



Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People Inc

Newsletter

No. 97
October 1994

P.O. BOX 29
WENTWORTH FALLS
N.S.W. 2782

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(047) 57 3272
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(047) 59 1955

Society meetings are held in the Conservation Hut at the end of Fletcher St. Wentworth Falls, on the last Friday of each month.

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TOPICS FOR THIS QUARTER

October 28: Joan Haeden, Leigh Taylor
Bonnie Doon Study Report No. 2

November 25: Andy Macqueen
"Barrallier, Blue Mountains Explorer"

December: No Friday night meeting.
Christmas get-together on Sunday 4th at 10am.

January 27, 1995: Dick Turner
"Mistletoe"

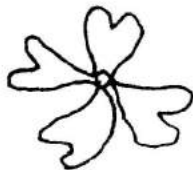
OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S CORNER

(Mrs Judy Ferfaglia (047) 84 3232)

Welcome to these new members!

Mr and Mrs L. Evans, Leura; Mrs Joia Thornton, Leura; Blue Mountains Historical Society; Rev. K.N. and Mrs Grisdale, Wentworth Falls; Mrs Vivian Hunter, Lithgow; Mr and Mrs J. Burgess, Beverley Park; Mr J. Maurice Gilder, Hazelbrook; J. Flux, Bondi; Laurie and Carol Abigail; Gregg Borschmann and Mrs Penny Henderson, Blackheath.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Saturday, 22 October. Native Plant Sale at the Hut, commencing 9am. There will also be a gift table at the plant sale, and members are asked to bring gifts suitable for Christmas for sale. A beautiful hand-crafted cushion will be raffled and tickets will be available at the Gift Table. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas party in December.



Sunday, December 4: 10am. Christmas get-together at The Hut. Gift table. Lunch together.

Friday, April 28 1995: This will be the Annual General Meeting. Please note that the month has been changed from the customary March. The reason is that it is impossible to have the financial statement audited before then.

MEETING REPORTS

July 29

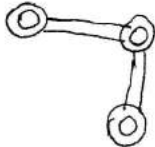


There was a good roll-up of members to hear Mr Dick Turner speak about the Regent Honey-eater. After a career as a forestry consultant Mr Turner is now devoted to preserving this bird from extinction. There are only about 1,000 birds of this family left and their plight is due to loss of the flowering trees due to overclearing. A committee has been formed to plant the trees which provide food for these birds, to research their preferred trees and habits, the best conservation sites, and to contact sympathetic landowners about planting trees. The committee will also work at raising money for the project.

Capertee Valley has been found to be a good habitat, and every month volunteers plant trees there. In one year 4,700 trees of the type beloved by honey-eaters have already been planted by over 100 volunteers from various societies and clubs.

The yellow box tree seems to be one of their favourites. The birds are beautifully coloured but well-camouflaged in the trees. September is the best time to see them.

August 26:



There was a full house to hear Jim Smith talk on maps, old and new. He demonstrated that Aborigines were the first map makers and their maps showed the waterholes and tracks. The Blue Mountains were as important to them spiritually as Uluru and other nerve centres. The special features on their maps of the Blue Mountains can be tied to our current maps.

Maps differ with needs: eg rock climbers, Water Board, town planners, tourist walking tracks. Ecclestone Du Faur produced the first tourist map in 1875, showing only four walking tracks. The Lands Department produced one showing pathways of Leura Falls in 1894. This has tiny illustrations of seats and shelters and shows a dining hall deep in Leura Forest! In 1915a map of Wentworth Falls walking tracks was produced, the densest network of walking tracks in the world. These tracks (or many of them) are being allowed to disappear now.

Jim spoke of maps of Bruce's Walk, Hydro Majestic private walks and of his own map of Lindeman Pass. Illustrated maps include those of Jamieson Valley illustrated by Liz McAlpine, and the large picture map of Lawson made by the residents, now housed in the Mid-Mountains Community Centre.

It is Jim's dream to link all walking tracks across Australia. It is possible now to walk from Katoomba to Cooktown or south to Melbourne. All present were presented with a free copy of "the most important of all Blue Mountain maps" which proved to be based on Aboriginal concepts.

September 30

Danny Wotherspoon spoke about frogs of the Blue Mountains, the little creatures whose evening serenade is being silenced by "progress". Danny has good pictures and a colourful turn of speech, and he can mimic his froggy friends with uncanny bonks, clicks and gargles. Frogs are not just pretty faces but are important to human welfare. Research is beginning to show that their secretions can relieve pain better than morphia can and with no addiction, cure warts, and yield a super-glue which will be useful in surgery, and overcome golden staph infections. We should do all in our power to protect them.

"Ask not for whom the frog croaks
It croaks for thee."

REPORTS

Plant Nursery News

First things first: there will be a sale of our native plants at the Hut in Wentworth Falls on Saturday 22 October 1994. The sale will begin at approximately 9 am, and past experience shows that it will be all over by noon, either through lack of customers or lack of plants, or both!

This will be the last occasion when we have a sale of this nature at the Hut, because we are now encouraging members to come to the Blackheath nursery to make their purchases.

For those of you who don't know where the nursery is, it's part of the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Heritage Centre in Govett's Leap Road. Go as far as the roundabout and turn hard left to the workshop area. About 200 metres down that service road you will find the NPWS compound, and the UBMCS nursery is through the gate, dead ahead.

Come along on any Tuesday morning between 9 am and noon, see how we operate, buy your plants and, better still, lend a hand! It's all voluntary work and we always welcome keen gardeners and others who don't mind getting their hands dirty.

The prices we charge for the plants at the nursery will be the same as those at the plant sale at the Hut: \$2 for small pots and \$4 for others.

We have made this decision for several reasons: it's a lot of work transporting the plants to and from plant sales at the Hut, it costs a lot to advertise the sales properly, it happens only twice a year, and the plants suffer in travel.

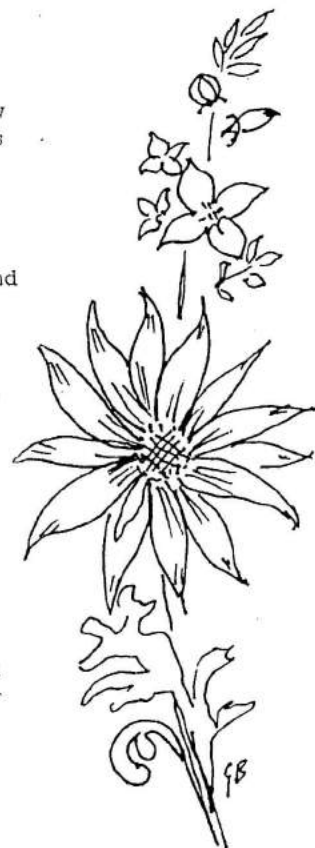
So, for 51 weeks in the year (the exception is Christmas week), come to the nursery on a Tuesday, meet your hardworking fellow Members, and see the lot! We have morning tea at 10.30 am, so don't forget your own thermos of tea (or whatever) if you would care to join us.

Other nursery news is that we are beginning to get more interest from Bushcare groups: we look forward to contracts with them for us to grow their seeds into plants that they can use for bush regeneration. We already have a contract to grow 500 plants for Minne Ha Ha, and we have hopes for similar arrangements with Bushcare groups representing Pope's Glen, Fairy Dell and Elso Mitchell Park.

In the meantime we are at last coming within sight of the end of our first contract with the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) to supply over 5000 plants as part of the revegetation of the Woodford Bends. The contract was due for completion last October (1993), but changes and delays have blown the timetable out of the water. Now it looks as though we might earn the remaining \$2000 or so of the contract, when the RTA has arranged for a contractor to take our plants and plant them at the Woodford Bends. We now expect that to occur in October, possibly even before you read this news.

The RTA have also intimated that they will need lots of natives (plants, that is) for their next project, at Warrimoo.... it could be a real money spinner if your Society gets even part of that contract!

Oh, and by the way, we don't just have local natives at the nursery. A few of the plants come from other parts of NSW, and some even from other parts of Australia.



We also have for sale three of the appropriate fertilisers for your native plants. They are all packed in plastic containers similar to a 500 gm Margarine container, and we charge only \$3 each.

And finally, it was very gratifying to get a letter of commendation and thanks from your Board of Management for all the effort we have put into making the nursery a paying proposition. So, on behalf of the "regulars", Joyce Bristow, Joan Storey, Norman and Noreen Skellem, and Jill Gorrie (plus others whom we welcome from time to time), we invite you to visit us soon.

David Coleby, Manager, UBMCS Nursery (84 1395)

NB: Any members who are unable to visit the Nursery and would like plants are invited to ring and order them. They will be brought to the Friday night meeting. Ring the Heritage Centre 87 8877, or David Coleby direct.

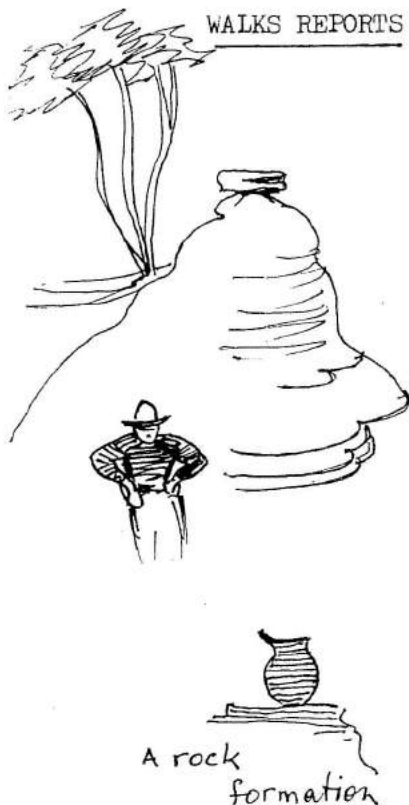
The Land Purchase Saga

Land Use Committee: This important branch of our Society has been building up funds in the hope of finding an environmentally important piece of land for sale, and so far have not been able to meet the price. At last there is good news to share. A 23 hectare parcel of land at Kanangra Boyd National Park, which was privately owned, will now be purchased by NPWS because we offered our \$40,000 towards the price. The land is about 35 km from Oberon, 5 Parish Konangaroo, County Westmoreland.

In a letter to the Society, National Parks and Wildlife Services says:

"The Service is very appreciative of the Society's contribution and will be happy to recognise this at the site, and to arrange a tour of inspection when the property is acquired."

WALKS REPORTS



TEMPLES OF DOOM - Saturday July 16

A group of twenty six walkers found no evidence of doom on this walk, even though some of the temples have new and wide cracks as a result of large scale mining going on underneath.

Dry creek was indeed very dry as it was all over the plateau. After morning tea there we traversed many a dry gorge and saw many beautiful temple-like rock formations. This resulted in an extended discussion on the causes of different rates of sea and wind erosion over many thousands of years. Walkers vied with one another in naming wierd and dramatic shapes carved from rock. In places there was strong evidence of feral pigs where holes had been dug in their search for food.

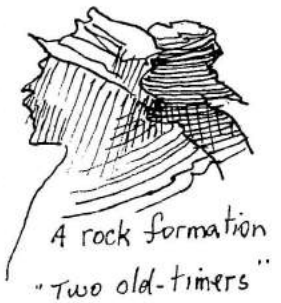
Lunch was taken on a large rock overlooking the wonderful Wolgan Valley. Here Betty cheered evryone by having a birthday and accepting a few kind words and a little gift, a happy birthday song and a small kiss. This must have stimulated the lyre birds who entertained us during the next part of the walk. At one stage there were five birds singing. One could have called it an Eisteddford of Lyre Birds.

Through the afternoon we walked through fairly large stands of grey gum, Eucalyptus Punctata. We noticed many claw marks on the trunks, some of which could have been caused by the mountain brushtail possum (Trichosaurus Caninus) or even koala. Also there were many signs of wombats and wallaroos.

M.H.

Conservation Society Walk to Carne Gorge Overview.

On 20th August 24 keen people turned up to walk to the Carne Gorge Overview. We met at Mt. Victoria Station and drove along dirt roads to the start of the walk. We walked out to the escarpment and looked down into the Carne Gorge, with the Carne Creek just a tiny broken ribbon of water far below. We followed the escarpment south-west until we came to a friendly Pagoda for morning tea. We continued our walk up and down, climbing various pagodas, we saw the uncommon *Acacia asparagoides* flowering near one of the pagodas. We followed an old logging track and reached more pagodas, where we had lunch, after which we walked up the track to the dirt road back to the cars. We decided to explore more pagodas in the area and see different views into the Carne Gorge so turned due west and got another aspect from the tops of some of the pagodas. It was an interesting walk and well worth the long drive. The day was over-cast and it started to drizzle with rain as we reached the Bird Rock Trig. so we decided not to stop as there would be no views, another time perhaps.



C.N.

Dry Canyons: 7 August 1994

A walk into Wonderland, blindly following Olive and John Noble, too much to see to concentrate on direction.

Along dry canyons - in these dry times there is not a drop of moisture. A canyon as wide as a road, flat floor covered with ferns, tall pagodas either side, their sheltered walls decorated with masses of ferns, lichens, mosses and orchids, and on ledges, gardens of *Dracophyllum*, *Leptospermum*, *Epacris reclinata* laden with flowers.

A narrow canyon, also quite dry. Imagine the water racing through after rain! In the open - beautiful banksias covered with seeds, a few new flowers which were green (*Banksia conferta*), tall old gums towering over the pagodas.

To the top of a pagoda, brittle ironstone ledges between layers of sandstone, for a view of the Wolgan Valley, the Wolgan River snaking through it. Around another pagoda and through a gully where there are rainforest trees and tall treeferns, and into a canyon where we have glimpses of sunlight far above, between sandstone walls curving and bending above us, showing the outer walls of potholes formed as the creek cuts its way down. There we saw rock warblers and lyrebird droppings.

Then through another gully of treeferns, loitering behind, exploring little side-gullies and rocky caverns, admiring tall trees and ferns and sandstone cliffs reflecting gold and red in the sunlight. We found a yellow robin's nest at shoulder level, a tiny cup decorated with strips of bark.

We turned another corner - and we were back at the cars! Olive and John, please map it!

C.D.

JOHN BUKI STORY.

THERE IS NOW INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FOUNDER
OF OUR BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY IN THE
FOYER ENTRANCE TO THE "HUT".

A PAGE OF POETRY

The following poem was written, tongue in cheek, by Mr Alan Scott of Balmoral Village, Picton. He was delighted to give permission for us to use it. It was first printed in "The Cornstalk Gazette".

Greenies

A nonflammable hazard reduction song
Tune: Lights of Cobb & Co

It's not the burning summer sun or dry Northwesterly,
It's not the blazin months, long drought or low humidity,
It's not the record temperature nor lack of summer rain -
Make no mistake, I tell you mate, the Greenies are to blame.

Chorus:

The Greenies are to blame, no doubt, the Greenies are to blame,
They're the only reason half the state went up in flames,
Those bloody Parks and Wildlife, they're all the bloody same -
Can't you see, we all agree the Greenies are to blame

You'll hear on talk-back radio, you'll read it in the press,
The Greenies caused this trouble with their so-called wilderness
Refusing to cooperate with the woodchip industry,
Instead of burning firebreaks they're out there planting trees
Chorus

I'm a four-wheel-drive enthusiast. I think the bush is beaut,
I might run over wombats and the occasional bandicoot,
Sometimes I leave the campfire with the embers still aglow,
But now I'm telling you mate what you already know.

Chorus

Fire fighters come from interstate to show us how it's done,
They talk about Ash Wednesday and of battles fought and won,
They criticise our expertise but we're very glad they came,
They join with us in saying that the Greenies are to blame.

Chorus

These desperate conditions will return I have no doubt,
And sometime in the future more bushfires will break out,
As long as bush and climate follow nature's law,
But I hope next time they lay the crime at someone else's door.

WARRAGAMBA

If you were at the August meeting you'll remember we had some members of the Kowmung Committee there to enlist our support to save the Kowmung and other wild rivers and valleys from the effect of the proposed raising of the wall of Warragamba Dam. Denis Kevans, our "Poet Lorrikeit" convulsed us with his poem in praise of concrete. There isn't room to print it all. It was great to hear him recite it and the print doesn't do it justice.

Excerpts from Warra-da-Gamba -- the concreto is a-bewtyful!

Now, you want more concreto in the Blue Mountains,
The Blue Mountains is very rough, it's very rough,
All the mountains are crooked, they are very rough.
People get eye-strain when they're looking at all
The crooked corners, you've got to get everything square.....

----- The concreto is a-bewtyful, and
Every river in the mountains can be full of concreto,
Can run very smooth, right down to the Warra Da Gamba.

Listen, I told you before, all those rivers they stink,
The Grosse, that's a pooey, you've got to put the concreto,
The concreto is a-bewtyful. The Cox's, that's a filthy word,
You've got to fix that up, the Cox's, you know that's a real
Pornography, Cox's, filthy; the Coudung, it's a stinky river,
It's a pooey, we've got to put more concrete on, and make
Everything square and even, and have no more problems.

Now all those cliffs in the mountains can be squared
Off with concreto, with a beautiful finish, all those
Cracks in the cliff can be filled in, all those ugly cracks,
And that golden colour which is sodisgusting, can be
Covered with the bewtyful concreto, which has so many bewtyful
Colours, grey grey, greygreygrey, greywhite, white grey,
White white grey, grey grey white.....is a-bewtyful!

Denis Kevans

The Kowmung Committee
GPO Box 2090
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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.

***** Due to bushfires and other circumstances the walk scheduled for
SATURDAY 15 th October
HAS BEEN CHANGED.

It will now be an exploratory walk on King's Tableland. Meet at 9.30am
at Wentworth Falls. Contact Christine Davies on (047) 877246

OCTOBER Springtime Bird Walk with Graham Alcorn
Thurs. 20th Meet Blackheath Station commuter carpark at 9.30
Contact: Ruth Milton (047) 57 3584

NOVEMBER
Sunday 6 Mount Wilson exploratory walk - October Creek area
Meet 8.30 am Mt Victoria carpark at station
Contact Christine Davies (047) 87 7246

Thurs 17 Henry Lawson Walk (short) and then (BYO) lunch and garden
inspection at the home of Rachel Makinson
Meet Mt. Victoria station 10am
Contact: Christine Davies on (047) 877246

Sat. 19 Belltrees. Meet at Mt Victoria station at 10am.
Belltrees is 10 years old and birthday celebrations will
begin at 3pm with a picnic afternoon tea, walks and live
music. We are invited to stay on for the celebrations.
A small donation, say \$2 per person, would be welcome.
Contact: Bert Davies (047) 58 8586

DECEMBER
Sunday 4. Christmas party at the Valley of the Waters Reserve. Bring
lunch or buy at The Hut. There will be a short walk before
lunch. Do some shopping at the "Bring-and-Buy" table.
Plants from the Nursery will also be on sale and our great
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE will be drawn.
Contact: David Thomas on (047) 84 2121

Thurs. 15 Castle Head
Meet on Cliff Drive near Narrow Neck at 10 am
Contact: John Gibbs on (047) 82 3931. (John needs a lift)

Sat. 17 Wolgan Pinnacle : Long dirt road drive with beautiful
walk at the end. Meet Mt. Victoria station at 8.30 am.
Contact Olive Noble (047) 87 8342

JANUARY '95
Sunday 1 Celebrate the New Year at Wollangambe River, Mt Wilson
Good swimming holes if you need a hangover cure.
Bring a plate of food to share. Meet 9am at Mt. Victoria
Station. Contact: June and Len Baxter (047) 87 7312

Thurs 19 The Gorge, Waratah Native Gardens, east of Mt Tomah
Meet Mt. Victoria station at 10am.
Contact: Grace Bayley (047) 591955

Saturday 21 Mystery Walk. Wet feet guaranteed! Bring spare shoes.
Meet Mt Victoria Station at 8.30am. John Noble (047) 878342



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~~January~~ 1994 OCT

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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.