

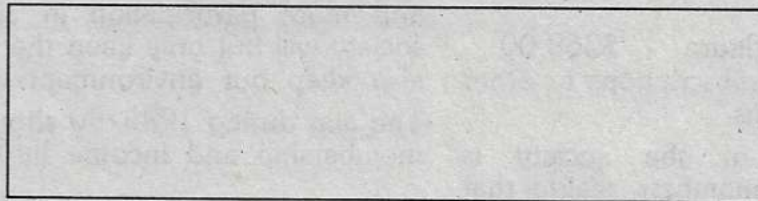
January-February-March 1990



Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

RETURN ADDRESS:
LBMCS
P.O. BOX 119
SPRINGWOOD 2777



Notice of Meetings

The format for meetings in 1990 has been altered. The venue remains the same - the Neighbourhood Centre (next to Civic Centre), Springwood. Each meeting begins at 8.00pm on the 4th Friday of each month.

General and Business meetings will alternate at the neighbourhood Centre.

General Meetings

February 23
(David Papps - Rare
and Endangered Fauna)
April 27
June 22
August 24
October 26 (AGM)

Business Meetings

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| March 23 | September 28 |
| May 25 | November 30 |
| July 27 | |

Business meetings in Feb, Apr, June, Aug and Oct, Nov, and Dec, will be held at 7 David Street, Glenbrook, at 8.00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of these months. All members are welcome to attend.

No general meetings will be held in November or December.

On Feb 23, David Papps will speak on endangered fauna. This was postponed from the November meeting.

Aims

To inform the public on environmental and conservation issues; research into population and distribution of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains and neighbouring regions.

Memberships

Blue Mountains Environment Council
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Australian Conservation Foundation
Society for Growing Australian Plants (Blue Mountains Branch)
National Parks Association (NSW)
Australian Museum
Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society
National Parks and Wildlife Foundation
The Wilderness Society (NSW)
The Western Sydney Network of Environmental Organisations
The Total Environment Centre

Other Group Involvement

Glenbrook Lagoon Society
Eastern Escarpment '530A' Committee
Darks Common Trust
Nepean River Committee
Escarpment Protection Group
Echo Point
Native Plant Reserve (Glenbrook)
The Colong Foundation (Inc)

Society Contacts

President: Richard Phillipps (39-2568)
V.Presidents: Margaret Baker (54-1196)
Margaret Esson (51-1826)
Secretary: George Threlfo (39-5125)
Editor: Deborah Chambers
Treasurer: Eileen Brammall (39-6420)
Librarian: Wynne O'Brien (58-6504)
Gen. Enquiries and Talks
Organiser: Aleen Hanley (39-4079)

Treasurer's Report

As shown in the financial statement, administration expenses are considerable, amounting to \$1168.53.

The rest of the expenditure - \$368.00 - represents donations and subscriptions to other environmental organisations.

The financial position of the society is deteriorating. I am sure members realise that membership fees are too low.

Membership numbers are also low.

Increases in fees and membership are urgent and more participation in all aspects of the society will not only keep the society viable but also keep our environment viable.

The aim during 1989/90 should be to increase membership and income by 30%.

- Eileen M Brammall

Treasurer's Report for the period 14-10-88 to 30-9-89

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Expenditure amounted to: | | \$1536.53 |
| Income amounted to: | \$1268.71 | \$1268.71 |
| Excess of expenditure over income: | | \$ 267.82 |

| Income | | Expenditure | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Ivy Market | 657.60 | Subscriptions | 153.00 |
| Member's Subs | 393.00 | Donations | 215.00 |
| Donations | 21.00 | Photocopying, printing | 455.99 |
| Sundries | 149.40 | Postage | 105.67 |
| C.Union Interest | 47.71 | Advertising | 103.10 |
| | 1268.71 | Rent | 96.00 |
| | | Sundries | 407.77 |
| Details of Sundries | | Details of Sundries | |
| Garage Sale | 111.40 | Stationery | 72.77 |
| Part p'mart PO box | 8.00 | Phone calls | 20.00 |
| Returned cheque | 30.00 | PO Box Rent | 24.00 |
| | 149.40 | Auditor's fees | 60.00 |
| | | Reimbursement fares | 10.00 |
| | | Corporate Affairs Reg. | 18.00 |
| | | Hall rent deposit | 20.00 |
| | | Conference expenses | 50.00 |
| | | Blue Mtns City | |
| | | Cel papers | 130.00 |
| | | | 407.77 |
| | | Petty cash | |
| | | On hand | 18.02 |
| | | P/C vouchers/ envelopes/stamps | 9.10 |
| | | Paper clips/ sellotape | 1.55 |
| | | | 10.05 |
| | | | 7.37 |
| | | Balance at Credit | |
| | | Union at 30.9.89 | 317.00 |

President's report

We have had some outstanding public meetings, workshops and bushwalks this year, and undertaken some effective lobbying. A stall at the Ivy Market, Springwood, has been our main income and enabled us to lobby and donate money to several environmental causes.

Meeting topics have taken us from Cape York to the outback and south to Tasmania. These talks have usually been illustrated with colour slides. The workshops have handled issues and organised lobbying for local matters, including

- preservation of the Faulconbridge Mallee;
- the bushscape of private land at Linden;
- the proposed zoo at Wentworth Falls;
- the Blue Mountains environmental plan;
- the eastern escarpment;
- the Florabella Pass area between Blaxland and Warrimoo;
- extending and improving Blue Mountains parks.

We have lobbied the state and federal governments on a range of issues, too, including

- the woodchipping of south-east forests;
- transfer of the Navy from Port Jackson to Jervis Bay;
- Cape York developments (planned spaceport and others);
- Kakadu National Park;
- mining in Antarctica.

The year has seen a remarkable increase in concern for the environment. This concern is made manifest locally in the great number of environmental groups now operating on the Mountains. We welcome them all and hope

they will work with us on the Blue Mountains Environment Council.

Our bushwalks have taken place monthly, usually on the third or fourth Sunday of the month. Walks have been organised to Bunyan's Lookout from Martin's Lookout, Springwood; to Glenbrook Creek and Kanuka Brook; to Erskine Creek and Big Crater Creek; to Grose Lookout from White Cross; along Cripple Creek, Blaxland; along the eastern escarpment; along Florabella Pass from Warrimoo to Blaxland; also spotlighting to Murphy's Glen, Woodford, and to Blue Gum Swamp, Winmalee. (There may have been one or two walks I've missed there!)

Can planet earth be saved? "Don't just move the deckchairs, the Titanic is sinking!" says David Bellamy. We have to hope and believe that the greenhouse effect and damage to the ozone layer are reversible, along with other damage to our environment such as salt degradation of farmlands, soil erosion and desertification. Those people and companies which ignore the issues of sound environmental practice do so at their peril, now that the green consumer revolution is here. Our society includes in its brief a concern for national manufacturing and buying habits, to encourage Blue Mountains citizens to be green-literate consumers, aware of environmental issues including recyclable or biodegradable packaging.

We need to get more professional and active galvanising support for our causes; let's make 1990 the year of the green revolution.

- Richard Phillipps

Secretary's report

The Eastern Escarpment Study has finally been released for public comment. It was actually completed early in 1988 but the State Government, for unstated reasons, has kept it back.

Our Society will comment on it in the coming weeks. We believe it attempts to create some measure of uniformity in planning for all councils having lands in the escarpment area. These include Blue Mountains, Penrith and Hawkesbury councils.

The issue is important to Blue Mountains Council as Commissioner Simpson has focussed on inadequate measures within the Draft Environment Management Plan for protecting escarpment areas. As well, Penrith Council still has not resolved to our or Emu Heights residents' satisfaction the issue of the Ceneclown proposal nor of the likelihood of further proposals on their escarpment lands.

We finally expect to get our submission for National Estate listing of part of the escarpment completed in February.

Lapstone Tunnel. This issue goes on and on with literally little light at the end of the tunnel!

You may recall that back in 1986, LBMCS submitted a number of sites within the mountains for acquisitions as Regional Open Space including the areas east and west of Lapstone Tunnel. The Department of Planning indicated that we should concentrate our efforts on the SRA and seek an exchange of their lands with the Lands Department.

Despite support through some elements of the SRA, we received a totally inadequate SRA reply (after 18 months) indicating that the SRA expected some financial return for ceding the lands. They are both in rail cuttings, one adjacent to a sewage plant.

Now the Lands Department has returned an equally irrelevant letter ignoring the details of our previous letter and suggesting that we go to the Department of Planning - we came from there in 1986!

We are organising a meeting of all interested parties in late February and expect to get as good a result as our successful action on the Glenbrook Garage.

State Government Open Space Acquisition Program. This is vaguely related to the previous Regional Open Space Studies and is really a reaction to the massive sell-off of public lands and property. However, stay tuned - we may be able to gain small areas through it.

Forty-four environment groups along the Hawkesbury/Nepean River system formed in November a powerful coalition - CHANGE. It includes groups from Camden to Broken Bay and is already pursuing incorporation, funding and strategy moves to raise public consciousness.

Members of CHANGE have been accepted for Total Catchment Management Committees. As well, Win Jones and George Threlfo are likely to be accepted as Upper and Lower Mountains reps on the Blue Mountains TCM Committee.

Thelma Murphy and Christine Dawson have pursued the issue of Fairy Dell at Springwood. A number of our members have assisted in influencing BMCC to address the restoration of this previously idyllic area. The residents are seeking the formation of a 530A Committee. We wish them well!

The Colong Foundation has recently published its nomination of the Blue Mountains for World Heritage. This received excellent Sydney and local media coverage, local groups supporting the nomination. Colong Secretary Alex Colley commented recently that it was probably their first and only proposal which has not immediately drawn up identifiable enemies.

Our group (and BMEC) are responding to the formation of a working group to form a management plan for the Great Western Highway through the mountains.

We have also responded to a Prospect Council proposal for an 80kv line from Warrimoo to Winmalee.

The major immediate issues facing our group are the proposals at Londonderry for extensions to the sand mining operations and the proposal for a massive domestic tip. Margaret and Mark Baker, Aleen Hanley and George Threlfo are liaising with and advising the local action group led by Ann Mason. Local Member Paul Gibson is also closely involved.

We are suggesting the following courses of action (in line with NCC's stand on these matters):

- * Refuse any tip proposal for natural bushland - this will tear up 200 hectares of forest land in one of the few remaining greenbelt areas of western Sydney.
- * Demand the public disclosure of all sites considered for tip sites in western Sydney.
- * Conduct a public inquiry on the whole question of domestic waste disposal in western Sydney.
- * Question the notion that one massive tip is the most efficient option and propose several smaller tips nearer to the sources of rubbish generation.
- * Question the effectiveness of current recycling measures particularly the State Government's refusal to enact deposit legislation on returnable items.
- * Call on Penrith City Council to delay consideration of the Development Applications for the Londonderry sandmines until
 - a the South Creek Total Catchment Management Committee has been formed

and can consider the potential effects of runoff from the mines into South Creek;

- b the potential runoff problems from the tip site into South Creek have been addressed and evaluated.

How you can help

An important way to help the society directly is to complete the enclosed membership form and send it quickly, with your cheque, to the society.

Another way to help is to support our staff at the Ivy Market, Springwood Neighbourhood Centre. These markets are held each month; the next one is on February 10th.

Support for the market can be in two ways - by buying items on sale and by providing items for sale. We all have our own special talents. An extra ten items a month could give the society a 40% increase in income. Inexpensive things are the most useful.

In addition, to help the general conservation movement, the following shops sell environmentally acceptable products, such as:

- * Recycled paper
- * Natural (no animal products) soaps and oils
- * Environmentally educational books
- * Soft toys and puppets
- * Beautiful posters and prints
- * T-shirts, sweatshirts
- * Bird call cassettes
- * Leatherwood honey
- * Australian handicrafts and much more.

ACF Shop, Argyle Centre, The Rocks

Total Environment Centre, Argyle Centre, The Rocks

Wilderness Shop, Liverpool St Sydney

Environment Shop, 39 George St, Sydney

NPWS Shop, Heritage Centre, George St (Cadman's Cottage)

National Trust, QVB, Sydney

Thinking of a holiday?

Scobie's Walkabout P/L provides nature tours of great variety. PO Box 43, Newcastle, 2300. Ph 049-293025.

Go Bush Safaris, PO Box 71, Gladesville, 2111, have safaris to Fraser Island in April, tropical rainforests in June, Fraser Island and whale watching in September, The Murray and Darling Rivers in October/November, and a Bush Christmas to National Parks in December/January.

Bower Bird Books, PO Box 104, Wimmalee, 2777 sells a wonderful selection of books covering most aspects of our natural environment. Write for a catalogue.

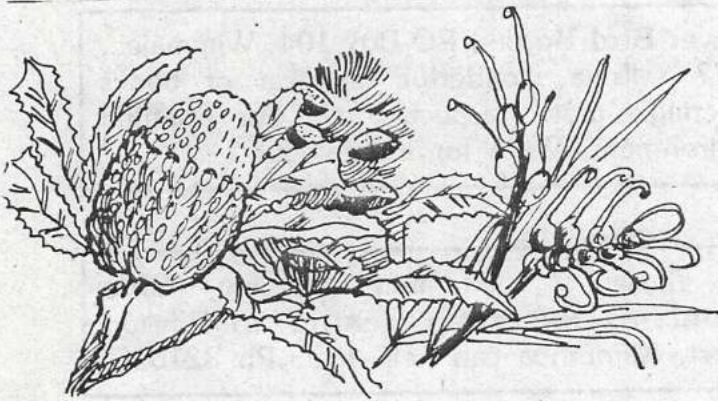
For those of you into recycling, **Blue Mountains Recycling Centre**, 23 Whilton Street, Katoomba can help you. Ph 821020.

Mr Graeme Lomas, of **Kwality Home Insulation**, wants your papers for recycling. 11 Bromley Road, Emu Plains, 2750. Phone 047-364029.



Living in Our Natural Environment

We live in a very special environment in the Blue Mountains. Nearly every house has some bush nearby. Daily we share in its sights and sounds. The trees form a backdrop to the towns, our gardens are visited by its birds and animals, and many bush walks and scenic areas are there for us to enjoy.



In the more settled parts of the Mountains, remnants of the bush are seen only on council reserves, road sides, vacant blocks and along the railway line. They are important refuges for plants, birds and animals that once lived in larger homes.

Bushland remnants close to towns and transport routes are often badly treated by us. We should make sure that the plants and the animals dependent on them do not disappear.

- * Do not clear all of the vegetation from building blocks. Remember that the undergrowth is just as important as the trees.

- * Find out about the Tree Preservation Order from the Blue Mountains City Council.

- * Investigate ways of protecting your house from bushfires without clearing extensive breaks.

- * Holes in the trunks of old trees are important nesting sites for some birds and possums.

- * Attract bushland visitors into your garden. Plant grevilleas and banksias for honeyeating birds. Many of these birds also eat insects so you won't need to use poisonous garden sprays and you may even see more butterflies. Watch for the colourful flocks of Crimson Rosellas as they crunch through the seed pods of the gum trees you left in the backyard.

- * Try not to disturb the roots of trees, otherwise they will slowly die.

As well as enjoying the bush around our homes we are responsible for keeping it looking good. Some disturbance always occurs as we settle areas. We can reduce our impact however:

- * When houses and roads are constructed try not to disturb the protective plant cover and natural drainage patterns too much, especially on sloping ground, otherwise after rain, surface water flow and soil loss will increase. In some parts of the Mountains soil erosion has become a serious problem.

- * If you need to install a septic system ensure that the waste water from it doesn't seep directly through native vegetation. Investigate other methods of waste disposal.

- * Make sure your pets stay out of the bush and never dump unwanted animals. Feral cats kill many small native birds and mammals.



- * Weeds from our gardens love disturbed bushland. Many bushwalking tracks are fringed by them. Some weeds come from garden clippings that are dumped in bushland. Others grow from seed deposited by birds and blown or washed from our gardens.

- * Find out from the Blue Mountains City Council which plants are classified as noxious weeds and undesirable plants, and do not grow them.

- * Compost garden clippings rather than throwing them over the back fence. Mulching your garden with the compost will reduce its water needs too.

- * Maybe you can help with weeding and bush regeneration programmes.

- * Don't landscape your garden with bush rock or logs. You may be destroying another animal's home.

An excerpt from one of a series of pamphlets that should be available in your library:

Text © Margaret Baker and Robin Corringham

Artwork © Suzanne Lollback

*A City of the Blue Mountains and
NSW Bicentennial Council Initiative.*