



APRIL/MAY/JUNE 1995

Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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

Notice of Meetings

FRIDAY 28th APRIL 1995
FRIDAY 26th MAY 1995 GUEST SPEAKER JILL DARK
FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 1995

8.00 p.m. Springwood Neighbourhood Centre

.....MONTHLY MEETINGS.....

Articles for this newsletter would be welcomed
for the next issue by June 30th.

Send to: P.O. B0x 119 Springwood, 2777.



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

AIMS.

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

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

MEMBERSHIPS.

Australian Conservation Foundation Ltd.
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
Greening Australia (NSW)

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Pres: Colin Anderson 394374
V. Pres: George Threlfo 395125
Richard Phillipps 392568
Act. Sec: Aleen Hanley 394079
Public: Besse Bramsen 512787
Ed: Christine Stickley 536380
Treas: Elizabeth Stark 542019
Library: Wynne O'Brien 586504
Pub.Office: Ross Bridle 536380

OTHER GROUP INVOLVEMENT

Society for Growing Australian Plants
(Blue Mountains Branch.)
The Total Environment Centre
National Parks Association (NSW)
Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

WIRES

The Wilderness Society

CHANGE

General Enquiries:

Aleen Hanley 394079

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of this Society.

COO-EE IS ANYBODY OUT THERE!



Editorial.

It is appropriate that at times like these, following the influence of the Green vote in the elections in the Blue Mountains, that we can reflect on the value of the work done by groups such as the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

We bring conservation issues to the attention of decision-makers. We raise public awareness of, sometimes, differing points of view, scientific evidence and values. We give the environment a voice in a world caught up in an economic material whirlpool. We keep each other informed of new issues, new places, and provide a place where we can share common interests and feel at home with our values.

The functioning of our group depends on input from all of us, and at present there are a few, whose dedication and goodwill maintain the organization. However, there is a crisis now. We need your help. The Society needs a **SECRETARY** and a **MINUTES SECRETARY**.

Meetings are attended by half a dozen, making it embarrassing to invite guest speakers. There has been one response for a call for articles for the newsletter. Does anyone out there read the newsletter? If so, could you please ring me on (047) 536380 so that I know my working week in preparation of this newsletter is worthwhile.



Is this group, which has been a major mover for changes in the Blue Mountains, and the surrounding region, and Australia wide, going to fall by the wayside?

Are the Lower Blue Mountains going to be allowed to lose a group who stands for values that are extremely important to us, and to the healthy survival of our natural environment?

To quote Tricia Caswell, Executive Director of ACF: "For we know only too well, that without an independent movement of ACF and other groups there is no comprehensive green conscience in Australia and pieces of our fragile, precious environment will continue to be lost each day."

It is decision time for the LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY. Is there anyone out there willing to take on the job of secretary? Will anyone write a short article for the newsletter? Will members be willing to attend meetings if guest speakers are invited? Are there changes or ideas that you have that would make the Society more relevant in your life?

Don't let the Coo-ee echo in the emptiness.
Can we hear your response? Please ring Aleen or myself.

Christine Stickley.



BMA. 5/4/95.

"Green vote the key"

The green vote was again a key factor in deciding who won Blue Mountains; according to Spokesperson for the Coalition of Residents for the Environment, John McIntyre.

"It may be that the Morris factor lost the seat for the Liberals, but it was the environment that won it for Labor," he said.

"The good result for Independent Carol Gaul who ran a strong environmental campaign, shows that Blue Mountains has become a seat where the green vote will help to make or break governments.

"Her preferences as well as those of Democrat Jon Rickard, were needed for Bob Debus to take the seat.

"A Debus win is a repeat of the 1993 Federal election where Maggie Deahm narrowly won the seat on preferences of the green vote. It is clear

that Labor now relies on the green vote in areas like this, to win at the ballot box.

"The fact that Carol Gaul did consistently well across the Mountains, shows that voters want a strong stand on the environment," John McIntyre said.

"Debus and Carr knew that Blue Mountains was unwinable without a rock-solid promise to save the old-growth forests in NSW and promises to protect more of the Blue Mountains environment. We'll be watching to see when these are acted on.

"People are now more serious about the environment," John McIntyre said.

"The message to the Liberals is that they must develop policy commitments on green issues such as native forests, land degradation and waterway pollution. Empty slogans and tub-thumping are out of date."



THE GREEN MOVEMENT'S FUTURE.

Tricia Caswell, Executive Director of the A.C.F. writes in the February edition of "Habitat" a thought provoking article on the Green Movement's push into the 21st century.

What is happening in our Society is reflective of World Wide Trends. Tricia writes: "When we look at our capacity to carry on this ambitious work, we see that most environmental organisations worldwide have static, if not declining and ageing members and supporters. We need to enlist the active support of young people, offer them opportunities to learn and participate. We must formalise our relations with educational institutions - from creches to universities- as well as establish appropriate forms of membership and information materials, connecting the environment with everyday life. "

"The environment agenda is reviving. Green Parties are resurgent in Europe. While we must work and lobby across all political parties, we must also recognize the crucial role of a green party.

Inevitably, we must be strong, relevant, highly skilled hardworking and independent into the next century. Our special contribution as a credible, respected, broadly based but focused organisation must be strong and complementary to the work of so many other environment groups. For we know only too well, that without an independent movement of ACF and other groups there is no comprehensive green conscience in Australia and pieces of our fragile, precious environment will continue to be lost each day."



Position Vacant: Honorary Secretary or Assistant Secretary

Organization: Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Tenure: I year (7 months left to serve)

Qualifications: Cheerful willingness to serve the environment
Some typing skills
Letter Writing Skills
Sense of humour
Organized

Duties: Answer correspondence
Write letters on behalf of Society
Collection and distribution of mail as needed

Renumeration: Satisfaction of knowing your work is important.

Applications: Invitedring Aleen 394079.



GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO REVIVE THE ENVIRONMENT

The election has brought us a government, and a local member in the Blue Mountains committed to protecting the old growth forests of New South Wales, in conjunction with a \$60 million timber industry restructuring program which will provide workers in the industry with a range of extra options for retraining and redeployment. The new State government's environmental plans that directly affect our region also include the creation of new wilderness areas including Wollemi, Kanangra Boyd, with substantial additions to Lost World. The Carr government plans new legislation to protect karst conservation areas such as the Jenolan Caves and Wombeyan Caves, and the protection of Sydney's remnant urban bushland.

Bob Debus has said he will call a Blue Mountains Environment Summit within three months of the election, with the intention of having local groups work with Council in the Environment Plan of Management Stage 2.

We shall also look forward to the further changes promised in the newspaper article in the B.M. Gazette 25/1/95.

Carr promises to protect Mountains

Labor Leader Bob Carr will go to the March election with what he claims is the most ambitious nature conservation and environment protection strategy ever put forward by a political party in NSW's history.

And the policies have a special focus on the Blue Mountains.

"By March 25 there is no doubt that Bob Debus will be recognised as the candidate with the clearest vision to save this special area for future generations," said Mr Carr.

Mr Carr said Labor is committed to:—

- Strict control of flights by helicopters over the Blue Mountains. "The government dithers on this matter," said Mr Carr. "Labor will introduce legislation to regulate joy flight activity and protect the peace of the national park;

- Ensure that the Government's plan to heighten and strengthen the Warragamba Dam wall is used only for flood mitigation and dam safety — not to increase long-term dam storage which would result in the destruction of the Kowmung River and huge tracts of the Blue Mountains National Park;

Mr Carr said Labor supports the swift implementation of dam safety and flood mitigation measures for Emu Plains but will

expressly prohibit any increase in long term storage capacity. This plan allows for containment of flood waters during a one in 1,000 year flood without permanently flooding sections of the Blue Mountains.

- Complete the sewerage extension and plant upgrading program of Sydney Water (the former Water Board). Mr Carr said the scheme was begun under the Wran Government in the early 1980s and now jeopardised by the Fahey Government's budget cuts.

- Support the completion of council's environmental plan of management first promoted by Bob Debus 10 years ago. "There have been long periods of unfortunate delays in the preparation of this crucial instrument in recent years, but good progress has been made lately," said Mr Carr.

- To assist in the effective implementation of the EMP my government will commit \$500,000 to assist in the purchase and swapping of environmentally sensitive land which needs to be preserved from development.

"In the coming weeks Labor will be announcing a raft of additional environmental policies aimed at saving the Blue Mountains environment's pristine values," said Mr Carr.



ENVIRONMENTAL CELEBRATIONS.

This year the 19th February was an historic day for the environment of the Blue Mountains. At 11 a.m. there was a gathering of some 150 people at Jemby Rinjah Lodge at Blackheath for the launching of "The Wildplant Rescue Service." A number of volunteers have formed the service to rescue native plants from development and home building sites to plant in other appropriate sites or pot for sale to gain some funding of the venture.

Mary Moody gave the opening address, outlining the purpose of the service; and was followed by several prominent environmentalists. Pam Allen, the opposition spokesperson for planning and environment planted a Hakea constablei. Richard Moorecroft of A.B.C. News had all V.I.P.'s present, monogram the handle of the shovel used and auctioned it, raising \$510 toward funding the service.

After a very sumptuous lunch, a number of folk transferred to "Bonnie Doon" near Katoomba to join others celebrating the launch of biological control of "Scotch Broom". The heavy infestation there of Cytisus scoparius is on the site of the disused brickworks. Round about the infested area is relatively pristine bush, and is being used by a study group (again volunteers) conducting an intensive research of the fauna and flora of the Bonnie Doon Falls district.

Leaders of the group, Leigh Taylor and Joan Haedon, gave an outline and history of the work in progress. Reg Toseland and David Thomas released the biological control agents.

A research officer of the C.S.I.R.O., Peter Hodge, told of his years of research in finding and testing of likely specimens for the purpose of control and making sure of the safety of their release.

Leucoptera spartifoliella, a small moth whose larvae mine the twigs of the plant, is specific, and now at work.

Testing of the psyllid Aritainella spartiophila is complete and it will be released in May. A seed eating beetle and seed eating weevil are still being tested and may soon be released,

With all, Peter said, it could be five years before good results are obvious, but successful destruction should finally occur.

by Besse Bramsen.

Position Vacant: Minutes Secretary

Tenure: 7 months

Qualifications: Ability to write proceedings of "relaxed" monthly meetings

Duties: Attend monthly meetings.
Post minutes to interested members
Write minutes in minutes book.

Renumeration: Besse's suppers!

Applications: Invited ring Aleen 394079.





SUBMISSIONS.

Colin Anderson is presently working on submissions on A Population Study in the Blue Mountains and A Recreation and Open Space Study in the Blue Mountains.

Waste Management.

A full report is due out soon on the Draft Waste Management Strategy. George Threlfo did a lot of work for a Nature Conservation Council Seminar on this subject a couple of years ago.

Writes Robert Rosen, an investment analyst and environmental consultant, in "Habitat" February, 1995:

"The waste Management Industries are mainly interested in seeking new sources of waste materials, not the reduction of the waste stream through the minimization of packaging, recycling close to the source or the development of more durable products."

Packaging and paper companies are happy to reduce the impact of production processes but not the volume of packaging materials produced.

Energy Authorities can be committed to reducing the emissions of coal-fired power stations, but still want their customers to purchase increasing amounts of electricity, and there is more profit in signing a customer up for life on a grid, than selling a solar-powered electrical system.

"Centralised, large scale sewage treatment schemes are more attractive than development of householder or neighbourhood sewerage solutions. In agriculture and medicine, complex technological and biotechnological solutions are preferred to the use of simple, more traditional, non-patentable and less profitable options." There is no profit for powerful drug companies in effective health care options like chiropractic, causing an antagonism to exist when in fact patients can receive effective, low cost health care free from drug side effects.

BMG 5/4/95



Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service volunteers collecting waratah seeds at Blackheath

FUNDRAISING IDEAS NEEDED The society is in need of funds. The Garage Sale is one source of income. More donations for that are needed as at present there are only books and records. Does anyone have any other ideas for fundraising? And the time/energy to implement them?

GUEST SPEAKERS NEEDED. Does anyone have slides of a recent trips or bushwalks they would like to show at the monthly meetings. If so, give Aleen or Colin a ring. The Society has a projector, or you could bring your own projector and screen. This could be an informal arrangement, just let Aleen know a few days before the meetings. There must be lots of photographers out there who would love to share their slides and experiences.

ANTI-WOODCHIP RALLY DOMAIN, SYDNEY. SUNDAY 19th February.

A number of our members joined the estimated 6,000 - 7,000 people gathered in the Domain to sing out in protest against the woodchipping of Old Growth forests and the encircling of Parliament house to the gentle flowing chant of

"We are the people,
This is our the land,
To save the forest,
Together we stand."

Admidst the banners and yellow triangles stating "Save the Forests", and the bright, colourful, imaginative, eccentric, and super eccentric who made the hippy generation look decidedly tame, we might have felt a trite conservative.

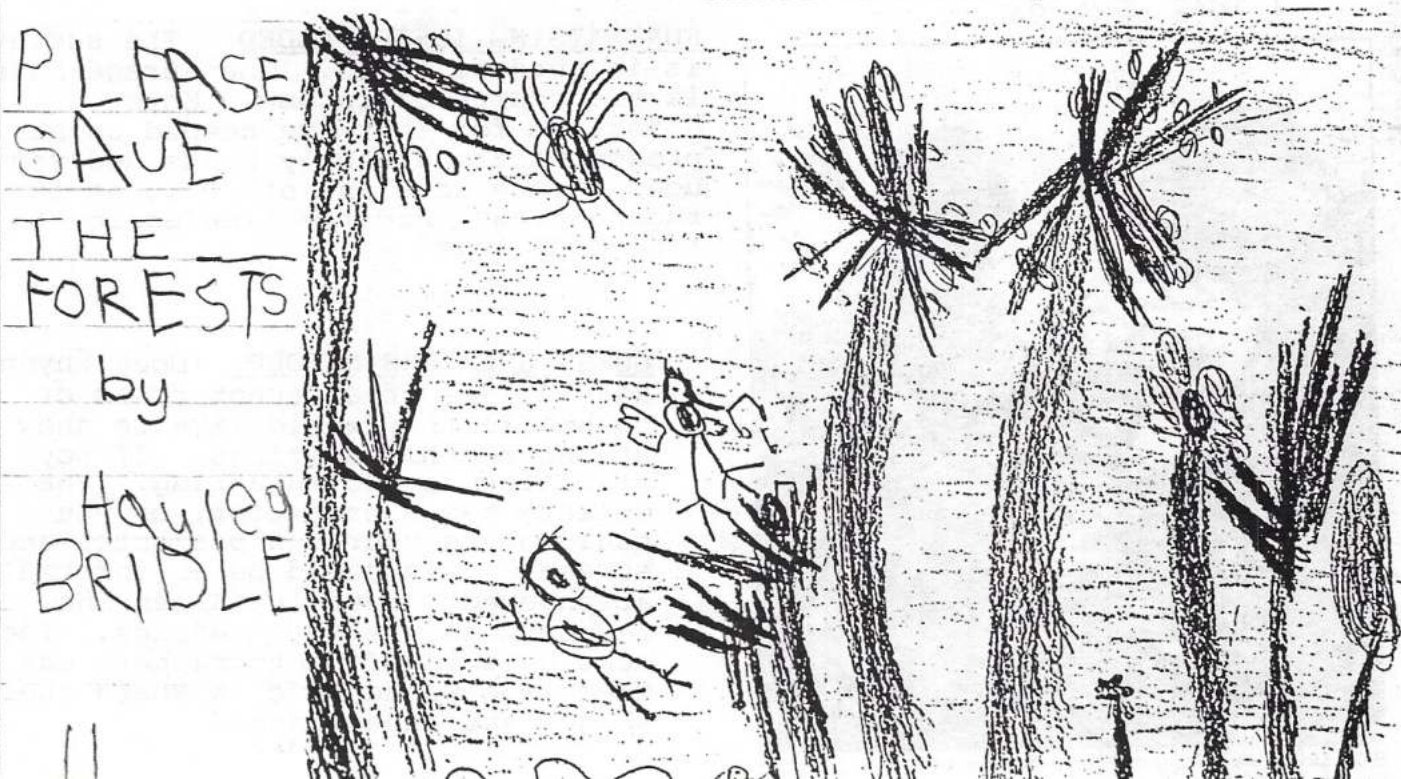
Fortunately, Kate Cebrano, star of the day, and saved to last following a group of excellent speakers, took the point well, and centred her speech around the silent majority, the ones for whom coming to a protest meeting such as this is confronting, yet their hearts are still with those present.

"But I think I represent a fraction of our society that is more middle class and conservative and perhaps not confident enough to be here," said Kate.

Huge Paper mache masks of Paul Keating and John Fahey headed the march around Parliament House, just behind a linked line of well known Australian performers including John Williamson, whose anti-logging woodchip anthem has been ringing in the halls of middle Australia for many years. The mood was of bouyant solidarity.

With the preference for toilet paper made from plantation timber or hemp explicitly proclaimed on some banners, one felt a little guilty sliding over to the port-a-loos repleat with toilet paper at the end of the afternoon.

Christine Stickley.





GARAGE SALE

FOR FUNDRAISING FOR LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

SATURDAY MAY 20th. 7 DAVID STREET, GLENBROOK.

We need some donations of your old treasures no longer needed. This is the Society's only means of fundraising for the year. Please dig through those cupboards, children's toy boxes, jewelry boxes, bookcases, and garages. Plants sell well too. Money raised is used to support conservation efforts through donations from the Society.



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - SPRINGWOOD

SUNDAY JUNE 11th - SPRINGWOOD CIVIC CENTRE

Last year the Society had a successful display on weeds for World Environment Day. This year we are asking one of our members to dress up as a weed and walk amongst the people.

We need an idea for a theme for a stall. Here is an opportunity to let your creative juices flow. Something eyecatching, local, humorous, well presented. Give us an idea and we could work on it. Materials needed for the display would need to be transportable in a car/station wagon. This is an **urgent request** as we need to start working on it now. Also is anyone interested in being at the stall on the day to give out information on the society etc. (A possibility for encouraging new members!) Any volunteers please?? Contact Aleen for more details 394079.



GUEST SPEAKER - JILL DARK.

FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 8.00 pm. SPRINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TOPIC: "How W.I.R.E.S. cares for Wildlife"

Jill will show slides of baby/ orphaned/ injured animals, mostly birds, being her specialty, like red-rumped parrots, galahs, rosellas etc.

Please support this evening, and enjoy supper and conversation afterwards.





RESTORE LAKE PEDDER

Sounds impossible to even hardy conservationists, yet there is growing world-wide support for the restoration of Lake Pedder in Tasmania, including The Aga Khan, Prince Phillip, the David Suzuki Foundation, Australian Geographic and David Bellamy. In 1994, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, meeting in Buenos Aires, passed a motion calling on the Australian Government to back the restoration of Lake Pedder "as a symbol of hope that humanity can recover some of the global heritage lost over the last century."

The Pedder restoration campaign, known as "Pedder 2000" and co-ordinated from its Hobart Office, is a watershed in Australian conservation history and in global terms. When the eyes of the world are on Australia, Sydney 2000 Olympics will bring also, the focus to moral and environment excellence with Pedder 2000.

In May 1993, a Geophysical Survey by Professor Peter Tyler revealed that beneath 15 m of water, "all major features of the original beach and dune system are intact Accumulation of sediment over the original lake bed is slight, no more than a few millimetres." Pedder pennies, little stones surrounded by a smooth soft collar of ferromanganese, sit on Pedder's floor as they did before the inundation, and the dune remains in tact, protected by a mat of peat.

In 1994, Tasmania's power **surplus** reached 130 Megawatts, and when Comalco goes, there will be 170 megawatts more. The flooding over Lake Pedder only provides 60 megawatts of electricity.

The recovery can be carried out by "pulling the plug" in the diversion tunnels at the dams. The three small dams used to flood Lake Pedder could be removed, using Government funding, and creating jobs, or they could be left as a monument to the tragedy of flooding Lake Pedder in 1972.

This type of restoration work has been done before, in the north-west of USA, where two large dams on the Elwha River are coming down after 82 years to restore the legendary salmon and trout fishery. The Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act, Oct. 1992,"recognizes the critical importance of a healthy ecosystem and this historic opportunity to correct environmentally devastating mistakes of the past."

Australia now has a unique global opportunity to admit its environmental mistake, and Lake Pedder can again become one of "the Planet's most gently beautiful places," says Dr. Bob Brown.

If you would like to add your support, membership is \$20 per calendar year, and may be sent to : Pedder 2000

130 Davey Street,
Hobart, 7000.

From: Reflections, Sept. 1994 & Jan. 1995



HELP NEEDED by Editor.

Would anyone who knows how to work "Pagemaker" program which I bought to help me produce this newsletter, be willing to spend some time with me to get it working?



Weed eater lunches at lagoon

BMC.
5/4/1995

Beautification work has finally begun at Glenbrook Lagoon with Blue Mountains City Council contracting a water-weed harvester to remove troublesome weeds from the surface of the water.

In late 1991, an Environmental Trust Grant was sought and obtained by council in conjunction with the Glenbrook Lagoon Society and the University of Western Sydney for the rehabilitation of Glenbrook Lagoon.

An environmental study was then conducted by the university. This investigation highlighted the role of urban run-off in the supply of nutrients and sediment to the lagoon.

The run-off is providing nutrients for weeds to grow in the lagoon. In particular, the water-weed *Salvinia molesta* has started to cover the lagoon surface.

"To stop this we have to reduce the nutrients coming into the lagoon and remove as much of the existing weed as possible," said David Bonjer, a BMCC Environmental Project Officer.

"As the first step in this process, Council, using the Environmental Trust Grant, has contracted a water-weed harvester to remove existing weeds.

"By Thursday afternoon (March 30) approximately 200 cubic metres of weed had been removed, with about another 100 cubic metres remaining.

"In the near future, sediment basins and macrophyte beds will be built using funds from the State Government Rivers Reborn grants. These structures will filter sediments and remove some nutrients from urban run-off.

"Also, further control and management of weeds such as blackberry, privet, and honeysuckle will be undertaken in the lagoon reserve," he said.

General Manager of BMCC, Mr David Lewis said residents in the catchment area can all play their part in improving the quality of urban run-off.

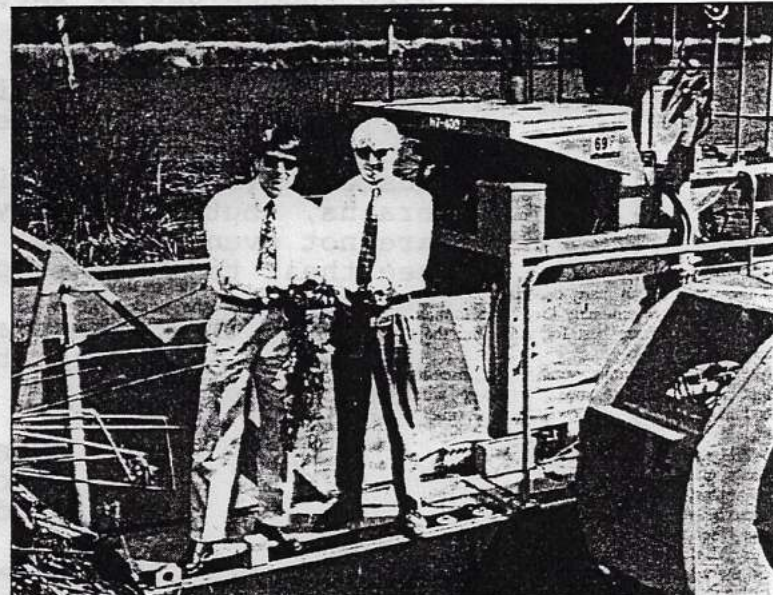
"Residents can do this by reducing their use of fertilisers," said Mr Lewis.

"Also, by planting vegetation on bare ground.

the amount of nutrients and sediment entering the lagoon will be reduced."

Blue Mountains City Council, the Glenbrook Lagoon Society and the University of Western Sydney-Hawkesbury are hoping that this activity will encourage more residents to take an interest in their local environment.

For more information contact David Bonjer of BMCC on 82-0787 or Ian White of the Glenbrook Lagoon Society on 39-4220.



Staff from BMCC's Environmental Management Unit, David Bonjer and Matthew Brennan, with the water-weed harvester currently cleaning up Glenbrook Lagoon

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a member of the Glenbrook Lagoon Society.



EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DRINK IT AND DRAIN IT: - an opening exists for a new Tasmanian-based industry, the collection and bottling of impoundment water for possible export. Please contact Pedder 2000, 114B Winmalee Road, Balwyn, Victoria. 3103.

.. from "Reflections"
Journal of the Lake Pedder
Restoration Committee.
January 1995.

ON LEADERSHIP.

"When it comes to the environment, the Keating vision just gets lost. It falters and fails. He really needs to spend some time in the forests himself, to let the non-dollar values speak to him."Dr. Bob Brown.

"The Age" 4th March, 1995.

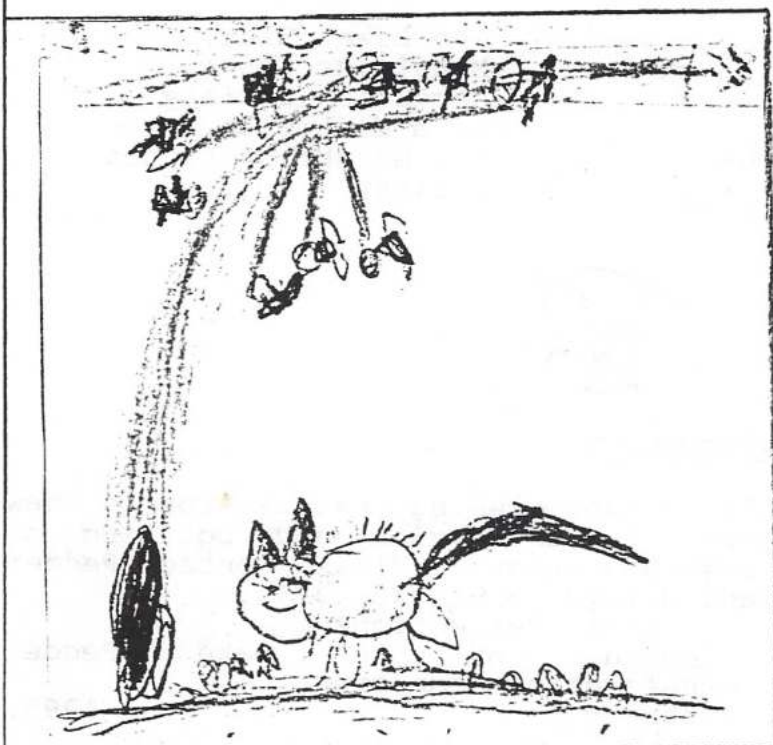
"In Australia, our leaders and managers make the fatal mistake of thinking that leadership is all about economics. They have misunderstood the power of symbols. They have also not realised that running the organisation means getting involved with people - it's an interpersonal job, a fathering job. To succeed as a leader you have to have been fathered well yourself and be able to bring this to the wider stage. As a nation we select people with the wrong motivation. True leaders have as their sole goal the wellbeing of their team and, beyond that, the well being of the human species. They view themselves as servants.

Watch video footage of true leaders, people such as the Dalai Lama, Ghandi, Churchill, Bob Brown, Weary Dunlop, Fred Hollows. Real leaders are like little boys, playful and emotionally available, yet when the need arises, they can muster fierce intelligence and purpose. They have good brains, but are driven by their hearts. Most leaders today are not even oriented in this way. Pompous and stiff, they see their teams as people to stand on, their consciousness is outwards and upwards - 'to furthering their own career' or 'covering their own tail'. A truly good leader is driven by one maxim, 'How can I help these people who have placed their trust in me?'"

Steve Biddulp

"Manhood - A Book About Setting Men Free"
Finch Publishing, Sydney. 1994. p140.
(underlining my emphasis)

Imagine Dr. Bob Brown as Prime Minister of Australia!



"The pussy cat doesn't live in the forest, he lives in his home near the forest. He doesn't go in the forest, because he knows he is not allowed there. He is a good little pussycat, because he does what his Mummy says."

A9Y12Q