Freservation Furtion to this sum, a total of approximately specifically and solely for Portion II. roughly estimated that a further \$300 may LPF). The purchase price of Portion II i expected to be in proportion.	Between I6th June and 25th July it is have been collected and credited to the
In pursuance of this resolution memb person or by proxy (see form below), at t. 25.7.80. Proxy/referendum forms received will be regarded as void and of no effect	by the Secretary after 24th July, 1980
The following is the resolution (moves seconded by Vice-President T. Macartney):	ed by the President, G. Blackwell, and
"That all money in the Land Preserva: available towards the purchase of P	
PROXY/REFERENDUM FORM	Katoomba & Dist. Wildlife Conservation Society, for general monthly meeting on 25th July, 1980.
As I will not be attending the generation. As my proxy and automatic discretion.	al meeting, I wish to nominatethorise him/her to cast my vote in his/her
CHOICE B I wish to vote direct without proxy : hereunder:-	in this matter and my vote is recorded
	Yes
SIGNATURE	
DATE	
Dioces and this court the late is a	

Please cut this form at the dotted line and post to:-

The Secretary, Katoomba & District Wildlife Conservation Society, P.O. Box 29, WENTWORTH FALLS: N.S.W. 2782.

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in April 2022 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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Portion 12 may have been sold already, but the new owner could perhaps be prepared to resell the whole or part of it.

Portion 11 is owned by the Margery Anderson Estate. Through its senior executor, Mr J. Anderson, the Society has been given three months option to purchase (till 27.7.80). He would like the land to become a Reserve. The price of \$22,000 includes deductions for a) the area being called "Margery Anderson Memorial" and b) waiving of a right of way through Portion12.

Members are urged to visit this beautiful area (see plan). It abounds with birdlife and a wide variety of native plants. The easiest way to find it is to walk down the track to the Wentworth Falls and follow the signs to weeping Rock. From Weeping Rock walk upstream about 200 ft, till you see an old post and wire fence partly obscured by undergrowth on the left. This is the southern boundary of Por. 11. Follow the track up the creek. The northern boundary is marked by an old concrete post near a low waterfall, below which is a wide sandy creek bed. Portion 12 adjoins to the north. To the west the land extends to just beyond the treeline of the swamps.

Reasons for need for Reservation

- 1) <u>Ecological and Hydrological:</u> As the swamplands of the Jamison Creek immediately above the Falls contribute significantly to the flows of water over the Falls, the Society fears that development of any kind in this fragile terrain, particularly interference with the drainage, could result in the destruction of the catchment for the Falls and subsequent diminution of flow. This view is confirmed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (BMCC Business Paper 21.8.78); BMCC (Environmental Inventory, Feb. 1980); Jim Smith B.Sc. Dip. Ed., Lecturer in Ecology Sydney Technical College (Jamison Creek Survey, Feb 1980).
- 2) <u>Historical Importance</u>: Attractiveness of the Jamison Creek Valley has been acclaimed since first seen by the Three Explorers in 1813. Charles Darwin recorded walking along a pathway through the valley to the Falls in 1836. This was the first track used by sightseers on the Blue Mountains, and Jamison Valley creek was the earliest named stream.
- 3) <u>Proposed Community Project.</u> Following a request from the Wentworth Falls Reserve 530a Committee, BMCC has given approval for the re-opening of this pathway subject to consent of owners of private land through which the track would run Portions 11 and 12. These two blocks prevent the Reserve extending from the Great Western Hwy to the Falls. Some Blue Mountains Grammar School boys are eager to undertake this work with the help from other members of the community.

HISTORY OF CONCERN, AND ACTION, TO DATE BY THE SOCIETY.

Since 1974 this Society has been stating its concern about the Jamison Creek Valley in submissions to various authorities. It considers that the whole area is of ecological, historical and scenic importance, being virtually part of a State tourist attraction containing the Wentworth Falls and Weeping Rock.

At present we are waiting for the Minister for Planning and Environment to receive a deputation from the Society. It will stress the importance of this land and the need for urgent action by the Minister.

The Society is seeking direct purchase by the State Government or funding to cover both portions; failing that, part funding. This could involve the Society in raising the remainder.

The Society's Land Preservation Fund stands at \$2774 which (subject to member's approval at the July General Meeting, see proxy form) could be used through BMCC towards purchase and dedication as Reserve.

In addition, recognition of the importance of saving Portion 11 has led concerned citizens and members to promise donations amounting to nearly \$9,000 towards its purchase.

Until the Government's intention and the legal position are clarified no money is being accepted, however the Land Preservation Fund Committee would be grateful for other promises of financial help should the need arise. Please phone the Society's Treasurer, Mrs Betty West (57 1285) or the LPFC Convener, Winsome Gregory (57 1573).

The goal is a big one for the Society and member's wholehearted support is sought.

There's Many a Slip Twixt Cup and Lip.

It's instinctive patterns of behaviour have enabled the animal and its species to survive, therefore glimmerings of intelligence have a hard task to make impact. (After all, do humans do much better in their complex world, where intelligence has become necessary for survival!) Currawongs have been able to adapt to the intrusion of my house and myself into their territory; they show inquisitiveness, learning, innovative behaviour---but instinct wins.

A parent Currawong brought its fledgling along to meet my verandah and my tucker; compliantly, I threw a nourishing morsel. Parent collected it and had started to poke it into juniors open, waiting mouth when, out of the corner of its eye, it saw other Currawongs approaching. Instead of quickly completing the feeding Senior withdrew it's beak, dropped the food and dashed off some distance to chase the others; leaving Junior's mouth open and empty! Of course, another Currawong made a smart raid and snapped up the morsel, and when parent returned there was nothing to put into that squawking open mouth! A silly act? I've noticed that response to danger (real or imagined) takes priority over feeding, but in this case no time would have been lost by releasing the food in Junior's mouth (or swallowing it himself). The instinct of protective aggression was just too strong and blinding; it immediately inhibited the nurturing instinct, and left no room for glimmers of intelligence.

Birds are interesting to watch, and probably the easiest form of wildlife to observe from one's own verandah. There seem to be fewer honeyeaters now, why? Drier times, reduction of understory?...Beryl Cooley.

(Editors note; It may well be that the birds are just in another place. There is an enormous flow of nectar this year from the Banksias and earlier, Lambertia Formosa the 'Honey Flower' and birds congregate in large numbers on sheltered sunny slopes. At bottom of Leura is Olympian Rock close to road and here large numbers of Yellow Winged, Yellow Faced Honey Eaters with Eastern Spinebills and large flocks of Wattle Birds can be seen. The usual vast migration from Victoria to Queensland went through earlier and also large Spotted and Striated Pardalotes travelling together. Seem to be increased numbers of aptly named Origma Solitaria The Rock Warbler hopping about tracks and rocks eating tiny ants? Usually seen as odd pair on suitable rock it is difficult to see how their numbers could jump. This small bird looking like a pilot bird builds an enormous nest in a dark cleft or cave and I would have thought would suffer predation by bush rats etc..

The whitish throat is way to tell them from pilot bird and they are a most lovable and friendly little bird who has at times eaten crumbs off my boots.)

<u>CORRECTION</u>: The President referred to a statement at the previous meeting implying that there was \$2000 available from Hut repairs. This was incorrect. There was in fact only \$1300 in the general and No. 2 account. The account was not for repairs or renewal of the Hut but was available for a variety of purposes.

(Editors note; The figure at 20th June for the two accounts was \$1559 plus of course another \$1700 available if required from our Interest Bearing Deposit account; a total of \$3259 available for conservation projects. A staggering sum compared to our earlier days. John Hibberd, that fine conservationist and ex-chairman of the NCC, pointed out we are one of the only two Societies that have the use of premises to raise money. The WA Naturalist Society have over the years purchased the Naturalist Hall there. John also pointed out how our donations ranging from \$50 to \$200 have been used to such good effect to pay printing costs etc. by such notable fighters as the Fraser Island Defence Committee, the Myall Lakes Defence Committee and the latest complete victory The Project Jonah. Our members can be very proud of their part in these things and I think of one of these marvellous monsters with their as yet little understood communications system wallowing along in peace because of our contribution with a wish that I could say to him or her in that strange singing language "I am your friend and may you live forever."

We are very fortunate that we have never had any parochial views in our Society and I feel sure that our members realise a defeat for conservation anywhere is a defeat for all conservationists. This Editors Note seems to have developed into an essay so I'll close by saying we will have to spend some of the enormous affection given to our pets on the wilderness and the creatures of the wild if we wish them to remain part of our lives.

<u>APOLOGY:</u> Sorry, our Annual Report is still at the printers and will have to follow later. Under the circumstances, below is an application for renewal of membership to send in with your proxy form. Rates are; Family \$4.00 Single \$3.00 and Pensioner or Junior \$1.00.

	Address
	Name
•	for Membership renewal.

The amendment of our Constitution is set out in convenient form to cut out and paste on page 8 of your Constitution Book.

Amendment to (I2)

The Managment Committee shall set the day and time of monthly meetings from year to year. In the text of the book, Rule I2, please alter Thursday to Friday.

N.B. For details of the land under consideration please see pages 3, 4 and 5.

VOTING ARRANGMENTS

"That due notice be given of any resolution that would commit the Society to expenditure, allocation or distribution of funds for the purchase of land. That such notice be in writing, submitted to the Secretary and circulated in an edition of the next newsletter not less than 14 days before the meeting at which it will be proposed. That such circular advise members unable to attend that meeting that they may exercise a proxy vote."

(On 16.6.80 the Land Preservation Fund had a credit balance of \$2774. In addition to this sum, a total of approximately \$9000 has been promised to the Fund specifically and solely for Portion 11. Between 16th June and 25th July it is roughly estimated that a further \$300 may have been collected and credited to the LPF). The purchase price of Potion II is approximately \$22000 and Portion 12 is expected to be in proportion.

In pursuance of this resolution members are now being invited to vote, in person or by proxy (see form below), at the Society's monthly general meeting on 25.7.80. Proxy/referendum forms received by the Secretary after 24th July, 1980 will be regarded as void and of no effect.

The following is the resolution (moved by the President, G Blackwell, and seconded by Vice President T. McCartney):-

"That all money in the Land Preservation Fund at the date of purchase be available towards the purchase of Portion 11 or Portion 12 or both."

PROXY	/REFERENDU	M FORM
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Katoomba & District Wildlife Conservation Society, for general monthly meeting on 25th July, 1980.

CHOICE A		
<u> </u>	eeting. I wish to nominateas my proxy and	
authorise him/her to cast my vote in his/her own discretion.		
CHOICE B		
I wish to vote direst without proxy in thi	s matter and my vote is recorded hereunder:-	
	Yes	
	No	
	(Please tick on appropriate line)	
FULL NAME (Please Print)		
SIGNATURE		
DATE		
Please cut this form at the dotted line ar	nd post to:-	
The Secretary, Katoomba & District Wild	•	
,,	"	

PO Box 29, WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782