

KATOOLBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO.36. MAY 1979. PRICE 20¢

Registered for posting as a publication - Category (B)  
Editor. G. N. Alcorn. Rutland Road MEDLOW BATH N.S.W.



SLENDER PARASOL

Patron Allen A. Strom A.M.

The world is too much with us;  
late and soon,  
Getting and spending, we lay  
waste our powers,

--- W. Wordsworth.  
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OUR SOCIETY .

COMING MEETINGS

June 28 th Members' Night, Bring 6 slides or other items of interest. At the "Hut" Valley of Waters, Wentworth Falls, 8p.m.

July 26th P. Nable will speak and show some beautiful slides of the Northern Blue Mountains. Be at The Hut '8.pm Valley of Waters. Wentworth Falls

The Annual Meeting in March, once again showed the soundness and vitality of Our Society, new people coming forward to fill vacancies. The Annual Report, compiled and presented by retiring President Terry Macartney, should be included with this Newsletter.

A Nature Ramble, a series of slides of what you can see if you keep your eyes open, on a bush walk in the Blue Mountains, was presented in April by Ranger Peter Thomas of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. He also showed some fine bird-slides. Peter left next morning to take up a new position as Ranger at Wilson's Promontory, Victoria. We wish him well in his new position.

Peter always worked closely with Our Society, and also did some fine work in developing bird studies in the Blue Mountains and in working out and presenting Nature Education Talks in the local schools. He will be greatly missed.

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August 4th. Blue Gum Swamp and Shaws Ridge - Winmalee.

Cars meet at end of White Cross Rd. Winmalee 10 a.m.

September 1st.

Waratah Park and walk east of Mt. Tomah.

Cars meet at Mt. Victoria Station 9.30 a.m.

The Monthly Walk for April 1979

Was Porters Pass and Colliers Causeway on 7th April in pleasant weather and a record group of 35 starters a most enjoyable day exploring one of the old tracks in the Blackheath area. Thanks are due to Rachael who assisted with advice, maps and also acted as guide to prevent the group from taking wrong tracks. Unfortunately many of the old walks in the Blue Mts. have fallen into disrepair through lack of interest, mostly from local people. It is hard to expect tourists or visitors to become more familiar with beauty spots when the people who live nearby show no interest; anyway the walk down Porters Pass, along Colliers Causeway and return through Centennial Glen was unusual and quite beautiful, especially the Causeway which skirted along the base of massive sheer cliff. Superb views of the Kanimbla Valley were seen. Flora was confined to the autumn/winter flowers, with Banksias probably being the most beautiful, these included all the common ones found viz. *B.serrata*, *marginata*, *ericifolia*, *spinulosa* and *collina* (now probably called "*cunninghamii*") most of these were in full bloom. A number of little autumn orchids were also found and admired. The cliff where wedge-tailed eagle had nested was pointed out, unfortunately the birds themselves were absent. Many other bird species were heard and seen.

Monthly Walk May

Little Zig Zag, Bushrangers Cave etc. Saturday 5th a wet and dreary morning put many people off this walk but 10 hardy souls with wet weather gear, braved the conditions and were rewarded with a delightful day. Much of the success of the day was the wonderful hospitality of Charles and Bronyn Johnson, members of our society who live in Kanimbla Valley; our party were met in driving rain about a kilometre up the somewhat obscure trail and were escorted to the shelters of their delightful home and treated royally. After lunch we were given a conducted tour of some of the lovely bushland near their home. Most of our party were sorry to say au revoir to these charming members, but the Little Zig Zag remained to be scaled. The lower foothills were steep, however once the actual Zigzag was reached the walking became easier on this beautifully graded track, built apparently about 1870 to give access to the Kanimbla for cattle, sheep and horses. The old retaining walls remain in perfect order and the track shows little sign of erosion during the hundred years it has survived. The Bushrangers Cave was visited when descending, quite an interesting formation but unlikely to have ever been inhabited by a bushranger. Four of the more athletic members of the party decided to return via Reinit's Pass, a very overgrown track which is difficult to follow. Pulpit Rock was reached about 4p.m. Despite the constant rain the walk was enjoyed by all and many varieties of interesting plants were observed including a few orchids. Few birds were seen, this was probably because of bad weather conditions, the Johnsons informed us that it was normally a good bird area, incidentally Bronwyn has prepared a very comprehensive plant list of the area, this includes a lot of species not found on the higher mountains. Our walking group has never abandoned a walk because of wet weather. Group started over 10 years ago.

THE WILD LIFE FUND (WORLD)

On the 18th April my wife and I represented the society in Sydney where the guest speaker was the world famous naturalist, author and broadcaster, Sir Peter Scott. The meeting was attended by delegates from various conservation bodies in N.S.W. The object of the meeting was to examine the history of the W.W.F., and discuss the launching of World Wildlife Fund Australia.

The W.W.F. was founded in 1961 to raise funds for the study and preservation of the world's wildlife and to make the public aware of their responsibilities in this field. The record of the fund since its foundation is highly creditable, having supported over 2000 projects in more than 100 countries.

W.W.F. Australia became the 27th national organization within the W.W.F. when it was established in June 1978. The fund has already drawn up a list of 27 projects which will be funded during 1979/80. These projects range from "the conservation of the Moon Pine", and "the quest for the Thylacine" to a turtle status survey in the Solomon Islands.

The Fund will naturally concentrate on projects within Australia but because of the International nature of W.W.F. a decision was taken to assist in some degree with conservation effort being made in areas within the South Pacific zone contiguous to Australia such as New Guinea, New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands.

The fund has been helped in its formation by the granting of \$50,000 in the 1978 Federal Budget and the granting of tax deductability for donations to the Fund. Office space and secretarial help have been provided by business organizations.

The groundwork has been done, now it is up to all interested people to see that the W.W.F. Australia achieves its aims. If you would like further details write to

World Wildlife Fund Australia

Level 12, C.A.G.A. Centre

8-18 Bent st.

Sydney N.S.W. 2000

G.A. Blackwell

ART EXHIBITION : "NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS"

The Land Preservation Committee is organising a small Art Exhibition to be held in the 'HUT' from 20th to 22nd July.

Artists are invited to submit works (any medium) relating to the above subject. Enquiries: Please Phone 57-1573. (57-1573)

In conjunction with the Exhibition the following functions will be held.

Talk with Illustrations and slides - "The Landscape Art of the Blue Mountains:" This is the title of a book which is to be published soon. The author, Hugh Speirs has spent two years researching the subject, and in his book includes many diverse aspects which have influenced the works produced. A number of well-known artists is represented from early times (Martens) to the present (Williams).

After studying in Australia under Orban, Olsen and Ogburn, Hugh decided to devote his life to art in 1971, and in 1972-4 with his wife, artist Kerry Johns, undertook a full-time overseas study tour during which he studied in Paris and visited many European galleries.

since returning to Australia his work has been hung in exhibitions, mainly in Sydney and Canberra, and he has become well-known as a teacher of adult art on the Blue Mountains.

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It will probably be a cold night but members are assured of a blazing fire and adequate other heating.

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These very small tawney brown birds have only six feathers in their long upright tails, and the barbs lack connecting barblets, like emu feathers, hence the name.

The male has a pale-blue face and upper chest. In the Blue Mountains, they are usually found in the swamps, getting insect food and protection among the tall swamp grasses.

The big fire of December 1977 completely burnt out this area. Before that, our members had observed emu wrens in the swamps. It is surprising that they have returned so soon, as they are weak fliers and would be very vulnerable in a bushfire.

#### NEW PARK IN NORTHERN MOUNTAINS

At our April meeting it was decided to send congratulations to the Wran Government and the Minister for Conservation, the Hon. Paul Landa, on the dedication of the Colo-Hunter Wilderness as a National Park.

This splendid decision preserves the largest wilderness area in New South Wales and protects a large part of the Northern Blue Mts.

The Colo Committee and Total Environment Centre deserves great praise for the splendid campaign they conducted, and the thoroughly prepared case they made out for the Park.

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA

While we are rejoicing over our State Government's favourable decision on the Colo National Park, our fellow conservationists in Tasmania battle on against their government's less favourable attitude towards their South West National Park. I refer to their decision to disregard the recommendations of their South West Advisory Committee to support conservation proposals.

Last year the slides shown to our society by Dave Noble and Dave Kelly moved us to:

1. Support the Tasmanian Wilderness Society (T.W.S.)
2. Press the Tasmanian Government to preserve this large unique wilderness from exploitation and destruction
3. Urge the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. to vigorously oppose the Hydro Electric Development and include the Lower Gordon and Franklin Catchments in the South West National Park.

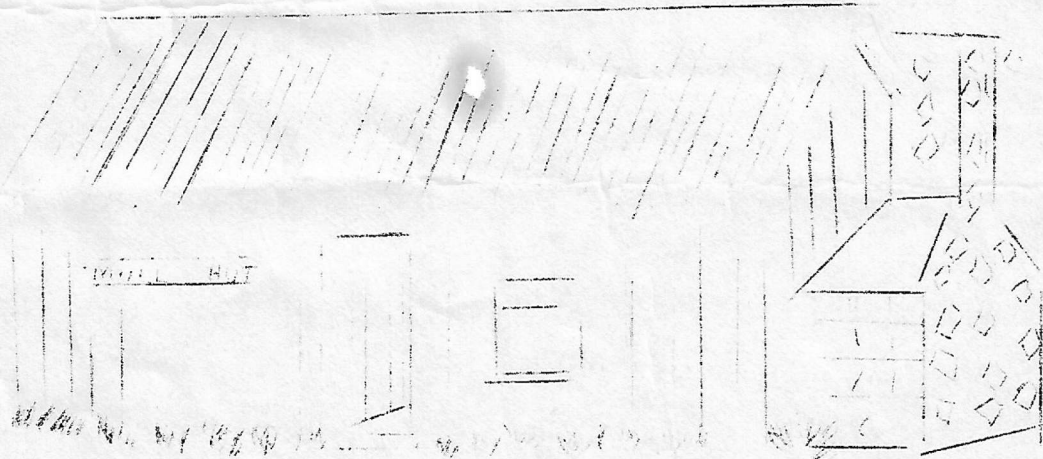
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Now that the Tasmanian Government has largely rejected the recommendations of their South West Advisory Committee in favour of exploitation and is establishing a tight advisory committee of 3 people, will conservationists be represented on this committee?

Like the Tasmanians and their N.S.W. "migrants" let us maintain our support for this vital Australian heritage.

"The South West Book" is to be released soon. Copies are available from A.C.F. 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. Vic. 3122.  
and Flo Graham. (047)58-6274



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