



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

No. 96  
July 1994

PO BOX 29  
Wentworth Falls  
NSW 2782

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Lawson 2783  
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## TOPICS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- July 29 Mr Dick Turner will (at last) speak  
and show slides of the Regent  
Honey-eater
- August 26 Mr Jim Smith will talk about Blue  
Mountains maps, old and new.
- September 30 Mr Danny Wotherspoon will talk and  
show slides of Rare and Endangered  
Frogs of the Blue Mountains.  
Note: Frog Week is the first  
week of November

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

## OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S CORNER

Welcome to these new members:

R. and A. Hans	Diana Jones	Mrs M.N. Lampman	Julie Knattress
Susan Craig	J. and J. Koyds	Mrs H. Mollenhauer	J. and B.B. Adam
Mrs Rita Schumann	Sandra Browne	Bill Hanson	Markita Haninger

Membership Secretary is Mrs Judy Perfoglia (047) 84 3232

New Publicity Officer:

Mr Colin Williams readily agreed to take this position. His phone number  
is (047) 84 1899.



Christmas is only 6 months away. So start making things for  
the TRADING TABLE - lots of nice new things are required.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER Dalcie Toxeland is the official collector  
for goodies to stock this. Raffle tickets will be available soon.

**SICK MEMBERS:** It is good to see John Noble and Reg Baumgarten getting  
around again.

**DEATH:** Mr Len Symes, a valued member of the past, died in May. Look  
over the page for a tribute to him.

OBITUARY  
MR LEN SYMES

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It is sad to record the death on May 16th 1994 of Mr Len Symes, who, due to failing health, left Wentworth Falls some years ago to be near one of his daughters.

Len will be remembered for his friendliness, ready laugh, and his joy in sharing his knowledge with its wide variety of interesting and particularly exotics. Many a Blue Mountains charity benefitted on 'Gardens Open for Inspection' days.

Members of our Society have a special <sup>reason</sup> for remembering Len. After consulting his family, he generously offered to donate a portion of his land on Water Nymph's Dell catchment to the Lands Department for environmental protection, on condition that the Department added their adjoining land, which extended to Glenview Road. The Department was very co-operative and this was achieved.

The Society then bought an adjoining block (Lot 39 DP8699) facing Taylor Avenue, with money from the Land Preservation Fund. This is now 'Open Space'.

So Len's initiative has led to over three acres of precious Water Nymph's Dell catchment being protected from development. We remember him with affection and gratitude.

STOP PRESS!

Wonderful news!

Judy Perfoglia has followed up advice that the Blue Mountains City Council might have bought the other low-lying blocks adjoining Lot 39 (our block), and BMCC has confirmed this. This area is now Regional Open Space. And what's more, Council is investigating the possibility of protecting more land in the Water Nymph's Dell catchment.

Contributed by Winsome Gregory

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SOCIETY REPORTS

April Meeting: Joan Haeden and Leigh Taylor spoke at short notice at this meeting, a very lively pair who dovetailed each other's stories as though they knew each other's thoughts. They are conducting a 5 year study of the flora and fauna of the Bonnie Doon area between Katoomba and Medlow Bath, where the escarpment dips down to Nellies Glen. This is in the migration path of many birds.

Their methods include rising at dawn to capture birds for banding, examination and weighing. The birds are captured in very fine nets and released unharmed shortly afterwards. They also catch little animals in their hair tubes and Elliott traps, record their findings and release the animals. The third method, which is very popular with local children, is spotlighting.

Their research has identified rare plants, including *Microscopus fitzgeraldi* and *Phebalium lachenoides*. They are also conducting experiments on the biological control of broom which is growing in the old quarry near the highway. They record the weather and test the water in the two streams. AND they go to the local schools to teach the children to care for our environment.

---

At this meeting we were pleased to hear that the Government has given a grant for the completion of the Grand Clifftop Walk.

May Meeting: The advertised speaker, Ms Merl Thompson, told us all she had been able to research about George Caley, one of the pioneers involved in exploring for a way across the Blue Mountains, and also a botanist. A man who has not received much mention or credit for his work.

June 24

Speaker: Cath Ireland of National Parks and Wildlife Services.

Although it was a cold and windy night there was a good roll-up, and the Hut was warm. However our hearts were chilled as Cath Ireland sent around a large, strong bag in which was a sinister enemy of our environment, a horrible prickly gorse bush. This poses an even greater threat than the Scotch broom and is invading the Grose Valley. Cath had come to recruit an army to do battle against this invader. The information sheet is next. Members are already rallying. Colin Williams, 84 1899, is your contact for the arrangements of our Society, or go direct to Cath.

COME FOR ALL OR SOME OF IT!

GREAT GROSE GORSE WALK  
13 - 20 August 1994

What we're trying to achieve

The noxious Scotch broom and gorse need to be surveyed and mapped along the length of the Grose River.

Scattered plants need to be removed.

How we plan to do it

Senior Ranger, Ian Brown, veteran of many expeditions, will be assisting by planning logistics such as food drops along the way to lighten our load.

Already lots of interest has been shown. We plan to have three groups, to cater for the different interests expressed.

Group 1 WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE START.

They will be mapping and intensively attending to the numerous weed plants between Junction Rock and some kilometres down the Grose from Blue Gum Forest. (Two to three days)

Group 2 WILL BE SUPER WALKERS and surveyors striding out and mapping infestations all the way along, and removing scattered plants. (5 days)

Group 3 will join us for the FINISH! Mapping and removing the noxious weeds. (2 to 3 days)

People nominating will need their own bushwalking and camping equipment and food, and should have previous experience and fitness relevant to the activity they wish to join.

It should be great! Please fill in the form and return as soon as possible. We plan to have a pre-trip briefing to sort us into our 'gear-carrying groups' etc.

.....  
GREAT GROSE GORSE WALK

Name  
Address

Phone  
Fax

I am interested in Group 1 ☐ Group 2 ☐ Group 3 ☐ Unsure ☐

Time I have available:

I have small hand tools suitable for weed removal .....

I have bush regeneration experience .....

I am good at mapping, navigation .....

I am trained in first aid .....

Please return as soon as possible to Cath Ireland/Ian Brown  
NPWS, PO Box 43, Blackheath 2785

June 10th.

CONSERVATION COLLECTION OPENED AT KATOOMBA LIBRARY

About 30 of our members were delighted to be involved in the opening of the Conservation Collection of over 200 books, the result of a donation of \$3,000 from the Society. Blue Mountains City Councillor general manager, Mr David Lewis, officially opened the section, and the head librarian, Mr John Merriman, congratulated library staff Judith Hansen, Carolyn Aubrey and Samantha Watson for their work in selecting the books and providing the morning tea.

Our President, Mr Thor Scache, replied, and gave credit to Robin Corringham whose idea it all was. We wished she could have been there to share in the sense of pleasure and achievement. But she has now moved away from the mountains. The work of the Native Plant Nursery, which raised the money, continues, under the leadership of David Coleby.



There may be members who would like to have a part in the Library Collection. It is planned to include a children's section, and if anyone would like to donate a book, please get in touch with our secretary (correspondence) Mrs Muriel Healey, through the PO Box number on the cover.

We have a list of the books in the Conservation Collection, but there is not room in this Newsletter to print them. Perhaps in the next one if you are interested. However you can phone me if you want a copy. (Editor)

A copy of the letter from the Reference Librarian is included below.

City of Blue Mountains Library  
Macquarie Road  
SPRINGWOOD NSW 2777

Newsletter Secretary  
Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
'Felcot'  
Adelaide Street  
LAWSON NSW 2783

17th June 1994

Dear Grace Bayley,

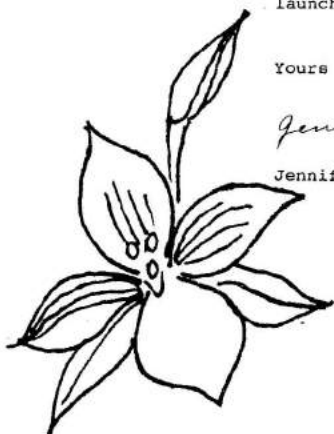
It gives me great pleasure to enclose a booklist of the entire Conservation Collection, shelved at Katoomba Branch Library, which was purchased in accordance with the Society's most generous donation of \$3,000.00. The monies have now been expended. Five books are still on order (and are noted on the booklist), and any extra funds needed to cover their cost will be met by the Library.

Your Society's donation was a wonderful gesture of support for the Library's role in information provision to the community at large. It has been greatly appreciated by all members of the Library staff. We very much enjoyed the chance to meet some Society members at the launch on June 10th.

Yours sincerely,

*Jennifer Burrell*

Jennifer Burrell, Reference Librarian.



## WALKS REPORTS

Thursday 19 May. Bonnie Doon

This was a cold, grey, windy, almost snowy day, but 24 people rugged up to the ears turned up. Perhaps it was because Joan and Leigh, the Bonnie Doon researchers, had promised to come and share their discoveries on the spot. They were as good as their word and certainly added to the value of the expedition.

Grace

Saturday 16 April. Gardeners Gap

Gardeners Gap is in the Ben Bullen State Forest. After we left the cars when the road had become rather objectionable even for the 4WD variety we followed it, walking for quite a distance along the Gap between two lines of pagodas, marked with numerous rock slides. Leaving the track we began to climb the pagodas on our right, noting the many long deep cracks from activity for mines underneath them. After much viewing and scrambling up and down the heights we lunched on high.....

Sundry plants entertained us along the way; in particular one leptospermum with reddish new foliage and a spicy and slightly lemonish perfume when crushed. I knew I had encountered it before in Pagoda country but could not remember its name. Chasing leptospermum names from books later I had no luck. So I rang Keith Ingram on Mount Tomah and was rewarded. It was, he said, Leptospermum morrisonii, fairly recently named..... He also told me that it is used along the streets in Berrima for its attractive red foliage in a cold climate, and he has grown it from seed collected there.

Nella

21 April: Thursday Walk along Darwin's Walk - Rocket Point - Cliff walk to The Hut

On a glorious autumn day, 24 came on the walk.

At the entrance to Darwin's Walk the plaque giving information about Darwin has gone (?) and all but one of the discs mounted to tell of the area and birdlife around have disappeared. This plus the defacing of tracks made us very sad. However, our historian in the party gave us information re Darwin and other points of interest along the walk. Excerpts from Darwin's journal may be seen at the clock tower in Wentworth Falls Village.

The area along Jamison Creek was a favourite scouting haunt, as well as an area where children used to play and swim. Much silt caused by development has gathered along the creek and much of the hanging swamp has dried up. At Rocket Point a pair of yellow-tailed black cockatoos were sighted, and along the track, New Holland honeyeaters.

The Over/Undercliff walk was very soggy in parts and some repair and maintenance work is badly needed.

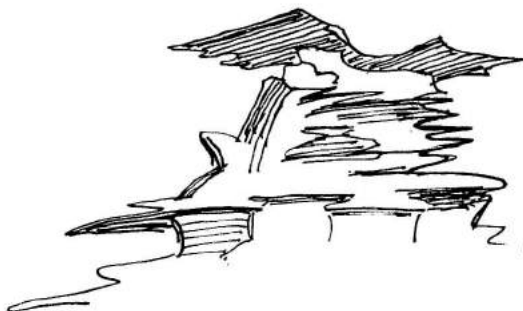
Dulcie

Thursday 16 June: Golf Links Lookout to Sublime Point via Cliff-top Walk

Fine sunny day with a good happy group. Morning tea at a flat rock where birdlife abounds. Track cuts out abruptly and unless one knows the bush track up to Carlton Crescent, it is 'about turn' and back the way you came. Maybe one day the track will be finished right through to Sublime Point. For now pick up track again at West Street and down to track at back of Sublime Point Road. Fabulous views and good track from then to Sublime Point where we had lunch. Not a long walk but very interesting with lots to see. (We had arranged for cars to be at Sublime Point)

Dulcie





#### Saturday 18 June : Pagoda Country

This walk was listed for Pierces Pass, but since it is closed due to the January fires, John and Olive Noble led us into Pagoda Country again. Thirteen people met in the freezing air at Mt Victoria, then drove along a barely discernable road in the Newnes forest and left the cars in a clearing.

We headed to the dress circle of pagoda rocks around Bungleboori Creek. There are dozens of them and they look like the castles of eccentric millionaires who want to be alone. Each castle is decorated with galleries, windows, staircases, awnings, gargoyles, wings, towers, hats, umbrellas, frills - whatever the imagination can conjure from the weird rock formations.

The trip to this wonderland is always worth the bad roads and the rough climbing through trackless bush.

Grace

#### WINTER ENCOUNTERS

Many of us love to get out in the bush whatever the weather, and sometimes we are enchanted to meet an antechinus or a lizard. If the day is cloudy the birds seem to like to be out and about.

Walking in the Grand Canyon in June, some members saw many busy little thornbills and wrens, and one unafraid little bird which had them reaching for their bird identification books. It was identified as a white-browed scrub wren and came almost to our feet.

In Sassafras Gully, later in June, the same group saw a Powerful Owl who sat above the track gazing down at the up-turned faces until he could bear the sight no longer.

And, that day in Pagoda Country, what a concert we enjoyed from the near-by, but unseen, lyrebirds!  
Anon.

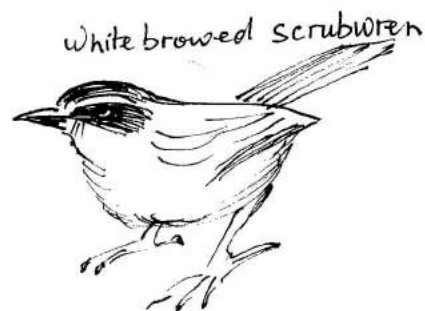
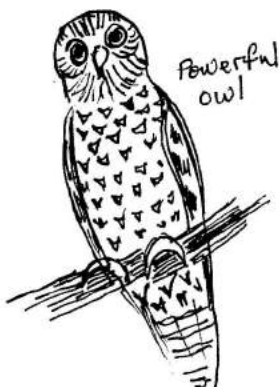
#### "FURGLING"

Whatever is that? It is a favourite pastime of the fairy wrens. These are popular, jaunty-tailed little superb blue wrens and are often seen in suburban gardens. The males wear bright blue mating plumage.

Furgling is an invented term to describe the wrens' habit of marriage theft. Marriage kleptomania, if you like.

The wren families are very co-operative in rearing their families, taking turns in the nests of cousins and friends. And they don't seem to mind about the furgling. The male wrens in any group will pluck a bright flower petal and go off to a neighbour's territory to mate with any unguarded female, then return to their own territory and devotedly look after their own nestlings. The petal seems to be a signal to the neighbours to turn their heads away and have a snooze for a minute or two.

Adapted from material supplied by David Thomas





#### A SAD STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING!

The day after the Bonnie Doon walk described on page 5 some of us were shocked to see this sign. Was all the good work done by Joan and Leigh of the Bonnie Doon Fauna Study to be wrecked?

The following report from the girls tells of the happy ending,

#### THE OLD BRICKWORKS SITE, KATOOMBA

As many of you are aware, the old brickworks site (just east of the Explorers Tree) was due to be auctioned on the 25th June. Many residents were surprised to see an auction sign appear at the site on the 20th May. This area is owned by the Dept. of Planning and had recently been approved for a trial of biological control of Scotch broom. Protection of this land is crucial to the Bonnie Doon catchment and in particular the pristine stream and rare plants which are found there.

The Minister for Planning and the Minister for the Environment, as well as the Department of Planning, were inundated with letters, faxes and phone calls from concerned individuals and groups. Form letters outlining the many points of concern began to circulate and several BMCC councillors were made aware of the situation. Barry Morris and Bob Debus also contacted the Dept of Planning concerning this matter.

After receiving detailed information from the Bonnie Doon Fauna Study, representatives from the Dept. of Planning proposed a meeting on the site. Despite the extremely unpleasant weather conditions, considerable time was spent viewing the area and discussing the situation. The Department agreed that the land should be protected and it was withdrawn from sale the following day (8th June).

It was encouraging to hear of the many people who offered information to the relevant authorities and thus assisted them in making their decision to protect this beautiful catchment.

This land is now to be dedicated to Council for their care and management and rezoned accordingly.

BONNIE DOON FAUNA STUDY  
(047) 822218

#### .....

#### WHO WAS JOHN BUKI?

There is a memorial to him in the garden outside the Conservation Hut at Wentworth Falls, and some people have asked 'Who was he?'

He was born in Hungary in 1917 and after many adventures came to Australia and eventually came to Katoomba as a teacher. He became the first secretary of this Society in 1961. The meetings were held in borrowed rooms until John Buki saw the old derelict tearoom at the top of Valley of the Waters track and inspired the Society members to repair it as a home for their work and meetings. After months of hard work done voluntarily, this was achieved, and the old Hut became a beloved haven for bushwalkers until January 1990. NPWS pulled it down (it could hardly stand by then) and finally erected the beautiful building, known as the Conservation Hut but so much grander. We use this building for our monthly meetings and have office space upstairs, but we remember with affection the old Hut.

John Buki died in Sydney in May 1988. It is good to keep his memory alive.

.....

# AUDITORS REPORT.

I have examined the books and financial records of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Incorporated in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organisation and the result of its operations for the period of one year ended 28 February 1994 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

  
E.L. Goldsmith CPA

## UPPER BLUE MTNS CONSERV SCV INC TRADING STATEMENT For Year ended 28 February 1994

Sales	0.00	
Sales of Plants	11749.35	9292.90
Total Sales	11749.35	9292.90
LESS COST OF GOODS SOLD		
Opening Inventory	0.00	
Purchases	0.00	
Other Nursery Costs	4524.99	1185.57
Closing Inventory	4524.99	1185.57
Cost of Goods Sold	(4524.99)	
Gross Profit/(Loss)	7224.36	(1185.57)
	=====	=====
		8107.33
		=====

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE For Year ended 28 February 1994

### INCOME

Gross Profit/(Loss) b.f.	8107.33
Subscriptions	1839.50
Advertising Income	0.00
Donations	207.85
Investment Income	3295.49
Bank Interest	559.43
Seminars and Workshops	2904.70
Sundry Income	162.60
	-----
	17076.90

### LESS EXPENSES

Advertising	583.83
Audit Fees	150.00
Bank Fees	58.99
Hut Expense and Functions	145.70
Depreciation	0.00
Donations	550.00
Electricity & Gas	0.00
Fees and Licences	0.00
Freight & Cartage	0.00
Function Costs	0.00
Filing Fees	20.00
Grants	11000.00
Insurance	551.86
Licencing Fees	0.00
Loss Disposal Fixed Assets	0.00
Newsletter Costs	445.56
Petty Cash Expense	0.00
Postage	49.00
Seminars and Workshops	4065.00
Telephone, Printing/Stationery	174.50
Rent	0.00
Subscriptions	190.00
	-----
Total Expenses	17984.44
	-----
Surplus/(Deficiency) for year	(907.54)



BALANCE SHEET  
As at 28 February 1994

CURRENT ASSETS

0.00	NAB General Account	0.00
110.00	Cash on Hand	110.00
0.00	NAB Savings 9251	0.00
0.00	NAB Savings 4472	0.00
12215.00	NAB Cash Management 2816	12566.92
2880.91	NAB Flexible 5764	7141.99
903.16	Accrued Income	834.75
295.64	Bonds and Deposits	295.64
85.50	Accounts Receivable	0.00
58.55	Accrued Income	0.00
16548.76	Total Current Assets	20949.30

NON CURRENT ASSETS

0.00	Plant & Equipment	0.00
0.00	Less Accumulated Depreciation	0.00
0.00		0.00
100.00	Library	0.00
(100.00)	Less Accumulated Depreciation	0.00
0.00		0.00
50.00	Furniture & Fittings	0.00
(50.00)	Less Accumulated Depreciation	0.00
0.00		0.00
231.00	Floor Covering	0.00
(231.00)	Less Accumulated Depreciation	0.00
0.00		0.00
0.00	Total Non Current Assets	0.00

INVESTMENTS

0.00	IBD 9839	0.00
40941.15	IBD 5869	43083.21
0.00	IBD 5754	0.00
23618.45	IBD 3633	24838.31
64559.60	Total Investments	67921.52

81108.36 Total Assets

88870.82

CURRENT LIABILITIES

0.00	Accounts Payable	0.00
30.00	Accrued Expense	0.00
254.00	Subscriptions in Advance	154.00
200.00	Prepaid Income	9000.00
0.00	Suspense	0.00
484.00	Total Current Liabilities	9154.00
484.00	Total Liabilities	9154.00
80624.36	Net Assets/(Liabilities)	79716.82

UPPER BLUE MTNS CONSERV SCY INC  
PROFIT AND LOSS APPROPRIATION  
For Year ended 28 February 1994

70636.94	Accumulated Surpluses b.f.	80624.36
9987.42	Surplus/(Defic) Transferred	(907.54)
80624.36	Accumulated Surpluses c.f.	79716.82

EXCURSION PROGRAMME

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members carry at least 1 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 might be altered. Walks starting times and meeting places will remain as stated.

August

Sunday 7th

Dry Canyons

Meet Mt Victoria Station carpark at 8.30am

Contact: Olive Noble 87 8342

Thursday 18th

Walls Cave

Meet Blackheath Station commuter carpark at 9.30am

Contact: Grace Bayley 59 1955

Saturday 20th

Carne Gorge Overview

Meet Mt Victoria Station carpark at 8.30am

Contact: John Noble 87 8342

September

Sunday 4th

Fortress Ridge

Meet corner Mt Hay Rd. and G.W.Highway at 9 am

Contact: Len Baxter 87 7312

Thursday 15th

Dante's Glen

Meet Bowling Club carpark, Lawson at 9.30 (north side of station)

Contact: Bob Jones 58 8361

Saturday 17th

Wall's Pass - long flat walk

Meet Katoomba Station near Gearin's Hotel at 8.30

Contact: June Baxter 87 7312

October

Sunday 2nd

Slack's Stairs and Valley of the Waters

Meet at the Conservation Hut at 9 am

Contact: David Thomas 84 2121

Saturday 15th

South Woodford Exploratory walk

Meet Woodford Station at 9.30 am

Contact: Joel Russell 58 8676

Thursday 20th

Springtime Bird Walk with Graham Alcorn

Meet Blackheath Station commuter carpark at 9.30

Contact: Ruth Milton 57 3584





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Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletter

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July 1994

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ~~ARE~~<sup>WERE</sup> DUE ON MARCH 1st 1994

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY. P.O.Box 29, Wentworth Falls. 2782

**Membership / Renewal Form (1st March 1994 - 28th Feb 1995)**

Name.....	Family	\$15	per year
Address.....	Single	\$10	" "
.....	Pensioner Family	\$10	" "
.....	Single Pensioner	\$6	" "

Half fee applies for new membership from 1st September. If a receipt is required please forward stamped self-addressed envelope.

== II ==