



# Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119, Springwood, 2777.

AUGUST 1985 NEWSLETTER - editor Sue Threlfo

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## SOCIETY GOSSIP

Wendy and Paul Godfrey are moving to the Northern Territory to become rangers in Kakadu National Park! LBMCS wish them well in this endeavour. Congratulations! The Godfreys do not intend to lose contact with us - they purchased a Life Membership. Thanks Paul and Wendy, for all your efforts. We thank them also for their very saleable contributions to our August (and future) Ivy Market stall. So far they have netted about \$70!

Dark times for the Darks recently with five casualties over three generations of the family. None of the problems are thought to be life-threatening. Jill is overseeing all five recoveries.

Congratulations to Dick Jackson-Hope on his election to Blue Mountains City Council. We hope his conservation commitment will remain unswayed.

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the June meeting Kevin Rozzoli, state M.P. for Hawkesbury, spoke about the Hawkesbury-Nepean River Authority Private Member's Bill he is proposing next sitting of Parliament. The Authority would have overall control over many state and local authorities whose decisions presently affect the river. It would cover all areas in the watershed of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system.

Ruth Overton spoke about Mootwingee and Carnarvon Gorge at the July meeting. Her slides and address were of great enjoyment to those present. Thank you, Ruth.

Workshops were held at the homes of the Sages and Besse. We thank them for their time and hospitality. The July workshop included a farewell for Paul and Wendy. Thanks to Besse for her special effort.

## SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

The LBMCS has made several donations recently, to Darks Common Trust, National Parks and Wildlife Foundation (for whale equipment), Jenolan Caves Protection Committee.

Bob Chapman has applied to be on the advisory committee of the Blue Mountains National Park. He will represent LBMCS if accepted. The NCC is supporting this nomination.

We have requested of John Kerin M.P. that there be public participation in the inquiry relating to the Plant Varieties Act, and that the report be made public.

Margaret Esson and Richard Phillipps are co-ordinating efforts to ensure the future of the Faulconbridge Mallee and Florabella Pass areas respectively. These will probably take the form of proposals for Permanent Conservation Orders or additions to the Blue Mountains National Park.

The LBMCS is also involved currently in the fight against the Woolshed proposal and airport issue.

#### LBMCS MEETINGS PROGRAM\*\*

- Friday 13 September - Jill Dark will present slides and a talk on RAINFORESTS OF NSW  
- flora and fauna will be featured of course
- Friday 11 October - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
- members are invited to bring along slides for viewing at this meeting.
- Friday 8 November - Judy Smith will present slides of BIRDS IN MY GARDEN.

\*\* All meetings start at 7.30 p.m.

Workshops are on Monday nights, 30 September, 28 October, 25 November. Check with one of the contacts about venues for these. All are invited to contribute to the ongoing issues of our group by attending these workshops.

N.B. The August workshop has been replaced by a joint meeting with members of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society at Mick and Jill Dark's, Clearview Parade, Hazelbrook, on Friday night 23 August. Phone 58 7061 for details.

#### MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIPS are DUE in October before the AGM!  
The fees are \$5 individual and \$7 family.

#### LBMCS WALKS PROGRAM\*\*

Future walks areas will be chosen for their relevance to current environmental issues. Please telephone the walks leaders to confirm arrangements for each walk.

- Sunday 25 August - THE FAULCONBRIDGE MALLEE AREA  
- leader Margaret Esson, phone 51 1826  
- meet 10 a.m. at Faulconbridge Post Office.
- Sunday 1 September - FLORABELLA PASS  
- leader Richard Phillipps, phone 39 2568  
- meet 10 a.m. at the end of Florabella Street, Warrimoo.
- Sunday 22 September - EASTERN ESCARPMENT  
- leader George Threlfo, phone 39 5125  
- meet 10 a.m. at Lennox Bridge.

\*\* October and November walks were not planned at the time of printing the newsletter so telephone one of the contacts after September for later details.

#### MORE WALKS

"Want a snail's pace stroll guarded by a NP&WS ranger? Then try one of the walks in the SEASONAL WALKS PROGRAM of the NP&WS." It runs from 24 August to 7 September and includes short/long, and nature study walks, a film night, spotlighting and other activities. Contact Glenbrook or Blackheath NP&WS ranger stations for details.

### STILL MORE WALKS!

We are welcome to accompany the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society on their regular walks. As usual, confirm with walk leaders to avoid mix-ups.

Sunday 8 September - BELLTREES PROPERTY near Bell  
- leader Eric Blick, phone 88 1051  
- meet 10 a.m. Mount Victoria Station.

Thursday 19 September - WATERHOUSE PARK, easy walk with waterfalls  
- leaders Dulcie and Reg Toseland, phone 84 1682  
- meet 10 a.m. at Hazelbrook Public School.

The UBMCS had not finalised their walks calendar at printing time either, so for later details contact Olive and John Noble on 87 8342.

### SEWAGE

Besse's Report of the A.C.F. meeting, 21 May 85, at the Australian Museum:

SEWAGE - SHALL WE USE IT OR LOSE IT? A presentation of alternatives to Sydney's unhealthy and uneconomic system.

Speakers were Tony Scott, Peter Maslen and Francis Sutton.

Tony Scott quoted the late Owen Miller and showed an audio-visual of "Newage Sewage". "The Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board only considers disposal. It is now time to consider the whole community. Sea disposal is cheap and nasty. With water becoming more scarce in future, waste water should be re-cycled for irrigation and industry. Humus fertilizer should be used where we are now using chemical. Increase in crop yield could be 30%, and healthier and more nutritious crops produced. Health benefits would be incalculable; and our coast would be much cleaner."

Some years ago the cost of the proposed new Shoalhaven Dam was quoted as \$200M. If Sydney's water were recycled there would be no need for the dam. Eventually we will have to recycle. Why build outfall tunnels and dams? Sewage fats can be skimmed and recycled to diesel. No one authority can deal with all complications. Along with the Water Board there should be involvement of State Pollution Control, Dep't of Agriculture, Public Works, Soil Conservation and possibly others. There should be a Commission of Inquiry and change of laws. Public utilities must consider the whole community.

Peter Maslen described present conventional methods of sewage treatment and disposal; and illustrated with diagrams on screen. He stressed the many complications and intricacies of the process of any complete sewage treatment, the blockages that occur and breakdowns that happen.

He also illustrated a small home unit where no sewer is available - a "Fixed Activate Treatment Plant": also a small community unit which will service 6 to 10 homes. In some instances, methane manufactured from the digesters is used to activate these plants.

Francis Sutton talked of the need to clean up our coasts, badly polluted from overloaded sewers in populated areas. He spoke of the heavy cost of alternative methods of sewage treatment - that is the initial cost. Then, quoting Norman Lucock of Melbourne Board of Works he compared the running costs of conventional treatment on the eastern side of Melbourne as 31.5c. per 100 metres of sewage, as against the Werribee treatment as 5c. per 100 m. He asserts that the flow in N.S.W. coastal sewer mains should be reversed, pumped west onto broad-acre treatment, and that when completely treated the Penrith Lakes should be filled with the resulting purified water from Sydney with treated solids being marketed as humus. This would reduce the use of chemical fertilizer which are now polluting our streams.

A condensed report of meeting. Besse Bramsen

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### FILM LAUNCHING

On Friday 6 September at 2.15 p.m. A.C.F. is sponsoring the launching of SANDS OF TIME, a film directed and produced by Chris Wilcox whose first success was A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS. SANDS explores the natural beauty and wildlife of Frazer Island; the formation of this sand bar and the paradoxically complex ecosystem that exists on the sand. He used a film crew that has contributed to five of the Life On Earth episodes. This launching is on at the Playhouse Cinema, Sydney Opera House. Tickets are obtainable at the door for \$5.

### PAUL EHRLICH SPEAKS

Thursday 19 September at 7.45 p.m. RAINFORESTS AND EXTINCTION OF SPECIES is a special event organised by A.C.F. with key speaker Paul Ehrlich. Milo Dunphy of T.E.C. and Marilyn Fox from the Herbarium will speak also. This presentation will cover our own forestry and woodchipping problems as well as problems of the Pacific area and world wide. This will be held at the Merewether Theatre, Sydney University, corner of City Road and Butlin Avenue. The cost is \$3 and bookings can be made by sending payment to A.C.F., 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, 2000.

### DAINTREE RALLY

Saturday 12 October 85 a rally is being held in support of the Daintree rainforest area. Assemble at 12.30 p.m. for a march from Town Hall finishing with guest speakers.

### A.C.F. SYDNEY CHAPTER MEETINGS

All are welcome at these meetings which are held at 7 p.m. in the Hallstrom Theatre, Australian Museum, William Street, Sydney.

- Tuesday 20 August - THE WAR ON WILDLIFE - THREATS TO SURVIVAL IN AUSTRALIA.
- Tuesday 15 October - SOCIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY AND CAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS USE THEM?  
Dr Peter Meltzer, social and urban planner, will speak.
- Tuesday 19 November - WORLD HERITAGE AREAS  
films and speakers to be announced.

The September meeting topic has been put aside for the Paul Ehrlich address on Thursday 19 September - see article above.

### QUEST

QUEST is an A.C.F. club for young people to the age of 15 years. Members receive regular newsletters containing project ideas and information, a handbook with a wide range of practical conservation information. Group activities for regions are arranged approximately every six weeks, and include excursions and group projects. It costs \$10 for a child to join, and \$5 per child additional to the first in a family. Send the child(s) birthdate when joining. If you would like to join or obtain more information, write to Quest, A.C.F., 672 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Vic., 3122.

### THE RAINBOW WARRIOR

Greenpeace is appealing for funds to help ensure the Rainbow Warrior sails again, and to assist the family of the dead crew member. Please send donations to Greenpeace, 787 George Street, Sydney, 2000.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE

is at 2nd Floor, 245 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, 2000, if you need legal advice or representation on an environmental issue. Their phones are 02 - 264 6122 and 02 - 264 6937.

The EDO is a community legal aid centre with expertise in public interest and environmental law areas.

### CONSERVATION SNIPPETS

\* The Freckled Duck (mentioned last newsletter) is one of the rarest waterfowl in the world. A W.W.F. Australia project in 1983 found that over three quarters of all Freckled Ducks were found in only 16 of our wetlands. Their vulnerability has led to fines for shooting them being raised from \$1000 to \$10000.

\* Two new groups have formed which bridge gaps in the conservation front. TREES ON FARMS does just that - contacts are Gus Sharpe 02 - 560 2973, and Alicia Braithwaite 02 - 267 7722

N.S.W. WILDLIFE INFORMATION AND RESCUE SERVICE (WIRES) provides information and practical assistance on wildlife care. WIRES is at P.O. Box 371, Manly, 2095. Contacts are Mykla 02 - 451 0387 and Valerie 02 - 909 3306.

\* The N.S.W. Premier has advised that there are no plans to dam the Murray River at Murray Gates (also mentioned last newsletter).

\* \$85M has been allocated for upgrading of some of the sewerage systems in the Hawkesbury-Nepean area, including Glenbrook.

\* \$10M has been allocated to the Soil Conservation Service for catchment protection in the Shoalhaven area.

\* Echoes of Daintree where monsoon rains have washed away logging roads in Sarawak. Massive erosion and widespread destruction have resulted from the logging activities.

\* The planned 500 hectare Mt Annan Native Botanic Garden and Arboretum is south-west of Campbelltown. There will be plantings of our major plant groups such as eucalypts, wattles, banksia, bottlebrushes, paperbarks, and some rainforest plants. The initial development will radiate from an artificial lake.

\* Soil erosion alone has damaged more than half of Australian farming land. A grim fact in a country where soil formation rate is almost nonexistent.

### SNIPPETS SOURCES

World Wildlife Fund Australia Newsletter - April-June 85  
Environment Centre of N.S.W. Newsletter - July 85  
National Parks Journal - July 85  
Sydney Morning Herald - 1 June, 11 June, 9 July, 1985.

### THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE OF N.S.W.

appears to have found a new home, subject to the approval of D.E.P. It may be 39-41 Phillip Street, Sydney. The Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. will move with them. You could support the groups by writing to The Hon. Bob Carr, M.P., Minister for Planning and Environment, 10/139 Macquarie St, Sydney, 2000, and/or The Hon N. K. Wran, Premier of N.S.W., State Office Block, Phillip St, Sydney, 2000.

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