



## "Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"

### It's Official!!!

At long last our name change has been approved and we can put Blue Mountains Conservation Society on our letterheads and on our newsletter. Now **let's get together** and work to make BMCS a strong and effective environmental organisation.

### Feathertail Gliders T-Shirts

They're here (and sloppy jokes too) — and they are beautiful!! An order form is enclosed for those who can't make it to general meetings. Wear them! Buy them as gifts, especially for the kids. Let's tell the Blue Mountains and the world that we are special and that our unique environment is populated with special and unique creatures. **Our home is their home too!**

### Bushcare at The Hut

It has been suggested that we start a bushcare group at The Hut.

There are about 20 bushcare groups in the Blue Mountains, all volunteers, who look after chosen areas, doing hands-on environmental restoration work. Generally their main aim is the removal of weeds so that the bush can regenerate naturally. Severely degraded areas may require plantings of natives, grown from local seed. Work may also involve erosion control, track maintenance and rubbish removal.

The groups meet at least once a month for a few hours work. Council provides support for groups working on Council land with loan of tools, rubbish/weed removal and, more importantly, with expertise and assistance from Virginia Bear and Eric Mahoney.

**Working in a bushcare group is not only a great way to help our beautiful bushland; it is a fun, social activity.**

A perfect area for our bushcare group is along the Nature Trail, behind the houses in Valley Road and the highway. There are many weeds encroaching into the National Park. To care for this site we will need to liaise with NPWS and BMCC as weeds and the track cross both lands.

**So, would any members be interested in forming a group?** No expertise is required, just interest and enthusiasm, although anyone with knowledge of bush regeneration or the local plants would be greatly appreciated.

Contact Jessica Yuille 57.2783.

*(An updated list of Blue Mountains bushcare groups is on page 4. These groups would also appreciate new members—contact Jessica or join a bushcare group near you.)*

### Weed of the Month

Many of our common weeds are still grown as garden plants. Unfortunately they spread to new areas and pose a serious threat to our bushland, and local bushcare volunteers devote time and effort removing these invaders. You can help by ensuring that they do not grow in your garden. This month's weed of the month is:

#### Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Large shrub with thick spiky leaves, presently bearing lots of red berries and attracting birds—mainly currawongs and satin bower birds. Seeds are spread into bushland by birds.

### Publicity—Help Needed!

My job as publicity officer involves promoting the Conservation Society and getting across the messages you want me to send to the public on your behalf. **To do this effectively I need some help.**

My goals for this year are to:

**Develop a collection of material for public displays.** This display "kit" could be used for stalls at special events, such as World Environment Day, and for periodic exhibitions at Council, libraries and possibly schools.

Themes I have come up with so far are:

- **Habitat in the Blue Mountains**, how we impact on it and how we can improve it where we live. This can embrace issues such as land clearing, subdivision, bushcare and native plants in your backyards.

- **History of the Upper and Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Societies**, focusing on actions and achievements over the years. My intention is to connect this history with what we are doing now and what we could do in the future.

**Put together a really effective display at the Conservation Hut**, which will both promote the Society and communicate key conservation messages to tourists and locals. This could involve photos, pamphlets and written display messages.

Can you help me to create these displays? You could contribute with ideas, photos, stories about the Society's past, help to make a banner or produce a pamphlet....

Do you have any other ideas or suggestions about themes for these displays or

about other publicity initiatives? What image would you like to see the Conservation Society presenting? What messages do you think are important?

Please phone me about your ideas and how you can help. Linda Thomas 82-1291. I NEED YOUR INPUT!!!

### Land Use Information

Do you have any information, or suggestions of an appropriate response, to the following matters which have been referred to me? (They are all in the area of responsibility of the Blue Mountains Catchment Management Committee; Creek names in brackets are the geographical catchment).

**Winmalee.** **St. Columba's (Springwood Creek and Blue Gum Swamp Creek)** A very major development could take place even before EMP2 is finalised on up to 11 different zones in this large Catholic Church property. Issues include aboriginal sites, polluted creeks, loss of bushland, etc.

**Valley Heights.** **Banksia Drive (Glenbrook Creek)** It is alleged that siltation controls are not effective in a subdivision under construction.

**Springwood.** **Proposed wildlife corridor between Fitzgerald Creek, Else Mitchell Park, Springwood Creek, and related issues.** Vegetation is under threat in this corridor because of clearing of private land and possibly inadequate management of public lands within the corridor. Preservation of the corridor could require public acquisition of a block of land in Fraser Road and heritage listing of a weir in Else-Mitchell Park, and other actions.

**Leura Park.** **Cumberland Street (Leura Falls Creek)** A bush walking track has become badly eroded for some 200 metres east of Cumberland Street up to the point where the track divides north to Peter Carroll Oval/Commonwealth Street and south to Leura Falls Creek.

**Springwood.. Lomatia Park.** Inadequate



**"Hut News", the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.**  
P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782.  
**President: Colin Williams 84-1899**  
**Secretary: Les Coyne 57-3327**  
**Editor: Christine Davies 87-7246**  
**Deadline for the August issue is July 22**

handling of stormwater runoff and siltation.

Please send written submissions to P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782. or FAX 87-6912—Don Morison

### From the Mailbag

#### Threatened Species Conservation Act

The 1995 TSC Act ensures that NSW now has the most comprehensive threatened species legislation in Australia. With Australia's record of extinctions—38 fauna species extinct—and hundreds of other species threatened with extinction in NSW, **we need it.** The new act will protect both threatened native flora and fauna and will apply to not only threatened species, but populations and ecological communities as well, and will protect any habitat which is identified as being critical to the survival of a species, population or community.

A day-long Introductory Seminar will be held on Friday 26 July at Centenary Lecture Theatre, Reserve Rd, St. Leonards.

Speakers will be officers of NPWS and Dept of Urban Affairs who are involved in the implementation of the new legislation and amendments, and also in the development of policies and guidelines to further assist in implementing and understanding the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

Registration, with a fee of \$20, is required in advance to National Parks and Wildlife Service, Threatened Species Unit, P.O. Box 1967, Hurstville 2220. Further information Fiona Millhouse (02)585-6879.

You may purchase a copy of the Act from the Government Information Office. Phone (02)743.7200.

#### NPWS Discovery Programme

The Blue Mountains National Park winter Discovery Programme has guided walks, nightstaks and other activities for the young and old, the energetic and not so energetic, right through the school holidays and at weekends up to the end of August. To mention just a few there is an Aboriginal Culture Day on 8 July, Kids Campfire on 11 July, Temples of Doom on 3 August, as well as lots of other shorter walks.

Pick up a copy of the programme from NPWS at Blackheath Heritage Centre or phone 87.8877.

#### Kelly's Bush

About 300 people heard "The Battlers for Kelly's Bush" speak about their long struggle from 1971 to 1983, to save "Kelly's Bush" from an A.V. Jennings

development. A plaque "To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the world's first green ban, Kelly's Bush 1971" was unveiled by Jack Munday, whose Union, the NSWBLF, put a Green Ban on the job. Jack introduced the surviving ten battlers in turn, who spoke engagingly about their battle, and launched the book "The Battlers for Kelly's Bush".

It shows how seemingly powerless people, by persistence, and honesty, and by involving the whole community, including children, can just pip "the big boys". Kelly's Bush, "the last bit of bush on those reaches of the Parramatta River", was described by Robert Askin's Chief Town Planner, Sir Nigel Ashton, as "unimportant regrowth", and by Hunter's Hill's mayor as "tick-infested rubbish".

The Wran Government, elected in 1983, bought the bush for the community. In the book's foreword Kylie Tennant says if Kelly's Bush were lost "the unborn Australian will ask for his birthright and be handed a piece of concrete".

Vinegar Hill, Denis Kevans and Sonia Bennett sang their songs, like "Lungs of Green", "Green Ban Fusiliers" and "Wollemi Pine".—Denis Kevans.

#### A Literary Ramble

In Upper Mountains weather atypical of late May, a quiet assembly of hobby writers (and one keen birdwatcher) was greeted by an almost cloudless sky and the gentlest of mornings.

Walking to **The Pavements** is really the most beautiful journey, from the odd lyrebird or wallaby you often encounter on the drive to Mount Irvine and the brilliant range of bird life on the walk, through to the track (thankfully, still charmingly wistful in its moments of ambiguity), the majesty of the views of The Wollangambe and Bowens Creek closing in around you as the ridge narrows in its generally northerly path to the final, overwhelming atmosphere of the position of The Pavements themselves. Sitting out here, I feel as if I'm frozen somewhere beyond the edge of time, softly touched by the past, protected by a spiritual presence and soaking (**excessively!**) in the INFINITE beauty and wild happiness that wind and wilderness bring in their sheer, unbridled existence. I feel certain that Emily Bronte would have loved it here too!

While our birdwatcher explored the lower area further out on the ridge, we perched, more lazily, for lunch on a 'dress circle' platform overlooking the birds' playground, sprinkling food and coffee with some of our special or personally evocative poems, ranging from originals to poetry of philosophy, of lyrebirds (most appropriate!), of

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winter (off on vacation somewhere) and bits of humour and wisdom from De Gasztold's 'Prayers from The Ark'. Words floated off ancient stone as the sounds faded across the purple shadows of The Wollangambe, fragments flying on wind currents and merging into the poetry of birds and wilderness.

After having a few deliberations on the mysterious position and beauty of the Aboriginal 'lady', we thought it was about time to wander back, taking in the wonderful lyrebird's nest in the upper ledge of a large rock overhang and being treated to a simply wonderful lyrebird concert as we neared the junction of the path and the fire trail. Looking back on some other 'Pavements' walk notes (not my own!), I notice both writers had been treated to a similar recital too. This operatic veteran obviously likes to perform from 'the wings' to a captivated and suitably appreciative audience! It was almost as if the bird had reserved this as its departing gift...in song, the poetry of the lyrebird, in response to Catherine's rendition! A magic way to finish a walk!—Helen Raphael.

#### Welcome to New Members

Jill Parr, Hazelbrook; Kathleen Easson, Faulconbridge; Wanda Sams, Forestville; John and Angela Woulfe, Gymea Bay.

Graham Alcorn's description of his recent trip to Vietnam will be in next month's *Hut News*. Meanwhile, here is a poem, written during the trip.

#### THE FOOTPATHS OF HANOI

"Who will walk the footpaths of Hanoi?"

"Not I", says Dun the patriarch.  
Says teacher Jean: "Not I".

"Not I", says Graham the poet.  
"It's too difficult by far.

The footpaths are for squatting on,  
And buying on and selling on,  
Cooking on, eating on,  
Playing cards and badminton,  
Parking bikes and motor bikes  
And cycles too."

"So who will walk the footpaths of Hanoi?"

"Not I", says Graham the visitor.  
"Not I", says Dun the countryman.  
"Not I", says Jean the resident.

"The footpaths are for social use,  
So we'll all have to walk on the road."  
—Graham Alcorn, April, 1996.

**Membership Enquiries: The Society is keen to have new members who are concerned about the welfare of the Blue Mountains natural environment. Contact the membership secretary, Ross Coster, telephone (047) 59.1247, FAX 59.1095, or write to P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.**

## World Environment Day at Katoomba

I am a BMCS member who remains in the background but hears all about everybody from a man (*our membership secretary Ross Coster*) who goes to every meeting and then comes home to talk me almost to death about everything that has gone on at the meeting.

When asked to help man the stall that we were putting together for this big day I agreed reluctantly, as coming out of the closet is not always easy.

I arrived early for the day as I feared that if I did not I may have found a way to back out. On arrival I was greeted by Linda and Jessica and with the overwhelming excitement of the day. I stood back while they put up the most magnificent pictures of animals and plants that I have seen.

We were standing back looking at the great work that we had done, when the excitement was taken back with the arrival of the T-shirts and Sloppy Joes. It was like Christmas to a child, opening and admiring the goods that were in our hands after weeks of planning, thinking and putting of all the ideas together.

The day was a pleasant one that I hope was enjoyed by all that attended and the many hands that helped man our display.

For the many weeks that Linda put into the day and the many people that helped, I personally would like to congratulate them. I found the day to be very pleasant and I was proud to be a part of it.

—Proud Member, Heather Coster.

*(Heather does lots of work behind the scenes. We can all do something. Paying a subscription and receiving a monthly newsletter is only part of the fun of being a BMCS member! Come to meetings, meets lots of great people, write and have your say, participate in helping to preserve and save the wonderful Blue Mountains environment. It's worth the effort—the Blue Mountains is unique, there is nowhere like it in the World—and we are privileged to live here.—Ed.)*

## SATIN BIB

With many years now rolling past, along the tracks we've trailed,  
I walked out, with my brother there, along a leaning rail,  
So hard and distant were our hearts, with sadness in our eyes,  
It's here we met a little bird, that filled us with surprise.  
It was a honey-eater, with bib so satin white,  
A cap upon her pretty head, as dark as is midnight,  
A flitter like a swallow, hanging sideways in the bloom,  
She filled our hearts with happiness, and drove away the gloom.  
A little honey-eater, called "white-naped" in the book,  
'Cause soon as we had gone home, well, we took it down to look,  
The "white-naped honey-eater", acrobatic in the breeze,  
Who lives to thrill the viewer, and who only lives to please.  
Our arms went round our shoulders, and light years swept away,  
Back where, with bat and cricket ball, we used to go and play,  
Out on the long, green oval, a sky of blue above,  
Our boyhood full of happiness, our hearts so full of love.  
Beneath the sun, we roamed the bush, to note the birds that flew,  
And sought their names inside the book, beside the ones we knew,  
We said they are the angels telling things that we must know,  
And made up boyish stories, in the bush there, long ago.  
So, little honey-eater, like a swallow on the wing,  
You little Charlie Chaplin, in the blossom always sing,  
Always be the way you are, so I can come and see  
My brother's smiling face in you, come beaming back to me.

—Denis Kevans.

## In the Bush

I wrongly assumed that a journey to the Everard Ranges would load me with interesting bush observations. However rushing through the country in a bus does little to help one tune in.

Within the agricultural and grazing areas one can only lament the seemingly irreversible roll back of the bush and speculate on the scene the next generation will behold. Will it be just grass and cash crops?

Very occasionally neat rows of plastic foot high tree guards line the roadside which shows more people are thinking about the future.

Echuca, Renmark and Mildura seem very much aware of the Murray River's tourist potential and have resurrected paddle-wheel trips. Romantic though those days may seem to us moderns we overlook the havoc the industry had on the once magnificent stands of Red Gum lining the river banks.

Fortunately the steamers now use diesel for fuel and railways are now finding cement made sleepers more economical than wood. Maybe

there is a chance the saplings lining the banks will eventually attain maturity.

Aridity sets in once one leaves the Murray and heads north towards the lower Flinders. One marvels at the optimism of the early settlers who

attempted wheat cropping, misled it seems by a run of good seasons which they thought would persist. This despite warnings from Goyder, a S.A. government administrator and surveyor, who had earlier drawn a line on a map to indicate where he thought cropping should cease. **Oh for a few more modern-day**

**Goyders!** Deserted crumbling farm houses are seen in areas which now would not support a billy-goat.

We were following the old 'Ghan' railway line at this point and the embankments and sleepers are easily seen. The earlier explorers would never have penetrated so far north were it not for the presence of 'mound springs'. These are mounds which have springs fed from the pressure rising up from

the artesian basins.

The water swells up and creates a pool which supports aquatic vegetation—which in turn provides something to attract insects and the occasional bird. The pools vary considerably in size and water quality.

As we approached Oodnadatta we were into 'gibber' country—fist sized pebbles blasted red by the desert sands. They registered dramatic colour effects according to the angle of sunlight reflecting, ranging from a brilliant orange to a snowy white.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE.

**The local scene:** Have you noticed the first flowerings of *Acacia terminalis*? Their bright golden blossoms are most conspicuous in the upper mountains, yet down below they are a creamy yellowy white. I wonder why this should be so. It is nothing to do with altitude or temperature for specimens purchased in the lower mountains retain their colour in the upper mountains.

—*The Bunyip.*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Walks have been graded: 1-3 easy, 4-7 medium, 8-10 harder.  
 If in doubt contact the leader. **Walkers must carry 1 litre of water.**

**JULY**

- 01 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Bonnie Doon.** Meet at the Explorers Tree at 9.30. Contact John Gibbs 82.6509. Grade 4.  
 07 (Sun) **Bushwalk—Bruce's Walk** (second half). Across the north of Leura/Katoomba. Meet at Leura School, cnr. Great Western Highway and Mount Hay Road, at 9am. Duration 6-7 hours. Grade 6—need to be reasonably fit. Contact Lloyd Jones 57.2270.  
 08 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Wilson's Glen.** Meet on southern side of Woodford Station at 9.30. Grade 4. Contact Christine Davies 87.7246.  
 15 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Mount York.** Meet Mount Victoria Station at 9.30. Contact Tessa Knight 87.6543.  
 17 (Wed) **Bushwalk—Overcliff and Undercliff Tracks,** with views over Jamison Valley. Meet at The Hut, end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls, at 9.45. Duration 3 hours. Grade 5. Contact Les Coyne 57.3327.  
 20 (Sat) **Bushwalk—Tessolate Hill, Mount Irvine.** Duration about 6 hours, include drive to Mount Irvine. Meet at Mount Victoria Station at 8.30 am. Grade 5. Contact Olive Noble 87.8342.  
 22 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Fairy Bower.** Meet Mount Victoria Station at 9.30. Contact Daphne Rawling 87.8567.  
 23 (Tues) **Committee Meeting** at The Hut at 7 pm.  
 26 (Fri) **General Meeting** at The Hut at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker Mikla Lewis, Wildplant Rescue.  
 29 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Inspiration Point.** Meet Car park, bottom of Leura Golf Club, below Fairmont Resort, at 9.30. Contact Lee Tredinnick 57.4030.

**AUGUST**

- 04 (Sun) **Bushwalk—Valley of the Waters (upper section).** Meet Leura Railway Station commuter carpark at 9 am. Duration 5-6 hours. Grade 5-6. Contact Imre Gahl 84.3286.  
 05 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Dargin's Creek.** Meet Mount Victoria Station at 9.30. Contact Gillian Janus 87.6181.  
 12 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Pope's Glen.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre at 9.30. Contact Tessa Knight 87.6543.  
 17 (Sat) **Bushwalk—Greaves Creek Special.** Meet end of Evans Lookout Road, Blackheath at 9 am. Duration 6 hours. Grade 7. Contact Chris Woods 82.3419.  
 19 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Jack Evans Track.** A beautiful wildflower walk to Erskine Creek in the National Park at Glenbrook. Meet at 9.30 at Glenbrook Station. Contact Christine Davies 87-7246.  
 21 (Wed) **Bushwalk—Woodford Dam Ramble.** Meet at Water Board gate, end of Winbourne Road, Hazelbrook at 10 am. Duration 4 hours. Grade 4-5. Contact Allan Macauley 39.2767.  
 26 (Mon) **Leisure Walk—Twin Falls and Pulpit Rock.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre at 9.30. Contact Daphne Rawling 87.8567.  
 27 (Tues) **Committee Meeting** at The Hut at 7 pm.  
 30 (Fri) **General Meeting** at The Hut at 7.30 pm.

**BUSHCARE UPDATE**

For general information contact Virginia Bear or Eric Mahony at Blue Mountains City Council on 82.0768.

<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Regular Work Days</u></b>
Birdwood Gully, Springwood	Elizabeth Mitchell 51.2405	Third Saturday 1.30 - 4.00
Bonnie Doon Fauna Study Group	82.2218	
Centennial Glen, Blackheath	Eric Mahony 87.7830	Fourth Saturday 1.00 - 4.00 (to be confirmed)
Centenary Reserve, Blackheath	Kerry Kirk, 87.8592	Second Sunday 9.30 - 12.00
Deanei Forest, Springwood	Virginia Bear (BMCC) 82.0768	Fourth Saturday 9.30 - 12.30
Else-Mitchell Park, Springwood	Michael Purtell 51.2143	Third Saturday 9.30 - 12.30
Fairy Dell, Springwood	Gisela Chorley 39.1427	Third Sunday 9.00
Katoomba Falls Creek Valley	Les Peto/Rosemary Brister 82.1418	Second Saturday 9.00 to 1.00
Glenbrook/Lapstone, local areas	Megan Birmingham 39.3510	First Saturday 9.30 Darkes Common 1.30 Bellata Court
Glenbrook Lagoon	David Porter 39.5750	First Saturday 9.00 - 1.00
Gordon Falls, Leura	Norm & Laurel Harris 84.1554	First Saturday 9.30 - 12.30
Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls	Josephine Adam 57.4125	Third Saturday
South and North Lawson Parks	Erst Carmichael 59.2058	Third Sunday
Leura Park (Peter Carrol Field)	Karen Beckley 82.4883	
Linden (Dawes Park)	David Ford 53.1018	
Lindeman Rd. Reserve, North Leura	Marcia Ferguson-Roa 82.6756	First Saturday 9.00
Minnahaha Falls, Katoomba	Lyndal Sullivan 82.1635	Fourth Saturday 9.30
North Katoomba	Eileen Hulligan, 16 Fourth Ave., North Katoomba	
Popes Glen, Blackheath	Eric Mahony 87.7830	Fourth Saturday 9.00 - 1.00
Red Gum Park, Bullaburra	Kathy Veel 59.2096	Third Sunday
Sublime Point, Leura	David Coleby 84-1395	

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