



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1980

President; B. Bramsen ph. 512787 Secretary; W. Godfrey 391748
Editor; C. Stickley 536380

P.O. Box 119 SPRINGWOOD, 2777

NEXT MEETING.

Friday, November 14th at 8.00pm at the Teacher's Resource Centre Glenbrook, in Ross Street.

Christmas PARTY

Saturday, 6th December at the home of Besse Bramsen, 52 Boomerang Road Springwood. The party will begin at 6 pm. and, depending on the weather, will be a B.Y.O. Bar-be-que or picnic. Besse will be providing coffee and Christmas Cake at the close of the evening. Philip Simpfendorfer will be showing slides from his latest trip to Kashmir, something not to be missed are Philip's beautiful photographs. To add some cheer to the evening will be a spot of Camp-fire singing. This is an evening the family can enjoy.

NEXT PICNIC

The next picnic/discussion day will be held in January at a date to be set, at the home of Chris Stickley at 20 Gwen Crescent, Warrimoo.

EXCURSIONS.

Saturday, 22nd November will be a walk along Florabella Pass (Blaxland-Warrimoo) led by Richard Philipps. Meet outside No. 6 Ross Crescent, Blaxland at 9 am. There may be opportunities for a swim in Glenbrook Creek.

Annual General Meeting Report.

At the Annual General Meeting on October 10th 1980, there was the election of office bearers for the coming year. Besse Bramsen's good work and untiring efforts will continue as President, with the help of George Threlfo and Mick Dark as Vice Presidents. Wendy Godfrey again agreed to take on the mammoth task as Secretary and Jill Dark is Minutes Secretary. Aleen Hanley continues as Librarian, Colin Powell as Treasurer, and Christine Stickley as Editor.

Besse's President's Report for 1980 is as follows:

"Looking back over this last year, it can be seen as one of hard work by our small and dedicated society. Much of the work has been in raising funds to donate to other societies hopefully, in the cause of conservation of some precious areas.

In this our interests have been wide and varied: though the two gains of Wollemi Wilderness and a small area of South West Tasmania are still doubtful victories. The battle must go on, and our assistance is still needed.

A number of members have enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of becoming acquainted with the aboriginal community of Wallaga Lake, through a visit of their leader Guboo Ted Thomas to the Blue Mountains. We have also been able to contribute some aid to these people in their fight to save some beautiful areas of their land.

Nearer home there is now a move toward having the Eucalypt deanii area on Hawkesbury Road more securely preserved. As a first step, application has gone to Blue Mountains City Council for the formation of a 530A Committee of management. Two or three members of our society will work on that committee with several local residents. This promises to be a live committee which will do everything possible to have the small forest well managed and preserved.

Our one definite gain in the Blue Mountains is the Cessation of logging in Erskine Creek State Forest and the fact that the area has been added to the National Park.

Much thought has been concentrated on Plant Variety Rights Legislation, Penrith Lakes Scheme and many other areas of destruction on the mountains.

Our Council's moribund "Tree Preservation Order", the lack of attempt to apprehend pyromaniacs in our midst, the devastating "hazard reduction" conflagrations, waste of scarce water on dust-settling at road construction sites and draining of water from the Lagoon for greening of playing fields induce feelings of bitter frustration.

Continued releasing of land for building is aggravating all such matters of concern.

But here we must continue to use whatever methods of persuasion possible to bring about a wiser management of our surroundings.

In some happier times we have enjoyed pleasant and informative hours together in the all too few outings of the year. Highlights of these were the World Environment Day celebration at Euroka and a visit to Mick and Jill's bush house.

Our exhibition at S.G.A.P. Centre has attracted considerable attention. From it we have several pages of signatures on petitions for Saving Rainforests and more thought and open discussion on Plant Variety Rights legislation.

I trust that in the coming year we will be able to continue some Sunday morning discussions and picnics, arrange more outings and enlarge membership.

I would like to sincerely thank all members who have contributed to discussion and entertainment at meetings; also those who have spent much time and thought on problem areas. I would like especially to thank Secretary for diligent work and generosity, and Editor for her excellent newsletters; also the hard working Ivy Marketeers, and Treasurer who has been taking care of our finances for several years now.

Looking forward to more fights and happy hours in the future."

RAINFORESTS

Milo Dunphy was the guest speaker at the October Meeting prior to the election of officers. Wendy Godfrey writes:

"Milo Dunphy, Director of the Total Environment Centre, certainly made us aware of the desperate situation that exists in N.S.W. with rainforests 'handled' by the Forestry Commission. The last large remnant is the Washpool Wilderness, situated half way between Grafton and Glen Innes along the Gwydir Highway. It is adjacent to a spectacular granite range which the Forestry Commission classes as 'hardwood- useless-miscellaneous collection of scrubby, useless, rocky and cleared country' (a narrow viewpoint). Past activities there included intensive burning, logging and some molybdenum mining in an area that is now preserved in the Gibraltar Range National Park. When will the public be given a park that is not just valueless to other interests?

Washpool is now under threat from logging, previously deterred by its rugged mountainous nature. The mixture of forest types support a rich and varied fauna including many unusual species such as the Wompoo pidgeon, riflebirds, pittas and large numbers of other birds, marsupials, reptiles, and native fish. Two large stands of rainforest are contained there; the Viper scrub in the southeast and the Willowie scrub in the north and central portion. The startling thing is that should logging proceed, these ecotones and ecosystems will be gone before we know anything about them. Only basic knowledge is available at present, but the Total Environment Centre has begun a 15 month

survey to improve this situation. Milo also described the rainforest situations in Queensland and Overseas, enlightening us with some excellent but disturbing slides.

Altogether, it is obvious some urgent rethinking needs to be done within the Forestry Commission."

A further donation of \$50 has been made to the Total Environment Centre to ensure their continued good work. The Society sincerely thanks Milo for attending the meeting.

MACROPODS AND FORESTRY.

"Members who joined the outing on 12th October had a pleasant and interesting day. Arriving at Mr. Garth Mooreland's Kangaroo Orphanage at Dural, we were greeted by the cutest little 'grey', five months of age sitting upright to scrutinise us and hopping nimbly round the front lawn. A most friendly creature, it enjoyed being patted.

Later we saw it and others being fed from specially designed feeding bottles, and learned that the young are fed different formulas- some are on cows milk and others a soya bean mixture. Like babies, there are good and bad feeders; and the feeding is a time consuming business.

Mr. Mooreland gives advice to people all over Australia on the care of infant or sick macropods; and takes orphan joeys from anyone who brings them in.

Out amongst the more than one hundred adults we met many appealing individuals. Most are tame and friendly though some can show spite: and some of the old males can be bad tempered and unpredictable. A special pet is 'Lucky'. Now nine years old, he was reared from a little pink joey of 2½ inch unfurred length. He is the dark grey soft-furred swamp wallaby whose photograph appears on the cover of Troughton's 'Furred Animals of Australia', and is considered the most photographed wallaby in Australia.

From the big reds and greys of the inland there were animals of all sizes and varieties down to two paddy melons which scampered around their yard at a great rate. Amongst those rarely seen at this latitude were pretty-face wallabies and a larger agile wallaby from Darwin.

There is an element of tragedy in that the aged Mr. Mooreland is alone in caring for this large family, and has some problems with neighbours and local council; also a problem in getting enough feed for the animals. He feeds high protein pellets and lucerne hay to the adults; also any waste fruit and vegetables he can get. We had all done some begging before the visit and took along unsaleable produce from stores and a large bag of grass clippings.

From Dural, we went to Pennant Hills Forest nursery which is surrounded by forest area through which are short walking trails depicting different types of forest and with many trees, palms, and shrubs bearing name tags. There are also parking and picnic areas, and we chose a lunch spot close by a lily-pond. Naturally, we all finished the day in the actual nursery area and came home with something more to plant in the garden."

-by Besse Bramsen.

ERSKINE CREEK WALK.

October 18th was warm and dry, but those in the walking party were refreshed to find Erskine's Creek still running despite the many months without rain. The flora along the track down to the Creek was obviously going through an extreme stress period; Eriostemons were folded up to reduce water loss but amazingly the maidenhair ferns were still coping in apparently waterless soil.

After morning tea/lunch and a visit by a lyrebird, some of the group went for a stroll up into a gully that ran into Erskines Creek from the south, siting figs, ferns, callicoma sp., numerous skinks and perhaps one water dragon.

"Young and old" alike could not resist the urge for a swim and indulged in the cooling clear water of Erskines. Leaving such an idyllic spot was difficult for all, some lingering longer to enjoy the pleasure and peace.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the year ended 30th September, 1980.

1979

154.53 Balance 1.7.79 263.77

Add Receipts for Year

169.00	Subscriptions	182.00	
	Springwood Ivy Market and Penrith		
263.81	Field Day	455.19	
5.00	Donations - General	17.00	
	- Specific - South West		
	Tasmania Committee	54.00	
18.59	Sundry Sales	10.20	
7.08	Bank Interest	8.71	
21.70	Other	-	727.10
<u>639.71</u>			<u>990.87</u>

Less Payments for Year

68.94	Newsletter	106.00
15.00	Post Office Box Rental	16.00
35.50	Other	-

Donations:

South West Tasmania Committee	200.00
Tasmanian Wilderness Society	100.00
Guboo Ted Thomas	100.00
World Wildlife Fund	20.00
National Parks Foundation	50.00
Total Environment Centre	50.00

<u>172.00</u>		520.00
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Subscriptions & Affiliations

Nature Conservation Council	
of N.S.W.	20.00
Katoomba & District Wildlife	
Conservation Society	20.00
National Parks Association	15.00
Australian Conservation Foundation	35.00

<u>84.50</u>		<u>90.00</u>
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<u>375.94</u>		<u>732.00</u>
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263.77	Balance at Commonwealth Saving Bank	
	Parramatta at 30th September, 1980.	258.87

* PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR THE COMING *
YEAR 1980/1981. CHEQUES MAY BE SENT TO THE TREASURER, c/- P.O.
 * 119, Springwood, 2777. *
 Single - \$4 Family - \$5

MACQUARIE MARSHES.

The State Government has ordered a public inquiry into the Macquarie Marshes following their discontent with the prepared Environmental Impact Statement. For those interested, Wendy Godfrey has a summary of the E.I.S. for perusal.



May your Christmas be happy and peaceful and let's make 1981
 successful for Conservation in the Lower Blue Mountains.

