

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER NO. 49. - AUGUST, 1982 - PRICE 20c.

Editor: R. W. Alcorn, 43 Rutland Rd., MEDLOW BATH.



SCALY THRUSH

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Storn, A.M.

"Something will have gone out of us if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed; if we permit the last virgin forest to be turned into comic books".....

- Wallace Stegner - English
Professor, Stanford University,
U.S.A.

OUR SOCIETY.

COMING MEETINGS. AT CONSERVATION HUT, VALLEY OF WATERS RESERVE,
VALLEY ROAD, WENTWORTH FALLS.

Fri. Aug. 27th. 8p.m.- Preserve the Natural Beauty of the Blue Mountains. Discussion & adoption of policy guidelines to this end. (Please study proposals printed in this issue)

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Thurs. Sept. 17th.- Tallest tree in N.S.W. Meet south side Woodford Station (opposite side to Western Highway) 10 a.m. Leader Jill Dark

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COMING MONTHLY WALKS.

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Sat. Nov. 6th.- Blue Mtn. Trig - Meet same place as above at 10a.m.

BURRENDONG ARBORETUM TRIP.

Weekend of Sept. 18th-19th. Leave Blackheath by car, 8a.m. Sat. Sept. 18th. 4 hour drive to Mookerawa State Recreation Area. Overnight stay in cabins, cost approx \$3.40 per head. Inspect Arboretum Sat. afternoon & Sunday. This area of over 300 acres has hundreds of magnificent Australian flowering trees & shrubs. Contact Graham Alcorn, 88-1033.

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Newsletter No. 49. - Page 2.

BIRD DAY FOR BEGINNERS.

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FILM - "A CURIOUS AND DIVERSE FLORA" will be shown in a Public Hall in Katoomba in Mid-October as part of the Year of the Tree Activities. Watch for this fine film

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The Committee is at present investigating more land as the block selected on Janison Creek was withdrawn from sale

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However, the agony gave way to ecstasy when the Giant Stairway was conquered and the route of their long march triumphantly surveyed.

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(b) To restore & protect items of historical significance in the precinct, particularly Darwins Pathway & the site of 'Weatherboard.'

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Our thanks go to Nancy Douglas, Beryl Cooley, Winsome Gregory, Isobel Bowden for their suggestion & to June Blick for typing.

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Please read it, for it deals with a major local issue.

WHAT IS IT?

Does anyone know what this little insect is? It is the size of a house-fly, with a silky tuft on its tail.

I saw a drift of them at Anvil Rock, Blackheath, in June.

- Grace Bayley.



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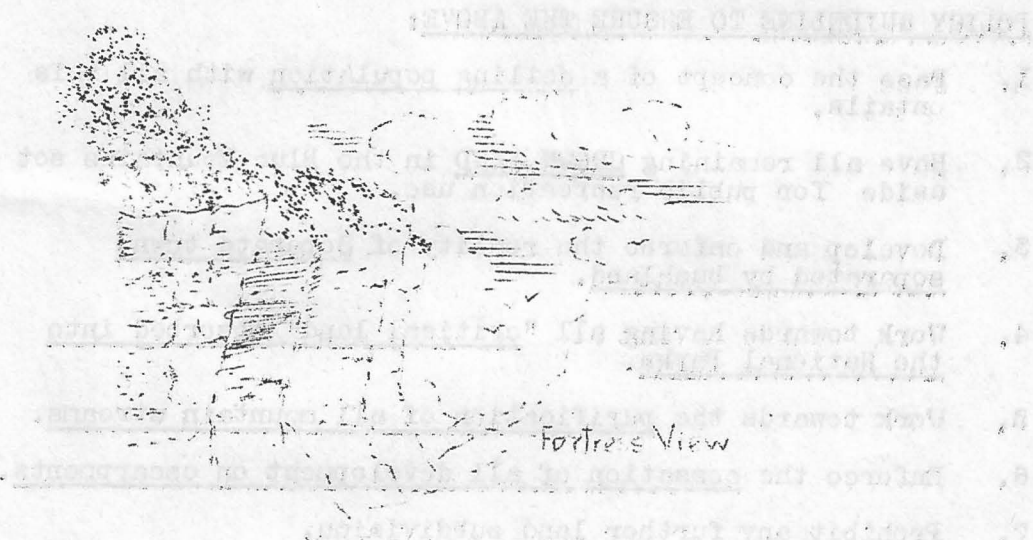
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AN APPEAL FOR COUNCIL LISTENERS.

June Blick has kindly agreed to take over the job of roster clerk. She will arrange with volunteers, dates on which they will attend Committee & Council meetings. Unfortunately, she has not many volunteers on her list and the task has fallen repeatedly on the same, as yet uncomplaining members.

The idea is that the listeners report back to June any council business which would have an impact on our environment. It is not as deadly dull as one might imagine, for all sorts of gossip and snippets come forth & we see our representatives at their best or worst.

And there's a cup of tea & tasty sandwiches & a chat with the great at the end of the performance.

Do ring June, 88-1051 and offer your services.

POLLUTION.

It has come to our notice from a most authoritative source that most of the pollution in mountain streams is caused by leaking sewer lines.

We learn that the Sewerage & Water Board normally repair fairly promptly such leaks. So - it's up to us.

The management committee would be pleased to hear of any obvious sewer leaks or smelly areas.

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AUGUST MEETING TO DECIDE POLICY.

Our Land Use Committee has submitted the following policy points to be discussed and decided upon at our August meeting. Please study them carefully before the meeting and come prepared to amend, reject or endorse as you see fit. Members are also welcome, of course, to advance further points:-

AIM - TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE
BLUE MOUNTAINS.

POLICY GUIDELINE TO ENSURE THE ABOVE:

1. Face the concept of a ceiling population with all this entails.
2. Have all remaining CROWN LAND in the Blue Mountains set aside for public recreation use.
3. Develop and enforce the reality of Separate towns separated by bushland.
4. Work towards having all "critical land" absorbed into the National Parks.
5. Work towards the purification of all mountain streams.
6. Enforce the cessation of all development on escarpments.
7. Prohibit any further land subdivision.
8. Oppose any building permits without sewerage connection - no more septic tanks, at least outside 200 metres from a creek.
9. Restrict industrial development to service industries only, and perhaps light.
10. Enforce prohibition of all building on steep slopes, because of erosion & swamp destruction problems.
11. Maintenance of all existing walking tracks, and consideration of extensions.
12. Development of level area bush walks suitable for the elderly and handicapped.
13. Have push bike tracks incorporated into all new road development, and wherever possible alongside existing roads.

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KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Newsletter No 49. - Page 7.

14. Have council extend its guide lines for dwellings adjacent to reserves, to cover all buildings. Council to have an advice section with guide lines for all new home builders, so that future homes will fit into the environment.
15. Enforce the tree preservation order.
16. Restrictions on the sinking of bores until research gives facts as to their effect on water table levels.
17. Build in and/or retain impediments in roads alternative to the Gt. Western Highway (e.g. Wentworth Falls railway bridge), to prevent becoming second speedways.
18. Work towards having Governments consider upgrading the Bells Line Road for through western traffic - perhaps an expressway. This infers complete opposition to a third road corridor.
19. Work towards having the Blue Mtns. classed as a World Heritage area, as sacrosanct as the Gt. Barrier Reef.
20. That people be discouraged from bringing hooved animals to the Mountains, because of the friable nature of the soil.
21. Discourage destruction of swamplands.
22. Ensure all planning & development is subservient to the preservation of all water catchment areas.
23. Rezoning to gain protection of all mountain streams.
24. Rezoning to ensure maximum preservation of views from train.

CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS.

Our Society receives a number of publications produced by conservation and scientific groups. These publications contain a wealth of information and enable the reader to keep abreast of activities and developments in the environmental scene.

Major publications have now been assembled into binders which will be available from the Librarian. Newsletters and minor publications have also been assembled into binders and these are available for loan or reading in the Hut.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of this facility - informed conservationists are more effective conservationists.

It is anticipated that articles of interest in current issues will be reported to members at monthly meetings.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY.

1. Journal of the National Parks Association - Sept. '73 - Present (IMPF)
2. ECOS - Magazine of C.S.I.R.O. August 1974 - Present (IMPF)
3. HABITAT (Magazine of Australian Conservation Foundation) June, 1973 - Present (IMPF)
4. National Trust Magazine - Sept. '79 - Present (No.10 not available).

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KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 49. - Page 8.

5. Australian Plants 1963 - Present - (IMPF)
6. Native Plants July 1980 - Present (IMPF)
7. Wildlife Research News - March '71 - Present (IMPF).
8. World Wildlife Fund - Annual Report 1981 - 1982.
9. Wildlife in Australia - Magazine of Wildlife Pres. Soc. of Q'sld. March 1971 - Dec. 1980 (IMPF)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE HUT OR FOR LOAN.

1. Newsletter of the Total Environment Centre.
2. Newsletter of the Australian Conservation Foundation.
3. Newsletter of the B.M. Conservation Society.
4. Newsletter of the World Wildlife Fund.
5. Newsletter of SGAP.
6. Bulletin of the Colong Committee.
7. Newsletter of the Native Conservation Council of N.S.W.
8. Newsletter of the Environment Centre of N.S.W.
9. "Moonbi" - Newsletter of the Frazer Island Defendless Organisation Ltd.

(IMPF) - COLLECTION IS NOT COMPLETE AS SOME ISSUES ARE MISSING.

"When you, gentlemen, first got your estates your ground was well furnished with beautiful shrubs. You ignorantly set the murderous hoe and grubbing axe to work to destroy them, and the ground that had been full of luxurious verdure was laid bare and desolate...."

(Cherish the Earth', Beatrice Bligh)

This was written in 1834 in Sydney by Thomas Shepherd, Australia's first garden-architect. What a pity that it still applies today.

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in August 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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(Illustration of Fortress View)

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7. Prohibit any further land subdivision.
8. Oppose any building permits without sewerage connection – no more septic tanks, at least outside 200 metres from a creek.
9. Restrict industrial development to service industries only, and perhaps light.
10. Enforce prohibition of all building on steep slopes, because of erosion & swamp destruction problems.
11. Maintenance of all existing walking tracks, and consideration of extensions.
12. Development of level area bush walks suitable for the elderly and handicapped.
13. Have push bike tracks incorporated into all new road development, and wherever possible alongside existing roads.
14. Have council extend its guide lines for dwellings adjacent to reserves, to cover all buildings. Council to have an advice section with guide lines for all new home builders, so that future homes will fit into the environment.

15. Enforce the tree preservation order.
16. Restrictions on the sinking of bores until research gives facts as to their effect on water table levels.
17. Build in and/or retain impediments in roads alternative to the Great Western Hwy (eg. Wentworth Falls railway bridge), to prevent becoming second speedways.
18. Work towards having Governments consider upgrading the Bells Line Road for through western traffic – perhaps an expressway. This infers complete opposition to a third road corridor.
19. Work towards having the Blue Mountains classed as a World Heritage area, as sacrosanct as the Great Barrier Reef.
20. That people be discouraged from bringing hooved animals to the Mountains, because of the friable nature of the soil.
21. Discourage destruction of swamplands.
22. Ensure all planning & development is subservient to the preservation of all water catchment areas.
23. Rezoning to gain protection of all mountain streams.
24. Rezoning to ensure maximum preservation of views from train.

CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS.

Our Society receives a number of publications produced by conservation and scientific groups. These publications contain a wealth of information and enable the reader to keep abreast of activities and developments in the environmental scene.

Major publications have now been assembled into binders which will be available from the Librarian. Newsletters and minor publications have also been assembled into binders and these are available for loan or reading in the Hut.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of this facility – informed conservationists are more effective conservationists.

It is anticipated that articles of interest in current issues will be reported to members at monthly meetings.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY.

1. Journal of the National Parks Association – Sept, 73 – Present (IMPF)
2. ECOS – Magazine of CSSIRO August 1974 – Present (IMPF)
3. HABITAT (Magazine of Australian Conservation Foundation) June 1973 – Present (IMPF)
4. National Trust Magazine – September 79 – Present (No 10 not available).
5. Australian Plants 1963 – Present – (IMPF)
6. Native Plants July 1980 – Present (IMPF)
7. Wildlife Research News – March 71 – Present (IMPF)
8. Worl Wildlife Fund – Annual Report 1981 – 1982.
9. Wildlife in Australia – Magazine of Wildlife Pres. Soc. Of Queensland. March 1971 – December 1980 (IMPF)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE HUT OR FOR LOAN.

1. Newsletter of the Total Environment Centre.
2. Newsletter of the Australian Conservation Foundation.
3. Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.
4. Newsletter of the World Wildlife Fund.
5. Newsletter of Society for Growing Australian Plants.
6. Bulletin of the Colong Committee.
7. Newsletter of the Native Conservation Council of NSW.
8. Newsletter of the Environment Centre of NSW.
9. "Moonbi" – Newsletter of the Frazer Island Defendless Organisation Ltd.

(IMPF) – COLLECTION IS NOT COMPLETE AS SOME ISSUES ARE MISSING.

"When you, gentlemen, first got your estates your ground was well furnished with beautiful shrubs. You ignorantly set the murderous hoe and grubbing axe to work to destroy them, and the ground that had been full of luxurious verdure was laid bare and desolate..."
(Cherish the Earth, Beatrice Bligh)

This was written in 1834 in Sydney by Thomas Shepherd, Australia's first garden-architect. What a pity that it still applies today.
