KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT .LDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY Newsletter No.44 June 1981 Price 20¢

EDITOR W.ALCORN 43. Rutland Road MEDLOW BATH 2780. PATTRON ALLEN A. STROM A.M.

The

COMMON BIRD-ORCHID

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Herman Hesse on trees

OUR SOCIETY

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Our President sent a press statement to the Echo, which devoted an editorial and centre page spread to the event, and another to the Gazette, which published a double column Article and a photograph of a Blue Mountain Ash by our Secretary.

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***HELP PRESERVE THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ***

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The leaflet outlines reasons for our concern for preserving the natural environment of the Blue Mountains and also outlines the activities of our Society and Conditions for joining. Copies available at the Hut. Take some and give them to your friends.

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INGAR PLANT REGENERATION STUDY: This study, on the edge of Ingar Swamp in the Blu Mountains National Park, was started in1974 after a control burn had got away. The area was again devastated in December 19 wild fire.

At our 16th inspection a few weeks ago Ingar bore evidence of fire and drought, the Eucalypts deformed and struggling, bare blackened branches of shrubs not yet concealed fully by new growth. However some plants looked healthy enough and the swamp wattle was in bloom, and Banksia asplenifolia with its yellowbrushes (in the early stage these are a strange combination of blue and grey and green).

Plants of a species we had been watching for, had appeared. At our first inspection in 1974, a number of dead bushes of Hakea teretifolia showed that it had been growing there prior to the fire. It was then four months after the fire and young seedlings of this shrub had already sprung up. They had not reached the fruiting stage before the next fire swept through, killing them all. This time it was over two yearsbefore seedlings appeared.

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Many of our earlier members will remember, too, her beautiful slides of Sunrise taken; when she was on night duty at Bodington Hospital. Kay had an unusually close affinity with things of nature.

The Society shares with Elsie and Reg and Dulcie their sense of loss and their gratitude for such a worth-while life.

The Start of The Hut Project

The Society really got off the ground at the meeting on 1/2/62 when a committee was appointed and a draft constitution adopted.

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A Member of that Committee recalled; "I looked across at GeorgeBatty and George was looking at me and we were both groaning inwardly at the thought of what John was wanting to get us into". Objectionswere raised as to the amount of labour involved but John pressed the point that if they were to become something worth-while they must work for it.

The last and strongest objection was with regard to finance. The Society hadvirtually no funds and it was certain that the materials needed would entail much expenditure. The rest of the committee thought that this would put a stopper on John but he assured them of his confidence about getting much of the materials donated. So it was decided to go ahead on condition that there was a major donation of materials. Some , at least, at that Committee meeting felt safe that this condition would not be met.

The minutes of the meeting recordthat "it was resolved that the Society apply to BMCC asking permission to start activities (labelling existing native plants, shrubs, trees; planting new native species) and to improve facilities at the Valley of Waters, Wentworth Falls, that the Society offer one shilling per annum nominal rent for the former tea-room building which could be used as a Natural History Museum and general information for the public".

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The Committee inspected the site on the next Sunday morning 15/4/62 and the secretarywas instructed to write an application to the B.M.C.C.

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This bird sanctuary in the Bay of Islands , North Auckland is the largest remaining area or completely untouched rain forest in the South Pacific. Cats went wild there years ago from lighthouse keepers

The trapping programme took 3 years!. Since the last cat went, the stich bird, a rare noneyeater found only on this island has increased in numbers 5 times. this allowed wildlife Service Officers to trup some of the birds and release them on other islands. a rare petrel, almost eliminated by the cats, has started to build up in numbers. Petrels which live and breed in burrows are very vulnerable to cat predators.

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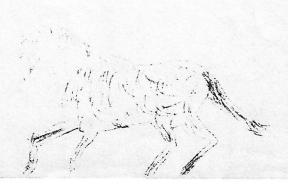
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Objectors are the Federal Department of Home Affairs and Environment Which threatens to refuse an expoty licence, the N.S.W. Dept.of Mineral Resources and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

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This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in June 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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Patron ALLEN A STROM AM

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Monthly meeting at the Hut Valley of waters Wentworth Falls at 8 pm.

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Friday June 31st This is a Members Night, so bring slides or items of interest.

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Other speakers for the rest of the Year are being lined up and we feel they will be very interesting.

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