

July 68

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LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS
WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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

The chief feature of the last meeting was a spirited discussion on the proposal by the Nature Conservation Council to admit to Associate Membership shooting and angling clubs. We finally voted 12-1 for the proposal. The feeling was that the clubs were interested in conservation, though for different reasons to ours, and it is better to have their officials inside the Council and available for persuasion, than outside and uncontrollable.

Plans for the North Springwood Show are moving ahead. We need assistance on the day itself; but if you cant spare a couple of hours come and have a quick look anyway.

Miss Biggs gave a fine lecture on "Variations in stems and leaves". We are behind in the publication of these botany notes but will catch up eventually. The next lecture, by Miss Looney is on "The woody stem".

Next meeting --- 11th. July.

Elsewhere in Kalori there are notes regarding the other Societies. For your information, here are names and addresses of the people who can tell you more about them.

Katoomba & Districts Wild. Con. Soc. Miss I. Bowden (Sec.)
50 Fletcher St.
Wentworth Falls. 2782

Springwood Bushwalking Club. Mrs. N. Stanborough
371 Gt. Western Hwy.
Springwood.

Blue Mtns. Gp. S.G.A.P. Mrs. R.D. Overton (Sec.)
11 Hill St.
Glenbrook.

SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB

Walks

- June 22-23 MEDLOW GAP. Hard.
HARRY OCKERDEN (Per the Kaltenbachers 511-196 H).
- July 6-7 YALWAL (near Nowra) Medium Creek walk.
JOHN SPINNEY (20640 B).
- July 20-21 NEWNES - Easy-medium.
KEN IGGLEDEN (29-4901 B) (37-1124 H).
- Aug. 3-4-5 (Bank Holiday) SKI TOURING from Charlotte's Pass
PHIL FOSTER (25086 H).
- Aug. 10-11 MT. KELLY (Near Canberra). Hard.
ADRIAN STANBOROUGH. (per Moya Hibbard 511-235 H).
- Aug. 17-18 JENOLAN ROAD. Medium.
KEN IGGLEDEN (Sydney 29-4901 B) (37-1124 H).
- Aug. 24-25 KALANG FALLS. Medium-Hard.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER (511-196 H).
- Aug. 31-1 COLONG CAVES. Medium.
RAY KALTENBACHER (511-196 H).
- Sept. 7-15 THE BLUE BREAKS. Medium-hard.
PHILLIP FOSTER (25086 H).
- Sept. 14-15 CARLONS FARM. Easy.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER (511-196 H).
- Sept. 21-22 NATTAI. Easy
JOHN SPINNEY (20640 B).
- Oct. 5-6-7 (Six Hour Weekend) BUDAWANGS. Medium,
PETER VANAMOIS.
- Oct. 26-27 WEE JASP R CAVES. Medium.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER (511-196 H)
- Nov. 9-10 HORSERIDING Saturday-Sunday from "Packsaddlers".
NONI STANBOROUGH (per Moya Hibbard 511-235 H).
- Nov. 16-17 KANANGRA. Medium.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER (511-196 H)
- Dec. 25-26 TUGLOW CAVES - Hard.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER. (511-196 H).

COLLECTING AND PRESERVING INSECTS.

BY KEITH KING

This series of articles is for the help of those who are interested in, or have children interested in the study of our abundant insect life, and yet to whom the capturing, killing and storing of insects seems something of a mystery.

The actual collecting is usually simple, if you are prepared to brave the raised eyebrows of friends and neighbours as you go poking about under bushes and logs etc. or start wildly waving a butterfly net about. Collecting gear is also simple, and for moths, butterflies, other active and flying insects, some beetles etc., consists of a net, killing bottle, forceps, butterfly envelopes, magnifying glass, pill bottles or corked glass tubes and labels, plus small haversack for carrying.

Nets can be bought from dealers or made quite easily from a piece of No. 8 wire (coathanger size) and a broom handle. A ring of wire about 15 inches in diameter has the ends straightened and bound with fine wire to a ferrule of light metal then soldered. If no ferrule is available, the ring may be bound directly to the handle, previously grooved at the sides to accommodate the wire ends. The handle should be three to four feet long (longer handles are unwieldy) but thought should be given to an extension for high-flying insects. A calico strip 3 to 4 inches deep into which the wire frame is inserted serves to reinforce the net which is attached to it. The net itself can be of organdie, voile or nylon mesh which are softer and have a finer mesh than mosquito net. However, I find mosquito net more durable and quite satisfactory. The bag of the net should be slightly more than twice the width of the frame, so that it folds over and prevents the insect escaping, slightly tapered and rounded at the bottom.

The killing bottle is an important item, as insects should be killed humanely and as quickly as possible to avoid damage. The killing agent in general use now is ethyl acetate, available from entomological supply houses. It is quite safe and easy to use, provided we remember it is highly inflammable. A simple killing bottle can be made from a wide mouthed jar, in which the specimen is placed together with a piece of absorbent paper moistened with ethyl acetate. However, a more permanent bottle should be made by pouring a half inch layer of plaster of paris into a wide mouthed plastic or glass bottle with a well fitting screwtop, and allowing same to set. A small quantity of ethyl acetate is poured on to the absorbent plaster before use, and will be found to last for some hours. A teaspoonful is usually sufficient. Chloroform or ethyl acetate on a small wad of cotton wool are useful for "giving a whiff" to insects in the net, thus quietening them and avoiding damage in transfer to the killing bottle. Chloroform should be avoided as a killing agent however, as it hardens the muscles making setting out difficult. Ethyl acetate has the added advantage that it keeps insects in a relaxed condition, which is convenient if they are to be set straight away.

Insects in the field can be emptied from the killing bottle into pill boxes, small flat tins or glass tubes etc. However, butterflies, moths and other delicate types are better carried in greaseproof or glassine paper envelopes, previously prepared. The envelopes are prepared by taking pieces of paper of an oblong shape, say $5\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 inches, folding them diagonally across and folding over the two ends so that they lie flat. Information such as locality, date of capture, collector's name and other relevant information may be written on one of the flaps. (Labelling is essential). The envelopes may be stored in tins with flaked naphthalene added.

OVER A MILLION KINDS OF INSECTS?

"According to one leading authority on the subject, over 625,000 different kinds of insects have been described and hundreds more are being added to the list every year. I do not believe it is an exaggeration to state that there are over a million different kinds of insects inhabiting our earth.

"Many thousands of different kinds have yet to be collected, studied and described in scientific literature.

"If you were to make an extensive collection of the insects that are to be found in your own back garden, you would be surprised to find that there were many hundreds of different kinds, some of them permanent residents and others visitors to your flower beds and tree blossoms."

- F.A. Urquhart, in Canadian Nature.

HOPPERS NOT COLORBLIND

They're telling this story - truthfully - along the Murrumbidgee.

At Gundamine Station when the hoppers threatened to be really bad, they planned to protect the most prized of their possessions, a grove of lemon trees. So they covered them with mosquito nets, confident that no grasshopper could penetrate the fine mesh.

Result - one half of the trees were stripped bare, mosquito netting and all; the other half were untouched. Reason? Mosquito net was "scrounged" from everywhere for the job; one half was white, the other half green. The insects ate the green net as though it had been luscious grass, but left the white severely alone. So at least grasshoppers are not colourblind.

Report on trip to McMahons Lookout via Murphys Glen
and Bedford Creek -- 16 June, 1968

On this trip four members in Frank Martins car entered the Park from Bedford St. Woodford. One of our aims was to observe and note any plant actually in flower. Along the ridge from Woodford the following were noted:- *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *B. spinulosa*, which was of course in evidence throughout the trip as was *Lambertia formosa*, although only odd plants of the latter were flowering. *Woosia pungens*, *Bossiaea heterophylla* and *Acacia ulicifolia* were also noted.

Of interest were the two colour forms of the Sunshine Wattle. At these higher altitudes most of the plants exhibit a much more golden hue than their lower mountain counterparts, although a few were observed with creamy flowers.

Proceeding along Murphys Fire Trail we detoured for the short run down into Murphys Glen. We found we had the area to ourselves, and the impression gained was one of solitude, the stillness and tall columns of the gums giving a cathedral-like atmosphere to this quiet place.

Resuming the fire trail, our next stop was at Bedford Creek, where Marie took some shots of a typical brush-filled gully and Frank was able to indulge in snapping his favourite subject, reflections, which were seen to perfection in the mirror-like water. After inspecting the test bore we turned onto Andersons Fire Trail, crossing over Victoria Creek. This crossing could be regarded as rough, but we considered the climb up to the ridge as pretty reasonable, as we did not have to chock the wheels with rocks, and only leaned forward twice.

Before reaching the McMahons Lookout Road we turned off to Sallys Waterhole, and for those who have not seen this spot I would strongly urge a visit, as it is really one of the gems of the mountains. The water from a "hanging swamp" splashes over a small waterfall into a hidden pool, and the setting is ideal for a quiet picnic lunch. Marie used up some more film here on a golden form of the Sunshine Wattle, and it will be interesting to see the finished article. Plants in flower here were the Dog Rose (*Bauera rubioides*), Green spider flower (*Grevillea mucronulata*), Willow leaved guinea flower (*Hibbertia saligna*) and *Acacia suaveolans*.

Another feature of these higher altitudes was the pronounced reddish tinge on the leaves of *Gompholobium grandiflorum* and the Drumsticks (*Isopogon anemonifolius*).

Lunch was enjoyed at the pluviometer, to the background music of an obliging Lyrebird, but the pause was brief, as we were anxious to get on to the Lookout. From this area we added to our list the Soft Geebung (*Persoonia mollis*), Narrow-leaved Geebung (*P. linearis*), *Platysace lanceolata*, *Epacris reclinata*, *Montoca scoparia*, and right beside the track to the Lookout, a colony of Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*).

On our way home we decided to explore the Ripple Creek-Warragamba Road; at the turn-off is a sign "Four wheel drive vehicles only", apparently put there by a practical joker, as Franks car negotiated it easily. We were able to travel about ten miles in this direction, skirting the impressive expanse of the heavily timbered Erskine Creek valley, and the equally magnificent, steep-sided gorge that is Ripple Creek. Flannel flowers were in evidence along the way, as were Cloanthes stoechadis.

It was the final descent into Ripple Creek that we came upon the Benevolent Bulldozer, - it had been clearing the Fire Trail and not pushing trees down - and Frank decided that the road looked too uncertain to proceed further. Personally, it looked quite okay, with a grade of not more than 1 in 6, but knowing Franks reluctance to take his car over rough roads, I did not insist on going further.

The journey home was completed in darkness, and we all felt quite smug, having squeezed the last drop out of a very interesting day.

P.S. The lump on top of my head is not from hitting the roof of the Toyota.

Kieth King.

Roll-your-own Excursion to Lynch's Creek.

The outing programmed for Sunday 14th July is to Lynch's Creek at North Springwood. Although the time of year will mean that there will be little to see in the way of wildflowers, the mere richness of the gully growth and beauty of the tranquil pools along the creek's meanders should make this outing as pleasant as you wish to make it.

DIRECTIONS

Drive along Hawkesbury Road and turn off to left at White Cross Road (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Highway). Meet at end of White Cross Road at 10 a.m. Leave cars at end of White Cross Road.

The walk, which is of about 2 miles (or 4, or 6 or more) takes about 2 hours along a well beaten yet picturesque trail. Where the trail and creek part company a billy will be boiling and fires will be ready for those who wish to sizzle a sausage. The tucker gear will be taken down by car along a different route so that you may enjoy an easy and unburdened walk. The return will be along Lynch's Ridge: a car will be available to ferry out those who are satisfied with the short easy morning walk.

The happy aspect of this excursion is that it may be tailored to suit each individual. Those who have to make a Marathon or Redex Trial out of an excursion may take a quick sprint up to the Grose Lookout where they will be rewarded by a magnificent view like the one which is more comfortably enjoyed by driving to the end of Grose Road, Faulconbridge.

What you will see.

Flora

Because there will be few wildflowers to be seen I sought to find some other aim with which to spice this outing. Originally I had set out, on my survey, to demonstrate the contrast between the gully plants and those of the ridges. I felt quite confident that this would be an easy distinction to draw firstly, because of differences in soil fertility since the soil of the ridges would be thoroughly leached out and poor in humus whereas the gully with its depth of soil with high organic content would tend to retain the nutrients washed down by the rain from the ridges. Secondly, because of differences in soil moisture and exposure to sunlight. The gully soil not only retains the moisture more effectively than the sandy soil of the ridges, but is less exposed to wind and sun which hasten evaporation.

My original thesis was quickly abandoned on carrying out the survey. Certainly there are many notable differences in the growth. For one thing Bloodwoods (botanical name *Eucalyptus bloodus woodus*) which thrive in the poor sandy soils of the ridges are absent from the gully floor, while paper-barks and "Black Wattle" are only found close by the stream. The big blue gums, too, are only at home in the gullies. However, the thing that really impressed me was the number of plants that seemed to thrive both in the moist gully and on the ridge. Stringybarks, mahoganies and peppermints, of the

eucalypts and the big red angophora are among the big trees that do well in both locations. Native hollies, spider flowers, burrawangs and some wattles are among the smaller plants that can adapt themselves to these two different environments.

Some plants that were in flower at the time of the survey (16-6-68) were the red bottlebrush, a very attractive small shrub called *Styphelia tubiflora* with a bright red flower, reminiscent of a fuchsia but smaller and an unusual furry leafed plant with a green flower, *Correa reflexa*, that is growing in abundance on the hill out of Lynch's Creek.

In the flora there should be enough in the way of pleasant greenery and shapely growth to make the walk satisfying to the dilettante and of course there will be plenty of tongue twisters with which experts may display that facility for informing without enlightening.

Fauna

Group excursions are probably the ideal way not to see native fauna, except in captivity. But with a little patience, a little quietness and a desire to observe, the walker will be rewarded with sightings at quite close quarters of some delightfully attractive small birds.

The White-bearded honeyeater in groups of four or five, the Eastern spinebill and the Grey-breasted silver-eye all frequent the shrubland in search of food and will all approach quite close to a quiet observer.

Up between the tall trunks of the blue gums, the clatter of tiny wings will draw your attention to an aerobatics display as a flycatcher chases his quarry.

Plenty of evidence is found of Lyrebird activity and although sightings are most improbable we may possibly be treated to a recital.

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At the picnic spot some reference books will be available for consultation.

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.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Name in full

Address in full

Occupation

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