



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

No.85 October 1991

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## CALENDAR

Please note that meetings are resumed at the Conservation Hut at the western end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls. Time: 7.30pm. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by changes of meeting place in the winter quarter. At time of writing we are assured that the Hut will be available even though the roadwork and landscaping are still under contractor's administration.

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| October 6th Sunday    | <u>Mid-Mountains Festival</u> at Hazelbrook Public School. 8.30am-3.30pm (approx), Display and information stand.  |
| October 25th Friday   | <u>General Meeting</u> . Speaker is Rev. Bob Evans about "Space and Outer Space". Please contact Muriel Healey 586575 for subject information.   |
| November 2nd Saturday | <u>Plant Sale</u> at the Conservation Hut. 9am.  |
| November 3rd Sunday   | <u>Rhododendron Festival</u> Blackheath. Heritage Centre Display and information stand. Please check with Robin 586561 for times.  |
| November 29th Friday  | <u>General Meeting</u> . Discussion among members about topical conservation subjects, local and global and how members and the Society might react and interact. Leader Wyn Jones.    |
| December 1st Sunday   | <u>The Society's Green Opening of the Conservation Hut</u> . From 10am there is a Tree-planting, walk and lunch. Please contact Dulcie Toseland 841682 for details closer to the time. |

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## NOTICE BOARD

As noted in the April newsletter the Rev. Bob Evans comes to the Society a second time by popular request. His fame as a world authority on supernovae goes before him. To inject a meaning into his talk for you personally, Muriel Healey 586575, will pass on your subject questions for preparation.

November 29th Discussion Night.  
This is arguably the most important meeting of the calendar. From it should spring a programme that will focus activities and resources. Ideas are flowing in already. Add yours and take part in a well planned forum. Contact Wyn 877511

\*\* Thank you Ross Costa for printing the Newsletter labels.

## UPDATE

SUBMISSIONS have been sent to:

\* Blue Mountains City Council about Lawson Lodge. Precip: too large a population injection for available services or harmony in local society; insufficient preparation for environmental safeguards to prevent down-slope modifications.

\* BMCC about Bass Street Wentworth Falls, Landcom subdivision. Precip: Unimaginative dissection of land with high natural environment values and a potential to create problems at the head of Jamison Creek.

\* Civil Aviation about Radar Tower at Mt. Boyce. CAA advised it is an inappropriate proposal. Readers, do not confuse this with the radio tower at Kings Tableland.

\* Roads & Traffic Authority - our comments sought on Landscape Plan for Woodford Bends. Answer is that it appears satisfactory but that Bull's Bath, 19th Century artefact, has been swallowed and needs to be regurgitated.

Radiata Plateau - Land Preservation monies are being held for the time being for reclamation of this land.

\* Threatened Species Network. The Blue Mountains has a higher percentage of rare plants in its flora than most regions. The Society is pursuing the subject of a Threatened Species conservation Act in the NSW Parliament.

\* A Development Control Plan of Strategic Fire Advantages and Fuel Management Plan for the Grose Catchment will be exhibited and your comment to Council is requested. A further plan will be prepared for the southern catchment. Do have a look when the plan is on show because most of us are at risk.

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The Nature Conservation Council is a top environment body in NSW and represents the majority of regional conservation groups. The UBMCS is a member and through NCC also contributes towards the employment of a parliamentary lobbyist. The NCC conference in October will accept two proposals from the Society.

(1) from Wyn Jones : precip is that there be tax concessions for showing a degree of independence from the power grid by use of energy saving devices.

(2) from an idea of John Davies: in full: "that the Nature Conservation Council of NSW seek urgent additional commitments from the state and federal governments to significantly increase the rate of reforestation of cleared land with native timber species, particularly to establish woodlots on the Western Slopes and Tablelands of NSW in order to provide future assured supplies for the state of fuel

wood for rural communities, timber for Australian homes, honey production and an increase in biodiversity.

A greater degree of encouragement through regulatory mechanisms and financial incentive through low interest rate long term loans should be given to local communities and landholders involved in joint projects for woodlot establishment and the following specific means should be used to encourage their widespread acceptance in the community;

\* through establishment of memorial forests to replace cemeteries,

\* planting up large areas owned by public authorities,

\* promoting reforestation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment.

The Plant Sale is Saturday Nov.2nd, 9am. The stock has been checked over by the excellent people at the Hazelbrook Nursery and everything looks to be in fine fettle. Grete Vanry is contributing plants again. Those experienced in growing native plants in the Mountains will be there to discuss your particular requirements and to give advice on problems. Return of pots would be appreciated, particularly 6"diam (approx) and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diam.x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "(approx) sizes.

Seeds of local bush plants are always needed. The Blackheath Nursery is contracting to grow hundreds of a given species. There are only four people providing seed and it is unbelievable that the walkers of the Society are unobservant of the genesis of the bush. Not all the walks are in the national park. The Blackheath Nursery output will go to bush regeneration and rehabilitation. All the pea flowers and wattles are out now. Watch for ripening seed vessels and harvest. We need your help please.

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Certificates of Achievement have been awarded to the Society by the City Council for taking part in Clean up Australia and Weeds Awareness Weeks. Thanks to those energetic people who laboured in the cause. It is the same people who turn up every time. With our number of members this is a very poor show.

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#### Is The Society at the Coalface and the Barricades?

To remind you I mention that the Society is represented on many local environmental groups as well as being a member of state and national bodies. Locally, at this date, representation is :  
 Blue Mountains for World Heritage : Reg Toseland,  
 Total Catchment Management Committee : Robin Corringham,  
 District Weeds Committee : David Coleby,  
 District Fire Protection Committee : Robin Corringham, Wyn Jones,  
 Environment Forum : Dulcie and Reg Toseland.

There are others as they arise from time to time. Our value in this area is that of continuity of conservation policy and stability of representation. Few other bodies are in such a position of communication potential. This network has been developed deliberately as awareness of careful management of our habitat has evolved in the community. The Society now sees itself well placed to initiate policy and influence decision makers and planners in the local scene.

to p4

The Annual Balance Sheet 1990-91 has been received and tabled. It is available for preusal from Treasurer, Elvine Thomas at any General or Committee Meeting. The Society thanks Lyle Davis for his continued support in managing this essential audit.

Judy Ferfoglia and friends have established a sales area at the General Meetings. The opening sales at the September meeting made \$50. High quality is the hall mark of this venture. Judy requests craft items, confitures and comestibles, or whatever your speciality may be. David Thomas is making bird-feeders and pygmy possum nests. As these have sold out orders need to be placed, 842121. Judy also needs buyers!

Grace Bayley has yet again given the Society her drawing talent. Her cards will be on sale at Judy's Shop and now she has designed the front of the new give-away information leaflet. Thank you Grace.



In addition many members belong to special action groups. There is also a close relationship with other Mountains conservation associations.

While we are effective in land management we are not so well represented in social and cultural fields. This aspect is not neglected but if more members came forward it could be addressed more satisfactorily.

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#### VALE NANCY DOUGLASS

The editor is privileged to accept this obituary from past President Graham Alcorn. The continuity of the ideals of the Society is one of its strengths and Graham has given us a glimpse of the dedication of early members.

"A highly esteemed and valuable member of our Society, Nancy Douglass, died at Springwood Hospital on July 30 1991. A frail person, Nancy had an indomitable spirit which sustained her to the respectable age of seventy seven.

On September 7 an impressive and well attended memorial service was held at the Katoomba Cemetary where her ashes were interred in the grave of her husband Bob, a past president of the Society. We were represented by Winsome Gregory and myself, appropriately in that we are the only remaining members still in the Mountains of the old Land Use Committee for which Nancy worked so hard. Beryl Cooley lives in Sydney and Isobel Bowden, the great Blue Mountains ecologist and initiator of our policies has passed on. This committee was formed in 1973 when the draft Blue Mountains Town Plan was first displayed. We had the tasks of forming a policy to preserve the environment and co-ordinating the efforts of our members to compile a submission. Significantly it opens on the title page with the following : Spokesman: Mr.G.N.Alcorn, who will be supported by Mrs.N,Douglass. Correspondence: Mrs.N.Douglass. And what a pleasure and relief it was to have her.

Even to this day the main points of policy and the detailed submission still constitute the main steps necessary to secure the Blue Mountains environment. I feel that all the plans and strategies and enquiries that have been held since have been in the main subterfuges to avoid implementing our policy.

In the years that followed Nancy continued her unflagging vigilance. An account of her activities would fill a book, - Megalong Valley, Jamison Creek catchment, Leura Creek catchment, Kings Tableland and so on. She would phone and say, "Graham, we've got to go and look at this." Often, I'd say, "I think it's alright". "No Graham, it isn't". And always it wasn't. One day when we were feeling depressed with the activities of the council and the developers, Nancy wrote an article detailing our achievements - quite an impressive list. It will be somewhere in the Newsletter files.

I know that the splendid traditions of work initiated by the old Land Use Committee have been continued very capably by the subsequent and current officials of the Society. But I count it a rare privilege to have been associated with those great battlers of the 70's and the early 80's, not the least of these my dear friend Nancy Douglass.

Nancy's brother, Dr. Laurie Johnson, Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, made a fine oration at the memorial service. One impressive statement was to the effect that Nancy, who was not a religious person, was a splendid example of how it is possible to live a highly ethical life without promise of reward or fear of punishment."