

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

\*\*\* Newsletter No. 28, May, 1977. Price 10¢ \*\*\*

"REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION - (CATEGORY (C))"



DOMESTIC PIGEON

Patron: Mr Allen A. Strom, A.M.  
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--- Aldo Leopold.

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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT:

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On the wider scene of Conservation there are two aspects; the social conscience which generated the need for Conservation, has increased, and fortunately the community is more aware of it so we are in a post-pioneering period now, but secondly, the ideas of Conservation have been deeply considered and reformed. They seem to go quite beyond a simple ideal of preservation of Wildlife. While that was the Door by which this Society entered, once well in the Hall, we see it is the House of the Environment that we have entered. Our activities, beyond those of a Nature Club, are enmeshed within the complicated strands of "how will people live in the future" and their reactions.

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June 30th thursday at the Hut 8pm meeting.

& July 28th, Thursday, 8. pm at the Hut, details of these two meetings to be advertised in local press.

August 28th Thursday 25th 8pm at the Hut Mr Richard McCrae, Honours student University of Sydney, who is doing a thesis in ecology on the Henderson Road Swamp, Wentworth Falls, will speak.

A TRIP OUT WEST

WAS THE SUBJECT OF A WELL PREPARED TALK GIVEN BY WILSON ALCORN at our february meeting. Illustrated with splendid slides the trip took us through Broken Kill to the Mootwingie Aboriginal site, then by back roads through station properties to Tibooburra in the North West Corner and back through Bourke,. And home via the Warrumbungles. Great!

The ANGOURIE NATIONAL PARK

The afternoon meeting on March 24th to hear Terry Macarthey's talk was most successful. Over 20 people attended, darkened the Hut windows with blankets to see Terry's beautiful slides of the Park, judged the talk most interesting, enjoyed a cup of tea and made donations to the Society's funds.

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We enjoyed ourselves inspecting the old mines and buildings of the town. One of us, Rex Rowell used to go to school there. He left in 1913. He remembers when a coach used to bring the mail from Sydney. In the evening Miss Lhuede showed us slides and gave some of the history of the area.

On Sunday we had a motor along Scot's Main Range, deep into Water Board territory, and a bush walk down a ridge to stand above Christy's Creek and the Kowmung\$ (Scott's)

Thanks to Terry Macartney for organising a splendid weekend.

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In May 8 members assembled at mount Tomah south for this outing and appreciated being met by Norman Rodd of Mt Tomah Society. We were pleased to welcome a visitor from Western Australia who had learned of the outing when visiting the Hut. The track descended south from Bell's Line Of Road to a rocky lookout. The panorama stretched from Flag Staff Hill, near Bell, in the west, across MT. Bell, MT Charles, the Camel's Hump with the northern flank of Mt Banks behind it, Thunder Gorge and the Carmarthen Labyrinth, to Grose Head in the East. A magnificent view, new to some of us. Five of the party climbed the last pinch to the top of the Hump from there they viewed our old friend Mt Banks but, in its unfamiliar Northern aspect, its crown above a rising moorland -- "... rather like Scotland", someone remarked.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

OUR FINANCIAL YEAR COMMENCES IN MARCH.

Subscriptions are due and may be sent to Our Box 29 Post Office Wentworth Falls, 2782 or handed in at our next General Meeting Subscription \$1.00. Donations always thankfully welcome.

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P.2.+1= 3

FUTURE WALKS:

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(NOTE. The Wild Dog Track walk listed in last Newsletter with meeting place Blackheath Railway south side 9.30 am has been deferred)\*\*\*\*\*  
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July 2nd. Dawe's Ridge, Linden. Meet at Glossop Road, near Highway at 10.00 am

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ART EXHIBITION

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Our aim in holding this exhibition is to increase public awareness of the Society and the Hut and, through the discerning eye and skill of artists, to encourage appreciation of Australian flora, fauna and Blue Mountains bushland. Commission on the sale of paintings will benefit the Society. The anticipated price range is \$15 to \$200.

The committee working on the details invites all members to participate by:

- a) offering suggestions to ensure the Exhibition's success
- b) volunteering to help
- c) telling artists about it
- d) if artists themselves, start painting.

If you would be able to help in any way or would like to know more about the Exhibition, please 'phone Winsome Gregory.

Winsome Gregory (57-1573)

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RANGER REQUIRED AT WIRIMBIRRA

Wirrimbirra Sanctuary at Bargo requires an assistant Ranger. Wirrimbirra has a native plant nursery, extensive plantings of Australian plants in the grounds, an environmental studies centre and cabin accommodation for 40 people.

Duties: Nursery work, general gardening, visitor control, letting of cabins and numerous other jobs.  
Qualifications: An interest in natural history, native plants and conservation would be an advantage.  
Wages: \$100 per week.  
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T.S. Townsend, Deputy Surveyor General for N.S.W. writes in a letter from Jindabyne quoted by the Rev. W.B. Clarke

Camp near MOAMBA  
16th March 1846

The blacks had visited the Snowy Mountains a short time previously to us for the purpose of getting Bogong moths. They are particularly fond of this species of moth and to obtain them they light large fires and the consequence was, the country throughout the whole survey was burnt, leaving my bullocks destitute of food. During the time I was on the range the lower parts of the country were burning ~~XXXXX~~ and I was prevented from getting angles on any distant points by the dense masses of smoke obscuring the horizon in all directions. It is worthy of remark that not a single head of cattle, kangaroo or emu, was seen during the whole journey along the range and only a very few old blacks.....

J Townsend.

Thank you Jim & Molly. The extent to which the aborigines used fire in their hunting is a contentious question, and is often used as an argument in support of low-intensity prescribed burning as a bushfire prevention measure. The claim is the country is used to it.

Miss Ann Jelinek, the Naturalist-Ranger who addressed our January meeting on the Kosciusko National Park, showed us slides of magnificent snow gums of the species Eucalyptus niphophila, shown by annual growth ring count to be 400 years old. As this species dies back then coppices after a fire, to develop their great single trunks these trees must have been free of fire on the upper mountain slopes where they grow for 400 years, Miss Jelinek pointed out.

So apparently not all the area was burnt by the Aborigines. It would be interesting to know just how the fires were used to capture the Bogong moths.

Can anyone enlighten us.?

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All who come will be welcome. JUNE 7. A tuesday.

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