

# Lower Mountains Eco-News



Newsletter of the  
Lower Blue Mountains  
Conservation Society

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, 1988.



LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 119, SPRINGWOOD, 2777.

PRESIDENT :	Peter Mobbs Ph. 512884	MINUTES SECRETARY :	Aleen Hanley Ph. 394079
VICE-PRESIDENTS :	Chris Cleary Ph. 395154  Margaret Esson Ph. 511826	TREASURER :	Elizabeth Ramege
SECRETARY :	George Threlfo Ph. 395125	PUBLICITY :	George Threlfo
ASSISTANT SEC. :	Malcolm Hughes	WALKS CONVENOR :	Peter Mobbs  Richard Phillipps
NEWSLETTER :	Warren Ramege	LIBRARIAN :	Aleen Hanley

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MEETINGS ( members and visitors welcome )

Second Friday of every month ( except January ) - 8 p.m. at  
Springwood Preschool,  
Macquarie Road, Springwood.  
WALKS ( all welcome )

Third Sunday of every month, weather permitting. Routes, meeting  
places and times are announced in Eco News.

WORKS MEETINGS ( open to all members )

Fourth Monday or Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. Venue announced  
at General Meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Single \$ 7

Family \$ 10

AIMS

1. Education of the general public and public leaders on  
environmental issues.
2. Conservation of natural areas.
3. Research into the distribution and population of flora and fauna  
in the Blue Mountains.



### Coming Talks :

October 14 - Annual General Meeting and Members Night

Bring your own slides ( 15-20 minutes per person )

November 11 - Mr. Brad. Powys from Hawkesbury Agricultural College.  
Mr. Powys has been conducting a study on the use of macrophyte plants as absorbers of nutrients from treated sewage effluents and their possible use within the Blue Mountains sewerage strategy.

December 9 - Jill Dark and Explorations in Cape York.

### Coming Walks :

September 18 - Newnes Plateau.

Meet at Springwood Station at 9.30 a.m.

Leader - Rod falconer

Phone : Peter Mobbs 512884

October 16 - Agnes Banks.

Meet at Springwood Station at 10 a.m.

Leader - Margaret Esson ( Ph. 511826 )

November - To be arranged

December - Spotlighting walk. Venue to be announced.

### Society Activities :

1. The accompanying Gazette article shows our very successful letter writing campaign at Springwood regarding the Faulconbridge Mallee.
2. LBMCS and other mountains groups have been preparing motions for the annual N.C.C. conference in October.  
Motions are expected on : Duck hunting, Agnes Banks, Castlereagh Urban Bushland, Newnes Plateau, Mallee, Bitou Bush control of endangered flora legislation, World Heritage for the Blue Mountains, Echo Point, Tourism guidelines.

Malcolm Hughes will be the LBMCS delegate and George Threlfo for BMED.

3. The film " The Tale of Ruby Rose " will be shown at Glenbrook Theatre on the weekend of 9 - 11 September. It was shot in the Jerusalem Walls area of Central Tasmania and shows off wilderness areas to good effect.  
We and other groups will have static displays in the theatre foyer seeking support for this and local wilderness protection.
4. Margaret Baker will represent the Society at the coming inquiry on the future of Agnes Banks Flora Reserve
5. A full submission on the Hawkesbury/Nepean River Regional Plan has been submitted.
6. We have sought representation on the Lower Mountains Tourist Authority. If successful, Richard Phillipps will be our rep..
7. George Threlfo represented the Society at a recent on-river meeting with Tim Moore the Environment Minister to discuss the future of high-speed boats on the Nepean River.
8. We are seeking support for revegetation of the medians and verges of the F4 from Blacktown to Lapstone. At the moment, long stretches of this route are featureless and lacking cover.



## REPORT ON WALK TO NEWNES PLATEAU (Besse Bramsen)

On 24 July I joined a party from the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society and A.C.F. (Blue Mountains) to look at Newnes Plateau with the leaders Rod Falconer (Colo and Colong Committees) and David Olsen (A.C.F. B.M.).

We looked first at a sand mine which is said to be a small one. However, its appearance is horrific !! The alteration from the natural drainage of the area is obvious. The depth of the excavation is 30 metres and the company concerned is seeking permission to go to 100 metres.

On then to Forestry. Rod pointed out on the way, that the plateau is the home of Eucalyptus Oreades and is heavily cut for pit props. It regenerates in coppices. and therefore is not in any danger. The horror stretch of forest is the pine plantation. The soil on this elevated plateau (the highest expanse of land in the Blue Mountains) is so sandy and lacking in nutrients that the pines are stunted and look miserable.

We then wandered into a shrub swamp bordering the plantation and discovered the rare Banksia species which is indigenous to the plateau. Leptospernum were thick and we found Boronia microphylla but failed to find Boronia deanii which is also indigenous to the plateau. A few Pinus radiata, escapees from the plantation. Later, at a visitors area, the trees were bigger and looked better but were not prime exhibits of their species.

Our next observation was another extensive swamp which is in danger. A Sydney based company has applied for a lease to sand-mine an enormous expanse of the plateau covering this swamp and many square kilometres around it. Here we were introduced to the Wolgan Snow Gum and a rare herbaceous Prostanthera.

Our lunch stop was a short walk off the road to the "Temple of Doom", a fascinating mass of rock formations from which we had a view into the Wolgan Valley. This area covers part of a coal seam presently being mined and is in danger of collapse from subsidence.

The Newnes Plateau is the watershed of the Wolgan, Wollangambe and Colo Rivers. These rivers are being polluted by wash from coal and sand mining and by fertilizers used in the vain efforts to hasten and improve the growth of the pine plantation. This latter activity is also promoting weed growth in swamps and creeks feeding the rivers. The plateau is home to a number of rare and endangered plants and animals and is rich in aboriginal history.

So far European human activity has been piecemeal and little care has been taken to preserve its value. To the casual ignorant observer, the country is "rough bush" and "not worth a cracker".

Despite the paucity of the planted forest, the Forestry Department is determined to enlarge the plantation.

Our Society has made efforts to aid the Colo Committee and other conservation bodies in forcing the State Government to produce a Regional Environmental Plan for the Newnes Plateau so that the whole area would have a plan of management.

### Updates :

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The Lower and Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Societies have each given \$ 100 to aid the Colo Committee in producing a brochure on the area.

Personal appeals by members of the Blue Mountains Environment Council to Mrs. G. Kibble, Director, Department of Planning in May, led to Rod Falconer being included on an interdepartmental committee examining the Newnes Plateau. The Department of Mineral Resources has large scale plans for sand mining the region particularly when supplies dwindle from the Hawkesbury Valley.

\*\* Rod Falconer will present a talk and slides on the area to all Blue Mountains environmentalists on Monday, 10 October at Blue Mountains Council Chambers. ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND !!



## MALLEE TREES THREATENED

# Bid to save rare colony

by DANIEL LEWIS

LOWER Blue Mountains Conservation Society members are concerned a development proposal before Blue Mountains Council could endanger a colony of rare Faulconbridge Mallees.

The development involves 143 hectares of rural land and eight hectares of residential land in Nth Faulconbridge, some on an escarpment above Linden Ck.

The colony of mallees exist in a band along the top of the escarpment.

"Any development, no matter how carefully it was done, would endanger the colony," a spokesman for the society said. The recent lopping of the only mature Faulconbridge Mallee in the area by Prospect Electricity workers, despite a preservation order on the tree, was cited



MEMBERS of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society ... development worries them.

as an example of how accidents can happen. Although council has ensured some protective measures at the request of the Heritage Council, the conservationists say it is not enough. They want the area to be included in the Blue Mountains National Park which borders on the northern and western sides of the proposed development.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), however, has already informed the group that it does not have the funds to buy the land. The society has written to State Environment Minister, Mr Moore, asking for an interim protection order to be placed on the escarpment area.

The spokesman said: "What we really

want is a special government grant or for some private benefactor to come forward and purchase the land for the NPWS."

Unless council rejects the proposal or the land is purchased for the NPWS, any development would be "disfiguring" and would "wreck the escarpment as well as proving a fire hazard".

"The escarpment is virtually in its natural state with other protected species and Aboriginal rock carvings present," she said.

In its fight to preserve the area, the society has manned stalls in Springwood, handing out drafted letters concerned citizens can sign and send to Mr Moore. Interested people may phone 51 2884.

### The Bitou Bush Hunt

On the 22 May last, a few of us set out to monitor some areas where there is a known invasion of *CHRYSANTHEMOIDES monilifera*. This is the plant which was imported from South Africa during rutile mining on our coasts to stabilise the sand dunes after mining. There are two species, but only the one commonly called "Bone seed" has found its way here.

On our coast both species have become indestructible pests spreading thickly and smothering native species.

It would appear that an odd plant has been fancied by a home gardener and from these seeds has spread into bushland.

Wherever we know of its existence it must be destroyed because of its aggressive invasiveness.

It grows as a shrub to various heights, depending on tree cover. In the open, it is usually one to two metres tall but looking for light will grow much taller. The leaves are a bright shiny green with young shoots being clothed in a white "cottonwool" film. The flower is a yellow daisy the size of a 10c piece. Flowering and seeding is prolific. The seeds are globular drops. They are 95 % viable and remain viable for at least five years. So wherever the plant has been known to grow, the area has to be watched for several years.

On our hunt, we searched five areas and found patches of rather thick regrowth in three. In the other two no seedlings were found. But the danger there is that seed has been washed down the hillsides into creeks and will be carried further.

The Society would welcome notification of any sightings of this plant or anything though to be it. We will continue to monitor known infestations.

( Besse Bramsen )



# Pest potential is not for export

**SIR:** Your TV critic Diana Simmonds, in previewing the last episode of the *Animal Traffic* series on the ABC (*The Guide*, July 26), suggests that "there is no good reason why the export of common native species (of bird) shouldn't be made legal". In fact, there are several reasons why the so-called "pest" cockatoos should not be exported.

First, it is important to appreciate that bird damage to crops and the export of native species are two quite separate issues. Exportation is not a solution to bird crop damage, as the film suggests. It should be quite obvious that if current methods of

shooting, trapping and poisoning are not effective, then the proposed alternative of live trapping for the export pet trade is not going to be any more effective. Research has indicated that cockatoo damage to crops is not as widespread as suggested and is due, in many cases, to poor farming techniques.

Secondly, it should be realised that there is always a black market for whatever is not legally available. Legalisation of the export of certain common species is likely to result simply in a shift of the smuggler's attention to other, probably rarer, species. It should also be noted that the

current high value of our "pest" species is unlikely to be maintained if the overseas markets are flooded with the birds.

Furthermore, is it a responsible attitude to export our "pests" to foreign countries, where the birds must also have "pest potential", and is a wild-caught cockatoo really suitable as a pet cagebird in a city apartment?

Frank Antram,  
Trade Records Analysis  
of Flora and Fauna  
in Commerce (Oceania),  
Whistler Street,  
Manly.

SMH  
July 27 3/8/88

## BARRINGTON WILDERNESS: A test of Greiner's Commitment

The Barrington wilderness northwest of Newcastle is one of NSW's remaining wilderness areas which can be protected by the Wilderness Act and the National Parks & Wildlife Act. It centres on a basalt plateau rising to over 1,500m. Ruggedness, large local relief and high rainfall account for an enormous natural abundance and variety.

But the Barrington wilderness is under threat. Only two-thirds is in National Park. The balance is in State Forest and is being eaten away by roads and logging. None of the area has been declared as wilderness.

Opponents of protecting Barrington claim that conservation of the area was fully considered under the 1982 NSW Government Rainforest Policy, which led to National Park extensions and World Heritage listing.

But only the forests on the southern side of Barrington were investigated for inclusion. Unlogged State Forests to the east and west, which contain the bulk of the area's unprotected wilderness, were not even considered!

At the same time, no attempt was made to address overcutting of the region's timber resources. An industry report in 1974 predicted a 75% decline in supplied due to overcutting. Yet record increases in production quotas were subsequently made. Timber production from the Forestry Commission's Gloucester Management Area, for example, was 240-290% above sustainable yield in each of the 7 years between 1977 and 1984. Minimal cuts have only recently taken place.

The result will be the likely collapse of the industry shortly after the turn of the century, regardless of whether the Barrington wilderness is protected or not. Against this is the fact that recreation demand in the Gloucester area already accounts for a quarter as many jobs as the timber industry.

### RAINFOREST LOGGING IN BARRINGTON

Rainforests are currently being destroyed by logging in 2 parts of the Barrington wilderness in the Paterson River, and around Whispering Gully in the Karuah River. They consist of 37% and 50% rainforest respectively. Most of the remaining area is comprised of a rainforest understorey overlain by large eucalypts.

These forests are being logged for the old eucalypts they contain and, in Whispering Gully, for the rainforest tree Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), which reaches its southern limit nearby.

Unable to survive the exposure caused by disturbance to the canopy, many of the rainforest trees die. Introduced weeds quickly invade the disturbed ground. The logged sites are also intensively burned to kill any rainforest plants and promote the growth of eucalypts.

The aim is to destroy the rainforest and replace it with a species-poor eucalypt woodland. Wildlife which depends on the rainforest disappears. Other rainforests are destroyed by the construction of roads to service the logging and to gain access to isolated trees within them.

These are unacceptable practices under any circumstances, let alone in a wilderness area. The Wilderness Society has made an urgent request to NSW Environment Minister, Tim Moore, to stop the destruction of these places by granting them Interim Protection — a provision of the National Parks and Wildlife Act which the Coalition Parties voted for with the Wilderness Act. Interim Protection would provide a breathing space while their future is considered.

### YOU CAN HELP

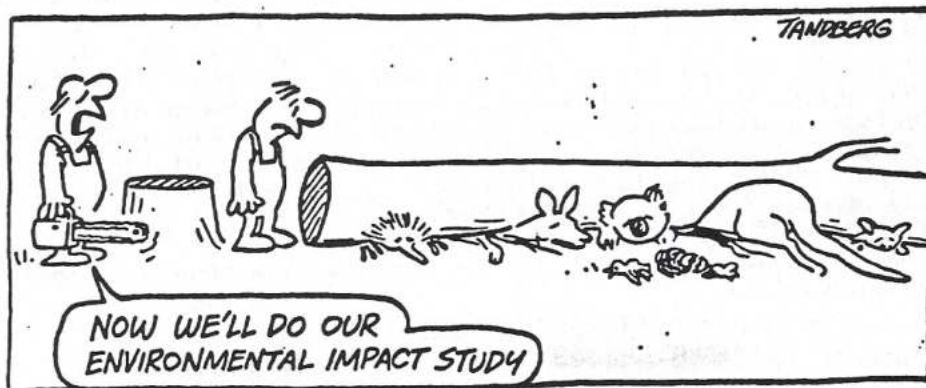
Please, take a few minutes to write to:

Mr Tim Moore, NSW Environment Minister  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Ask him to prove the Coalition's support for the Wilderness Act by using it to protect the Barrington wilderness.

Tell him you want the destruction of the Paterson River and Whispering Gully areas stopped.

" WILDERNESS SOCIETY NEWS "





# TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

18 Argyle St, Sydney, NSW 2000. Phone 27 4714



18 June 1988

Dear fellow environmentalist,

Total Environment Centre has a commitment. Established in 1972, one of its chief tasks has been to help local groups and individuals to influence decisions involving their environment.

Hundreds of groups have been helped by TEC on regional and local issues. Industrial development around Botany Bay, freeways, threats to neighbourhoods and bushland, water pollution, creation and protection of parks, high-rise development, pollution from tips, the dangers of pesticides - name the issue and you'll find years of dedicated work by TEC volunteers and staff.

Our directors and project officers have prepared campaign plans for local groups, made detailed submissions to government ministers and councils, spoken to public meetings and appeared before Commissions of Inquiry.

The link between the many grass roots groups and the few statewide and national groups is essential to the continued success of the environment movement.

Local groups are usually best placed to sound the alarm on the latest assault on the environment. And a local issue may expose a wider problem that requires a broad community response or precedent setting court case. Examples are the protection of harbour foreshores, access to sunlight, improved controls on sand and gravel mining, wild and scenic rivers and urban bushland. The widespread and diverse membership of local groups also provides the support base for state and national action as native forest and wilderness campaigns have shown.

This year TEC will continue to help local environment groups. In addition we will conduct campaigns on urban bushland, a coastal claim, independent environmental impact statements, the south east forests and the 'right to know' about toxic chemicals (see overleaf).

It is not well known that TEC has a very limited budget. Our staff work long hours for low wages. Each year it is difficult to find sufficient funds to support our existing activities and allow expansion to meet the growing demands.

We hope you will consider making a donation to TEC to support our joint efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Rolfe  
Chairperson  
Management Committee



# PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

## TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

### A responsible and committed approach.



Since 1972, Total Environment Centre (TEC) has been working to protect the natural and urban environment. It has led campaigns to save our rainforests, protect parks, limit woodchipping, save endangered species and wetlands, oppose urban blight and supported hundreds of community groups and citizens in their efforts to have a say in decisions that affect their environment.

In the next year Total Environment Centre will undertake five more campaigns.

We need your help to be successful.

### CAMPAIGNS:

#### 1 South-East Forests

The woodchipping of the magnificent native forests of the south-east is imminent. TEC is the nerve centre for the campaign to protect them and all our political, legal and research skills need be mobilised. This is the last chance for the south-east forests.

#### 2 Independent Environmental Impact Statements

For too long various departments and developers have had undue influence on the outcome of environmental impact statements. Consultants are paid directly to produce them and departments are allowed to adjudicate on their own proposals.

NSW needs an Independent Environmental Impact Assessments Office.

#### 3 Coastal Claim

Much of the coast is under renewed threat by giant tourist resort developments and shire councils wanting to be freed from environmental planning controls such as the Coastal Lands Protection Scheme.

Total Environment Centre will campaign against this and develop a Coastal Claim showing what land needs improved protection.

#### 4 Toxic Chemicals Control

What are your rights to stop the spraying of toxic chemicals? TEC will be organising a 'right to know' campaign, to inform citizens about the dangers of the many chemicals sprayed by government authorities and property owners; the legal rights to demand a halt, environmental assessment; and alternatives.

#### 5 Urban Parks and Bushland

TEC has completed research into how to better protect urban open space from clearing, alienation for single-use activities and ways to involve the community in development applications and management plans.

A special conference bringing urban groups together and a campaign is needed.

**YOU CAN HELP US: Send a donation and/or volunteer your time. Fill in the forms below, today.**

#### DONATIONS OVER \$2 TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A tax deductible donation can be made to the Australian Conservation Foundation advising of your preference that the donation be used for

the Total Environment Centre. Fill in forms A and B; make the cheque out to the Australian Conservation Foundation and post the forms to the addresses as shown below.

*The environment is all we've got. The Total Environment Centre is working to protect it.*

**A** The Director  
Australian Conservation Foundation  
672B Glenferrie Road  
HAWTHORN VIC. 3122

Dear Sir, I attach a donation to the Australian Conservation Foundation, I prefer that this donation should be spent for the purposes of the Total Environment Centre. I understand that this donation is tax deductible and therefore look forward to your receipt.

NAME (Mr Ms Mrs Miss) \_\_\_\_\_ [PLEASE PRINT]

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

**B** The Accountant  
Total Environment Centre  
18 Argyle Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir, I have forwarded today to the Australian Conservation Foundation a donation, expressing a preference that it be spent for the purposes of the Total Environment Centre.

NAME (Mr Ms Mrs Miss) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

#### VOLUNTEERING:

I would like to volunteer to help the Total Environment Centre in its work.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

MY SKILLS ARE \_\_\_\_\_ [PLEASE PRINT]



# Fauna in the Blue Mountains

## - Status and Distribution

### Introduction

The diversity of habitats and associated fauna in the Blue Mountains, particularly in settled areas, has significantly diminished over the past 200 years of European settlement and possibly also during the many thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation. This trend is likely to continue although at a much reduced rate because of increasing public awareness, environmental controls and the protection of major habitats and wildlife communities in National Parks, State Forests and Water Catchment Areas.

Remaining pockets of natural bushland interspersed throughout the urban and agricultural areas in the Blue Mountains region provide important corridors for the movement of wildlife between the larger, more viable National Park and Nature Reserve lands.

### The Blue Mountains Region

The Blue Mountains region is characterised by one of the largest, continuous conservation areas in New South Wales. This area incorporates Bents Basin State Recreation Area, Blue Mountains National Park, including the Warragamba Catchment Area, Kanangra Boyd National Park, Wollemi National Park, Pantoneys Crown Nature Reserve and Goulburn River National Park totalling over 860,000 hectares.

Surrounding this area are several State Forests (Capertee, Ben Bullen, Newnes, Jenolan, Banshea and Mt Werong), Council Reserves, including Regional Open Space, Crown Reserves, including the Dargans Creek Heritage Lands and Wildlife Refuges. Whilst some parts of these areas have been substantially modified, they form important bushland links between the conservation areas.

The large size of the conservation area in the Blue Mountains is important for maintaining viable populations of fauna i.e. species are self reproducing and have no deleterious genetic change over a long period of time. Nevertheless, retention of a diverse wildlife resource depends on maintaining pockets of highly productive habitat as well as the sandstone country of low productivity which dominates this conservation unit.

### Ecological Characteristics of the Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains region includes:

- a range of vegetation communities including highly productive habitats such as swamps and heaths;

- a dissected topography which:

- \* includes a large range of habitats - cliffs, escarpments
  - canyons
  - major rivers and gorges

- \* includes natural barriers to animal movement - cliffs

- a large range of altitude:

*Regionally:*

- from the Nepean River (10m) and Lapstone Monocline (100m) to the Great Dividing Range (>1000m);

*Locally:*

- from cliff top (900m) to cliff base (750m) and valley floor (350m);

- pockets of largely natural bushland providing corridor links between sections of Blue Mountains National Park;

- numerous artificial barriers:

- \* highways - fire trails - walking tracks
- \* powerline easements
- \* urban development and exotic vegetation

- many introduced plants and animals  
e.g. foxes, cats, goats, pigs, rabbits, starlings,  
Indian mynners, sparrows, crested pigeons

which affect native fauna by:

- competition
- predation
- habitat change
- disease

- presence of people which influence fauna by:

- \* habitat modification
- \* pollution (fire intensity)
- \* fire regime (season, frequency)
- \* recreational activities
- \* protection of gardens, crops etc.
- \* illegal activities e.g. bird trapping, collection of fire wood & bush rock



## Distribution of fauna - a matter of scale

The management of fauna needs to take into consideration their distribution characteristics:

- Seasonal migratory species  
e.g. satin flycatcher, rainbow bird, honeyeaters.
- Species widespread on a continental basis  
e.g. Willy Wagtail.
- Species widespread throughout Eastern Australia  
e.g. Antechinus stuartii, Pied Currawong, Grey Kangaroo.
- Species typical of the Central West slopes  
e.g. Grey Currawong.
- Species typical of the coast and tablelands  
e.g. Flame Robin, Swamp Wallaby.
- Species restricted to the Sydney sandstone area  
e.g. Rock Warbler, Red Crowned Toadlet, Broad-headed Snake
- Species endemic to the Blue Mountains  
e.g. Spenomorphus leuraensis
- Species restricted to specialised habitats and resources  
e.g. Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Broad-headed snake;

## Characteristics of Blue Mountains Fauna

The conservation status of fauna largely reflects their ecological characteristics, i.e.

- Opportunistic species e.g. currawong, magpie, bush rat
- Seasonal species e.g. honey eaters, rufous fantail, scarlet robin
- Specialist species e.g. brush tailed rock wallaby, bats, swamp rat, pigmy possum

Similarly, the success of introduced species can be attributed to their opportunistic lifestyles e.g. Mus musculus invading recently burnt bushland areas in large numbers where they were previously unrecorded although they probably were there in low numbers.

This characteristic of a species, combined with distribution, breeding season, dependence on seasonal food sources, shelter from predators, and requirements for nest sites and territory size contribute to the survival capability of the species in an environment influenced by the activities of people.

Records of Blue Mountains fauna indicate that there are:

- \* Marsupials - approximately 27 species
- \* Birds - over 200 species
- \* Reptile & Amphibians - approximately 98 species

including disjunct populations of several species(See Table 1).

### FAUNA DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

Endangered	Rare	Endemic	Centre	Edge	Disjunct
Squirrel Glider	Yellow bellied Glider	Water Skink	Tiger Cat	Southern Brown Bandicoot(N)	Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby
Peregrine Falcon	Colo Bat	Rock Warbler	Eastern Pigmy Possum	Beautiful Firetail(N)	Long-nosed Bandicoot
Eastern Native Cat	Powerful Owl	Broad-headed Snake	Grey Goshawk	Pilot Bird(N)	Satin Flycatcher
	Sooty Owl		Glossy Black Cockatoo	Grey Currawong(N)	Little Wattletbird
	Masked Owl		Turquoise Parrot	Eastern Little Masticiff Bat(S)	Olive Whistler
	Lewins Rail		Brush tailed Phascogale	Little Pied Bat(S)	Australian Crane
			Southern Emu Wren	Gang Gang(N)	Noisy Pitta(S)
	Topknot Pigeon		Regent Honeyeater	Tawny Grass Bird(S)	
				Brush Turkey(S)	
				King Quail(S)	
				Little Button Quail(S)	




## *Management Considerations*

The future of native fauna in the Blue Mountains depends mainly on the protection of the large natural and almost contiguous land system of Blue Mountains, Kanangra Boyd and Wollemi National Parks which, due to its large size, is able to contain fauna populations which can sustain the optimum level of genetic variation over a long period of time.

In addition, there is a need for:

- On going survey and monitoring of fauna species and populations and research on the ecological requirements of selected species;
- Habitat protection:  
i.e. maintain full array of plant community structure and composition as well as particular resources e.g. *Banksia serrata* in flowering condition for honeyeaters. This particularly relates to fire management.
- Enforcement of strict environmental controls to mitigate environmental impacts, particularly water pollution and chemicals e.g. ingestion of insecticides by raptors weakens egg shells.
- Improvements to corridors linking natural areas  
e.g. highway crossings over gullies  
e.g. powerline easement management
- Prevention of illegal activities e.g. bush rock removal, wood collection, bird trapping and removal of epiphytes, ferns and other plants;
- Control of pest animal and plant species;
- Improve public awareness about fauna and species requirements for survival;



Ann Jelinek  
Senior Ranger  
Blue Mountains District

5 June, 1988

With special acknowledgement to Wyn Jones, Senior Naturalist, NPWS who is collating information of fauna status and distribution in the Blue Mountains region.

## *Blue Mountains Fauna*

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Blue Mountains in wild and lonely places deep,  
Their precious jewels in hiding keep.

Where dark the towering walls forbidding  
Lean close to guard these secret places  
From despoiling human feet.

Only running water finds a way to go;  
Water, running pure and crystal clear,  
Falling to the pristine pools so far below;  
Hidden pools, deep and icy cold,  
Reflected beauty in their stillness hold.

When morning mists melt away,  
Come shafts of sunlight glinting down  
To spangle rocks and hanging fern,  
Turn spider webs to diamond necklets  
To grace a fairy gown.  
And, for a magic moment, rainbows hang  
In veils of drifting spray.

Sunbeams dancing on the rippling stream,  
Weave shadow patterns on golden sands below.  
Cool and damp the air is, and filled with water music  
Where hidden waters flow.

Those who dare to seek them out - beware!  
For fierce storms across the Mountains sweep,  
Sending foaming walls of water metres deep  
Raging down those gentle falls.  
In that maelstrom close confined  
No living thing could long survive.

( Mollie Edmonds )