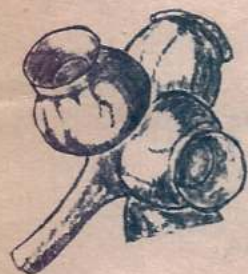


5c

KALORI



E. eximia

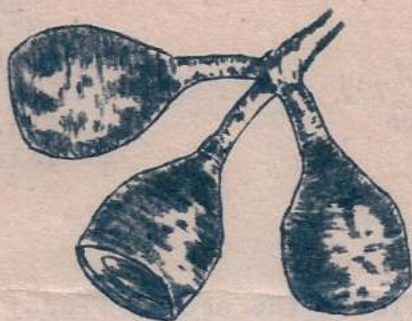


E. globoides



E. jeanae

DEC



E. leucoxydon var. *macrocarpa*

1970

E. sieberi



E. haemastoma
var. *haemastoma*



E. piperita



Society

Conservation

Wildlife

Lower Blue Mountains

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 public 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.S.K.King,
26 Parkes Cres.,
Faulconbridge. 2777
Telephone 511034

Secretary

Mr.H.L.Paish,
"Bithongabel",
Lee Road,
Nth.Springwood.2777
Telephone 511545

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the Civic Centre, Springwood, at 8.00 PM.

NEXT MEETING --11th. DECEMBER

NOTES

DECEMBER 1970

A meeting to consider the establishment of Environmental Study Centres is called for December 10th. at Macquarie University. It is sponsored by the Centre for Advancement of Teaching on behalf of the Education Committee of the Aust. Conservation Foundation. Field study centres provide an opportunity to study aspects of the natural environment under expert supervision and tuition. Such study is of the utmost value to both the individual and the community for through an understanding of environment comes a respect for environment. It is hoped that a preliminary meeting will provide impetus and direction for subsequent action.

Most overseas outdoor field study centres cater for a wide variety of interests ranging from primary school natural science study parties to university ecologists; from adult education classes in painting to professional landscape architects; from geographers to engineers, as well as amateur naturalists.

This Society is invited to send a representative to the meeting.

Vincent Serventy is showing a two-hour colour film entitled "Wildlife Walkabout" on the dates listed below. He will give a talk on wildlife conservation at every session; tell how the films were made, and will answer questions during the interval. The film depicts the highlights of his journeys around Australia. If you have seen his "Nature Walkabout" and "Rolf's Walkabout" on television you know what to expect. The venue is Anzac House Auditorium, corner of College and Francis Streets, Sydney.

Friday	December 4	8.00PM	Friday	December 11	8.00 PM
Sat.	"	5 2.00 PM	Sat.	"	12 2.00 PM
Thursday	"	10 8.00 PM			

Admission is - adults \$1.00, children 50c, pensioners 50c.

The Australian mining industry is hurt and is fighting back. We have received on the letterhead of the "Australian Mining Industry Council" a copy of the Environmental Quality Bulletin. The Bulletin gives notice of an environmental seminar to be held next April in Melbourne. The theme of the seminar is "The responsibility of the mining industry towards environmental quality", and will include such topics as :-

- Water pollution
- Rehabilitation of mined land
- Air pollution
- Associated economic factors.

Other news in the Bulletin includes :-

- American Metal Climax has announced the establishment of an AMAX Committee on Ecology and Environmental Control. The announcement came at the end of a two-day working conference on environmental control and ecology, held in Denver, Colorado.

- The mining industry welcomes the Queensland Government decision to set up an environmental control council, and says that the Council could constitute the forum to resolve any conflict in resource use.

- Environmental action by AMIC members, ie, reports on work by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. and Queensland Alumina Ltd. to control pollution resulting from their activities. The amount of money which they have spent on anti-pollution measures is impressive.

- The Chamber of Mines of Western Australia in their submission to the Committee of Enquiry into the Mining Act claim that the mining industry creates less disturbance to the balance of nature than do the primary rural industries or the general population aggregated in large city areas. Because of the compactness of its operations in relation to its importance the mining industry creates relatively little disturbance to the environment, the submission states. An economic argument supports the claim.

The Queensland Government, it has been reported recently, has decided that the mining leases over the Cooloola sand-mass will be withdrawn. The sands have been partly dedicated as National Park (in which no mining is permitted) and partly as State Forest (in which mining may be permitted).

Thus there exists the possibility still that mining leases over the State Forest portion may be granted in the future. The Cooloola Sands Committee intends to continue its campaign until the whole of the Cooloola sandmass is preserved in perpetuity.

It is thought that if the Government is required to compensate the mining companies for the loss of their leases, the indemnity could be as high as \$40 000 000. And the mining companies intend to sue.

Windsor Conservation Society is being formed. A meeting was held on the 18th. November and a steering committee has been appointed. The chief item on the new Society's plate is the draining of the Pitt Town swamps. Anybody seeing the birdlife in these swamps will realize what a tragedy the draining of these swamps will be.

We are still plugging away at the Colong Caves. A number of Councils are discriminating against A.P.C.M. cement while remaining within the provisions of the Local Govt. Act. By one of those strange coincidences, all subdivisions of A.P.C.M. often submit identical tenders, thereby allowing the Council, if it wishes, to accept the tender of a competitor.

Penrith City Council, to whom we wrote along these lines, has replied very favourably, and in fact has indicated that it may take steps against what appears to be collusive tendering.

The plot thickens in the Mount Whitton Fire Trail battle. We are told by the N.P.&W.S. that the Park Trust has agreed to the Trail, and the Trust tells us that it has protested to the Service. The Service tells us that a/ there is no firm management plan for the Park, and b/ the trail location was decided upon after consideration of its effect on all aspects of the management plan; also that there is no firm decision to build the Trail, but the Blue Mountains Fire Protection Organisation says "when the Trail is built, it will--".

The latest letter from the Service accuses us of being misinformed on the business of the Trust. Our next move is to send the Service a copy of the Trust's letter to us.

A serious precedent has been set by the Director of the N.P. & W.S. As you know there are three firefighting organisations on the Mountains. 1/ NSW Fire Brigades, which has responsibility in the townships, 2/ Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, which operate outside the townships, and 3/ the NP&WS which is responsible for the National Park. The Fire Protection Officer of the City Council is in overall charge of the Volunteer BFBs.

The Director has delegated his authority "for fire protection works" within the Park to the Fire Protection Officer. This means that the FPO may do whatever he thinks fit for the protection of the Park and is responsible only to the Director. He may over-ride the Park Superintendent just as the Director can, and when you consider what is meant by "fire protection works", he has very wide powers indeed.

There is no suggestion that the Officer is incompetent in fire control practice or that he would not consult the Park staff before ordering any work, but he is not employed by the NP&WS and need not consider the overall needs of the Park. We consider that the Director has made a major error, and the B.M. Conservation Federation is pursuing the matter.

A small group of members and friends drove to Eric Worrell's Gosford Reptile Park on Sunday 22nd November. The round trip, via Wisemans Ferry, with lunch at Somersby Falls, was nearly 200 miles, but well worth the effort. The (to me) most interesting part of the Park is the "noctarium", an artificial night house where cus-cusses, gliders, bats, tigercats, etc may be closely observed. Somersby Falls is a picnic spot midway between Mangrove Mountain and Gosford. As well as a number of interesting plants we were treated to a long close look at a pair of Sydney rock warblers.

You have no doubt read in the local press of the formation at Lapstone of the Lower Blue Mountains Environment Protection Committee. Its formation was prompted by the erection, along the escarpment, of the high tension line from Liddell to Hoxton Park, and that is the members concern at the moment.

It is to be hoped that the Committee will concern itself with other environmental problems in that area, and we are going to offer our support and bring to the notice of the Committee the existence of the Blue Mountains Conservation Federation.

The financial report from our Treasurer is on another page. A very creditable credit balance of \$141.95 is held. From this is to be deducted postal exlenses, some hall rent, etc, which have not yet been presented for payment. A total of \$12.65 was donated in cash at the last meeting.

We have been talking, ever since the Society was formed, of acquiring some land which we can call our own. We have a resolution on the books that the Life Members subscriptions be set aside for purchases of a capital nature, and we have decided to add the \$12.65 donations to this. Eventually we hope to be able to build an education centre, perhaps near Sassafras Gully. One idea put forward was that we collect aluminium cans which sell for 10 cents per pound, in order to raise money. Any other ideas?

NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 11TH DECEMBER. THE PARK SUPER-INTENDENT, MR. M WILLIAMS, WILL TALK ON "KNOW YOUR BLUE MOUNTAINS PARK". THOSE WHO KNOW HIM KNOW HOW INTERESTING HE IS, AND OF COURSE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF 'HIS' PARK IS UNEXCELLED.

THIS WILL BE ANOTHER GOOD EVENING. GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT!

ARN MCGILL

Ninety six people came to hear Arn McGill. The occasion was arranged by our Society and was the best gathering in our history.

The speakers knowledge and enthusiasm seemed to impress everyone. His farewelling words were an impassioned call for protection of these marvellous forms of life. One felt that after the motivation of beautiful pictures of birds and interesting commentary, the audience would not need much persuading.

The following day a walk was arranged to Blue Gum Creek. Seeing good coloured slides of birds is enjoyable, but seeing them in real life is much more exciting, even though the view may be hurried and incomplete. I tagged along with Arn and 55 others and listed 36 species including Sitellas, Black-faced Flycatchers, and a Golden Bronze Cuckoo.

Bird watchers are wonderful people to be with; they will give the ordinary person a valuable lesson in observation. They know not only how to see more birds, they know how to call them up so they can be seen. One man called up a Golden Bronze Cuckoo. It flew in obediently from what I thought was a clear, blue empty sky and landed in branches above us.

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OTHER FIELD TRIPS

MYALL LAKES About 15 members camped two nights at Mungo Brush on a spot between the Broadwater Lagoon and the Pacific, and under old man Banksias in which Little Wattle Birds continuously cackled.

This is a spectacular land of pristine bushland: a small rainforest, giant waterside Melaleucas, prolific wildflowers - all on sand built up by the great Pacific. A spectacular land about to be dissected by a Government which thinks that the rutil in its sands should be converted, now, to cash.

Unless we can stop them!

AUSTRALIAN REPTILE PARK, GOSFORD Fourteen people had a very pleasant days outing to Worrel's. This place is a must for anyone interested in Australian wildlife. To mention only two: you may see cuscus and Sugar Gliders active in a noctarium.

OVERNIGHT BUSHWALK Five optimists set out from Mt. Hay to walk to Mt. Whitton through the Kolonga Labyrinth. Mount Whitton is at the junction of Wentworth Creek and Grose River. They planned to walk the route of the proposed fire trail but ran out of time a bit more than half way. Although the last days of November, the wildflowers were very profuse, especially Sowerbaea and Tetratheca.

They were stung by day by flies (I mean stung) and stung by mosquitoes by night and enjoyed the trip very much. At night one of us (Keith King of course) saw a gliding possum and we all saw a few fire-flies, their weird lights floating in the darkness. One of them had a light which flashed on and off in a regular rhythm.

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I regret that these outings have not been better publicised and will try to rectify this in future.

Don Perrin.
Outings Officer.

A merry Christmas
and a
happy New Year
to all our
Readers

LOST FRIENDS

In the spring of 1969 a pair of Leatherheads (*Philemon corniculatus*) nested in a mahogany tree in my back yard in Boomerang Road, Springwood. They were first noticed during the third week of September, taking a great interest in a set of branches approximately thirty feet above the ground.

At the end of the month, beginnings of the nest were visible in a fork. The birds were very busy and very noisy. By the end of the first week of October, a shallow saucer-shaped structure was beginning to look solid. Then the male bird dived into it with what sounded like angry cries. Hescattered and stretched fibres until the whole was a deep open tube. To all appearances, he may have been an intruder destroying the nest. But no: he and the female became even more industrious; strengthening, lining and flooring it.

Other birds of the area showed interest in the activity - mostly currawangs, butcher birds and warbling magpies. But all were driven off with much commotion.

By the end of the second week of October the birds became less noisy and from the fifteenth were completely quiet until the first of November, when Mrs. Leatherhead gave forth a burst of excitement. During the quiet period comings and goings were swift and silent. The male kept watch from an outer branch or nearby tree in the middle of the day when the sitting female took off for a flight. From the first of November they became more and more active; and subdued, cajoling chatterings of the parents gradually enlivened and became more noisy: and the young also became quite vociferous by 16th. November. The cries sounded as though there were at least three. But of course they could not be seen.

On the 29th. November, the parents were observed out on a limb, feeding one fully-fledged young. They all flew off before sunset and did not re-visit for many weeks.

On occasions during the subsequent year, one or two have appeared on fleeting visits. A pair came back in September this year and took a good look at the old nest site - from which all remains had been blown by high winds. However, what seemed to concern them most was the cleared and tidied yard below; and eventually they flew off.

On rare occasions in the interim an occasional chatter has been heard nearby, but birds were not sighted until 13th. November when a very loud-voiced one made itself heard and was seen on a high branch of a tree in the adjoining yard. It looked like a fully-fledged young. Now that a few shrubs and trees are being replanted I trust that birds generally will begin to look more favourably on the situation.

B.I.Bramsen

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

For

Year 1/11/69 to 30/10/70

Presented at Meeting
13/11/70

DEBIT - EXPENSES

Petty Cash expenses	12.00
Printing (Letterheads.....)	17.08
Blue Mountains C.C.(rent).	8.00
Material for Traps	24.46
Payment to Subscriptions	5.00
Blue Mountains C.C. (rent)	11.00
Credit balance in hand	
as per bookds of A/c.....	<u>82.30</u>

\$159.84

CREDIT - INCOME

Bank Balance as at 1/11/69	92.26
Subscriptions	
paid by Members.....	59.50
Tea Money collected.....	4.77
Bank Interest	3.31

\$159.84

Credit balance in hand as at 1/11/70\$82.30

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT.

Balance as per Bank Statement	\$93.30
Less unrepresented cheque No. 585	
(22/10/70).....	<u>11.00</u>

Balance as per books of A/c. \$82.30

To be added to this is \$59.65 in subscriptions and cash donated at the Arn McGill meeting of 13 November, leaving a total credit balance of \$141.95

D.Dark.
Treasurer.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

Enclosed is 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.