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KALORI

April 71



Society

Conservation

Wildlife

Lower Blue Mountains

"Man is confronted with the difficult and complex ecological problem of finding out how he can fit into his environment so that it will not deteriorate but continue to provide what he needs."

R.G.Downes.

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 public and civic leadership towards a better understanding of environmental conservation.
2. Work for the dedication of areas of natural environment and for the maintenance of their values in perpetuity.
3. Carry out research into the distribution and population of wildlife in the Blue Mountains.

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

NEXT MEETING -- 14th. MAY

COALCLIFF AND MOUNT CLUTHA

Under an Act of Parliament passed at the end of the last session, Clutha Development Pty.Ltd., owned by American billionaire Ludwig, has been given the green light to plan a private railway from its mines in the Burragorang Valley to a coaldump on top of the Illawarra escarpment. The Act also reserves for Clutha about 8 square miles of coastal water, which the Company plans to use for a conveyor system which will transport coal from the stockpile to an offshore loader. In the Act, specific amendments to the Public Works Act and the Local Government Act have effectively closed two avenues open to members of the public who wish to lodge objections to the resumption of private property for the benefit of Clutha.

SCOOP (the South Coast Organisation Opposing Pollution) is totally opposed to the Clutha scheme. Much of their time is spent informing local residents of the nature of the Clutha agreements; researching, off their own bat, its possible pollutive effects, and suggesting what they think are viable alternatives. They are also battling apathy and ignorance among the locals.

Mr.Jago, Minister for Health, has suggested that the area will be protected by the Clean Air Act. But Port Kembla, also protected by the same Act, is where nylon stockings and motor car duco disintegrates in industrial fallout, and where local beaches are closed because of filth.

Clutha people are in the process of appointing a PR company to deal with enquiries, and Mr,Van Brink, the Dutch born managing director of Clutha explains "We are an approachable company. But in a highly charged political and environmental problem such as this, it would be harmful and premature to go into details before we ourselves have clarified the problem. What we say, we pay for."

SCOOP last November said that "a deliberate policy of total silence about their intentions has been pursued by this company, and our request for information directed to State and local government authorities has not been answered." Since then, they have met a representative of Clutha in the offices of Mr. Fife, Minister for Mines.

The foregoing was condensed from the Australian, 13/3/71.

Since the company will not say what its plans are, we can only speculate, so lets do that. Assume that no expense is spared to reduce environmental damage. Then the coal

will be washed and transported from the mine to the dump in sealed rail trucks. The conveyor from the escarpment lip to the shore will be concealed in a gully and covered to prevent any coal falling from it. But from the shoreline to deep water there will be a jetty to carry the coal to the ship. This cannot be concealed and even at night the jetty must carry warning lights. And what happens to the coal washing water? The Clutha colliery, South Clifton Mines, is located in the Burragorang Valley. Now assume the worst. Coal dust fouling the earth, air and sea; a coal dump and conveyor down the face of the escarpment visible for miles, and the indispensable jetty. Who benefits? Who pays? And do the benefits, to the people of Australia, outweigh the price we have to pay?

P.S. Now that we have a 'Ministry of Environment Control' can we hope for anything to be done? Mr. Beale, the Minister, and formerly Minister for Conservation, said recently "If an authority wants to blight an area with power poles, the Pollution Control Commission will have the power to say how this could, and should, be done, without perpetuating the ugliness of the past. We are not prepared to sacrifice the beauty of the countryside just for development. The legislation says that where the actions of other Government Departments conflict, the Commission has superior power."

On the other hand, Clutha Ltd. is spending \$150 million and the State government stands to gain \$5 million per year in royalties.

All together now --- pray.

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HOUSEHOLD INSECTICIDES

Nobody - except insecticide manufacturers - likes insects in the home, and only the most extreme conservationist will not battle to keep his home free of them. Fair enough, but one does not shoot a dog to rid it of fleas, and it would be foolish not to use the safest weapons available.

First of all, put screens on doors and windows and store food so that it will not attract insects. If you can stand it, encourage spiders, the flies worst enemy. If you must use an insecticide, start with the safest known, such as a pyrethrin, and use a more dangerous one only if the safe ones fail.

The insecticides safest to use are pyrethrins, piperonyl butoxide, n-octyl-bicycloheptene dicarboximide and n-octylsulphoxide of isosafrole. You should avoid DDT, lindane and dichlorvos (DDVP), of which dichlorvos is probably the worst.

Shelltox Pest Strips, Checks-All, Nutrax and Selleys insect sprays all contain DDVP and should be avoided. DDVP is an organophosphorous insecticide.

Before buying any insecticide, check the label. If the manufacturer declines to print the name of his active ingredient on it, do not buy.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
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Russell Avenue,
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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.