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# KALORI

February  
1969



Society

Conservation

Wildlife

Lower Blue Mountains



CONSERVE

PRESERVE

INVESTIGATE

EDUCATE

KALORI is published 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.

PRESIDENT

Mr. H.L. Paish  
"Bithongabel"  
Lee Road  
North Springwood, 2777  
Telephone 51 1545

SECRETARY

Mr. G. Croghan  
9 Gwen Crescent  
Warrimoo, 2775  
Telephone 402.

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

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Two things of importance happened at the last meeting. Firstly, we decided to try to find some facts about regeneration after the fires. With advice and guidance from Owen Williams whose speciality this is, we selected a spot in Campfire Creek. A strip of ground about 25 metres long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre wide will be pegged out to cover a good cross-section of environments from a rock ledge down a slope to the creek. Along this strip several  $\frac{1}{2}$  metre squares will be marked and every plant counted and identified. We will do this twice each year and record what is happening. To get a better picture we will select other sites in different areas and do the same assessment. Who knows what we might discover!

Secondly, the Mountains are crawling with self appointed fire control experts (germinated by heat?) each preaching salvation. We would be avoiding our duty if we kept quiet on the matter and accordingly the next meeting - FEBRUARY 13th - will be mainly devoted to formulating a fire protection policy. If you have any ideas the floor will be yours for 5 minutes. On another page is the bones of a policy hammered out by the Committee and it is offered for discussion.

Annual Dinner This time it will really happen.

Place - the Wanderlight Restaurant at Hawkesbury Lookout.  
 Date - Saturday March 29th 7.00 p.m.  
 Speaker - Park Superintendent Mr. M. Williams  
 Cost - \$2.50 per head.

Subscriptions are now due. Note that it is possible to get two for the price of one and a half with the family subscription rate. Send money to Mrs. Dark.

G. Croghan  
 Hon. Sec.

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COVER PICTURE: the Frilled Lizard.

This member of the "Dragon Lizards" inhabits the timbered scrublands of North Australia. The frill is used to scare any protagonist and this means of defence is supplemented by an ability to run very quickly - in fact it runs so quickly on its hind legs it has been called "Bicycle Lizard."

When fully outstretched the "frill", supported on cartilaginous ribs spreads to 10 inches on a fully grown three foot specimen.

In common with other reptiles it is cold-blooded - thus in winter the lizards become lethargic and frequently hibernate. Breeding takes place over the summer months when eight or so eggs are laid.

These much maligned lizards are of extreme value to man, apart from the critical niche they fill in the ecosystems. For instance the frilled lizards diet is mainly insectivorous, beetles and grasshoppers making up the highest proportion. Imagine the vast quantities of insects eaten by the skink and dragon lizards alone!

This section of the biota deserves as active conservation as do any of the birds or mammals.



Extract from "Sydney 2000: requirements for conservation of natural areas, scenic preservation and recreation."

38. BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

This existing national park of 243,000 acres already provides essential protection to substantial areas of the Blue Mountains Plateau.

The park should include both sides of the Nepean Gorge, from Glenbrook Creek to Wallacia including that small portion of the Warragamba Gorge downstream of the dam site. This is one of the unique geological features of the Sydney basin, indicating how the Nepean River was able to maintain its former course, despite the gradual uplift which gave rise to the Blue Mountains plateau. All cliffline lands along the southern and western edges of the Blue Mountains plateau, from King's Tableland to Bell, should be added to the park. Far too much destruction has already occurred in this magnificent escarpment due to the construction of fire trails, the erosion and widening of foot tracks and the dumping of spoil over the cliffline. The proposal also envisages protection of historic Mt. York and the restoration, as foot tracks, of the four passes which preceded the construction of Victoria Pass. All portions of the Warragamba Catchment, further than two miles from the perimeter at the reservoir and comprising generally the Jamieson Valley, Mount Solitary, the Narrow Neck plateau and the Wild Dog Mountain should be added to the park, as areas primarily for the use of bushwalkers. The Blue Mountains National Park would thus adjoin the Kanangra-Boyd National Park at the line of Cox's River. It is recommended that the northern boundary of the Grose Valley section be extended to the edge of existing property along the southern side of Bell's Line of Road and to the western edge of holdings at Kurrajong Heights. Fifthly, it is strongly recommended that the eastern edge be extended to include all undeveloped sections of the Lapstone Monocline. Apart from its geological interest, the escarpment is one of the most dominant visual features of the Region and its integrity must be preserved. A spate of subdivisions is already beginning to appear over the crestline to the north of Lapstone and, if this is allowed to continue, the entire drama of this distinctive topography will be irrevocably lost. Lastly, it is recommended that excised sections of the Upper Grose Valley, particularly those in the vicinity of Bell and below Evan's Lookout-Govett's Leap, be immediately added to protect, as far as practicable the catchments of the Grose from such unnecessary developments as coalmining. Boundaries of the central and southern sectors, adjoining development on the lower Blue Mountains ridge, should ensure that all worthwhile scenic features are included and are capable of satisfactory management control.

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LIBRARY LISTAUTHOR OR PUBLISHER

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|--|---|
| 1. Wildlife in Australia Nov. 1965                               | Periodical of The Wildlife Preservation Soc. Qld. |
| 2. May 1966  |   |
| 3. Feb 1966  |   |
| 4. Sep 1966  |   |
| 5. Nov 1966  |   |
| 6. Wildlife Conservation   | Wildlife Service Booklet No. 1                    |
| 7. Nature Reserves   | " " " " 2   |
| 8. Conservation Supplement Educ. Gazette 1966                    | Dept. of Conservation of N.S.W.                   |
| 9. Conserving Nature   | A Wildlife Service Booklet                        |
| 10. Australian Natural History Dec. 15 1966                      | The Australian Museum Sydney                      |
| 15. National Parks Journal March 1966                            | N.P.A. of N.S.W.                                  |
| 16. " " " Aug. 1963  |   |
| 17. " " " Apr. 1964  |   |
| 18. The Boyer Lectures 1966 Biology and the Appreciation of Life | Sir Macfarlane Burnett                            |
| 19. Australian Fauna   | Fauna Protection Panel                            |
| 20. Wildflowers Native Plant Protection Act 1927-65              | Fauna Protection Panel                            |
| Total Ban on the sale of certain species 1967/68 season          | " " "   |
| 21. Unprotected Animals in N.S.W.                                | " " "   |
| 22. Report of the Fauna Protection Panel 1964                    | " " "   |
| 23. Aust. Aboriginal Decorative Art                              | Australian Museum Sydney                          |
| 24. " " Rock Art   | " " "   |
| 25. Natural History of Sydney                                    | " " "   |
| 26. Australian Museum Handbook                                   | " " "   |
| 27. Red Kangaroo ( <i>Megalia rufa</i> ) in N.S.W.               | Allan M. Fox.                                     |
| 28. Trees and Shrubs N.S.W. Forestry Commission Nursery          |   |
| 29. Catalogue Trees & Shrubs N.S.W. Forestry Commission Nursery  |   |
| 30. The National Parks Journal June 1968                         |   |
| 31. July 1968  |   |
| 32. Aug. 1968  |   |
| 33. Sept 1968  |   |
| 34. Some Birds of the City of Blue Mountains. Reta Nellenga.     |   |

Mrs. Martin is our Librarian. Get in touch with her if you wish to borrow any of these books, or if you wish to donate a book to the library.



Extracts from Mr. Alan Strom's Paper on "The Voluntary Citizen  
Organization in the Nature Conservation Programme."

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I have selected a few paragraphs from this timely, and as is usual with Alan Strom, rather pointed article. However, I urge members not to be content with these extracts, but to read this thought-provoking article in its entirety. I regard it to be the most relevant and pertinent document, from a society viewpoint, at present available.

In setting out the development of Conservation Societies, both amateur and professional, Strom's paper could be regarded as a challenge to societies such as ours to really get on with the job of awakening public interest in conservation. For if greed be the main impediment to conservation to-day, then public apathy must surely be the second.

From Alan Strom (inter alia)

"In this country, the so-called "spirit of pioneering" and "the last frontier against untamed nature" nonsense, continues to justify the exploitive bias of our land usage programmes and encourages thinking in terms of one large bonanza in our time, and to hell with the future.

"The Voluntary Citizen Organisations have caught up a stream of people who have been affected by naturalness in various ways. To some, the enjoyment of naturalness means a new interest, a new recreation or a new way of securing a release from routine and sophistication. Often the influence never goes further, but to others there comes a realization that in receiving something from nature they have a grave responsibility to give something in return, not because nature herself will benefit, but because the resource may continue to be available for use by succeeding generations."

"If a group of people formed together as a Society, accept conservation as the theme or as a part of the theme of operations, then in my opinion, the group also accepts some definite responsibilities towards conservation.

"The groups that run the talks on conservation, that print the small publications on conservation, that organize the field trips, that write the letters to editors and politicians, that plague the administrators - these build an atmosphere, quietly and effectively. The person you least expect to do so, suddenly professes to being a conservationist and although you suspect that it is either a lie or a misconception, at least you can rest assured that he likes the title better than being called an exploiter. This to my mind, is atmosphere and without any doubt, the societies have built an atmosphere which can be conducive to conservation."

"Firstly it is essential for the Societies' policies and comments on conservation to be based on well established scientific concepts and expressive of absolute familiarity with current events and problems. It is not good enough to be a constant voice of protest or a group of well-intentioned and highly emotional



do-gooders ....."

"To the best of my knowledge, there is no easy road to learning and those who would be effective conservationists must be prepared to study most and longest where it matters - in the field. Programming and executing field trips are good techniques in conservation education. It is essential, however, that the excursions are aimed at some positive conservation purpose and are well documented; the ultimate is when the members themselves begin to direct their own personal excursions and their own research and documentation on the conservation problems relevant to the excursions.

"Without any doubt, administration has a responsibility to guide the Societies in a mastery of the knowledge necessary to keep the nature conservation movement familiar with developments, problems and suggested solutions based on studied practices. To my mind, this was substantially the intention of the Fauna Protection Act in its instruction to the Fauna Panel to encourage what are called "fauna societies." With the amendment of the Fauna Act in 1967, the instruction is now given to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. There is much, very much, to be gained from administration taking the Societies into its confidence, even to the point of discussing problems, seeking assistance and considering reactions. The Societies are the administrative link with the electorate. Administration would be foolish to forget this.

"No more important brief must be held, than that over the wildlife and educational authorities. The people who run these authorities must certainly be professional and trained: does this mean that they should lose the qualities of dedication and assume the role of the absolute in know-how?....."



## FIRE PROTECTION POLICY - BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The policy aims to (1) prevent fires from starting and when a fire does start, to (2) put it out as quickly as possible. The Society is against indiscriminate burning-off and fire break clearing.

1. Access must be provided to all parts of the Blue Mountains. Access will need to range from tanker roads to walking trails depending on topography and fire potential. In dangerous areas access trails might be 1 mile apart, in safer areas 3-4 miles. Provision must be made to close the trails to vehicles whenever necessary.
2. In times of high fire danger certain parts of the Park should be closed completely.
3. A buffer zone should be created around settlements. The most dangerous areas must be control burnt when the fuel content exceeds 4 tons/acre. Burns to avoid unnecessary loss to wildlife by taking account of flowering, seeding and nesting times.
4. Where a buffer zone is not burnt a break should be established between residential and bush areas, consisting of an access trail and an area of reduced fuel capacity.
5. When a fire is spotted, control measures to be taken by highly mobile initial suppression forces.
6. Fires should be contained within a compartment formed by the access trails. All efforts must be made to prevent the spread of fire into other compartments.
7. Maximum penalties should be demanded for violations of the relevant Acts and Ordinances.



# Survey: Wildlife on the Blue Mountains

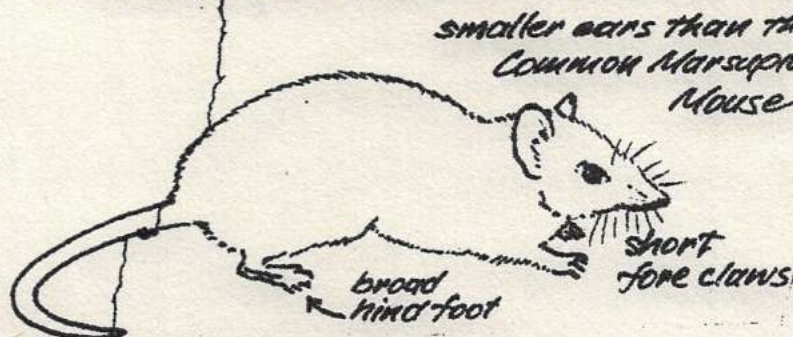
the YELLOW FOOTED  
MARSUPIAL MOUSE  
*Antechinus flavipes*

text: Keith King  
illustrations: Don Perrin

Following a phone call from David Mouatt of Burns Road, Springwood, another member and I were treated to a view of this small marsupial which had been brought into the Mouatt home by the house cat, fortunately in an unharmed condition.

Very mouse-like in size and colour, the most apparent difference is the shape of the head and muzzle, and closer inspection reveals the entirely different tooth structure. Lacking the long incisor teeth of the rodents, they have instead small, sharp, closely spaced teeth very suited to chewing the insects and other similar small prey which comprise the bulk of their diet.

The colour is grey-brown above with yellow-grey belly and rufous flanks. Being mainly nocturnal in habit, they are very agile climbers and in this area, (Blue Mountains) they appear to live mainly among the sandstone ledges and crevices where occasionally,



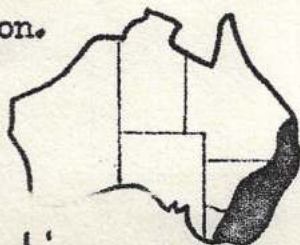
their nests may be found in the roofs of caves.

The mating season is in August and the size of the litter is usually 8. Quite a load for the mother's tiny pouch!

## For the scientifically minded

The genus ANTECHINUS contains 8 species and 5 sub-species. It belongs to the family Dasyuridae which contains all the carnivorous marsupials, except the marsupial moles or Notoryctidae.

We thank all those who rang and gave information. As our survey is only just beginning we still need news of sightings. We would therefore appreciate your phone calls (5II034 after 5pm) or 5II545.



Distribution



### MESSAGE to TEACHERS

Each month the magazine: "K A L O R I" surveys one species of animal or plant indigenous to the Blue Mountains.

"SURVEY WILDLIFE", this month deals with one of our tiny marsupials; the Yellow Footed Marsupial Mouse.

We thought that teachers and their pupils would be interested in the Survey so we are sending copies of Kalori to schools in the district.

PUPILS MAY BE AWARDED A BOOK ON WIDLIFE  
for doing research on the topic of the month

This month pupils who wish to join in this project should find out all they can about the following topic:

"MARSUPIAL MICE"

Send the information with a note on the source, to:

The Editor,  
"Schools Project",  
Lower Blue Mountains  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
8 Springwood Ave,  
SPRINGWOOD 2777.



SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB - WALKS PROGRAMME.

For details of these walks contact the leaders listed, also for meeting date contact Adrian Stanborough, "Fieldsway", 201 Burns Road, Springwood.

25-26.27 AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND - Bungonia - swimming and eating blackberries.  
Cars 8.00 p.m. Civic Centre. 8.30 Emu Plains Station.  
NONI STANBOROUGH (per Moya Hibbard 51-1235H).

FEBRUARY

1-2 HAY CANYON. Bring crabs and sling. Hard. Cars to Leura. 7.30  
Emu Plains 8.00 p.m. Civic Centre.  
KARL BOSSARD.

8-9 CEDAR CREEK. Details NONI STANBOROUGH.

15-16 BUSHCRAFT LECTURE - Camp Craft.  
Details PETER VANAMOIS

21-or 22 TOMAH CANYON. Hard. Bring Crab and slings.  
BERNIE KALTENBACHER. (51-1196 H.)

MARCH:

1-2 CARLONS - Galong Creek - Little River - Black Range - Cronje Mt. -  
Wild Stallion Spur - Harrys River - Jenolan River Pass - Breakfast  
Creek - Carlons Farm. Medium. Cars 8.00 Civic Centre.  
PETER VANAMOIS (per P. Foster 25086 H.)

8-9 CARLONS FARM - Galong Creek - Cox - Breakfast Creek - Carlons Farm  
Good bludge and eat-in. Easy. Cars Civic Centre.  
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 51 -1196 (H)

15-16 BUSHCRAFT LECTURES - Food and water  
Details PETER VANAMOIS.

March Date as yet not fixed. Caving in the Nullabor.  
ADRIAN STANBOROUGH. For details per Moya Hibbard 51-1235.

AUGUST '69 CRADLE MOUNTAIN RESERVE. Tasmania.  
ADRIAN STANBOROUGH for details.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,  
Mrs D. Dark,  
"Nimaloola",  
Russell Ave.,  
Valley Heights, 2777.

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 - Subscription to Kalori  
Junior 30 cents annually  
Family \$3.00 annually.