



Patron Mr Allen A Strom  
Advisor in Conservation  
Department of Education N.S.W.

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The object of the project is to find out something of their migratory movements from Tasmania to the mainland. Up till now, no Tasmanian banded Welcome Swallow has been picked up on the mainland, or vice versa, Mrs Park writes.

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Editor: Graham Alcorn P.O.Box 59, Blackheath

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As the feeding habits of each species in these mixed flocks are different, it would seem that they do not compete for the available insects and may even help one another, one species in the course of its feeding, stirring up insects the other wants: Anyhow their cheerful visits are a delight, and an added pleasure is the knowledge of the great number of insects they are demolishing in my garden.

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#### SUBMISSIONS ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS TOWN PLAN.

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#### Planning Principles

We suggested that some of the fixed guide lines on which any development or zoning under the Plan should be based are:-

- 1.. Preservation of the unique nature and resources of the Blue Mountains region;
  - (a) As a recreational and fresh-air region for people from the densely populated cities;
  - (b) As an outstanding and world-renowned scenic and natural area for tourists;
  - (c) As an area containing large tracts of National Parkland Wilderness for healthy recreation, scientific study and sanctuary for native flora and fauna.

We point out that acceptance of these principles would involve the changing of some present official attitudes, notably:

- 1..The attitude of the State Planning Authority, which accepts an increased population of the Blue Mountains in Direct proportion to the expected increase on the Sydney plains. That is, from our present population of 39,000 to 100,000 by the year 2,000.
- 2..The B.M.C.C. also accepts a population growth according to what the municipal services can cater for, again 100,000 people by the year 2,000.
- 3..A favourite catch phrase of public figures and newspapers is that the best use of land in the Blue Mountains is as a dormitory area for the industrialised plains.

#### Optimum Population.

We consider all these approaches are wrong, and propose that the Plan be based on an Optimum Population figure determined by what population pressure the ecology of the region can withstand.

To find out this figure, we propose an Ecological Survey be made.

In support, we quote from the Hawkesbury River Valley Environmental Background Report (p.17) commissioned by the present State Government. "The flight of metropolitan residents to the lower and middle mountains, to escape the congestion and air pollution of the coastal plain and the Sydney urban pressures, could conceivably gather such momentum that it generates conditions akin to those from which the same people are seeking to escape".

### Creek Catchments

Another important issue is creek catchments, and our submissions state that, because of the impermeable nature of the sandstone plateau, the preservation of the swamps at the heads of creeks, and of the wooded slopes that feed them, is of considerably greater importance than in other regions of different geological structure. Many have already succumbed to population pressures, and steps to conserve what remain should be a major principle of the Plan.

We therefore, propose the introduction of a further zone into the Plan, with its own colour, (say, dark blue) to cover creek catchments and creek banks, and that this be an inviolate zone.

Such a zone should include the creeks themselves, the swamps, both hanging and flat, that feed them, and the wooded slopes that feed the swamps--generally sclerophyll forest, sometimes heathland. Such a zoning would vary considerably in width and extent according to the topography.

In our proposals on the Plan maps, we have tried to show concretely where these creek catchment zones could be, and it is still possible, even in Katoomba and Leura, to save quite a lot of the catchment areas.

The lack of awareness of the importance of these creeks and swamps is shown by the fact that they are not even fully delineated on the Planning Maps

### Other Proposals

We have made proposals on a number of other matters, such as Tourist Attractions, which should be appropriate to the area, make the most of its unique offerings, and do no damage to it. On flora and fauna, we stress the widely accepted principle that to conserve wildlife the most important single thing is to conserve the habitat of the species.

We have proposed that the heathland between Bodington Hospital turn-off and Queen Victoria Hospital, from Table land to the Western Escarpment, on King's Tableland, be set aside as a Nature Reserve. This is said to be the largest area of Montane Heath in the Upper Mountains.

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### Points to Commend

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We commend and fully support the 1(g) Non-Urban Zoning used on cliff edges.

Further, it was noted with appreciation that the BMCC has submitted proposals to the National Estate Inquiry for the preservation of all cliff edges on the Southern Escarpment of the Blue Mountains.

There is no doubt that the formation of a Plan for the Blue Mountains is a step forward. The proposals put forward by our Society, even if not at first accepted, constitute a policy upon which we can fight for the integration of man and his environment in this still beautiful area.

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*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in November 2020 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.*

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KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

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