



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

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--- Bertrand Russell.

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-The importance of pressing for an ecological study of the whole Blue Mountains area, and the need to control development until this is done.

-The urgent need for short term environmental plans and implementation of these.

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On my verandah in a plastic pot is a Woody Pear Seedling (Xylomelum pyriforme) which has had only its two seed leaves for three years. It has now entered its fourth year of this strange, dicotyledonous existence.

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Each cabin is self-contained with electric light, kitchen sink with running water, electric stove and refrigerator. An outdoor fireplace with table and benches is available near each cabin for barbecue cooking. Hot showers and toilet facilities are also available. It is necessary to bring bed linen and blankets. Cost: \$2. per person per night; \$1. per child 5-9 years, children under 5 years no charge.

Bookings 2 weeks in advance with \$1. per person deposit. Bookings are to be made with the Ranger Tel.(046) 84-112 or Wirrimbirra Sanctuary Hume Highway, Bargo. N.S.W. 2574.

A cleaning fee of \$2. is charged if tenants do not wish to attend to this matter themselves.

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Wirrimbirra is situated between Picton and Bargo, 59 miles from Sydney G.P.O. 2 miles south of the Bargo Bridge on the eastern side of the Hume Highway and is clearly sign-posted. When there you can explore the 'home site', enjoy the flowers and birds, follow one or more of the study trails in the forest area, with guide notes and learn about this interesting environment. Nearby are Thirlmere Lakes, Bargo River, the Pot Holes, Pheasants Nest, Avon & Nepean Dams.

SAVING ROADSIDE VERGES

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This involves stripping and stockpiling topsoil and vegetation with bulldozers fitted with root rake blades, instead of the normal ones. On lighter land disc ploughs are used, while pin wheel rakes put the vegetation to one side.

The scars of roadwork are topdressed with the old topsoil and the vegetation mulch and excellent regrowth is resulting. Not only is it cheaper than past methods, but it holds the road shoulder together, provides a cushion for motorists who fall asleep and leave the road, and maintenance is minimal.

A very encouraging development which appears now to be standard practice of the Main Roads Dept. of Western Australia.

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BOX 39.....

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In pastel shades of green, blue and orange, with a long beak and two wire-like feathers projecting beyond the tail, these beautiful birds belong to an Old World family of Bee-eaters. They build their nest at the end of a tunnel dug in a soft bank.

A second new bird, was shown me by the redoubtable Mick Dark-- a White-throated Nightjar, Eurostopodus mystacalis.

These birds, beautifully mottled black, grey and brown, are rarely seen. They hunt insects on the wing at night. Nightjars-- there are over 60 species throughout the world--are almost perfect examples of protective colouration. This species generally roosts on the ground during the daytime, when it blends, where it blends perfectly with the dead leaves, rocks, sticks etc. The single egg is laid on the ground, without a nest, usually on a dry ridge.

The White-throated Nightjar is confined to the East coast of Australia, also New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It has a weird cackling call and is sometimes called the Laughing Owl.

Our bird was found in the backyard of a house on a bushy ridge in Blaxland in late October. The bird seemed dazed. Mick's kind neighbours tried to save it by force feeding it and keeping it on

their verandah. A vet could find <sup>\* p. 5 \*</sup> nothing wrong with it. Eventually it died and the body was given to the Australian Museum.

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Date Saturday 1st February 1975

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Date Saturday 1st March 1975

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We publish herewith the winning entry:

Title: The Conservation Bogey.

Costume: Green cloak, green hat, green mask Green Ban sign, beard.

Dance Routine: Boogie woogie improvisation

Tune: The Chatanooga Choo Choo

Curtain Rises: The bogey enters furtively, and after a series of menacing gestures, sings:

Mister beware, here comes the Conservation Bogey.  
He'll take all your land, he won't understand.  
Mister take care, because he's awful mean and roguey.  
He won't let you mine, or lay a pipe line.  
Yesterday he made his way right down to the Rocks.  
He's always very willing to save historic buildings.  
Boo-hoo boo-hoo, he's gone to Woolloomooloo.

Mister, watch out, here comes the Conservation Bogey.  
He won't let pines grow upon Boyd Plateau.  
You should give him a clout, because he's oozy and he's ogey.  
He'll preserve all the swamps, all full of mugwamps.  
He wants to keep the population just as it is.  
Stop aerial ignition is one of his ambitions.  
Ooh-aah, ooh-aah, he might come to Katoomba.  
The Conservation Bogey, the Conservation Bogey,  
The consecrated, concentrated, Conservation Bogey Man!

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*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in January 2021 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

NEWSLETTER No 19 DECEMBER 1974. Price 10 Cents

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