



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119,
Springwood, 2777

NEWSLETTER

? FEB 1985

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APOLOGY: Personal and work commitments during the past months have delayed the production of this newsletter. If you can help in any way eg articles, I would be appreciative.

Editor.

MEETINGS

These are held on the second friday of each month, starting at 8.00 pm in the Teachers Resource Centre, Glenbrook Infants School, Ross Street, Glenbrook. If this day happens to fall during a school holiday period, we cannot use the school facility and other arrangements are made. If in date phone Aleen or Wendy.

April 12	Bush Regeneration
May 10	Details next newsletter

WALKS AND OUTINGS

Bents Basin State Recreation Area - a challenging task to provide a recreation facility whilst at the same time ensuring conservation of 3 rare and endangered species as well as some poorly conserved floristic communities. Can it be done? As your esteemed Editor represents the Society on the Trust managing Bents Basin, an excursion is planned for a Saturday in April to look at the management problems of such a complex task. Arrangements are being made, phone Paul Godfrey if you would like to come.

May 12th

Glenbrook Gorge - most of the day

Meet 10am at Glenbrook Visitor Centre, next to the National Park entry gate. You will need munchies and drinkies.

June 16th

Blue Gum Swamp Creek to Grose Lookout - most of the day. Meet 9am at the end of Whitecross Road, Winmalee. Munchies and drinkies will ne needed again.

July 14th

Brace yourself.....put on your feathers and grab your mittens.....Lockleys Pylon from Mt Hay Road. The road is rough in places, if you would like a lift phone the Godfreys. Otherwise, meet 10am at the start of the walking track, about 15 kms along the Mt Hay Road, turn right (if you're coming up the Mountains) near Leura Public School, Great Western Highway, Leura. The walk involves some gentle climbs but spectacular scenery surrounds the walker along this track from beginning to end. Hanging swamps, heath and dry sclerophyll forest are featured on this walk, which could be a trifle (!!!!) breezy but well worth the effort. Rations for a day.

August 11th

Springtime flower wander into Erskine Creek.

Meet 10am at Jack Evans Track, approx 12 kms from the National Park Visitor Centre at Glenbrook along The Oaks Fire Trail (O.K. for ordinary cars). Watch for the turnoff to Nepean Lookout on the left, turn there. Parking area is marked by signpost 2 kms past Machins Crater. Better still get a map from the Visitor Centre on your way in. Boronias, Ricinocarpus, Croweas and Banksias are the highlight of this walk. Bring supplies for an outing lasting 2 hours minimum, 4 hrs at the most.

September 15th

Darks Common, Glenbrook/Lapstone.

Meet 10am at George's Place which is, 48 Emu Road, Glenbrook. This will take as long as you would like, 1 hour or more. Regardless, if you're interested in history or the regenerative capacities of the native flora (or the invasive capacities of exotics) this is the stroll for you.

Scones, jam and cream at your place afterwards George?

3.

October 13th	Agnes Banks Nature Reserve.
	Leader Margaret Esson - details soon.
November	Murphys Glen Spotlight - details soon.
December	Chrissy Party and members get-together.
	Details next newsletter.

WANTED

An energetic, enthusiast for blood, sweat and tears to arrange entertainment and/or speakers for monthly meetings. We'll give you the ideas if you're short of them and help with contacts and letters. We just need a person to make a few phone calls and generally keep their finger on the pulse of this vital function of the Society. If you can help in this way, make yourself known to any one of the contacts on page 1 or better still, come along to our next meeting.

SPECIAL OUTINGS

AUGUST 25th	A look at an endangered species, the Faulconbridge Mallee, <i>Eucalyptus burgessiana</i> . Meet 10am opposite Faulconbridge Post Office. Leader Margaret Esson.
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INSPIRING OPPORTUNITY

to hear	<u>Norm Sanders</u> that vigorous campaigner against the Franklin Dam and supporter for the peace movement,
	<u>Dr. Jim Ward</u>
	and
	<u>Jim Falk</u>
at	PEACE SEMINAR
when	April 13th
where	Springwood High School
more details from	Gerald Williams 511916.

NATIONAL PARK FIELD STUDY WEEKEND COURSES ON THE NATURAL HISTORY OF KU-RING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK.

Conducted by: Joan Webb and Tony Edmonds from the Centre for Community Environmental Studies, Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education.

DATES: Saturday and Sunday April 13-14	COSTS: one weekend \$45, two weekends \$75.
Saturday and Sunday April 20-21	
TIME: 9.00am to 4.00pm each day.	ENQUIRIES: Mon., Wed., & Thurs., 467-9279.
VENUE: Kuring-gai CAE and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.	9.30 to 2.30 each day

4.
(NEWSLETTER ARTICLE BEGINS)

Article offered by the Aust.
Conservation Foundation.

NATIONAL WOODCHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Decisions will very soon be made which will affect the long-term future of large areas of Australia's forests. The Commonwealth Government is reviewing the woodchip export licences. Its actions will determine the conditions of these forests well into the next century.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian woodchip licences are being reviewed right now. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared and the Commonwealth Government will decide what licence conditions to impose, if any, by July 1985.

There is much at stake. State Reserves contain only 4% of Tasmania's forests, and do not adequately protect many species and community types. Forestry threatens cool-temperate rainforest, the world's tallest hardwood stands, and the state's last unlogged catchment of dry sclerophyll forest.

The edges of the cherished South West World Heritage area may be ravaged. Logging in the Weld, Huon and Picton valleys would devastate views from Federation Peak, Mt Anne and Precipitous Bluff. Vistas from the Cradle Mountain overland track would be scarred by operations in the Lemonthyme. Almost a third of Tasmania's wilderness is threatened by forestry: more than was saved in the Franklin victory.

Other States

Woodchip projects in other states come up for review in successive years after Tasmania. First the Eden scheme in south-eastern New South Wales. Next the program in Western Australia's karri and marri forests. There is still a possibility of woodchipping commencing in far eastern Victoria, which includes the famed Errinundra plateau.

A national strategy

Conservationists from NSW, Victoria, WA, Tasmania and the ACT attended a national woodchip summit late last month. It was agreed unanimously that the decision on the Tasmanian woodchip licences would set a precedent for the other states. If the Tasmanian licences are renewed without significant restrictions and environmental safeguards, there is little hope of success in other states. Therefore it was decided that a national campaign should be launched to convince the Commonwealth Government of the need for conditions on the Tasmanian licences. Less than seven months remain to achieve this aim.

PTO.

<u>Timetable:</u>	December 1983	Review of Tasmanian woodchip licences announced.
	December 1984/ January 1985	Draft EIS released
	January-February 1985	Two months public comment period.
	c April 1985	Final EIS submitted to Commonwealth Government, and reviewed.
	June/July 1985	Final decision on export licences.

Strategy

In a similar fashion to the Franklin campaign we must use two types of strategy:

1. Bring direct pressure to bear on Canberra through lobbying, letters, telegrams, etc.
2. Demonstrate through the media national concern over the woodchip issues.

Five steps to saving the forests

Your organisation and your members are urged to do the following, in particular the first two tasks. Please:

1. Write to the Minister for Primary Industry, the Hon. J Kerin, asking him to implement ALP policy on woodchip exports (see attachment 2).
2. Comment on the draft EIS. "EIS response kits" will be available in January from the Environment Centres and the contacts listed below. Write to the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment (presently Hon. B Cohen) demanding a copy of the draft EIS be placed in your local library.
3. Inform your membership on the issue. Start by displaying these pages and reproducing some or all of them in your newsletter.
4. Write letters to major and local newspapers, stressing the national importance. Visit newspaper editors to explain the significance of the Tasmanian woodchip licences.
5. Visit your local Federal member and Senators. Again stress the national significance of the current Tasmanian review. Tell them the renewal of the licences should be conditional on the establishment of the F.A.N. reserve proposals. Explain that alternatives to logging the reserve proposals exist which maintain jobs in the industry. Mention the ALP platform commitments (see attachment 2).

We look forward to any assistance you can provide.

Contacts

Jonathan Miller/Tim O'Loughlin, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart 7000
(002) 345566, (002) 343552

Roger Smith, ACF, 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122. (03) 819 2888.

(NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ENDS.)

'Backroom boy' is State's new national parks chief

By JOSEPH GLASCOTT,
Environment Writer

Mr John Whitehouse, the "backroom boy" who planned the NSW rainforest national parks, has been made the new director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

At 32, he is the youngest head of a department in the NSW Government.

The selection of Mr Whitehouse, now assistant director of the Environment and Planning Department, is seen as an indication of the Government's determination to make conservation, environmental issues and national parks important during this term of office.

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr, said yesterday that Mr Whitehouse's selection, which will be gazetted later this week, emphasised the Government's concern about conservation.

"Mr Whitehouse may be the best public servant of his age in Australia," he said.

"He was behind the scenes in the creation of the Myall Lakes National Park, the North Coast parks, the rainforest parks and Wollemi, the second largest park ever established in NSW, and was instrumental in the formation of the new Environmental and Planning Assessment Act under which the State now operates.



John Whitehouse ... his appointment is seen as an indicator of the Government's commitment to environmental issues.

"National parks are his domain. The area of national parks has increased by over 70 per cent since the present Government came to power.

"The appointment of Mr Whitehouse means that while we have a period of consolidation of our new parks, we are not resting on our laurels.

"There are other national parks in the pipeline."

Mr Whitehouse was special adviser to the late Mr Paul Landa during his term as Minister for Planning and Environment from 1976 to 1980.

This was the most active

period of national park reservations and conservation protection in the State's history.

Mr Whitehouse also advised on the creation of national parks, restrictions on coastal sand mining and land management throughout NSW and was one of the principal authors of the 1979 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

Mr Whitehouse succeeds Mr Don Johnstone as director of the NPWS. Mr Johnstone held the position from 1973 until his retirement last week and implemented the biggest national park program of any Australian State.

This is good news for the NPWS!

ACF Newsletter February 1985

WILDLIFE STUDY TOURS PTY. LTD.



Guides for educational research, conservation and tourist purposes. Director: Jim Steenson, former national parks and wildlife ranger.

Feeling adventurous?

Advertisement

ENVIRONMENT and WILDLIFE TOUR of THE SOVIET UNION

Wildlife Study Tours are pleased to announce that negotiations with the Soviet Union authorities have been successful for conducted environmental and wildlife tours to the Soviet Union. The first of these tours will start during the second half of 1985 — August or September.

On arrival in Moscow, the Australian touring group will be briefed by the All-Union Society of Wildlife Preservation, an organisation similar to our Heritage Council.

An introduction to Moscow and its environs with visits to the University, Bolshoi Theatre and historical places.

Visits to nature reserves offering samples of USSR wilderness and its eco-systems, and wildlife.

Specific details — e.g. time of departure, costs and full itinerary will be published as soon as information is available. For general information write to Jim Steenson, Box 360 PO, Hornsby, 2077. (Telephone: (02) 457 9753.)

This and the following page include extracts from released B.M.H.N.s Heritage Study. They are included for members perusal.

The principal recommendations in this report are as follows:-

RECOMMENDATION 1 - STATUTORY CONTROLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE

Environmental heritage is a major issue in the Blue Mountains which should be reflected in planning objectives and in specific zones and clauses.

1.1 Objectives

It is recommended that the existing heritage provisions of Blue Mountains LEP NO. 4 be removed and replaced with a new LEP concerned exclusively with management of the environmental heritage.

1.2 Natural Environmental Items

It is recommended that in respect of the items of the natural environment the new LEP include the following zones:

- Natural areas, Environmental Protection 7(c);
- Scenic areas, Environmental Protection 7(d);
- Escarpments, Environmental Protection 7(e);
- Ecologically important areas, Environmental Protection, 7(k); and
- Scientific sites, Environmental Protection 7(j).

1.3 Cultural Environmental Items

It is recommended that, with regard to the conservation of heritage items in urban areas, the new LEP should follow the procedures provided for the definition, listing and assessment of items and for the control of changes as specified in Section 5.4.2 of this report.

1.4 Development Control Plans

It is recommended that Council adopt the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter and guidelines for cultural significance as the basis of a development control plan. This plan would, in effect, expand upon the assessment of environmental heritage significance and the assessment of the extent to which the approval of applications would affect such significance. The

use of the Burra Charter and the guidelines for cultural significance as a basis of a development control plan should be considered as an interim measure only while a DCP oriented to the Blue Mountains is being formulated.

1.5 State Environmental Planning Policies

It is recommended that Council should request that the Director of Environment and Planning exempt certain areas from SEPP's 1, 4, 5 and 11 to ensure the conservation of their existing character. This option is considered less cumbersome than the application of Conservation Zonings to those areas.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - BLUE MOUNTAINS INVENTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE

It is recommended that the Council seek local involvement in further developing the Blue Mountains Heritage Inventory and the historic themes to which it relates.

It is recommended that surveys to collect information be related to specific types of item or specific places and that highest priority be given to:-

- Items in the transport corridor and those aiding the definition of the transport corridor, namely old roads, survey markers, railways, etc.
- Hotels and boarding houses, including identification, location, and comparative analysis.
- Urban gardens.
- Significant trees in urban areas.

RECOMMENDATION 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Blue Mountains City Council establish an Environmental Heritage Committee to advise on the assessment and conservation of environmental

heritage, and to assist in the promotion of heritage conservation and the collection of information.

RECOMMENDATION 4 - LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES

It is recommended that Council develop its local historical resources in order to assist local historians and to assist in the assessment of environmental heritage significance of particular items. It is further recommended that Council's rate books be microfilmed so that the information they contain is more easily available to researchers.

RECOMMENDATION 5 - INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

It is recommended that the Council make information about the Blue Mountains and its environmental heritage available whenever possible, and in particular that:-

- Information about heritage conservation be collected and be made available for use by the community.
- The Council publish a bibliography of the Blue Mountains, the Blue Mountains' Heritage Study, a booklet about houses in the Blue Mountains, and information prepared for seminars.

RECOMMENDATION 6 - SEMINARS

It is recommended that Council promote the environmental heritage of the Blue Mountains and encourage the contribution of people with expertise by holding seminars. These seminars should be of two kinds. Firstly, for the community in general, to promote understanding of environmental heritage and secondly for representatives of community and government organisations who may be of special assistance to Council.

RECOMMENDATION 7 - EXPERTISE AND STAFFING

In order to give proper consideration to environmental heritage matters it is

recommended that Council engage full time staff with skills in heritage management. In view of the likely scarce resources in this regard, it is further recommended that, following the formulation of new and appropriate statutory planning controls, priority be given to the promotion of community understanding of environmental heritage.

RECOMMENDATION 8 - FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID

It is recommended that Council seek financial and technical aid in respect of the assessment and consideration of major items of the environmental heritage. Such aid should be sought, in the first instance, from the Heritage Council of New South Wales and from the State Government generally, in respect of the acquisition of land in particularly important locations.

It is further recommended that Council provide technical aid to owners of heritage items and that this aid be supported by small grants, particularly to allow people with special skills in heritage matters to give advice.

RECOMMENDATION 9 - FURTHER STUDIES ABOUT SPECIFIC HERITAGE ITEMS

It is recommended that several specific items or types of item are worthy of special study:-

- Mount Wilson, Mount Irvine and Mount Tomah should be studied collectively.
- Walking paths, tourist lookouts, shelters and fencing
- The escarpments and nearby land require evaluation.

RECOMMENDATION 10 - INTERPRETATION STUDY

It is recommended that an interpretation be carried out of the environmental heritage of the Blue Mountains to provide information to assist in the assessment of the significance of individual heritage items, and in order to establish priorities for action and funding.

Conservation Is Key to Drought Prevention

The belated and costly airlift of food aid to starving Ethiopia is but the latest example of the price industrialized nations must pay for the failure to conserve the forests, soil and watersheds on which Third World food production depends, environmentalists meeting in Madrid recently agreed.

The long history of recurring drought and famine in Ethiopia is a complex web of cause and effect. But ecologists at the General Assembly of IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) cited mismanagement of the land as a primary source. They concurred with the judgment of Dr Mostafa Tolba, Director General of the United Nations Environment Programme, that the present crisis "is but an acceleration of the process of land degradation that has taken place even in years of good rainfall".

"The danger," Dr Tolba told IUCN delegates, "is that a return to normal rainfall will divert attention from this hidden environmental crisis. Hidden because its side effects — displacement of rural populations, per capita reductions in food output, political and social unrest — are seldom traced to environmental impoverishment."

Mr Anders Wijkman, Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross Society, is one who has made the connection. The Swedish Red Cross will put aside 20 to 30 per cent of all emergency funds to be used in long-term disaster prevention. He blamed the media for spreading the notion that disasters are mainly the result of natural forces, rather than of people's mismanagement of the environment. Prevention, he told IUCN delegates, is far more cost-effective than relief after the event.

Such disasters and their toll in human life are increasing steadily, Mr Wijkman reported: "About 10,000 people died in drought disasters in the 1960s. In the following decade, this figure increased at least 23 times . . . Floods increased most. There were 151 internationally recognized flood disasters in the 1960s. In the 1970s the number rose to 222". The number of flood deaths rose from 24,000 in the 1960s to 47,000 in the 1970s.

From an environmental point of view, floods and droughts are two sides of the same coin, regularly aggravated by cutting down forests, overgrazing range land and bad cultivation and irrigation practices.

The spectre of drought in the Indian sub-continent rivaling the crisis in Africa was raised in Madrid. In most areas of India the water table is dropping, according to IUCN Regional Councillor Naini Jayal of India, the cause being forest destruction and land degradation. In Maharashtra State alone, 23,000 villages are now without adequate drinking water, while in Uttar Pradesh, 2,300 of 2,700 government water projects have failed as water sources dried up. At the same time, flood-prone areas have doubled, from 20 million to 40 million hectares.

Midway in the United Nations Water Decade, more people in Southern Asia are without water than when the programme began, Mr Jayal said.

The same processes are turning productive land into desert at the rate of 6 million hectares a year, with another 21 million hectares becoming only marginally productive, according to IUCN's outgoing President, Professor Mohamed Kassas of Egypt.

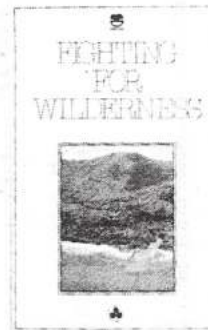
The 3.1 billion hectares now threatened by desertification produce less and less for 850,000,000 people whose lives depend on this land, said Kassas. "These people will become a burden on the rest of the world. Their steady impoverishment will prevent them from producing or buying goods, putting a brake on the world's economy. The investment in conservation needed to arrest this trend and provide poor people with alternatives to destroying their environment is small compared to the costs of irreparable desertification," he warned.

Ironically, well-intentioned large-scale development aid projects, such as dams, cash-crop plantations and road-building, sometimes add to environmental problems. The IUCN General Assembly whose nearly 800 delegates represented governments and non-governmental development banks and aid agencies to pay more attention to the environmental consequences of their projects and to invest more in conservation of natural resources.

As HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund, Vice-President of IUCN and a former ACF President put it in an inaugural address: "We hear daily of so-called natural disasters, such as the drought in Ethiopia and the Sahel countries, but the fact is that a proper concern for conservation of nature and natural resources over the years might well have limited the severity of the drought and its tragic consequences."

Source: IUCN Press Service.

Fighting for Wilderness



What have been the great wilderness battles lost and won in the conservation view, and what will determine how future battles for wilderness in Australia are waged?

In this book, leading conservationists who have been actively involved in, and often at the forefront of, Australian wilderness campaigns tell of their experience and offer advice on strategies and tactics for those who will carry on this struggle to secure our last wild lands.

Fighting for Wilderness was developed in association with the Third National Wilderness Conference held at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains in September 1983. The conference took place at a particularly crucial time for wilderness conservation in Australia. Recent events in South West Tasmania and the current battle for Queensland's Daintree rainforests have clearly demonstrated the need for increasingly sophisticated strategies to achieve success in conservation.

This is a book with first hand information on how successful conservation campaigns are run. Everyone working to protect the environment can learn something from this book. Geographers, political scientists, planners, engineers and conservationists will find it a valuable source of information.

Order your copy of "Fighting for Wilderness".

Mail to: Australian Conservation Foundation
672b Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122
Phone: (03) 819 2888

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Please send me copy/copies of "Fighting for Wilderness" at \$8.95 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (total \$11.95).

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