

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom.
Department of Education
N.S.W.
Conservation Adviser.

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of the universe, but not man
above the universe."

-Dr. Jim Cairns at
N.C.C. Dinner, 1975.

**** OUR SOCIETY ****

MEETINGS: At a special meeting in August, we were privileged to hear Mrs. Thistle Y. Stead, well known for her knowledge and publications on Australian wildflowers. She told us of the history and function of Wirrimbirra Field Studies Centre, located on the Princes Highway, between Picton and Bargo.

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Should there be any potential herpetologists, come and hear Mr. Routledge speak on reptiles at our next meeting (October 30th, at The Hut). Come anyway.

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All industry is dangerous. The atomic industry, which at first seemed clean, looks like being the most dangerous yet. Who knows that if and when solar energy is tapped as a national industry, it too may not turn out to be dangerous. Where-ever we turn, we face the prospect of death. We have reason to be fearful as we move toward the 21st century.

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CONSERVATIONISTS MEET ON PLANNING STRATEGIES

Ten Societies, including our own, were represented at a meeting in Springwood on September 23rd, called to discuss future strategies which might be used by conservation societies to help keep the Blue Mountains as a scenic and recreational area.

The meeting was called by the Total Environment Centre and the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society, and chaired by Milo Dunphy.

Speakers were Mr. Lindsay Paish, assistant Planner for BMCC, Mr. George Clarke, Director of Urban Systems Planners, Mrs. Elaine Kaldy of the Federation of B.M. Progress associations, Graham Alcorn of our Society.

Professor Max Hatherly summarised the main arguments presented by each speaker.

Several resolutions were carried by the meeting, some of which were:

Believing that a population of approximately 160,000 people is utterly inconsistent with the maintenance of the outstanding natural and scenic values of the Blue Mountains, this meeting urges the Blue Mountains City Council to reject any further action on the current Blue Mountains Statutory Planning Scheme.

That pending an ecological investigation, Conservation Societies who have not previously done so, should consider strong endorsement of Alternative Future One presented to the BMCC by its consultant planners.

This meeting endorses the proposal that the physical separation of existing Blue Mountains Villages should be emphasised by restrictive zoning of intervening lands and in some cases by government acquisition.

Because the shallow soils of the Blue Mountains overlie a great depth of impermeable sandstone, and because development along the Central Ridge seriously threatens the creeks and streams which depend for their steady supply of water on the upland swamps, this meeting urges the Blue Mountains City Council to adopt special measures to protect all stream catchments in its area.

This meeting draws attention to the urgent need to cope with the serious pollution of most streams and rivers in the Blue Mountains area. The highest priority should be given by all levels of government to the correction of this situation.

That this meeting recommends that clearing for building construction be limited to development site, and submission for additional clearing be accompanied by a landscape plan.

A FINE CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

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Hailed as a big step forward during the year was the New South Wales Environment Centre in Broadway, established by the N.C.C. with funds granted by the Australian Government. A printed report showed that 59 widely diverse citizens environment organisations had used the centre during the year.

One of the N.C.C.'s leading activists over the years, Secretary Allen Strom declined nomination this year. However, the organisation still has the benefit of his experience and wisdom as a trustee of the N.S.W. Environment Centre.

The Conference carried a resolution submitted by the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society for no further residential sub-division on the Eastern escarpment, the Minister for Planning and Environment to be asked to vary his I.D.O.26, which allows this.

The Warragamba Catchment Area was the subject of a resolution from the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, calling on the Water Board to reassess the minimum water protection zone required, the remainder and appropriate additional lands be acquired and dedicated as a National Park, with a Management Plan to ensure the protection of its wilderness value.

On the use of fire in National Parks and Nature Reserves, there were three resolutions expressing concern at broad area control burning, all carried. One calls upon the Minister in charge of the (N.P.&W.) Service to appoint a body of independent and qualified persons to study the effect of the existing fire policy of the Service and to make recommendations to him; the report of the enquiry to be published; another refers to the Australian Museum studies on the effect of fire on biotic communities in the Nadgee Nature Reserve, and calls for NP&WS consultation with Museum officers.

One interesting resolution, from the Orange Conservation and Field Naturalists Society, congratulated the Australian Government on withdrawing from farmers the tax concession for clearing land. This had a tremendous effect on preserving trees in the countryside, and widespread protests should be made if this policy is reversed, said their delegate, himself a grazier.

There were 16 resolutions dealing with environmental education, reflecting the growing attention being given to this important subject.

The 1975 Annual Dinner at night was a great success and the Guest Speaker, Dr. Jim Cairns M.H.R., gave a fine and thoughtful address on the future that the cult of money and jobs and status has almost destroyed, the future that depends on the exercise of power by the mass of the people.

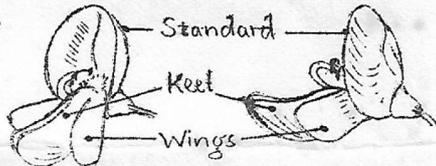
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PEA FLOWERS

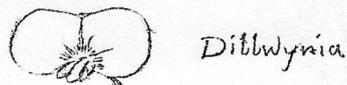
How often we have heard it said, "All these pea flowers confuse me". And it is truly a huge family, there being about 12,000 species. But if we confine ourselves to the Sydney region, which includes the Blue Mountains, we only have to deal with about 40 species, in considering those growing outside of gardens. Without becoming too involved in botanical terminology, I hope to set out a few points in their identification, as much for my own benefit as that of the reader. *80 or 90 Natives or extra whack introduced & very prolific*

We begin then, with a description of typical pea flower. It has a keel, standard, and wings, as illustrated. We can go some of the way in identification by noting variations in the shape of these three parts of the flower. *NOT known.*

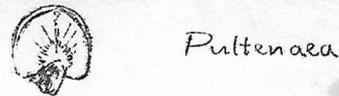
Erythrina is an introduced species? growing as trees, shrubs or ~~trailers~~. It is easily recognized by the long keel, and not likely to be found far from settled areas.



Dillwynia sp. are shrubs which have a reniform standard (shaped like a kidney) and the leaves are always involute in cross section. *Dillwynia* has three close relatives in *Pultenaea*, *Phyllota* and *Aotus*. But in *Pultenaea*, the standard is nearly orbicular, and small bracts at the base of the flowers. Separating the latter from *Phyllota* is harder, but in our area, *Pultenaea*, has dry thin bracts, whereas the bracts of *Phyllota* are herbaceous, (continue to grow after flowering). *Aotus* is similar to two preceding, but the keel is incurved. (curved upwards)

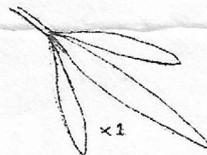


Many of these would fit that common description "Eggs and Bacon", but one genus that has a darker than usual red centre is *Naviesia*. *D. ulicifolia* is that very common and very prickly plant which most of us would rather not have in our gardens.



We might next ask, is it a trailer, or of upright habit? Some trailers and climbers include:-

Kennedya sp. - Flowers have a post-box red colour. *K. prostrata* trails, and *K. rubicunda* tends to climb.

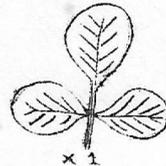


Trifoliolate leaf of *Glycine clandestina*

Hardenbergia violacea, as the name implies, has violet coloured flowers.

Glycine sp. have bluish or pink flowers, and trifoliolate leaves.

Tripogon lignosis is introduced, has pink or white flowers, but deltoid leaflets.

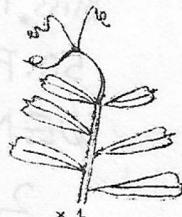


Canavalia maritima

Canavalia maritima, found on the coast, and also with pink flowers, has obovate to orbicular leaflets.

The introduced *Vicia* (Vetch) belongs to the same tribe as the garden pea. Its distinguishing feature is the leaf rachis, which ends in a tendril (Rachis = the axis of a compound leaf).

Most *Oxylobium* sp. are shrubs, but an exception to this is *O. scandens*, with pale orange flowers.



Vicia sp.

The leaves of most pea flowering plants are alternate. In a future article, we should proceed with the elimination process with a description of those that are not alternate, then a few words

This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in February 2021 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

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EDITOR G N ALCORN, BOX 39 BLACKHEATH NSW 2785

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