



Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People

Newsletter

No 100
July 1995

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

President: Mr Thor Schache
(047) 57 3272

Editor: Mrs Grace Bayley
(047) 59 1955

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.

PROGRAMME

July 28 Peter Smith: 'Birds of the Blue Mountains'

Aug 25 Ernst Holland: Activities of the Jenolan Caves Trust

Sep 29 Members' Night

This will be your chance to
Show your favourite slides
Show your favourite movie
Or practice your public speaking



I am looking for a few members to speak for a maximum of 15 minutes each, on their favourite conservation topic. This will replace the usual guest speaker slot. Our 35mm and overhead projectors are at your disposal. Please help to make this an entertaining evening. See me or phone me if you are interested.

Colin Williams, Meeting Organiser
(047) 841899

Oct 27 Alan Lobb: 'Reptiles of the Blue Mountains'

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1994-1995

This has been, I believe, a satisfactory year. We have at last been able to help purchase the land at Kanangra Boyd with \$40,000 from our funds.

We have established a Conservation Reference Section in the Blue Mountains Library for adults, and will be doing the same for juniors at the cost of \$6,000.

None of this would have been possible without the sale of plants from our nursery.

With the help of Jim Smith we have one of the most comprehensive collections of Blue Mountains plants filed and catalogued and available to those who are unsure of the name of a plant.

We have inspected many of the developments taking place in the Mountains, and have where appropriate submitted an assessment of the conservation value - or damage that would occur if the proper precautions were not taken.

Our participation in the Clean-up Australia campaign has been acknowledged - although we had expected many more to take part.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those who regularly give their time to make our objectives possible -

The secretaries and treasurer, the publicity officer, the Newsletter helpers, the supper people, the Nursery workers, the committee members, and the older members whose efforts laid the foundation for the gains we are now achieving.

Your committee is looking forward to another year of successfully achieving your wishes.

Thor Schache President

*See inside for a
report of the bus-
trip to Kanangra
Boyd National Park.*

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
For Year ended 28 February 1995

INCOME	
Gross Profit/(Loss) b.f.	14337.90
Subscriptions	1832.50
Advertising Income	60.00
Donations	148.00
Investment Income	3396.34
Bank Interest	621.71
Seminars and Functions	471.75
Sundry Income	0.00
	20868.20

LESS EXPENSES	
Advertising	375.25
Audit Fees	175.00
Bank Fees	123.40
Hut Expense and Functions	131.60
Depreciation	596.00
Donations	50.00
Piling Fees	30.00
General Expense	39.95
Grants	40000.00
Insurance	825.68
Newsletter Costs	564.30
Postage	125.45
Seminars and Workshops	50.00
Telephone, Printing/Stationery	118.45
Subscriptions	215.50
Total Expenses	43420.58

(907.54) Surplus/(Deficiency) for year (22552.38)

John Trean

TRADING STATEMENT
For Year ended 28 February 1995

9292.90	Sales of Plants	16001.00
9292.90	Total Sales	16001.00
	LESS COST OF GOODS SOLD	
1185.57	Nursery Costs	1663.10
1185.57		1663.10
(1185.57)	Cost of Goods Sold	(1663.10)
8107.33	Gross Profit/(Loss)	14337.90

John Trean

E. L. GOLDSMITH

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

AUDITORS REPORT

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

16 March 1995

3 WARNE STREET
KATOOMBIA NSW 2760
P.O. BOX 250
TEL: (0677) 82 2109
82 2543 AH

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 1995 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

E.L. Goldsmith CPA

E.L. Goldsmith

OFFICERS FOR 1995/96

President	Thor Schache	(047) 573272
Vice Presidents	Lloyd Jones	" 572270
	Marion Hawley	"
Secretary	Les Coyne	" 573327
Treasurer	Gene Passoforo	" 825745
Newsletter	Grace Bayley	" 591955
Publicity	Colin Williams	" 841899
Plant Nursery	David Coleby	" 841395
Membership Sec	Linda Passoforo	" 825745
Walks Convener	Christine Davies	" 877246
Land Use	Vacant	

PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY!

At our June meeting an officer of National Parks and Wildlife Services asked our members to consider changing the meeting night from a Friday, because the restaurant would like to serve dinners on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday nights. Will you please state your wishes on this matter as soon as possible?

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are sorry to hear that our Judy Perfoglia, who was membership secretary for some years, is having a tough time with various illnesses. We hope she will soon feel better.

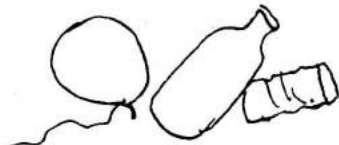
Another of our members, Mrs Olive Campbell, has died. We extend our sympathy to% her husband, who wishes to continue his membership with the Society.

Gary and Hilary Wersky are welcome as the new members for the last quarter.

Our new Membership Secretary, Linda, reports that there are 131 financial members and 61 who have not yet renewed their membership. If anyone has forgotten to do so, she would be glad to hear from you.

SNIPPETS FROM OUR MAIL

Waste Crisis Network



Their Newsletter reports on a constant battle against litter. A vigorous campaign to persuade the Government to introduce Container Deposit Legislation seems likely to succeed. But they point out that Clean-up Australia Days last about 24 hours, before rubbish returns.

Blue Mountains Rare and Endangered Species Group

Some dates you may be interested in: 29 July, Biodiversity Seminar, 2-5pm at the Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Rd, Blackheath.

Speakers include Peter Serov on invertebrates of The Blue Mountains, Ben Correy on the Kowmung River Biodiversity Walk, Lee Taylor and Joan Haeden on their work at Bonnie Doon, and Jan Allen on the Grose rare plants survey.

The seminar will be followed by a fundraising dinner at The Hattery at 7pm - three courses, vegetarians catered for. BYOG. Limit of diners is 40 so please book by 25 July. \$25 per head. Bookings Sue Morrison (047) 591932.

The Colong Bulletin They had an urgent appeal for bushwalkers and environmentalists to help save Wollemi National Park from a huge FERTILIZER PLANT. This is a threatening possibility near the outskirts of the wilderness and will endanger the waters of Grand Colo Gorge. For more information ring Tom McLoughlin, (02) 2678929.

Wentworth Falls. Threatened by Big Mac!



Do you want a McDonald's restaurant on Bodington Hill? If the thought upsets you, let the BMCC know or write to CORE, PO Box 280 Katoomba 2780

KANANGRA BOYD NATIONAL PARK

From a report by Thor Schache

On Saturday June 17 Society members were treated to a bus trip arranged by NPWS to witness the handing over and claiming of the land, for inclusion in the park, by Geoffery Luscombe and Lawrence Penman. The land area is about 24 hectares and had been used for grazing. It is in the centre of the National Park and the owner wished to sell it for tourist development. National Parks Services wished to keep it undeveloped and were able, with \$41,000 from our Society to help, to pay for the land. It was decided to mark the occasion by a small ceremony.

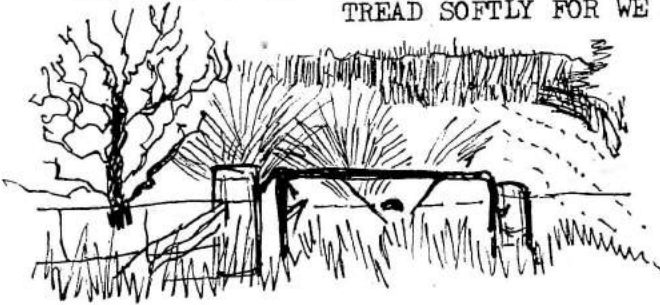
The trip to the land was full of interest, lots of snow, the bus was bogged and was rescued by a four-wheel drive vehicle 'just passing' by. Like a little tug pulling a large ship, it was cheered and clapped by our very cold group. We then proceeded to the area where the Jenolan Cave Bushfire Brigade had erected tents and prepared lunch. We all appreciated the warmth of the tent and the food prepared by the Culley family from their trailer, and served capably by their children. As the cook's trailer was the only heat available we all took turns in getting close to this warm oasis.

After lunch Geof Luscombe welcomed us and gave some of the history of the land we could see from our slope. He stressed that groups could work together and encouraged us to continue our work, and thanked us for our monetary donation. He then took possession of the land for National Park.

Thor and Reg responded with thanks to all who had helped. Grete Vanry was then asked to unveil the plaque which had been set in stone and was now covered with snow on a bush-walking symbol. Grete was one of the initiators many years ago of the policy to purchase important land threatened by development.

The plaque reads: 'Development in this portion of land within the park was averted with the assistance of the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Returning the land to its natural condition satisfies one of the Society's long-held goals.'

TREAD SOFTLY FOR WE ARE BUT PASSERS BY.



Editor's note

This sketch illustrates the present appearance of the land. National Parks people want it to be revegetated and our native plant nursery has been given seeds of the local flora to propagate. So we will have an even greater interest in a job well done.

.....

SPEAKERS

During the last quarter we have had speakers on three interesting subjects. In April Carol Probert spoke and showed slides about the lyrebird which is probably one of Australia's best-known birds, a world celebrity. They can learn and imitate almost any other birds and other sounds. They can also dance. One pet lyrebird learned to imitate a flute and taught the song to other birds, who sing it to this day. Carol played a recording of the lyrebirds' song.

In May a large crowd gathered to hear Win Jones speak and show pictures of the Wollemi Pine. And in June Camille McQueen charmed us all with her close-up movies of butterflies, geckos and moths, all posing on her finger. She must charm them too.

NEWS FROM BULLABURRA

The Red Gum Park Bush Care Group has recently produced a tourist map and brochure on Red Gum Park and district.

The map is intended to be a guide for bushwalkers and tourists and is the first of its kind produced specifically for the area of Bullaburra.

The brochure on the Red Gum Park covers the history of the park, a guide map to walking tracks, picnic area and points of interest found throughout the park. A page has been dedicated to illustrating the many points of interest, including sketches of Minnatonka Falls, hanging swamps, native flowers, birds and ferns.

The people of Bullaburra have a great respect and appreciation for Red Gum Park, and many residents have given a great deal of time and effort into bush regeneration, repairing and rebuilding of steps and building a footbridge across the Minnatonka Falls. The work is carried out monthly by these dedicated people and the Red Gum Park Bush Care Group.

Peace and tranquility is the main feature of Red Gum Park, and is there to be enjoyed by those who appreciate the native bush. All bush lovers are welcome to explore and enjoy the natural beauty Bullaburra has to offer.

Contributed by Val Atkins

President of Bullaburra Bush Care Committee

Editor's Note. These brochures and maps are available at the Conservation Hut. For further information contact Val at 29 Boronia Rd, Bullaburra, 2784

WALKS REPORTS

Packsaddlers to Tinpot
Saturday 20/5/95

Despite an adverse weather forecast sixteen intrepid walkers met at Blackheath at 9am to follow June and Len up the track to Tinpot Mountain. 'the easy way', as the notice in the Newsletter had stated. When we arrived at Carlon's both Green Gully and Galong Creeks were flowing strongly after recent rains, a pleasant sight indeed. We made our way up the steep road to the Carlon's Creek watershed and then strolled on the road along Ironpot Ridge in the direction of Cox's River. We stopped for morning tea and then continued walking in a leisurely fashion. Suddenly the call rang out: 'Up the mountain side!'

We started to clamber up what to most of us must have appeared a 90 degree wall, but definitely not less than 45 degrees. However, once on top we were all glad of our efforts for great beauty awaited us. The ridge leading to Tinpot Mountain consists of stretches of forests alternating with cliffs. These consist mainly of conglomerate rock of a type usually seen in our mountains only as small stones or intrusions in the sandstone. There were extensive stands of Rock Orchids (*Dendrobium speciosum*) and the further we progressed along the ridge the larger these stands became. In spring they will be a lovely sight.

In spots the ridge was only about 3 metres wide, but progress was easy. Everywhere there were signs of wombats.

Some deeply incised round rock holes along the track, one set of four cross-shaped, started a great conjecturing about how these holes could have originated, but as there were no geologists among us the problem remained unresolved.

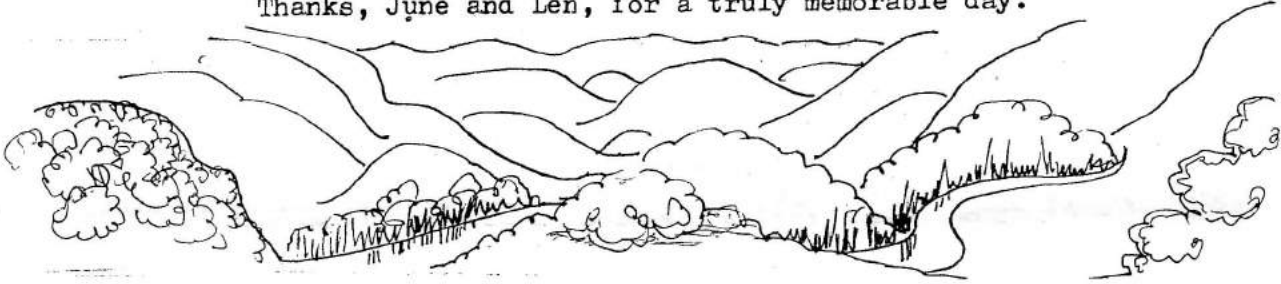
Numerous tool-sharpening grooves are situated on the ridge, a sign that Aborigines used to spend considerable time in these parts.

Some breathtaking views opened up towards north and northwest. Far below us long stretches of the Cox in full flow glistened in the sunshine. The Gibraltar Rocks were looming nearby, the Megalong and Kanimbla Valleys spreading before us, and hundreds of hills and mountains rising as far as the eye could see.

We settled down for lunch near the end of the track, the magnificent view below, the tool-sharpening grooves nearby. Basil's birthday had come again and was duly celebrated. Everyone enjoyed the marvellous surroundings in good company.

On the way back, besides the ubiquitous bellbirds, a lyrebird entertained us. The descent was much easier and we arrived back at Carlons none the worse for wear.

Thanks, June and Len, for a truly memorable day.



Report of Asgard Swamp Walk. Wednesday June 21

It was a very cold but sunny day, and thirteen walkers turned up for the first Wednesday walk. The one in May was washed out. The walk down the firetrail to Asgard Swamp was brisk and beautiful. It was warm and sheltered on the big terraced rock by the swamp, where we stopped for a warm drink and snack. Then Bob Jones led us in an anti-clockwise direction through blackened bush and brilliant new growth to high pagoda rock formations where we could see back to the swamp and to the sunlit gorges behind Blackheath.

Halfway round the circle we stopped at a large rock affectionately known as The Kiosk. On top of this we battled to keep our feet in the icy wind while we admired the view, but were glad to seek shelter lower down on the sunny balconies to drink our soup or whatever we had devised for warmth.

Then on back to the cars by an old indistinct track, seeing some grand views of the gorges behind Darling Causeway on the way. Thanks, Bob, for your leadership.

MORE TRIBUTES TO FRED ASTLE

ALLAN A. STROM, a patron of this Society, knew Fred from about 1949, when Fred was assistant headmaster at (he thinks) Bankstown Public School, and during the years when Fred was District Inspector of Schools at Dubbo and much of N.S.W. He says: 'Fred was a winner with teachers, he really did know them personally and would travel hundreds of miles to help ... always the same, generous, friendly, a teacher-philosopher forever.' When Fred came to Katoomba and Mr Strom became Chief Guardian of Fauna, he and Fred discussed the establishment of the Blue Mountains Flora and Fauna Society, the forerunner of The Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

GRAHAM ALCORN recalls Fred as the one who recruited him to this Society in 1966. He says that Fred should be honoured as a major contributor to the growth and prestige of the Society. He was a sort of father-figure always on the lookout to recruit members, one who could lead from behind; he always chaired the Annual Meeting and organised the old Hut roster of volunteers to man the little tea-room and information service at weekends.

JIM SMITH wrote that Fred served the community in a quiet, unassuming way and never drew any attention to himself. He was a trustee of the B.M. National Park Trust from 1964 until it was disbanded in early 1971, prior to takeover by NPWS. He also acted as secretary of the Wentworth Falls and Valley of the Waters Reserves 530A Committee for some 15 years from the late 1960s. Their work was to advise BMCC on the management of the Wentworth Falls reserves. In this capacity he laid the groundwork for the establishment of Darwin's Walk, among other things.

EXCURSION PROGRAMME

Reminder for July in case you are a new member:

Wed. 19 July: Sublime Point- end of Prince Henry track- Pool of Siloam (plus Gordon Falls Reserve for stronger walkers). Return via same route or arrange pick-up from Gordon Falls Reserve. Meet at Leura Station near taxi rank at 9.30am.
Contact Lloyd Jones (047)572270

August

Sun 6 Blue Mountain, Lawson. Meet outside Lawson Bowling Club (on the northern side of the railway line at Lawson Station) at 9.30am. This walk goes on into National Park at the end of Queens Road, Lawson.
Contact David Thomas (047)842121

Wed 16 Cliff Top Walk, Gordon Falls to Leura Falls, a continuation of July's walk. Meet at Gordon Falls Reserve at 9.30am.
Contact Lloyd Jones (047) 572270

Sat 19 Kurrajong Heights. A mix of old road and indistinct bush tracks, some dry sclerophyll, some rainforest, views, small creeks and tiny waterfalls. Mostly easy. Meet Mt Victoria Station at 9am
Contact Nella Godfrey (045) 677113

September

Sunday 3 Camel's Hump. Meet Mt Victoria Station at 8.30am.
Contact June and Len Baxter (047) 877312

Sat 16 Mystery Walk (with dry feet). Kanimbla Valley. Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.30am and drive to valley.
Contact Charles Johnson (047) 871354

Wed 20 Dantes Glen, Lawson. Meet at Lawson Bowling Club, north side of Lawson Station, at 9am. Contact Bob Jones (045)588361

October

Sun 1 Narrow Neck, Katoomba. Meet outside Gearin's Hotel, Katoomba, at 9am. Contact Ron Wheeler (047) 571526

Wed 18 Little Zig-zag and Reinitz Pass. Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 10am. Judy Dervin (047) 871191

Sat 21 Lockley Pylon. Meet at corner of Mount Hay Road and Great Western Highway at 8.30am. Contact June and Len Baxter (047) 877312

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.



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DISTRIBUTORS OF
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Summit Gear

Rear of 88 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780

Monday to Friday - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Saturday - 9.00 am to 12 noon (047) 82 3467

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletter

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P.O. Box 29 Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

July 1995

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**Postage
Paid
Australia**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ^{were} ~~ARE~~ DUE ON MARCH 1st 1995

Membership / Renewal Form

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 29, WENTWORTH FALLS 2782

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

Fees cover membership from 1st March (or date of application for new members) to end of February in following year.

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