



# Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119,  
SPRINGWOOD, 2777.

## NEWSLETTER JULY 1987

Contacts: George Threlfo 39 5125  
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Next Meeting: Friday 14th August. George Threlfo will be talking and showing slides on various environmental issues in Nepal.

### Society Doings - In Brief.

Some recent local issues -

1. Residents near Glenbrook Lagoon are concerned at possible damage to the dam wall by heavy vehicles moving to and from the new Mt Sion subdivision. We are supporting their call for a 3 tonne limit on vehicles using the road.
2. We have requested BMCC to prepare a Plan of Management for Lapstone Oval - if by no other means than a 530A Committee. A number of present conflicting uses of the land may be resolved and long-term planning presented to local residents.
3. Use of the Fairlight Gorge by speedboats has been slightly restricted by the ban on skiers at the Narrows. This is a first but important step and may discourage some such users of the river from getting back on their skis and continuing into the gorge.
4. The F4 route is still a cause celebre. At this point (late July), neither the DMR or BMCC appear to be prepared to compromise their positions. Our prediction is that basically the DMR plan will prevail if only through the vital influence of Emu Plains residents who have a clear economic stake in the outcome.
5. We have requested that Penrith Council form a register of significant trees within its council boundaries. Despite the horrific damage caused to the previously fine array of historic buildings in the city (particularly Penrith), a number of magnificent trees with environmental and historical value have survived. Peter Mobbs has already volunteered to be on any committee so formed.
6. The application by Glenbrook Bowling Club for additional space in Whitton Park will shortly come before BMCC again. Our position



has been one of opposition to further alienations of any public open space lands. Additional developments should be within the bounds of their present site.

7. Several members of the Society are currently working on a nomination to the Australian Heritage Commission for the Eastern Escarpment of the Blue Mountains. If you are interested and have any skills we need your help - please ask for details at the next general meeting.
8. The DEP is gearing up for Stage 2 of the Blue Mountains Regional Open Space Plan. We have co-operated with them recently by submitting a priority listing of our 1986 submissions. If you are aware of particular areas which may be included as Regional Open Space also ask for details at our next meeting.

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#### Blue Mountains Environment Council.

This coalition body of the environmental groups on the Blue Mountains meets the first Friday of the month at Springwood Pre-School. We have two delegates at the meetings entitled to vote.

However if you are interested in wider mountains issues you are very welcome to attend and participate.

Recent work includes -

- a. Formation of a Blue Mountains WIRES network i.e. Wildlife Information and Rescue Service.
- b. Analysis of the Water Board's Sewerage Strategy for the Blue Mountains.
- c. Further involvement with the residents' action group at Echo Point ably led by Terri Hamilton. We are reasonably pleased with the rational progress being made by the joint committee on this area.
- d. Preparing publicity on the disgusting standard of architecture and building work on the Leura Fairmont Resort. Such publicity will shortly be issued state wide.
- e. Supporting the Colong Foundation's work to prepare a submission for World Heritage listing of the Blue Mountains Region.
- f. Preparing information to initiate action on rehabilitating various badly eroded land within the Blue Mountains.

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#### WIRES WORKSHOP

A workshop on Friday night, Saturday & Sunday 7th, 8th & 9th August-Springwood Pre-School will teach people the basics of rescuing & caring for injured native animals. Cost; \$10.  
Phone Jill or Mick on 58 7061 if you would like to come.

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## WESNEO

A new environment group to cover the west of Sydney is being cranked up by a magnificent organiser from Kurrajong - Robyn Vermeulen. It is the Western Sydney Network of Environmental Organisations and both LBMCS and BMEC will be part of it. Its first work will be to form a widespread network throughout the region and produce a regular newsletter. Concerted actions on Western Sydney environmental issues may follow.

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## Eastern Escarpment 530A Advisory Committee.

This group is made up of a number of very keen and able people interested in the care and management of the escarpment reserves. It was unfortunately involved in part of the F4 issue but sees its work as advising BMCC through the development of Management plans for the reserves. A draft plan is currently being prepared for the Mitchell's Pass to the Bluff Reserves and among other things will recommend some drastic changes in vehicular access after sunset.

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## Dark's Common

Some excellent work was carried out in early May by ATCV volunteers. They weeded, fenced, mowed, cut tracks, painted signs etc. A new cliff walk is currently being established and should be open by Spring complete with information signs and track markers. A map combined with photographs is also currently being prepared and will be sold to visitors.

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## Walks Reports

### May

Our May walk, led by Peter Mobbs, to Erskine Creek was most enjoyable and very well attended. Starting with a brief drive into our National Park followed by a short stroll through stands of casuarinas, and on up to Pisgah Rock with it's awe inspiring views down into Erskine, Lincoln and Monkey Ropes Creeks. The trek down caused many interesting remarks!!!!!! After a relaxing lunch we walked through the Rainforest of Monkey Ropes Creek seeing many, mostly undisturbed, moss covered rocks hosting various Orchids and two Elkhorns. The climb up was vigorous but on reaching the top everybody agreed it was well worth the effort.

### June

The June Walk was on the Eastern Escarpment. It was a nice Autumn day and views seen from Marges and Elizabeth Lookouts across the Cumberland Plains were beaut! The walking tracks in and out of Knapsack Gully are very good and the majestic sandstone bridge, well it speaks for itself. Once the new highway is finished and this area is opened up more for walkers an early morning or late afternoon walk will be a pleasing experience. A pleasant day was had by all.



## July

### Faulconbridge Point .

Eleven people enjoyed this long though leisurely walk. We were well rewarded, by the magnificent view, from the Point, of the Grose River, Kurrajong Heights, Richmond and the Nepean plains. The highlight of the day however, occurred when a White eared Honeyeater took a fancy to us. It swooped over the group several times, finally landing on Audrey Dorn's head and proceeded to gently pluck out strands of her hair. We all remained still (except Zoe with the camera !!!) and quiet for a good half hour while it tried other heads for nest material, although Audrey's seemed to be its favourite! As one walker commented,

" Its wonderful that animals have at last found us humans useful for something. !".

Thanks to Peter Mobbs and Connie Ramsey for the walks reports, and to George for the rundown on local issues.

### Future Walks.

#### August.

Sunday 16th August, Darruk National Park, Wisemans Ferry.  
Leader: Margaret Esson Ph. 51 1826.  
Meet 9-30 am. , the entrance on the Great North Road.

#### September.

The Green Patch, Bilpin.  
Leader: R. Phillipps PH. 39 2568. Details TBA.

#### October.

Reptile walk, somewhere around Springwood.  
Leader: Richard Wells, More details later.

For information, arranging lifts etc., please ring either;

Richard Phillipps 39 2568  
Peter Mobbs 51 2884

### Future Talks.

September 11th The Antarctic - Bert Jaeger.

October 9th Rainforests - Jill Dark.

November 13th Bats - speaker from The Kuringai Bat Colony Committee.

December 11th China - Margaret Esson.

For further details and more specific information regarding both walks and talks please check your Gazettes.

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Sorry that this Newsletter is rather later than usual but this was unavoidable due various family illnesses and the pressures of (paid) work, Zoe Manners, Editor.



## THE ALTERNATIVES

Most rainforest timbers are used for internal purposes. All of these uses can be replaced by plantation softwoods and eucalypt timber where strength is necessary. Recent developments from the pine industry show great promise and expand the versatility of pine timber enormously. A chipped pine product called SCRIMEA can be moulded into almost any shape. A laminated product called IVL lends itself well to bending. Chemical treatment can make softwood timber resistant to insect damage and rot.

Within five years Australia's softwood plantations will supply more than enough wood to replace the rainforest timbers we presently use. In the mean time plantation timbers from New Zealand and Chile can fill any shortfall in supply. In Queensland plantations of hoop pine are ready for harvest but are left standing as present demand is low.

Note: Most of the softwoods imported from North America, i.e. Oregon and Western Red Cedar, are not from plantations. These old growth timbers should also be boycotted.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Plantations of eucalypt and rainforest species must be established to provide timber for structural and fine-timber purposes.

It is important for Australians to be more discriminating in the timbers we use. We must work toward becoming self-sufficient in plantation timber as soon as possible. There are no unsolved technical problems. There is no shortage of degraded farmland suitable for growing plantation timber on a sustainable basis and no lack of enthusiasts, paid or otherwise.

A massive reforestation programme would also help to reduce our burgeoning trade deficit: last year (1986) we imported \$ 1.3 billion worth of wood products. Furthermore, plantation timbers are cheaper to harvest, a well managed plantation can produce 20 times as much timber per hectare as native forest and some informed estimates are very much higher. New jobs would more than off-set recent job losses in the timber industry.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Familiarise yourself with what rainforest timbers look like and stop using them. Most timber merchants need to know that you are choosing not to use rainforest timber and why you prefer plantation timbers.

Contact architects and builders in your area and inform them of the real costs of using non-plantation rainforest timbers and the alternatives available.

Send for the 24 page report entitled 'International Rainforest Timbers Campaign', produced by the Rainforest Information Centre. The report contains material on such issues as sustainability, species loss, rainforest destruction and reforestation.

Write a letter to:

....The Australian Development Assistance Bureau (ADAB) asking them to fund reforestation in the Third World to help make those countries self-sufficient in all forest products and to establish export plantations so that remaining natural forests are left intact.

....The Australian Timber Producers Body, asking that they distinguish between timbers from plantations and natural forests and promote the use of plantation timbers.

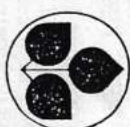
....The Department of Trade, asking that they impose a tariff on imported timbers coming from natural forests and that this money be used to promote sustainable plantation development in the Third World.

....The Department of Employment and Industrial Relations requesting that they fund a National Reforestation Scheme that would employ the jobless, revitalise the land and off-set the balance of payments deficit.

Make a donation to the Rainforest Timbers Campaign. All money received goes to funding education work such as this pamphlet. If you want your donation to be tax deductible send it to the ACF indicating a preference that the money be used for the Rainforest Timbers Campaign.

Encourage tree planting and reforestation where ever possible.

Produced by the Rainforest Timbers Campaign, the Rainforest Information Centre, P.O. Box 368 Lismore 2480



ACF

Rainforest Information Centre

# BOYCOTT RAINFOREST TIMBERS

This pamphlet outlines the full costs of rainforest logging, lists rainforest timbers and their alternatives and how you can help end rainforest logging.



## INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USE OF RAINFOREST TIMBERS

Each year the world consumes 130 million tonnes of rainforest timber and destroys 11 million hectares of rainforest, much of this as a result of logging. In Australia we are presently logging out some of the last areas of tropical rainforest. Three-quarters of the rainforest timbers we use are imported, furthering the destruction of South-east Asia's rainforests.

All the rainforest timbers used in Australia today could be replaced with plantation timbers.

In the U.K. Friends of the Earth have published books and pamphlets outlining the costs of the tropical timber industry and advising consumers on the alternatives to rainforest timbers. Similar campaigns are underway Europe, Japan and the U.S.A.

### RAINFOREST TIMBERS - THE HIDDEN COST

Rainforests are the womb of life, home to half the 10 million species of plants and animals on earth. The rainforests were the birthplace of flowering plants and most of our food crops and medicines are derived from them.

The rainforests act as the planet's lungs, cleaning the air, maintaining the CO<sub>2</sub>/Oxygen balance and modifying the global water cycle.

Each year humans destroy an area of tropical forest the size of Victoria. Recent estimates claim that 48 species are becoming extinct each day, mainly due to tropical deforestation. If present rates of destruction continue the world's tropical rainforests will be virtually annihilated within a single human lifetime.

With regard to this wholesale destruction of the earth's genetic resources Dr Mustafa Tolba, Director General of the United Nations Environmental Programme, has warned that:

"Unless nations change course, we face by the turn of the century an environmental catastrophe as complete, as irreversible as any nuclear holocaust."

## THE EFFECTS OF LOGGING

There is no known example of a sustainable logging operation in tropical rainforest. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, (IUCN), Working Group on Moist Tropical Forests state that the only fully sustainable uses of these forests are:- carefully managed tourism, collection of seeds, scientific research and hunter-gathering. It goes on to emphasise:-

"Primary tropical moist forests subjected to them [commercial logging] can be written off as such for the future, because modification reduces them to simplified, moist forest-derived systems."

Logging not only destroys rainforests directly, but logging roads give access to other activities which destroy as much forest area as the logging itself. Fire, weeds, plant diseases and feral animals follow the loggers, further degrading the rainforest. In the Third World displaced and landless people move into the newly logged areas and slash and burn for a few years before the infertile soils bake and leach away.

### MALAYSIA

About 80% of the rainforest timbers imported into Australia come from the Malaysian rainforests.

While Malaysia gets more than 20% of its gross foreign exchange from rainforest timbers, the net foreign exchange is half this amount. Most of this is used for the benefit of those already rich.

Peninsular Malaysia will run out of timber for export in 1990, and the pressure is shifting to Sarawak and Sabah. In Sarawak there has been considerable resistance to the intrusion of the logging companies by the indigenous peoples. Blockades of logging activities have occurred over the last decade and will be continuing until the logging is contained or all the tribal cultures are destroyed.

Along with the tribal cultures of Sarawak, the Two Horned Rhinoceros, the Proboscis Monkey, the Orang Utang and countless other animals and plants are threatened with extinction.

The Malaysian Government has recently established a National Forestry Act that provides guidelines for sustainable forestry and habitat protection. Stopping the importation of non-plantation rainforest timbers into Australia will add impetus to the establishment of sustainable plantation forestry in Malaysia.

## WHAT ARE RAINFOREST TIMBERS

It is often hard to establish the species of a particular piece of timber; even the sawmillers or importers may not know precisely what species they have. The bulk of imported rainforest timbers are best described as that softish, light-tan or reddish wood used for internal finishing around windows and doors. It is easy to work, with no heavy grain evident and is about twice the price of pine.

### DO NOT BUY THESE

#### IMPORTED RAINFOREST TIMBERS

Meranti, Seraya or Pacific Maple  
(red, white and yellow)  
Philippine Mahogany, Luan or  
Tanquile  
Ramin  
Kapur  
Keruing  
Kalantas  
Narra  
Agathis (Kauri)  
(Various Rosewoods)  
(Shorea spp.)  
(Shorea and  
Parashorea spp.)  
(Gonystylus spp.)  
(Dryobalanops spp.)  
(Dipterocarpus spp.)  
(Toona Calantas)  
(Pterocarpus Indicus)  
(Agathis spp.)

Australian rainforest timbers vary considerably in appearance, uses and cost. A large proportion of the rainforest timbers cut in north Queensland are of low quality and are used for structural purposes within the region. In N.S.W., despite the common belief that the rainforests have been 'saved', rainforest logging is continuing for 'specialty purpose' timber.

### DO NOT BUY THESE

#### AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST TIMBERS

Queensland Maple, Teak or  
Silver Ash (Cudgerie)  
Black Bean  
Silky Oak  
Tulip Oak (Booyong)  
Queensland Walnut  
Red Cedar  
Bunya Pine  
Brush Box  
White Beech  
(Flindersia spp.)  
(Castanospermum australe)  
(Grevillea robusta)  
(Argyrodendron spp.)  
(Endiandra palmerstonii)  
(Toona australis)  
(Arucaria bidwillii)  
(Tristania Confertus)  
(Ganelina leichhardtii)



## Some developers go too far:

Latest proposals for Billinudgel include retirement villages, commercial centres, artificial lake, golf course, beach resort, medium density housing and hobby farms. They ignore the majority of nature conservation recommendations in the two studies commissioned by the Corporation's own planners. (Gilmour, Broadbent, 1986).

The ecology and beauty of Billinudgel is in peril:

- Littoral rainforest would be destroyed, including the endangered White Laceflower.
- Landfill and dredging especially of ancient peat deposits, will drastically alter the hydrology and cause pollution.

- Endangered species such as the Pacific Baza, Koala, Long-nosed Potoroo, Eastern Grass Owl, Major Skink and Bush Hen are threatened.
- The remaining environment would degrade severely as the proposed township to house thousands of people is situated in the centre of the wetland.

### **Bob Carr: enforce your Policy!**

Minister for Environment, Bob Carr, has committed the State Government to "fight all attempts to despoil the NSW North Coast." He asks: "What sort of life-style will future North Coast residents have, and how will they attract the economic benefits of tourism, if these areas of natural beauty have been turned into an over-developed wasteland?" (PRESS RELEASE 22/3/85).

## The ANSWER:

The future is not good unless the conservation option is adopted:

- Gazette a permanent conservation order and nature reserve over the Billinudgel/Yelgun wetland.
- Support an environmentally sensitive, low-key plan for the North Coast, with adequate buffer zones to protect important areas.

The Corporation already has land approved and awaiting development (450 lots) and owns about 300 ha of coastal land to the south of the proposed reserve and outside its catchment. The land is near the highway and appropriate for development.

The proposed Nature Reserve will not stop development and employment growth – it will enhance the region.

PLEASE WRITE to the NSW Premier, Barrie Unsworth, and Environment Minister, Bob Carr, C/- Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, to help save Billinudgel.

If you can help further or would like to make a donation, write to BEACON, 196 Skinners Shoot Road, Byron Bay NSW 2481.



Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000. 1987.

# BILLINUDGEL Rainforest & Wetlands

**The time to save  
them is NOW!**





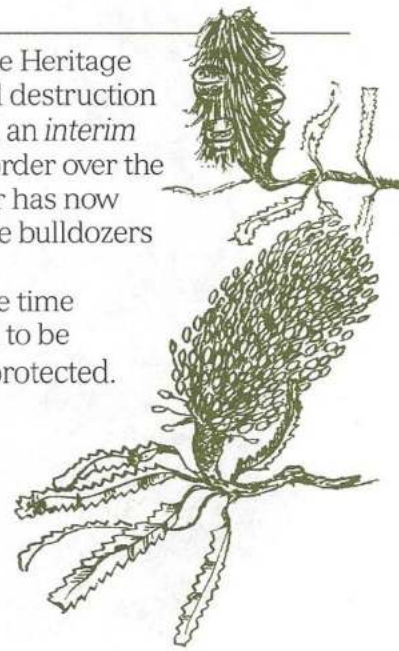
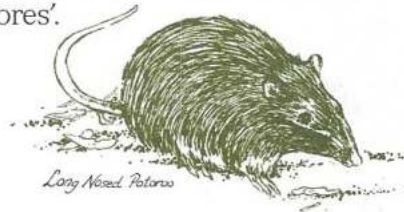
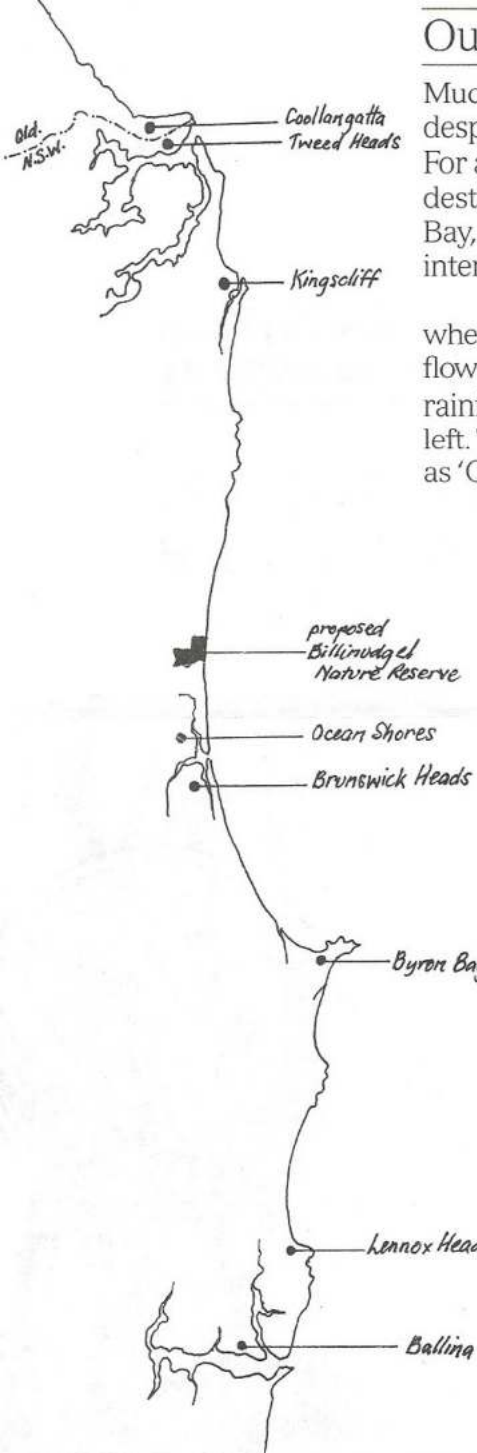
## Our heritage is not for sale:

Much of the NSW coast has been despoiled by real estate developers. For almost 20 years they have tried to destroy Billinudgel, just north of Byron Bay, with canal estates, marinas and intensive urban development.

Only the northern part (800ha) – where Billinudgel and Yelgun Creeks flow through magnificent wetlands and rainforest, fringing golden beaches – is left. The southern section is now known as 'Ocean Shores'.

In 1985 the Heritage Council stalled destruction when it placed an *interim* conservation order over the area. The order has now expired and the bulldozers are waiting.

Now is the time for Billinudgel to be permanently protected.



## Outstanding natural values of Billinudgel:

- Littoral rainforest with Yellow Pear Fruit, White Hazelwood, Bennets Ash and King Fern – regarded as unique.
- Some of the biggest paperbarks (over 30m) in NSW, forming a canopy over towering Bangalow Palms.
- A mosaic of coastal forest types, including an unusual association of Wallum Banksia and huge Scribbly Gums.
- Diverse habitats, home to over 200 birds, reptiles and mammals, including 14 that are rare and endangered.
- A feeding area in winter, for migratory birds, when their mountain habitat has scarce supplies.
- Extensive wetlands, so important to water quality and flood control.
- The North Coast's largest remaining paperbark wetland with swamp rainforest elements.



## Funny Business:

There have been government investigations and court cases associated with activities at Ocean Shores, and community groups at Byron Bay are calling for a full judicial inquiry:

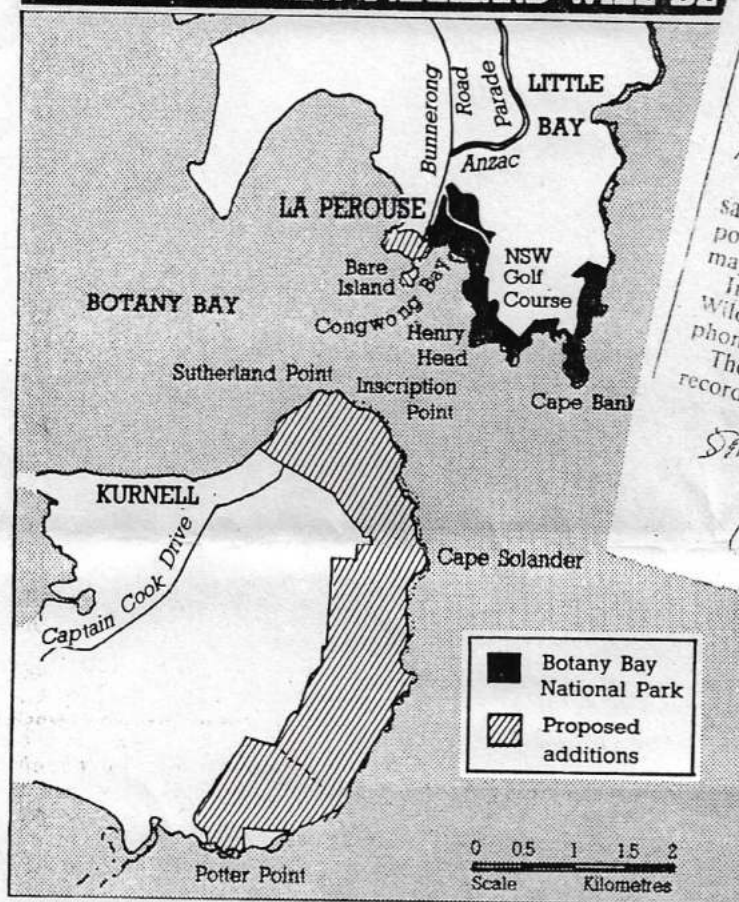
- ◇ Touche Ross, an international accounting firm, briefed by Byron Shire Council, found a \$445,000 bond had been improperly handed back by council staff to the Ocean Shores Development Corporation, before all the works had been completed. (NATTIMES ON SUN 1/11/86).
- ◇ An emergency protection order was imposed by the government in 1985, when it discovered bush-land was being destroyed by bulldozers making unnecessary 8m wide tracks for survey teams.
- ◇ The Corporation and its surveyors received heavy fines for bulldozing part of a 150 year old Aboriginal bora ring, and for destroying trees protected under

the Byron Shire's tree preservation order.

- ◇ In March, 1986, an arsonist lit 34 fires in the northern Ocean Shores area (fortunately little damage resulted).
- ◇ The NSW Ombudsman in his latest report on the development found a trip to investigate USA marinas taken by the Byron Shire Engineer and paid for by the developer, "left the Council and its staff open to justified criticism about the possibility of compromise to its position." (NATTIMES ON SUN, 1/11/86).
- ◇ Justice Hunt in recent Court proceedings involving Fast Bucks vs Ocean Shores Development Corporation, said: "An inference which is open from the facts disclosed in a number of investigations which have taken place is that there has indeed been bribery, corruption or criminal conduct on the part of someone associated with the development." (SMH, 1/11/86).



## WHERE THE NEW PARKLAND WILL BE



## Plan to expand Botany Bay National Park

By JOSEPH GLASCOTT,  
Environment Writer

Aborigines will not celebrate, but the State Government plans to mark the 200th anniversary of the First Fleet landing with an expanded Botany Bay National Park.

The Government will incorporate areas at La Perouse, which make up "Australia's birthplace", into the park on the 200th anniversary date.

La Perouse is a traditional Aboriginal housing settlement. Aborigines in the past have thrown wreaths of mourning into the bay instead of celebrating on Australia Day.

But governments and private enterprise, having done their best to destroy Botany Bay with the port works on the northern shores and the oil refinery on the south-eastern shores, are seeking to make amends, at least to European settlement history.

The Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Carr, said yesterday that three historic sites on Botany Bay — Captain Cook's landing place, the La Perouse Monument and Bare Island — were benchmarks in the history of European settlement in Australia.

They would be included in the existing Botany Bay National Park of 73 hectares around Henry Head and Cape Banks to provide a park of 436 hectares.

The Botany Bay National Park on the northern headland would then comprise 72.5 hectares of native vegetation areas at Cape Banks and Congwong Bay in the existing park, and the La Perouse landing site, monument and watchtower and Bare Island historic fortifications in the proposed additions.

On the southern headland, 353 hectares of Captain Cook's landing place would be added to the park.

Mr Carr said 282 hectares of wetlands around Towra Point, protected in a nature reserve, was also proposed for addition to the park.

He hoped to add another 100 hectares of Crown land at Boat Harbour to Captain Cook's historic landing site reserve and to the park.

He also hoped to add 100 hectares of wetland at Towra Point to the nature reserve and park after the phasing out of sandmining on Kurnell.

SMH 21/4/87

## Calling all lizards, possums, skinks

Sydneysiders and residents of major country towns are invited "to discover and record the variety of birds, insects and mammals which share their backyards, parks and other built-up areas". That is the message of an urban wildlife survey to begin in NSW in September.

The survey, an Australian Bicentennial project, is being organised by the World Wildlife Fund Australia and the NSW Gould League.

The survey's co-ordinator, Mr John Pastorelli, said: "Although it is common to see brush-tailed possums, blue-tongue lizards, garden skinks, we may be in for some surprises."

Interested people should contact the World Wildlife Fund at GPO Box 528, Sydney, 2001, phone 29 7572.

The survey will run for six months. Observations recorded will form the basis of a book.

SMH

19/5/87

## Lament for the roo

SIR: I read the quota for kangaroo killings: 1,755,000 in Queensland; 577,000 in NSW; 227,400 in South Australia; 245,000 in Western Australia. I think with this slaughter rate the emblem of the kangaroo on the Australian coat of arms should be supplanted with a tin of Kattomeat. I have just spoken to my mother on the telephone and she tells me that Woy Woy is still there.

April 13

SMH

Spike Mill

## USSR lifts threat to minke whales

Minke whales, which seasonally migrate past Australia from the Antarctic, should be under less of a threat following the Soviet Union's withdrawal from commercial whaling.

Following the Soviet announcement at the weekend, environmental groups are expected to put pressure on Japan, now the largest commercial whaling nation. Over the past 15 years, Japan and the Soviet Union have taken minke in large catches from Antarctic waters.

According to Project Jonah's Victorian president, Dr Bill de la Mare, who is a member of the International Whaling Commission's scientific committee, the minke population has fallen from an estimated 500,000 to less than 250,000.

He said yesterday that whaling had threatened to deplete minke stocks in a similar fashion to the fall in blue whale and fin whale populations. If minke whaling ceased altogether, it would take 30 years for the population to show a significant increase. Japan took about 2,000 minke a year and South Korea also hunted the species.

Japan was threatening to use a loophole in the international whaling moratorium, imposed by the IWC last year, to continue whaling as "scientific research", he said. It had said it would take 820 whales a year.

Greenpeace, which applauded the Soviet announcement, said it now would work to close the loophole when the IWC met next month in Britain.

The world-wide whaling catch has fallen from 50,000 a year in the 1970s to 7,000 last year, largely brought about by a decline in hunting due to a fall in the whale population.

Sweden, Britain, and the US initially called for a halt to whaling in 1972, through the United Nations. Australia stopped taking whales in 1977.