



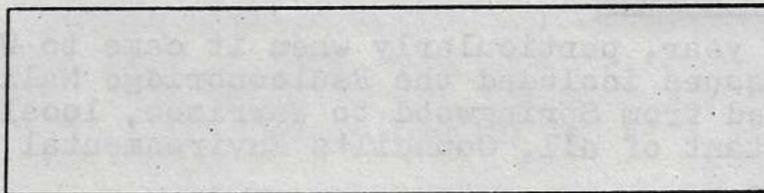
Jan. - Feb. - March 1991

Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

RETURN ADDRESS:

LBMCS
P.O. BOX 119
SPRINGWOOD 2777



GENERAL MEETINGS

MEETINGS are held every second month, on the second Friday, at the Neighbourhood Centre, Springwood at 8 PM.

Friday, 8th February - A member of W.I.R.E.S. (Wildlife Information & Rescue Service) will speak on the work of W.I.R.E.S., which cares for injured and orphaned native animals.

COMING EVENTS

WALKS - Sunday, 17th March, Red Hands Cave.
Meet at Glenbrook Station car park at 9.30 am.
Leader: Margaret Baker - 541196

GARAGE SALE - at Hazelbrook Public School, 2nd Saturday in April. Check Mountains Gazette to confirm date.

Come along and lend a hand.
Contact: Aleen, 394079.

Alms

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

Other Group Involvement

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)
C.H.A.N.G.E.
The Total Environment Centre

Glenbrook Lagoon Society
Eastern Escarpment '530A' Committee
Darks Common Trust
Nepean River Committee
The Colong Foundation (Inc)

Society Contacts

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had an active year, particularly when it came to Workshops and Submissions. Issues included the Faulconbridge Mallee area, the Powerline proposed from Springwood to Warrimoo, local Subdivisions - and most important of all, Council's Environmental Management Plan.

Issues outside the immediate area included the Glenmore Park Estate (between Penrith and Mulgoa), the Nepean-Hawkesbury problems, and Waste Disposal in western Sydney, where we helped organise a Public Forum at the University of Western Sydney.

Our Secretary, George Threlfo, and several other members have been particularly active and deserve the thanks not only of the Society but of all who care about the environment. George has been active on the Council of the Nature Conservation Council and as Secretary of the Blue Mountains Environment Council - both heavy loads. Margaret Baker and Aleen Hanley have raised funds from the Springwood Ivy Market and from the Glenbrook Fair and a Garage Sale, sometimes with the help of other members. Books, native plants and other items have been good sellers and more donations of small items are appreciated.

Bushwalks have been organised but not well attended. I hope the coming year will see them better promoted as they bring in new members and are an important activity. They can be visits to environmentally damaged or sensitive areas, useful to remind us just how valuable and precious our Blue Mountains bushland is.

I have enjoyed my two terms as President and I thank you for the support you have extended to me.

Richard Phillipps December 1990

Society members have been involved in a wide range of activities since the last newsletter. The following summary provides a selection of only some of our efforts :

1. Waste Minimisation Strategy. This detailed document was finalised in December with the co-operation of members of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Total Environment Centre and the Nature Conservation Council (NCC). As an NCC policy statement it followed an earlier undertaking from us to the Londonderry RAGE group that an overall strategy on waste would be prepared and presented to the Waste Management Authority. Copies have already been distributed to Penrith Council, RAGE and the press.
2. Bushfire Policy. This is a further policy prepared by members of the Blue Mountains Environment Council and is currently being given to NCC groups for refinement. It will fill a noticeable need for a coherent, State wide environmental fire policy.
3. Picton and Winmalee Sewerage System EIS's. Detailed analyses of these plans have been prepared by us in co-operation with the CHANGE river coalition. Our response to the Winmalee plan was formulated after a well attended meeting at G. Threlfo's home in November. As well, LBMCS representatives attended the Water Board public meetings at places such as Springwood, Orchard Hills and Windsor and put our views.
4. With members of CHANGE, we are working on a number of public meetings to be held this year across Western Sydney as a joint initiative of the Department of Planning and the Water Board to publicly debate the issue of further development in Western Sydney.
5. Environment Management Plans. LBMCS members presented a number of views on the last exhibition of Stage I and spoke to them at a BMCC meeting in November. Changes to the previous plan particularly in Faulconbridge, Springwood and Winmalee, are a real cause for concern and we are not prepared to let the matter rest. With the Total Environment Centre and the Colong Foundation, we intend to take up various matters with the Department of Planning shortly. An action group at Faulconbridge has similar concerns and we hope to work with them on this issue and on local election candidates in Ward 3.
6. Faulconbridge Mallee. Margaret Esson has been notified by the State Government that specific mallee lands there will not be purchased from the Open Space and Heritage Fund. However, further information has been gained that the Government hasn't even yet formulated its guidelines for allocating the funds (a meagre £ 2 million for all of N.S.W.) !
7. Our President Margaret Baker and husband Mark recently examined the very limited exhibition of possible options for flood-free access across the Nepean. This is an area we will monitor closely.
8. The RTA and LBMCS are currently on good terms. As well as sending us a cute Chrissie card (even after we went for their throats over the 'Hole in the Wall' issue !), good liaison continues on the Woodford Bends and Eastern Escarpment works. Notice that we have had a \$ 100,000 response to our 3 year campaign to have the entire F4 revegetated. Extensive reseedling on all sections was done in Spring.

9. Mulgoa Nature Reserve. Although Lisa Sinclair's campaign for a section of the estate to be included in the Nature Reserve was unsuccessful, her group and us have certainly got the other 3 onto the political agenda for this year. We are back looking at further moves for limited developments in the Penrith section of the eastern escarpment.
10. Springwood, Winmalee, Warrimoo 66 kV powerline. This was an issue we could really do without ! Aleen persuaded a reluctant couple of us that we should do more than write off responses to the EIS. LBMCS was responsible for the well attended first public meeting and have assisted in forming an effective resident action group ever since. The arrogant and dismissive attitude of Prospect staff has generated plenty of anger within the community. After many setbacks before and immediately following Christmas, the action group P.O.W.E.R. and ourselves have actually found some friends who are in a position to really help us. Watch the local press for important developments in the next few weeks.
11. Eastern Escarpment National Park. While such a proposal was presented to the Shadow Cabinet last year and has now been included in their election strategy, we desperately need someone to prepare a basic submission including detailed mapping on the 1: 25000 local maps. This is not impossible. It just takes a bit of time to translate information from other maps.

Can anyone help us please ? The proposal will add most lands above the Elcom easement between Glenbrook Gorge and Hawkesbury Lookout to the Blue Mountains National Park.

We always are in need of any willing souls to help in any number of ways on a wide range of issues. Don't sit back and expect others to carry the Society - they simply don't have the time to cover even Lower Mountain issues. HELP !!

Wanted Urgently

A Minutes Secretary for the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

An easy way to contribute to conservation in the Mountains.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Margaret Baker 541196

Support the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society and buy your books from our stall at the Ivy Market

Springwood Civic Centre, 2nd Saturday of every month except January, and two markets in November, 8.30am - 12.30pm

We sell new books on the Blue Mountains, Australian native plants and animals, bushwalking, conservation and related titles. If the book you want isn't there on the day we can generally obtain it for you.



LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 1ST OCTOBER 1990

INCOME- IVY MARKET		540.63
GARAGE SALE		104.00
MEMBERSHIP FEES		372.00
DONATIONS		10.00
XMAS DINNER		18.00
SALE OF STRING BAGS		6.00
Q THEATRE PARTY		45.00
INTEREST - CREDIT UNION		<u>13.48</u>
		1109.11
LESS EXPENDITURE		
SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS		
NAT. PARKS & WILDLIFE FOUND.	20.00	
FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS	25.00	
S.E. CONSERV. WORKING GROUP	25.00	
AUST. CONSERV. SOCIETY	100.00	
NATURE CONSERV. COUNCIL	75.00	
C.H.A.N.G.E.	20.00	
NSW ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL	20.00	
POSTAGE, P/COPYING, TELEPHONES	265.66	
PRINTING & STATIONERY	14.55	
RENTAL - MEETINGS	70.00	
ADVERTISING	65.40	
RENT OF P.O. BOX	30.00	
BANK CHARGES	8.72	
XMAS DINNER	20.00	
HERITAGE STUDY	15.00	
SOIL L'SCAPE MAP & BOOK	<u>30.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>804.33</u>
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		304.78
BALANCE AT 1.10.89		<u>317.00</u>
BALANCE AT 1.10.90		<u>\$621.78</u>

The National Parks & Wildlife Service needs your help to establish a fauna-watch system for the Blue Mountains area. Accurate information is needed to determine where particular species of concern occur. When enough data is collected, predictions can be made about other areas in which these species are likely to occur.

Interested local people and visitors have made significant contributions: in Warrambungle National Park new sightings of the rare Regent Honeyeater have been made. In the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve, large waterbird colonies have been reported by local land-owners. As well, many people throughout New South Wales have contributed valuable information to the recent State-wide Koala survey. Fauna of special concern in the Blue Mountains include: Striped-faced dunnart; Eastern pygmy possum; Squirrel glider; Greater glider; Yellow-bellied glider; Brush-tailed phascogale; Large pied bat; Long-nosed bandicoot; Koala. Others are: Tiger cat or Quoll; Eastern native cat; New Holland mouse; Long-nosed potoroo; Brush-tailed rock wallaby; Platypus; Broad-headed snake; Red-crowned toadlet; Great barred frog; Water skink (*Sphenomorphus leuraensis*); Mountains skipper butterfly; Dominula skipper butterfly; Chaostala skipper butterfly; Cuprea ant-blue butterfly; large ant-blue butterfly.

BIRDS: Peregrine falcon; Powerful Owl; Sooty Owl; Lewin's rail; Regent honeyeater; Glossy black cockatoo; Gang Gang; Grey Goshawk; Southern emu wren; Beautiful firetail; Tawny grass bird; Brush Turkey; King Quail; Little button Quail; Satin flycatcher; Little wattlebird; Olive whistler; Australian crane.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of any of these species, please telephone Ranger Cath Ireland on 87-8877. Special fauna cards are available to individuals who are interested in filling them in on walks or weekend trips. We are all custodians of our national parks and wildlife.

D.J.

PROTECTING THE HAWKESBURY/NEPEAN

The recent exhibition of the Picton and Winmalee Sewage Schemes, and forth-coming Rouse Hill Scheme have focussed public attention on the water quality problems within the Hawkesbury/Nepean river system. Other reports have recently indicated a deterioration of air quality across western Sydney and the continued destruction of remnant bushland.

The Winmalee EIS indicates that water quality will be depressed below the already unacceptable levels unless all catchment sewerage plants are up to the best available technology (BAT) by the time Winmalee is catering for 60,000 people. And if there is full development of Winmalee up to 120,000 people, it would not matter if the BAT is used - the river would still be doomed.

The Coalition of Hawkesbury/Nepean Groups for the Environment (CHANGE) are calling on the State Government to immediately review the 'Sydney Into Its Third Century' strategy, including the current policies of the Departments of Planning and Housing and the Waste Management Authority.

TEC. NOV. 1990

LONDONDERRY WASTE DEPOT - A LOCAL BATTLE WITH BIG CONSEQUENCES

Ten months ago residents of Londonderry in Sydney's west were informed that a major waste disposal site would be built in nearby woodland.

The site for the proposed Londonderry Waste Depot forms part of the much reduced "Castlereagh woodlands". At 300 hectares, it would become the principal waste site for western Sydney.

The state government's Waste Management Authority is behind the proposal. Work was to have commenced in July, but has been placed under a green ban by the NSW Labor Council.

This puts the Waste Management Authority in a bind, because Sydney is fast running out of major land-fill sites. It is no exaggeration to say that if the Londonderry site does not go ahead, Sydney will have no choice but to recycle virtually all its waste within 4 years. Of course, this is a situation which the environment movement would greatly desire. Local residents are therefore fighting a battle on behalf of the whole of Sydney.

Unusually, the proposal has been exempted from an Environmental Impact Statement by planning minister David Hay. This is extraordinary, because serious environmental problems exist, not least of which are pollution of the Hawkesbury-Nepean System and aerial pollution.

It is worth noting that the plan is in breach of a World Health Organisation principle that waste should be used to rehabilitate sites which have been previously used by industry, not dumped on virgin land.

Three local groups are opposing the plan. They have held numerous public meetings, 'days of outrage', and letter writing campaigns that have so far totalled 40,000 letters. Yet the state government remains unmoved; as soon as the green ban is lifted, work will proceed.

New titles from Three Sisters Productions Pty Ltd

A Field Guide to the Snakes and Lizards of New South Wales

By Gerry Swan, this is an easy to read, unique reference to all the lizards and terrestrial snakes found in NSW. Each species is described, and illustrated by a colour photograph and detailed map.

224 pages RRP \$29.95

Available from bookstores or post free
from Three Sisters Productions P/L
PO Box 104, Winmalee 2777
10% of mail order sales goes to the Society



The Blue Mountains Mystery Track

Lindeman Pass

A History of the Jamison Valley Volume 1

by Jim Smith

Between 1909 and 1911 a 6km walking track was built at the base of the cliffs between Wentworth Falls and Leura. It was never opened and lay neglected for over 70 years. Many bushwalkers came to doubt its existence.

This book tells of the dedication of a few bushwalkers in finding, clearing and opening this elusive track, and of the life of Charles Lindeman who designed the track. It is a unique social history.

Maps and descriptions allow walkers to enjoy Lindeman Pass and associated tracks.

112 pages + 16 pages of photos and maps RRP \$15.95