

June 68

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# KALORI



CONSERVE, PRESERVE, INVESTIGATE, EDUCATE

Kalori is published monthly by and for the members of the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society.

The aims of the Society are, briefly, to:-

1. Educate the members and the community to the cultural values of nature.
2. Work for the reservation of areas of natural environment for the refuge and breeding of indigenous flora and fauna.
3. Carry out research into the distribution, population and species of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains.

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Secretary

Mr. G.Croghan  
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Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Springwood Fire Station, commencing 8.00 PM.



The last meeting was uneventful. Mr. Gregory reported that our bank balance is \$97.13, \$30.00 of which is set aside for capital expenditure.

A circular has been received from the Nature Conservation Council requesting opinions on the question of admitting game and angling bodies to associate membership status under the proposed Constitution. The question does not sound very relevant to us, but remember, if admitted, they will have the same voting power as we will. The two viewpoints are summarised.

#### Against Admission

1. The taking of life for pleasure is morally wrong and the Council admitting bodies which have this as their main reason for existence would be condoning this practice.
2. These bodies, in particular the game clubs have a large membership, are well funded (in part by subsidy from the makers of ammunition) and thus could soon exercise a degree of influence in Council affairs out of proportion to their importance.
3. The admission of these bodies will be the "thin end of the wedge" for them to gain such rights as shooting and fishing in National Parks and this will strengthen them still further.
4. Many organised shooters and fishermen live in the metropolitan area and desire areas for shooting and fishing within say 200 miles of Sydney. Any suitable area in this region is already subject to park proposals by conservation societies and thus shooters will compete with the societies policies.
5. This is a significant change in the Nature Conservation Council's approach: the admittance of shooters and fishers as members.

#### For Admission

1. The Nature Conservation Council is not set up to be a competent judge on morals or theology of the taking of life for pleasure. It is vitally concerned with the maintenance of healthy populations of native animals (including fish) in their natural environment. It is immaterial to the Council's views whether the excess populations of animals produced annually by natural means die by the hand of man or by starvation. However it is vital that the total population be maintained at a safe limit. In the case of the larger animals such as the Kangaroo it is going to be difficult to get enough land for this in the National Park and Nature Reserve system alone.
2. Many of the gun clubs and angling clubs have made definite contributions to conservation and properly directed and helped could be expected to improve further with the result that some of the endangered species would have a much better chance of survival.



3. Where there are fundamental differences in policy it is better to have the responsible members of the sporting bodies talking in the Council than acting against its interest outside of the Council.

4. The development of properly managed game reserves using cropping and farming of animals for game will result in larger, healthier populations of these species and in addition this has beneficial peripheral effects on other members of the food chain.

It is sensible that game clubs should encourage this.

We will discuss our position at the next meeting. Please think about it.

Mr. Hyndes delivered the mini-lecture on "Compound leaf shapes". Next month Mrs. Biggs will do "Stems and Roots". Date:- 13th June.



## SIMPLE LEAVES

The leaves of plants are in many shapes and sizes

Let us look at the function of the leaf first.

It is a part of the plant that supplies food by collecting sunlight to convert various gases into food and by some means draw up moisture from the soil. For instance plants need carbon dioxide to survive, but they don't need oxygen which they produce as waste and which animal life must have to survive. So the carbon dioxide is taken from the atmosphere by the leaf and replaced by oxygen, also when the leaf has finished its job on the plant, it falls to become a mulch to protect the roots and a fertilizer for the plant and a cover for the many forms of insects which nourish the soil and so make the tree grow and produce more leaves. Some leaves do their work in 12 months, that is on deciduous trees. On others like some evergreens a leaf may stay on the tree for up to 10 years. Most leaves have the ability to turn or twist on their petioles to get the maximum sunlight or moisture whichever the plant needs at the time.

To us the leaf helps to identify a plant, so let us look at a few simple leaves.

The leaf is composed of three parts

- (1) Base - The end at the petiole or stem
- (2) Apex - The top of the leaf
- (3) Margins - The sides.

Now these 3 parts of the leaf can be of different shapes and sizes, and with various combinations of the three we can get thousands of different shaped leaves, so we start with a few simple shapes.

1. Linear - Flat with parallel sides
2. Lanceolate - 4 to 6 times longer than broad
3. Elliptical - Twice as long as broad.
4. Ovate - Egg shaped widest in middle.
5. Obovate - Ovate reversed.
6. Cordate - Heart shaped.
7. Obcordate - Cordate reversed.
8. Obicular - Circular.
9. Spathulate - Broad at apex taper to base.
10. Acicular - Needle like.

Besides having a certain leaf shape, plants have a standard phyllotaxis, that is the position of the leaf on the stem of the plant, so that identification can be more easily made. Take for instance the Waratah and the Woody Pear, plants of the same family with similar leaves, often confusing in the bush, especially in their young stages, but on examination you find the Waratah has alternate leaves and the Woody pear has opposites, so the identification becomes a lot easier. This also applies to quite a few plants in the bush.



For identification purposes there is also the colour of the leaf. The upper and lower portions can vary in colour with different plants with similar shaped leaves; Texture: some are smooth on top, hairy underneath; or the opposite, smooth both sides, hairy both sides, rough, wrinkled and combinations of any of them, also we have the veining or venation of the leaf which varies from  $90^{\circ}$  to parallel to the centre of the leaf.

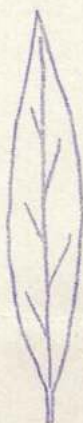
So to sum up we have to help us identify plants by their leaves the following -

1. Shape
2. Phyllotaxes or position of leaf on stem.
3. Colour
4. Texture.
5. Venation or Veining.

SIMPLE LEAVES



Linear



Lanceolate



Elliptical



Ovate



Obovate



Cordate



Obcordate



Reniform



Orbicular



Spathulate



Sagittate



Acicular



Three veined  
from the base



Serrate  
margin



Dentate  
margin



## BLUE MOUNTAINS NATURAL RESOURCES FEDERATION

At a meeting attended by representatives of the Katoomba and Districts Wildlife Conservation Society, the Springwood Bushwalkers Club, the Blue Mountains Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants and the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society on May 10th., questions relating to common interests were discussed and an informal group, which is to be known by the above name, was formed.

Some points of agreement are listed;-

Meetings will not be regularly held, but can be called by any Society at any time.

Kalori will be the medium of liaison between the Societies. One page will be set aside for Federation details. The L.B.M.W.C.S. will provide 1 or 2 copies to each Society, other copies must be subscribed for.

The Secretary of the L.B.M.W.C.S. will act initially as Secretary of the Federation and as convener of meetings.

Other Societies on the Mountains subscribing to the general principles of conservation may join the Federation.

If you wish to know more about the Societies of the Federation, contact them as below:-

Springwood Bushwalking Club.

Mrs.A.D.Stanborough

"Fieldsway"

201 Burns Road,

Springwood.

Meetings third Monday of the

month. 8pm.Springwood Civic Centre.

Katoomba & Dist.W'life Con.Soc'y.

Miss I.K.Bowden,

50 Fletcher St.

Wentworth Falls.2782

The remaining Society addresses, meeting times and activities will be printed in next issue of Kalori.



Springwood Bushwalking Club

Activities

Space does not permit a full listing of outings. Visitors are welcome; please phone the leader for further details.

- June 8-9-10. Deua Valley. Moya Hibbard. (511-235 H )  
June 15-16. Medlow Gap. Bernie Kaltenbacher. (511-196 H )  
June 22-23. Medlow Gap (different route). As above.  
July 6-7. Yalwal. John Spinney. 20640 B.  
July 20-21. Newnes. Ken Iggleton. 29-4901 B, 37-1124 H.  
August 3-4-5. Ski touring from Charlottes Pass. Phil Foster. 25-086 H  
August 10-11. Mt. Kelly (near Canberra). A. Stanborough per  
M. Hibbard 511-235 H.  
August 17-18. Jenolan Road. K. Iggleton. Sydney 29-4901B, 37-1124 H  
August 24-25. Kalang Falls. Bernie Kaltenbacher. 511-196 H.  
August 31-1 Colong Caves. Ray Kaltenbacher. 511-196 H.  
Sep 7-8. The Blue Breaks. Phillip Foster. 25086 H.  
Sep 14-15. Carlons Farm. Bernie Kaltenbacher. 511-196 H.  
Sep 21-22. Nattai. John Spinney. 20640 B.  
October 5-6-7. Budawangs. Peter Vanamois.  
October 26-27. Weejasper Caves. Bernie Kaltenbacher. 511-196 H  
Nov. 9-10. Horseriding. N Stanborough per M Hibbard. 511-235 H  
Nov. 16-17. Kanangra. Bernie Kaltenbacher. 511-196 H  
Dec 25-26. Tuglow Caves. As above.

MEETINGS. 17 June, 22 July, 19 August, 16 Sep; Springwood  
Civic Centre 8 PM. All visitors welcome.



## TRIP TO TOBYS GLEN AND NATIONAL PARK

Sunday 12th May, 1968.

Six members started from Springwood and at the entrance to the Park our friend the bird watcher (feathered) Russel Mote joined us; his very interesting commentary on the different birds seen and other Blue Mountain species was much enjoyed by all.

This trip entered the Blue Mountains National Park from Taylors Road Woodford, and the first plant to catch the eye is a *Leptospermum* Species fully out in flower, also along the road the Blue Mountains Mallee, "Euc. Stricta" well budded and bursting into flower, The Banksias and a nice stand of "Hakea propinqua" fully out. A few Flannel Flowers "*Actinotus helianthi*" still with us also a number of ground cover plants flowering or well in bud such as the Fan flower, *Scaevola* species and Black eye Susans *Tetradlea* species and "*Baeckea namosissima*" which always seem to have a flower showing.

After several stops and six miles in, we arrived at Tobys Glen turn, a short run down hill and we are among the big timber and creepers that is such a contrast to the vegetation on the ridges. The straight tall Turpentine and Blue Gums "Euc. Deani" with their old bark being replaced by the new seasons gives the Glen many contrasts in colour and beauty seen only in that type of forest.

Many birds were seen and heard here and Russel was kept busy identifying them for us; also the snags were grilled and the billy boiled.

After lunch, on our way, past the Helicopter landing ground, the Wheel Saddle, and on to the "Oaks" where a detour was made to Nepean Lookout. This overlooks the Nepean River and Erskin Creek Gorge and across the river to Rileys Mountain. The Mountain Devils "*Lambertia formosa*" were an attraction here, also the Ficus and "*Eriostemon lanceolatus*" with healthy new growth, should flower well in the spring. Back to the main trail past the picnic grounds at "The Oaks" down along Bennetts ridge to Euroka where I think the ranger should be complimented on the tidy appearance of the area; that goes for all the picnic areas of the Park.

A short run up to Mt. Portal where good views were had overlooking the Nepean-Glenbrook Creek Gorge. Joining the main road again near the Ironbarks and down to Glenbrook Creek crossing at the causeway we were back on tar roads and so home - a very pleasant day having been had by all.

Frank Martin.



## FIELD TRIP TO MEGALONG NATURE TRAIL & MT. YORK ENTOMOLOGY MUSEUM

June 16th. 1968

The trip outlined is to replace that proposed to Mc.Mahons Lookout. Though the view from Mc.mahons is superb, the condition of the road and the inclement weather dictate that the trip be undertaken during spring or so. Directions for the Mc.Mahon trip are included in other places of this bulletin and may be used by those that wish.

### THE MEGALONG NATURE TRAIL.

Leave Springwood Fire Station at 9.30 a.m. and proceed along the Great Western Highway to the level crossing at Blackheath about 22 miles, arrive at 10.15.

Proceed along the Megalong Road for about 4 miles to the Nature Trail about half way down the hill to arrive about 11.00a.m.

After walking the nature trail partake of lunch at the picnic place.

The trail is particularly interesting as it passes through an area of wet sclerophyl forest along the creek bank and all the major trees and shrubs are identified by name plates. The educational value is not to be denied.

### THE MOUNT YORK ENTOMOLOGY MUSEUM.

After lunch leave at 1.30p.m. and proceed back to Blackheath and then on to Mt. Victoria and on to Mt. York to arrive at 2.15 p.m.

The museum is being developed as a Natural History Museum and apart from insects, butterflies, moths etc. there is developing other displays of a natural history flavour, including geological specimens, reptiles etc.

After inspection of the museum return home at leisure.



### Mc.Mahons Lookout Field Trip.

Route : The trip consists of a drive of twenty nine miles topped with a walk of about one mile.

Starting at the Springwood Fire Station at 9.30a.m. the cars will procede along the Great Western Highway to the 2K.A. Radio Towers at Wentworth Falls (14 miles). and arrive there at 10a.m.

Turn left at this point along the Tableland Road and on to the end of the tar sealed section at the Queen Victoria Homes a distance of 3 miles. At this point take care to keep to the left hand road.

From the Homes the trail is rather rough and the drivers should concentrate on the road ahead at all times. The road is the main access road to a number of Fire Trails in the area and at all times keep to the right hand fork, past the turns to Sally Water-hole, Erskine Creek (at Jensens Swamp - not signposted) and Warragamba to the Pluviometer at the end of the trafficable road (12 miles) arrive at 11a.m.

Diner can be had here either before walking to the Lookout or on return.

The track to the lookout is well defined being an old well made road to the Buuragorang, the final hundred yards to the actual point of lookout is up hill along a foottrack.

Along the Way : Along the tar sealed part of Tableland Road some of the best views of the Jamison Valley are to be had. Notice the D.C.A. Radio Tower on the right, this instrument is one of the links of control used by aircraft landing at Mascot.

Vegetation along this part of the route is typical sandstone ridge heath and scrub lands.

The Queen Victoria Homes were established early in the century to cater for the incurable consumptives of the time - notice the individual bedrooms set out on the grounds, at all times the inmates were given every opportunity for fresh air - with the advent of modern methods T.B. has been reduced to a small number of cases and the homes, though still catering for some of the earlier types of case are gradually being taken over as a Geriatric Hospital.

The road leading off to the west of the homes leads to the Sunset Rock and Kedumba Valley.

From this point the tripper passes through an area of moist hardwood type scrub lands, a different soil structure is responsible for this change, though still sandstone has an admixture of shale types and is deeper. This area is a blaze of wild-flowers in the spring and being at some distance from the well travelled routes still retains some of its original beauty.

At Jensens Swamp notice the climax community of Scribbly-Gums resident in the moist swamp lands. The stand is almost pure and is one of the rarer sites to be seen in the bush.

From Jensens Swamp onward the road passes through some of the ironstone country in which fantastic shapes or wetherings are to be found.

The foottrack passes through a patch of wet hardwood forest and it can be seen that a different flora pertains.

The road from the Q.V.Homes passes through land classified as restricted by the Water Board and any access to the bush past one chain either side of the road should be avoided. Please pay attention to the restriction signs prominently displayed along the road.



## ACTIVITIES FOR 1968

Field trips are generally held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting. Final details of meeting times etc. will be given by the leader of each trip to the meeting immediately before the trip, and will be published in Kalori.

- April 21st. -- Kanangra-Boyd. Leader F Martin.  
May 12th. -- Tobys Glen. Leader C J Dark.  
June 16th. -- McMahons Lookout. Leader H L Paish.  
July 14th. -- North Springwood and Lynches Creek. Leader R Smithard  
August 11th. -- Heathcote Primitive Reserve. Leader G Croghan.  
September --  
October 13th. -- Barren Grounds. Leader J Ferguson.  
November 17th. -- Newnws State Forest.

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,  
Mr. P. Gregory  
115 Grose Road  
Faulconbridge.

Enclosed please find the sum of \$            to cover one years membership.\*\*

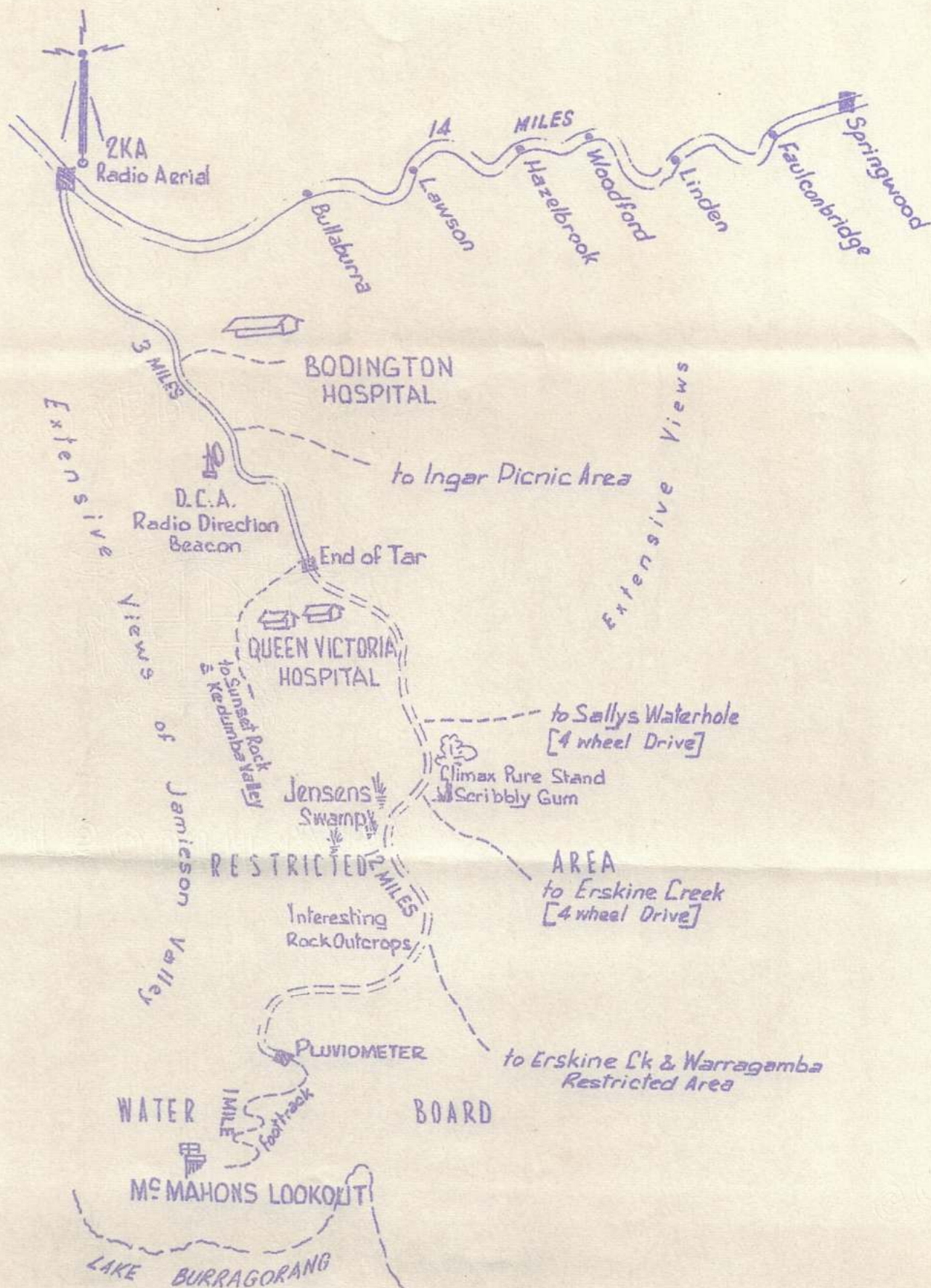
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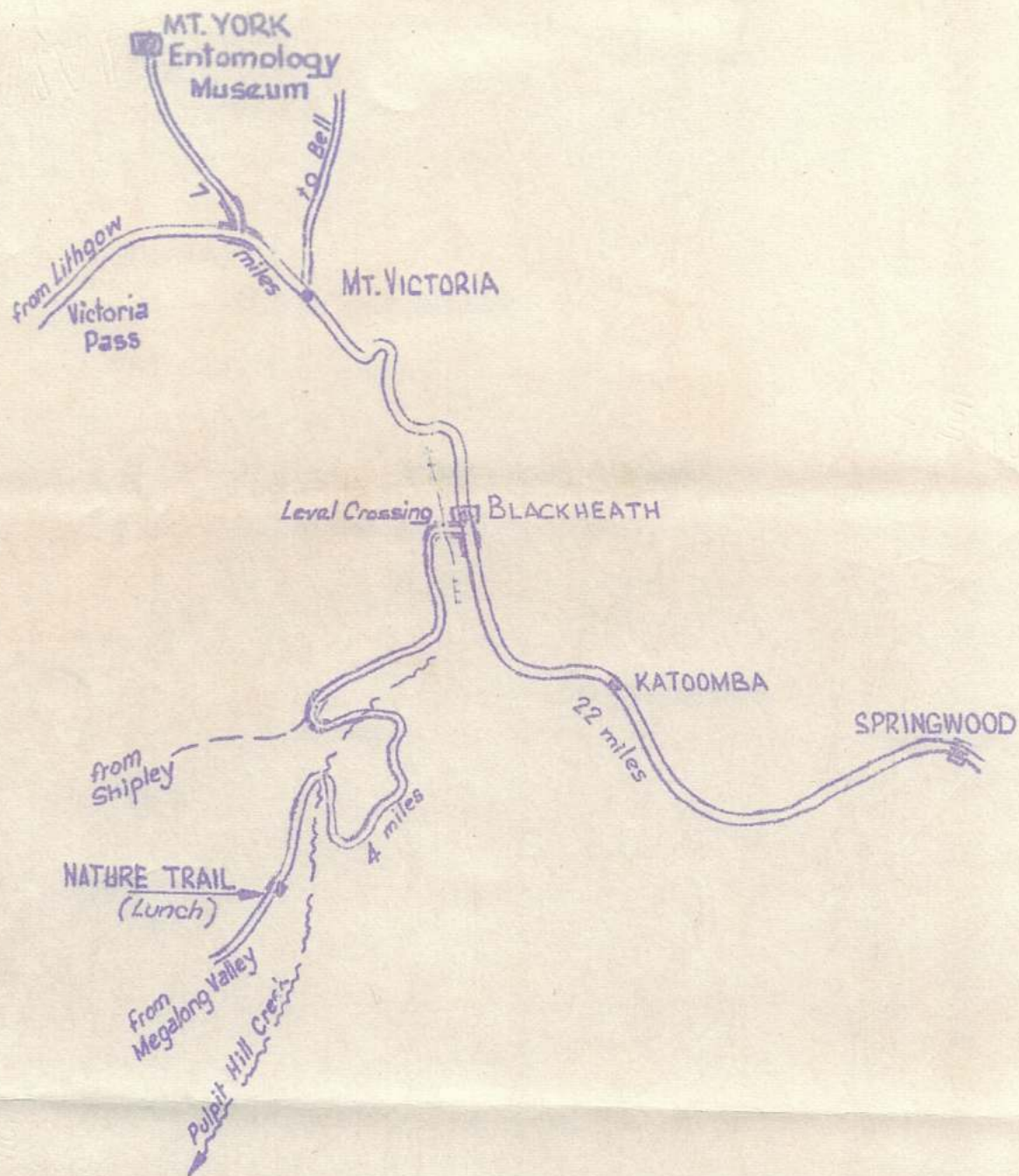
Occupation .....

\*Individuals \$2.00 annually or \$20.00 Life  
Associates \$1.00 annually  
Junior 30cents annually.









FIELD TRIP TO PULPIT HILL CREEK  
NATURE TRAIL  
&  
MT. YORK ENTOMOLOGY MUSEUM