



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

No 92  
July 1993

President: Mr Thor Schache  
(047) 57 3272  
Editor: Mrs Grace Bayley  
(047 59 1955)

Meetings are held in the Conservation Hut, at end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls, at 7.30pm on the last Friday of every month.

## PROGRAMME

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

- July 30: Bruce Cameron, author of 'A History of the Blue Labyrinth' Slides and talk about the labyrinth of gorges between Kings Tableland and the Nepean River. If you've read the book you'll be anxious to hear more. It is available at The Hut.
- August 27: All Conservation groups are invited to the meeting when Wyn Jones and Susan Lollbach will bring us up-to-date with the work of the Endangered Species Foundation.
- Sept. 24: Joe Banfy of the Institute of Earth Education will demonstrate the programme he uses to teach this subject to Primary Schools.  
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### SPECIAL NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS ARE NOW OVERDUE! PLEASE FORWARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MAKE OUR SECRETARY HAPPY. IF YOU HAVE A RED SPOT ON THIS LETTER, THIS MEANS YOU!

SPRING PLANT SALE 9am - 12.30pm at The Hut.  
This will be held 23 October. Will members please make items for sale on a MONSTER table of suitable goods which will bring in extra revenue.

BUSH CARE FORUM: Saturday 17 July, 8.45am - 1.30pm at The Hut  
We are looking forward to constructive discussion and suggestions of ways to care for the environment. Early coffee and mid-morning soup provided. No charge for the day. Members are urged to attend. RSVP 2/7/93 to PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls 2782, please.  
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### WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

John Guyver; Dianne Jacobus; Zena Law; John Pascoe; Mr and Mrs S. Garthwin; Terri Hamilton, Marion Hawley, Sylvia Cross, Annie Kelleher; Mr and Mrs G L Barker; Mrs Joyce Brister; Ms June Minter.  
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'Take It Slowly' - A Blue Mountains Diary by Grace Bayley is available from her by phoning (047) 59 1955. The book contains much about the UBM Conservation Society and describes many of the walks. It contains many pen-and-ink illustrations by the author. Price if posted \$18.  
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#### Helicopter Joy Flights in the Blue Mountains

The Society made an objection to this nuisance as early as Jan. 93. Council has advised that legal opinion is being sought on its powers in this area. Written evidence is required mentioning times, places, heights over open ground and built-up areas, number and duration of flights, identification marking of helicopter etc. Send copies of information to National Parks at Blackheath and to Dept. of Civil Aviation, 59 Goulburn St, Sydney, please.

#### Henry Lawson's Walk, Blackheath

One of the historic short walks which was a favourite of the Lawson family. It runs from Grandview Rd along the south-facing escarpment to Engineer's Cascade. Rachel Makinson brought its disrepair to notice and we have made representation to Council regarding an upgrading. BMCC has a current programme of walk surveys, which is good.

#### Fire Hazard Reduction Programme for 1993

If you are concerned about this keep an eye out for any exhibition dates advertised in the Council Communicator section of The Gazette. Or contact Bushfire Control at Council and ask to see the proposals submitted by the brigades. These are mapped and every proposal is accompanied by a form which justifies the application and has details of objectives and constraints. We need to take some responsibility and interest in the bushfire ethic, it will only improve with the input of informed people. At the moment a technical officer is employed and is collating a fire history of every area. The result will provide a firmer framework for future activity.

#### Plant Nursery

We have accumulated about \$5000. How do you want it spent? Suggestions must keep within the objectives of the Society and preferably be local. We want an overflowing response of ideas and will consider each one carefully. Spare a thought for the dear people who have worked at the Nursery, in all weathers. If you want to help, ring Robin on 586561.

#### Land Buy-back

There has always been a strong commitment in the Society to buying back land of high conservation value to preserve it from exploitation. We are still awaiting a decision from the Minister of the Environment on our offer to contribute to the purchase of an in-holding in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. There is an Australian Bush Heritage Fund which is in the business of buying back land. Founded by Dr Bob Brown, the address is Australian Bush Heritage Fund, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart 7000.

#### BLUE MOUNTAINS FOR WORLD HERITAGE

Members of the UBMCS Management Committee were invited to the Council Chambers on 17/4/93 to a meeting in support of the World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains. Speakers were the Mayor (the Hon Mr Bob Clarke) Mr Mylo Dunphy and Dr David Hughes of CHANGE. Representatives of Green Groups were invited to contribute but at such short notice most referred to their group philosophies and environmental action. Dr Hughes spoke of the threat to the rivers and plains from floods and sewage. The area threatened is extensive, ranging from the Shoalhaven to the Hawkesbury. Both visiting speakers advocated the nomination of the Blue Mountains for World Heritage listing as a means of providing 'muscle' in the fight against over-development of the area.



This drawing commemorates the 'Green' opening of the uncompleted Hut on Dec 1 1991. There is Reg cutting the ribbon and June Blick and Grete Vanry holding it. On that occasion we planted some trees which are growing nicely.

7/93

#### THE FINAL OPENING OF THE HUT

The John Buki Garden was officially dedicated by the minister for the Environment, the Hon. Chris Hartcher, on April 30 1993. This was also the occasion for the official opening of the Conservation Hut. Some of those attending were Barry Morris our State member, the Mayor (the Hon. Bob Clarke, Aldermen Carol Gaul and Peter Byrne, Rein's Zusters the artist whose work covers two walls of the Hut, the architect Nigel Bell, NPWS staff in force, members of the UBMCS and honoured guest Mrs Buki.

The minister gave a brief and well-informed history of the old Conservation Hut, recalling the existence of an early sign which read "Let us be thankful". Those of us who attended were indeed thankful that the Minister represented the Society's role in the conservation movement so faithfully in his speech. Our President, Mr Thor Schache replied by acknowledging with thankfulness the vision of the architect, saying that the building and gardens would provide a place in which knowledge and care of the natural environment would be enhanced. Thor was then asked to assist in placing a Time Capsule in the wall. This includes newspapers, history of the original Hut, Grace Bayley's sketch, and some microfilm provided by NPWS.

Mrs Buki unveiled the beautiful stone memorial to John Buki in the garden and Reg Toseland told of the important role John had played in the foundation of this Society and in the acquiring of the old Hut.

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#### MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

##### A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Muriel Healey

A handsome red-bellied black snake came to live under the concrete slab outside my front door. Every sunny morning between 9 and 10 o'clock the snake lay on the slab or in the garden, with an easy retreat to its hiding place. I called it "Him". Others called Him "Her". It depends on your preferences. The affair lasted for several weeks and might have gone on longer had it not been for the reaction of visitors - it was natural for parents of young children to be wary. The experts offered a strategy for gentle eviction, such as pouring a little petrol into the cavity while the snake was enjoying the sun, but he was persuaded to leave by the tapping of a walking stick on the concrete. But he left a memento! I had actually watched him slough off his old skin, and I removed it carefully from the grasses and carried it inside, where it hangs on my wall.

Giraffes on the horizon, going somewhere. Zebra moving in harmony of stripes across the plain. Two mudcaked hippopotami with different horns and snouts - one called "black", the other "white". A Bengal tiger moving delicately along the bank of a creek and swimming downstream.

Children on bicycles stopping to chat with spider monkeys above, peering at the maned wolf, trying to spot the cheetah. The Galapagos Tortoise aloof.

The gentle gaze of rock wallabies as we admired their **yellow** feet and stripey tails. Tapir and Capybar, unfamiliar in legend, creatures from worlds not known to Dot and her Kangaroo. Animals who have adapted to different environments, now a multi-ethnic society.



## BOURKE NYNGAN ROAD

by Graham Alcorn

Written in July 1992 while he was "on safari".

Bimble Box and Mulga  
All along the way.  
Bimble Box is green and shiny,  
Mulga leaves are grey,  
Creating leafy patterns  
Where the soil is red,  
Bimble Box and Mulga  
Growing round my bed.



Camped in from the road-side  
On the way to Nyngan,  
Sitting round the campfire  
Hear the billy singing.  
Soon we'll bake a damper,  
Make a brew of tea,  
Sitting out here under  
A Bimble Box tree.

## A CHALLENGE

by Anon

Contributed by Reg Toseland

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?  
Or do you only stay away and criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belong?  
Do you work on the committee to see there is no trick,  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about "the clique"?

So, come to meetings often and work with hand and heart,  
Don't simply be a member, but take an active part.  
Please think it over, members, you all know right from wrong,  
Are you a worthwhile member, or do you - just belong?????

.....

## TANKA POETRY (Japanese metre and style)

by Grace Bayley

Winter has arrived  
Grey mist shrouds the ghostly trees  
All the doors are shut

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Hear the rage of wind  
How it shakes our mountain homes  
What will morning bring?



## Excursion Programme August to October

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members carry at least a litre of water.

Please carry on all walks: First Aid Kit, Torch, Matches, Warm Shirt or Sweater, Protective Rainwear, Hat. Wear safe footwear.

All people attending excursions do so at their own risk.

Members arriving by train should advise contact prior to the excursion.

Train timetable on week-days may be altered. Walks starting times and meeting places will remain as stated.

### August

#### Sunday 1st:

Linden Sawmill. Meet at end of Highland Rd Faulconbridge 10am.

Contact Christine Davies 877246.

#### Thursday 19th: Prince Henry Cliff Walk, Leura Cascades to Gordon Falls.

Meet at Leura Cascades at 10am. Contact Dulcie Toseland, 841682.

#### Saturday 21st: Six Foot Track, Nellies Glen to Old Ford Reserve.

Meet at Explorer's Tree at 9am.

Contact David Thomas 842121.

### September

#### Sunday 5th: Banks Wall. Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9am.

Contact Basil Tickner 877264.

#### Thursday 16th: Wildflower walk, Jack Evans Track to Erskine Creek.

Meet at Glenbrook Station at 9am.

Contact Bert Davies 588586.

#### Saturday 18th: Mt Boyce Cliff Walk. Meet at Blackheath Station at 8.30am.

Contact John Noble 878342

### October

#### Sunday 3rd: Hanging Rock. Meet at Blackheath Station at 9.30am.

Contact June Minster 591280.

#### Saturday 16th: Six Foot Track. Binda Cabins to Jenolan Caves and return.

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 8.30am.

Contact Olive Noble 878342.

#### Thursday 21st: Den Fenella, Undercliff Walk, Rocket Point.

Meet at Park, at corner of the Highway and Falls Rd at 10am.

Contact Bob Jones 588361.

### WALKING WITH MURPHY - continued

Several points from Noel May's contribution will appear in the next two Newsletters:-

The important track junction is on the map fold which is torn and water damaged.

A dry river crossing is always clearly visible from the far side of the wet crossing.

The pack with the "lifetime guarantee" has a short lifetime.

"Lifetime guarantees" always expire in the middle of a walk.

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### Membership / Renewal Form

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Family \$15 per year

Single \$10 " "

Pensioner Family \$10 " "

Single Pensioner \$6 " "

Membership corresponds to the year April 1993 to 31 March 1994 Please enclose  
stamped addressed envelope if a receipt is required.