



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119,
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 1987

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Meetings: Friday 8th May: Bird Banding
Jeff Hardy
Friday 12th June: Fire Management
Nick Gellie N.P.W.S.

SOCIETY DOINGS - IN BRIEF

1. The Blue Mountains sewerage strategy should be released within the next month. Various officers from interested councils have already been given a preview. The Water Board will be holding meetings up here and probably in Penrith - we have to be at these to put our case as strongly and publicly as possible.

2. The Department of Motor Transport plan for the F4 extensions now appears to be going to be accepted in virtually the form we said it would at least 3 months ago (actually about 6 months). It's just lucky that on this occasion we agree with it. Look at the charade the Department of Motor Transport and Brereton are going through over the harbour tunnel.

Later - BMCC persists with slightly modified plans for the F4 which will mean a third road down the escarpment i.e. present road, F4 and separate down route to the Russell Street junction.

We are opposed to this last piece and even had it successfully moved in the committee stage at last Council meeting by Ralph Williams and David Lawton. However less realistic minds took over when it came before the final Council vote.

The Department of Main Roads (and us) are determined that this 'plan' will be rejected.

3. Sue Threlfo spent most of one week recently on a TEC walk of persuasion with Bob Carr to press the point on a large scale increase in the area of Murramurang National Park on the South Coast.
4. George Threlfo has been nominated onto an inter-departmental committee (as the conservation rep.) which will come up with a State Environmental Planning Policy statement to be ready by September, on the protection of various Wild and Scenic Rivers in N.S.W. This work is separate from the Wilderness Act legislation.
5. Mick Dark from UBMCS, Alex Colley from the Colong Foundation and George Threlfo from the LBMCS recently met the Shadow Minister for the Environment Tim Moore at Parliament House to discuss some interesting issues e.g. freeway plans for the National Park, B.M. sewerage.
6. A delegation from LBMCS and NPA (Blue Mountains) i.e. Marg. Essen, G.T., Les Cormack & Phil Foster - recently had a long session with Bob Debus regarding possible actions to quickly safeguard the Faulconbridge Mallee area. Although no guarantees were given, he did ensure that it was discussed at a meeting of BMCC and DEP staff the following week. The short term problem of acquisition lies in the Government's lack of finance to acquire valuable sites. There's also the problem of where this area ranks with other valuable areas needing protection. The best we can hope for in the short term are controls on the type of controls on possible residential developments on the eastern end.
7. An Environmental Impact Statement from the Metropolitan WasteDisposal Authority on the Castlereagh Toxic Waste dump has been sent back to us. It addresses the various deficiencies in the EIS we and other groups raised BUT the extension and permanency will go ahead with some modifications and extra controls. Our contacts at the Toxic Chemicals Committee at TEC are as doubtful as we are on the long term ability of the clays to contain these dangerous chemicals. Kate Short has also discovered that this latest extension is on clays far less able to contain the liquids than the original ones. Its presence also did not deter the illegal dumper recently.
8. The DEP has recently released information on a number of Blue Mountains areas which are or will shortly be acquired for Regional Open Space. In the Lower Mountains they include three eastern escarpment

areas nominated by both BMCC and us. A good start and we look forward to the next stages where some of our other nominated areas may be acquired.

9. The pilot glass recycling project in the lower end of the mountains urged by our Blue Mountains Environment Council on BMCC (and taken up) has been an outstanding success - about a 14 fold increase in collections has occurred and Council is now going to extend it to other areas as the big bins come in. Good going BMCC.
10. Members of both the UBMCS and LBMCS are working on setting up a branch of WIRES to cover the Blue Mountains. WIRES is Wildlife Information and Rescue Service. Mick, Jill & George will be meeting the Sydney WIRES groups in the coming week to organise a public launching of the scheme - it has the support of the Animal Welfare League too.
11. With the upper mountains groups, we are working on a submission to BMCC to revegetate the hideous scar near Nellies Glen at the start of the Six Foot Track. Please contact us if you can offer any suggestions and better still, can assist in the preparation of the submission.
12. Outside our area - the South-East Forest Alliance intends to prepare a case for World Heritage Listing of the Eucalypt forests of Tas., Vic. and southern N.S.W. and release it in time for Bob Carr's announcement in May on the proposals for Tantawangalo and Coolangubra National Parks.
13. The Blue Mountsins Environment Council constitution is finally done and we will soon be working on the incorporation of the group. This coalition of groups can be quite effective this year in the coming council, state and federal elections if we really start to work together on environmental policies covering the whole mountains, questionnaires to prospective aldermen (& women), possible council aldermen etc.

PROPOSED WILDERNESS ACT

The Wilderness Society needs our support if this act is to become a reality.

An Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) of senior public servants is about to review the recommendation of the Wilderness Working Group for a NSW Wilderness Act. If they take more than 2 months, Australia's first Wilderness

Act may be lost. A time limit will enable Cabinet to consider the legislative options and bring a Bill before Parliament in November/December.

Right now we urgently need you to help put a 2 month time-limit on the Inter-Departmental Committee.

Please write a short note to the Premier, Mr. Barrie Unsworth
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Urge the Government to uphold its commitment by placing a time limit of 2 months on the wilderness Inter-Departmental Committee.

For more information please contact the Wilderness Society, 57 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000. Phone (02) 267.7929.

COOLANGUBRA AND TANTAWANGALO NATIONAL PARK PROPOSALS

The Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. has requested our support for the Minister for Planning & Environment's attempts to gain National Park Status for Coolangubra and Tantawangalo State Forests. Could members please send letters to the Premier, Mr. Barrie Unsworth, expressing support for the National Park proposals and the work that Mr. Bob Carr has put in to ensure the success of those proposals.

T.E.C. CONCERT

The Total Environment Centre has organised a fund-raising concert "The Song Company Concert" at Pitt St. Uniting Church, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney, 8 p.m. Friday 15th May.

Tickets: Betty Mason
Total Environment Centre,
18 Argyle Street,
Sydney 2000
\$ 18.00 full price
\$ 12.00 concession. Prices include supper
& programme.

Enquiries: T.E.C. 27.4714 or 27.2523 or 660.3468 or
357.1500 A.H.

WALKS

1. 10th May - Erskine Creek - to try and find the bat colony which is thought to be there.
Meet at Glenbrook Station at 10.00 a.m. Leader R. Phillips.
2. 14th June - Escarpment Walk - from Elizabeth Look-out above the railway tunnel at Glenbrook.
meet at Glenbrook Station at 10.00 a.m.
Enquiries: Richard Phillips ph: 39.2568

WALKS REPORT

Our first walk for this year was through the beautiful Florabella Pass and was held at the end of January and was well attended. Richard Phillips led this walk through serene natural bushland into patches of rainforest and on to Glenbrook Creek where a well earned lunch and swim were taken. The trek home was all up hill but was rewarded by a Long, Cool, Drink !!! An enjoyable walk.

The following walk was a spot-lighting walk held in February and was led by Peter Mobbs. Again it was well attended but maybe a little disappointing only seeing a few possums. Still, an enjoyable walk and maybe we'll have better luck next time!

Our March walk was to Birdwood Gully and the Coachwood Forest. It was a lovely day and as we were a small group we saw many birds including Rufous Fantails and Honey Eaters and we smelt Fox !!! We had lunch on moss covered rocks beside the creek in the Coachwood Forest. Audrey Dorne remembered walking through the gully 60 years ago and told us of seeing glow worms in the caves, and remembered when part of it was the site of the rifly range.

INSPECTION OF MOUNT TOMAH BOTANIC GARDENS

I was glad I accepted the invitation to inspect the progress towards opening of the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, as representative of the Lower Blue Mountains Conversation Group.

The whole area has great potential, as a major tourist attraction in the Blue Mountains. It was indeed a good idea to accept the grant of land from Mrs. Brunet as an annexe to the Royal Botanic Gardens. The height of the mountains, the soli, and the climate are ideal conditions both for exotics from the cooler parts and our own native plants - truly a beautiful setting.

Unfortunately, the heavy rains of recent months had held up projects, principally completion of the rock garden, sedge pond, and bog. However, with concentration of their labour force in these areas, this should soon be achieved.

Our guide was most helpful in his coverage of both plans and plants.

The day was informative and pleasant, and I shall be returning to see the finished product sometime after the opening. Then I shall be able to inspect it at my leisure and I would suggest others do likewise.

Wynne O'Brien