

Newsletter No. 4, March 1971.

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom,  
Advisor in Conservation,  
Dept. of Education, NSW.

"What we save in this generation is all we will be able to save"  
(Vincent Serverty).

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In this Issue:

Our Society: Meetings; Outings; The Conservation Hut; Pamphlets, Petitions.

Activities of Members:

Walkabout with Graham;  
New Nature Flora Reserve;  
Conservation Publicity;  
Youth Action in Conservation.

Blue Mountains Items:

Mining in the Blue Mountains;  
The Scar from Mt. Hay to Mt. Whitton;  
Help "Save Myall Lakes"-action.

Senates Committee on Wildlife Conservation.

Miners Delight.

R. S. V. P.

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Editor: Martin KAUB, 1 Clarecest. KATOOMBA, 2780

(Phone Leura 41754)

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It is refreshing that in the middle of so much scarrying in our area, realistic action is taken to retain some of our National Heritage.

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Beginning of 1971 saw in Sydney an international scientific congress on Automated Analysis. In the Section "Environmental Sciences" the editor was sitting in minding his professional business. Papers were read by U.S. Pollution Consultants, NSW Dept. of Public Health, NSW Institute of Technology, Dept. of ~~Master~~ Science, Vic. and the Queensland Division of Air Pollution Control. The papers were too technical to abstract in this Letter, but your editor is available for further information for interested readers.

Letters to the Editor:

In local and city papers regularly appear Letters written by our members on conservation matters and Wildlife aspects. These letters are most effective for arousing the public interest. The effectiveness would even be increased if new names would appear under those so valuable contributions.

By the way: Our member Les Hill is eagerly collecting local press-clippings on Conservation to compile into a scarpbook for the Conservation Hut.

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Our member, Ranger Graham Alcorn will be very busy in May. 750 Scouts from Lane Cove to Mt.Victoria will come to the Blue Mountains for the C.C.C.-(Cumberland - County-Conservation) Project.

Maintenance and improvements to walks, tracks and parks in Katoomba/Leura area will be their target.

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- 1/ Off the Old Bathurst Road, Woodford;
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"The Chilean Government, or rather the old Spanish Law, encourages by every method the searching for mines. The discoverer may work a mine on any ground by paying five shillings, and before paying this he may even try in the garden of another man for twenty days."

(Contribution by Miss I.K.Bowden)

THE FIRETRAIL SCAR FROM MT.HAY to MT.WHITTON.

The Blue Mtns. Conservation Federation requested the Minister for Lands through their local M.P.'s to preserve as a wilderness area that whole area between W.W.Creek-trail and Grose river- east of Mt.Hay, as minor alterations to existing firetrails would suffice.

Answer has now been received that attention will be given to maintain this primitive area, but further planning-details will depend on a Management Plan for the surrounding park of the Nat.Parks & Wildlife Service (This may take years!).

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A/Vincent Serventy spoke on the Ecological Ombudsman; the Shortage of National Parks and the desirability of Federal Conservation Actions.

B/ Allen Strom presented the case for reservation of Wilderness areas and for Conservation Education. The Wirrimbirra Sanctuary was put up as an example of what could be done and could be further developed with proper assistance. The Committee committed itself to a further inspection of Wirrimbirra Sanctuary.

C/ Milo Dunply, representing the Colong Committee as well as the National Parks Ass., stressed the need for saving Mt. Armour from limestone mining and the Boyd-Plateau from destructive bulldozing and replacing the native forest by a monoculture of Radiata Pines. His evidence was supported by a great amount of facts and written evidence. Two academics supported him with scientific statements.

Further hearings of the Committee will soon be held in Sydney. Suggestions for Wildlife Conservation are still requested and can be submitted to:

The Chairman of the Senate Committee for Wildlife Conservation, Mr. E.M.C. Fox M.P., c/- Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T., 2600.

At the end of 1970 over 500 recommendations have been submitted and over 50 major witnesses have been heard, resulting in over 1200 pages of transcript of proceedings. The Committee proceeded its hearings throughout the Parliamentary recess, travelling many thousands of miles listening to conservation issues put before them. Your editor could assist for invitations to following Sydney hearings.

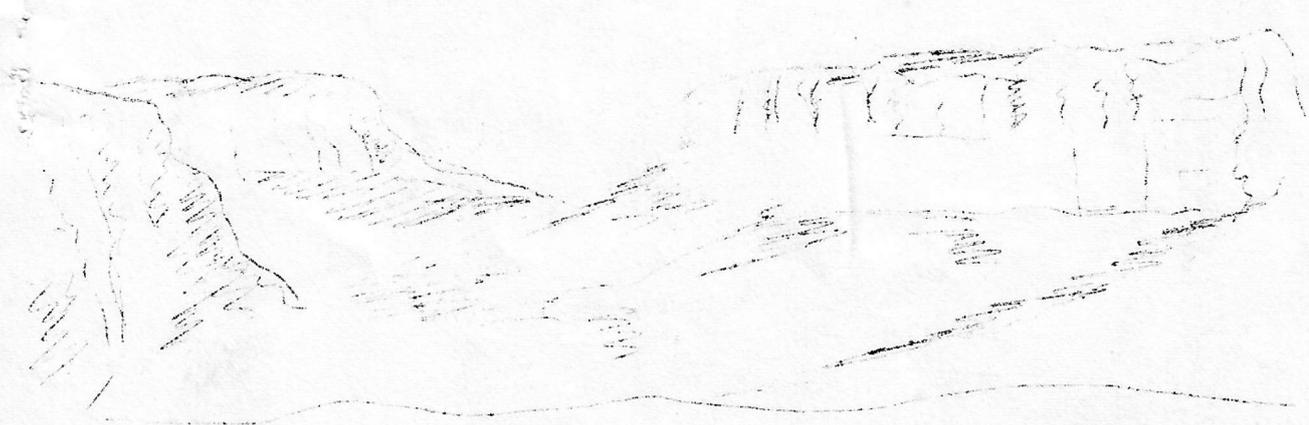
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Be my guest and put your ideas on paper! Constructive criticism should be most welcome! M.A.K.

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KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

(Take Nature's path and mad opinions leave --Pope)

Dear Member,

Our own Newsletter is coming out now every third month. A yearly subscription - delivered my mail - can be taken out now at costprice: 50cts.

It will be convenient to you to be on the mailinglist, because you donot miss out on the news if you are unable to attend the monthly meeting. It is convenient to the Editor also to have a mailinglist; it cuts out wastage of paper if I know the number.

If we do get a sufficient number of subscribers the Newsletter can become more interesting with colouring and illustrations. Non-members of the Society can subscribe also; if you would like some copies for introduction to your friends, let me know, then I will provide you with extras. Also, if you haven't as yet procured the Dec. '70 issue, please inform me, sothat I can mail it to you.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN KAUB (Editor),  
1 Clarencest.KATOOMBA; 2780;  
(Phone: LEURA: 4-1754)

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NAME ( in Blockletters) . . . . .  
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#### Outings:

January: We set off from the Conservation Hut and descended to Vera Falls. In certain sections the path was in a rather bad condition, but it was a most interesting and pleasant outing.

February: This walk was perhaps amongst the most enjoyable we have had. Driving to Ingar Picnic Ground (W. W. Falls) we left the cars and walked two miles or so to Bedford Creek, which was running swiftly and clearly after heavy rain. The whole setting was delightful, the trees especially being the subject of constant admiration. After lunch at the creek, we descended to Ingar, where the waterfall and pool made a beautiful picture. (Inquiries about the regular outings with the Convenor: Miss N Dillon, 114 Backhouse St. Wentworth Falls, Phone 293. Outings on first Saturday of each month)

In March: The outing is planned to go to Megalong Valley, most likely to Nellies Glen. Assembly: 9.45 South of the Railway Gates at Blackheath.

Another Outing by some members on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> was to Glenbrook Reserve, where some of the members of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) showed the visitors along the hot trails, noting the growth of many plants and also the commencement of the Visitors Centre was viewed. Thanks to the members of SGAP for receiving us.

Further news on Outings. The National Parks Association has planned thirteen outings in the Blue Mountains for the first 6 months of 1971. For our local members we add a list for further details. (Limited stock prevents us from adding a list to every newsletter, however on request the editor can provide particulars to interested persons)

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The Conservation Hut.

In the Hut: Store Room: Work on the new Store room extension has at last commenced. Heavy rain has delayed the work for a considerable time.

Exhibits: Shells were added to our Shell collection by Mr and Mrs Hildebrand. We appreciate the nice gift.

Visitors The Hut has been open every day during the holidays (except Christmas Day) and on the same days a full day was not possible. In the last fortnight 392 persons signed the Visitors book, which is representing now roughly a total of 1600 visitors to the area. We collected 45 Interstate signatures, representing every Australian state, except North Territory; and 19 overseas signatures from New Zealand, Netherlands, England, Ireland, Wales, the USA, Germany and Malaysia.

Library: A welcome back to Danny Monk our librarian, who will again loan to you our books with a smile. Thanks go to Miss Margaret Pinnegar for looking after the books in Danny's absence.

Petitions: As Conservationists we want a better living in a better landscape and no further break down. Two Petitions to this affect are awaiting your signature.

1/ A request to the Commonwealth Government for protection of the KANGAROOS (by the Kangaroo Protection Commission).

2/ A request to the State Government by supporters of the Colong Committee for revoking the Lease 444 for mining limestone in the Colong Caves Reserve; and rejecting the planned bulldozing and planting to Pines of the Boyd Plateau.

If you like to assist with collecting signatures, extra copies can be obtained from M Kaub, 1 Clarence Street Katoomba 2780 or the Colong Committee.

New Pamphlets: "Hints to Hikers" by the Search and Rescue Section of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs together with the NSW Police Department; are obtainable at the Conservation Hut at special request.

Around the Hut:

A dozen native plants have been added to the grounds around the Hut.

Our 530A Committee has been attending to the Creek Crossing on the Nature Trail. The Committee is also investigating the damage to the tracks around the Hut caused by the recent heavy rains. It would help the Committee if you will report tracks in need of attention to its Secretary: Mr Leslie Hill, Phone Katoomba 1101.

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Activities of our Members:

WALKABOUT WITH GRAHAM:

A lesson from Birds.

The breeding season being over for most birds, they have left their breeding territories and are foraging around in flocks, mixed, old and young birds and very often mixed species.

For instance in a grove of casuarinas near Leura Kiosk on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, the writer saw: Striated Thornbills (several), Spinebills (several), Silvereyes (several), White browed Scrub Wrens (2), Grey Shrike Trushes (1), Yellow Robin (1), Rufous Fantail, adult feeding young—7 species, very active, chirping and feeding.

It was most interesting to watch their feeding habits, the Thornbills and Silvereyes picking minute insects from the small branches of trees and shrubs. Spinebills with brush tongues and long curved beaks getting nectar from *Banksia Serrata* and Mountain Devil flowers. Scrub Wrens turning over leaves on the ground for insects. Yellow Robins perching sideways on two poles watching to pounce on any insect that moves on the forest floor. Rufous Fantail catching insects in the air and Shrike Trush eating insects too large for other birds.

Why do they feed together? Perhaps they like company, perhaps one species disturbs insects for another and vice versa?

But only the Thornbills and Silvereyes appear to compete for food and it would probably be found, that they eat different sort of insects. Each species has its niche and lives harmoniously together in the one environment.

Only modern Man, "lord of Creation" is unable to do this and is likely to come along and wreck the whole set up with a bulldozer!

Apparently a colony of Bell Birds has moved onto the Jamieson Valley. If one stands at the Look out at Sublime Point (Leura) one can hear them calling from down the valley, slightly to the left and near the firetrail.

Lyra Birds on the Ridges.

At present Lyra Birds are coming up onto the ridges to feed. Their scratching's can be seen around the picnic tables at Sublime Point (Leura)

The writer saw two at the top of Linda Falls track, below Leura Kiosk. There were fresh scratches right up the track. One of these birds gave a magnificent concert, imitating Kookaburra, Crimson Rosella, Grey Thrush, Currawong, Magpie and Pilot Bird.

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