

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

NEWSLETTER

NO. 56 - MAY, 1984 - Price 20¢ - P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls. 2782.

PATRON: Allen Strom, A.M.

PRESIDENT: Michael Dark (58.7061). VICE-PRESIDENTS: Barry Barnes,
(88.1053); Wieslaw Lichacz. SECRETARY: Graham Kerr (87.7139).

TREASURER: Judy Kerr (87.7139).

COMING MEETINGS: AT THE CONSERVATION HUT, VALLEY OF WATERS RESERVE,
VALLEY ROAD, WENTWORTH FALLS AT 8.00 P.M.

Friday, May 25: "A Safari to Some of our National Parks". Talk
illustrated with slides by Keith Sherlock.

Friday, June 29: Graeme Worboys, Superintendent National Parks and
Wildlife Service, Blue Mountains District, will update our information
on the current environmental study.

Friday, July 27: Members' night. Bring a few of your favourite slides.

COMING WALKS: (Note: We have changed to Sunday outings on a trial basis).

Sunday, July 1: Neates Glen - Grand Canyon - Old Point Pilcher.
Leaders Graham & Judy Kerr - 87.7139. Meet at Medlow Bath outside
Hydro Majestic at 9.30 a.m.

This walk traverses through heath, rain forest and canyon then a
surprise as we discover parts of the spectacular old track to Old
Point Pilcher. Medium effort.

Thursday, July 19: Berghoffer Pass. (Mt. York Area). - A touch of
history.

Leaders Eric & June Blich, 88.1051. Meet at Mt. Victoria Station 9.30 a.m.
Train from Sydney arrives 9.07 a.m.

Sunday, August 5: Part of Six Foot Track - from Old Ford Reserve to
Cox River and return - fair track.

Leader Keith Sherlock, 57.1927. Meet in street over Blackheath Railway
Crossing at 9.30 a.m. A steady plod.

COMING WALKS (Cont.)

Thursday, August 16: Portal Waterhole - Glenbrook Creek.

Leader Jill Dark, 58-7061. Meet outside Glenbrook Station, 10.15 a.m.
Train from Sydney arrives 10.13 a.m. - from Lithgow 9.39 a.m. Short
and easy walk.

Sunday, September 2: Six Foot Track - Part 2 - Nellies Glen to Old
Ford Reserve.

Leader Keith Sherlock, 57.1927. Meet behind the Explorers Tree 9.30 a.m.

Thursday, September 20: Lawson Area - Dantes Glen to Fairy Falls.

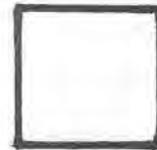
Leader Grace Bailey, 59.1955. Meet Lawson Station Parking area - over
bridge and turn right. Short easy walk. Train from Sydney arrives 9.56 a.m.

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP FEES

The cost of membership to our Society has remained static since the 70's and during this time costs have risen enormously far outstripping the Society's income from membership dues. Whilst it is never intended to make a profit from membership fees, we must be realistic.

Because of this, at the last Annual General Meeting, it was decided unanimously to increase fees from the 1st April, 1984 as follows:-

Single Pensioners and Juniors	..	..	\$2.00
Married Pensioners	..	..	\$3.00
Single Membership	..	..	\$5.00
Family Membership	..	..	\$8.00



If the square on the right contains a red dot, your membership fees are due. Two red dots indicate that membership fees are owing for more than a year. Please forward to "The Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782,"

SPECIAL FILM EVENING

"A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS" - 'a film that says it all about rainforests'
- Joseph Glascott, Sydney Morning Herald.

Your Society is delighted to inform you that this film, produced by Chris Wilcox, has been booked by the Society and will be shown in the evening at Katoomba Primary School on Saturday, 2nd June, 1984.

SPECIAL FILM EVENING (Cont.)

A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS is a beautifully made film which looks at a small remote pocket of rainforest in the Hastings River District of Northern N.S.W. It clearly explains the history of the area from its prehistoric beginnings as part of ancient Gondwanaland to its use and abuse by Aboriginal people and then the early white settlers. Despite the focus on the small locality, A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS has received critical acclaim for the way it uses the area to make important statements about the future of all Australia's forests.

Unlike many films of this genre, A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS introduces us to both the people fighting to save this unique region and to the timber workers who may soon lose their jobs. It examines their frustrations, but clearly points out that the conservationists are not to blame for the diminishing number of trees. This footage provides the basis for valuable discussion on the relationship of conservationists to workers, a problem that continually occurs where the struggle for the environment threatens the employment of others.

A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS is a highly enjoyable film with stunning sequences of the forest and the life it supports. It contains one of only two pieces of film of the dance of a lyre-bird and provides the audience with the rare opportunity of viewing this ritual.

A VOICE FOR THE WILDERNESS, which lasts for about 48 minutes, is a visually beautiful and enjoyable film, with an amusing and ironic use of archival footage.

Directed by Chris Wilcox and Michael Balson, this is a film you should not miss. Chris Wilcox will present the film and will be happy to answer questions. Keep an eye on the "Gazette" later in the month for full details.

BARBEQUE FOR LAND PRESERVATION FUND

Members and their friends are invited to a barbeque at "The Hut", Valley of the Waters on Tuesday, 5th June, at 11,00 a.m.

This pleasant get-together will be held wet or fine so come along and enjoy the social contact with your fellow Society Members and their friends.

The cost will be \$5.00 per head, the proceeds going towards the Land Preservation Fund.

RESUME OF RECENT NATIONAL PARKS TOUR BY MEMBERS

Mungo Brush in Myall Lakes National Park proved to be a most satisfactory location for our first rendezvous. Five cars arrived on the afternoon of Friday, April 6th and established camps by the lake shore. Within easy walking distance was the ocean.

RESUME OF RECENT NATIONAL PARKS TOUR BY MEMBERS (Cont.)

Apart from the natural beauty of the location with its tea trees and cabbage tree palms, notable sights were; the Azure Kingfisher patrolling the shoreline each morning, and the grouping of sea birds on the beach where Silver Gulls, Caspian Terns, Crested and other Terns gathered together in a common group. The three children particularly enjoyed the area.

The drive to Yuragir National Park was undertaken in driving rain as a cyclone was active in the north. Only Graham & Judy Kerr managed to arrive at Yuragir on time. However, three more cars arrived next morning to set up camp at this beautiful spot - Eric & June having gone north to visit relatives. Yuragir's bird population is most remarkable and sightings of 35 varieties from Emus to Emu Wrens were recorded. The dunes, beach walks, river and lagoon areas were enjoyed to the full,

Prior to setting up camp at Woody Head in Bunjalung National Park, a night was spent at Bimbimbie Caravan Park catching up on washing, etc. Bunjalung later provided us with a fascinating rainforest walk, beautiful sunrises and sightings of, for example, the Sooty Oyster-catcher and the little Whimbrel. We noted the activity of the trawling fleet, taking advantage of opportunities provided by the much-increased flow of water from the mighty Clarence as a result of the cyclonic rains. One wonders just how long the fish can survive!

Ten days after leaving home we departed for Gibraltar Range National Park via Grafton. We arrived at the park in the early afternoon and were re-joined by Eric & June. A complement of four cars again - Roy & Beverley, having limited time, had returned home after Yuragir.

Granite outcrops such as The Needles and numbers of large and ancient Xanthorrhoeas provided interesting viewing at Gibraltar. John could tell of snakes and leeches too!

We were able, prior to moving to New England Park, to take a look at Washpool where camping is not yet provided for. Some fine views are available, however, from the rest areas and we did manage to see something of the rainforest and located some magnificent specimens of Euc. Saligna and other species.

New England National Park proved to be quite different from anything yet encountered and the walk through the Ancient Beech forest with the incredible blue of the distant forest will always be remembered. From Wright's Lookout we saw no less than four Wedge-tailed Eagles working the ridges and valleys. Through binoculars it was possible to see movement of the individual primary feathers on the wingtips and the wonderful bronze colouring on top of the wings of these remarkable birds.

Not having overnight bushwalking gear with us, the excellent overnight walking that the park provides will have to be postponed until a later visit.

We were indeed fortunate to have been able to see many of the wonderful things available because of the efforts of those people who, with admirable foresight have established our National Parks. In conclusion, I would like to compliment the cheerful and efficient employees of the National Parks & Wildlife Service who helped make our stay so comfortable.

Keith Sherlock.

RESOURCE RECYCLING

Our Society has written to Mr. Debus asking if he would refer to the appropriate minister our concern about the rubbish that litters N.S.W. in the form of beverage containers.

We urged the minister to bring to the Government's attention, the need for adoption of deposit legislation or other types of legislation that will strongly encourage a move back to refillables, before that system is completely dismantled. In the U.S., deposit laws are in force in eight states with positive results, and 17 other state legislatures, including the two most populous states, New York and California, have bottle bills pending.

Anti-litter education is an essential part of any overall strategy to contain litter. But getting industry to accept its share of the responsibility is every bit as important. One-trip containers are plainly irresponsible. In the end, it is consumers who will pay - for the wasted resources and for the costs of dealing with the rubbish mountain.

We can't afford it.

WENTWORTH FALLS, N.S.W. 2282
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CONSERVATION SOCIETY LTD
LIMBE BLUE MOUNTAINS

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in November 2022 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

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