

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER NO. 48. - - MAY, 1982 - - PRICE 20c.

Editor: R. W. Alcorn, 43 Rutland Rd., MEDLOW BATH.

Patron: Mr. Allen A Strom, C.M.



RAINBOW BRACKET

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ABC Commentator.

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COMING MEETINGS: AT CONSERVATION HUT, VALLEY OF WATERS RESERVE, VALLEY ROAD, WENTWORTH FALLS.

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Sat. Aug 7th. Faulconbridge to Faulconbridge Point, (Grose River) - Wentworth Cave. Meet Car Park opposite Faulconbridge Station 10a.m. Leader Keith Sherlock, Phone 57-1927.

Sat. Sept. 4th. Glenbrook - The Oaks - Jack Evans Trail - 3 hours to Warragamba Dam. Meet at Glenbrook Station 10a.m. Leader Lloyd Jones, 57-2270.

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Thurs. Aug. 19th. Duckhole, Glenbrook. Meet at back of Ampol Garage, Glenbrook, 10a.m. Leader Jill Dark.

WALKS: FEB. KANANGRA FALLS - MARCH. COX'S RD. - APR. PORTERS PASS

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Jill Dark's sortie on to the Kanangra Plateau was a bold experiment and obviously successful judging from the favourable comments and requests for another overnight camp.

A touch of frost, grey kangaroos, pink flannel flowers, the flight display of swifts and the sighting of emu wrens were but a few of the recalls of campers will forever enjoy.

Keith Sherlock's outing to Cox's Road put the emphasis on social history. The past seemed very present as the party braced themselves on the steep descent from Mount York. Most were surprised how short the really difficult part was but were nevertheless mindful of the hard physical labour involved in its construction.

The Lands Dept. deserves a compliment for their informative signposting and for retaining this historic strip of land for public interest.

The construction of Porters Pass paths were a century later but the pick & shovel were probably still the main tools. The numerous carved steps, the rails and securely anchored posts makes one wonder how the economics of the day permitted what today, with all our technology is almost an impossibility.

On this excursion Wilson Alcorn introduced us to the migrating yellow-faced honeyeaters & pardalotes. They flitted and fluttered their way northward up the pass in waves. As this migration has been occurring for the last month and all along the Blue Mountain Valleys, the numbers that pass through must be astronomical.

What a privilege it is to live in such an area. The walks we do reinforce this conviction and may the next round of walks prove as enjoyable. See you on them.

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Allen A Stom, A.M.

"I note in your Newsletter No. 47, page 2, reference to the "discovery" of Actinatus forsythii in the heath at Kanangra Plateau.

I also note that you say it had not been found on the Blue Mountains outside Narrow Neck Peninsula and Kings Tableland.

Unfortunately, I have to "destroy" the excitement of the Society in its discovery. I collected a specimen in 1941 from the self-same location and had it checked for identity at the Herbarium attached to Botany Department of the University of Sydney.

Sorry about the revelation, but it may be worthwhile to set the record straight. I do not claim however, to be the first to have seen the pink flannel flower at Kanangra Tops. If I remember correctly, David D. Stead<sup>Ⓢ</sup> knew of its occurrence before my "discovery"."

Ⓢ(Son of David G. Stead)

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LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT.

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At the last meeting it was decided to divide up the chief problem areas among members of the committee. Martin is spokesman and informant on matters pertaining to Walford Park, Shipley Plateau for Lyle and Jamieson Creek for Lloyd.

Winsome Gregory, Beryl Cooley & Nancy Douglas in view of their expertise born from long experience are to be asked to act as advisers.

Perhaps the most serious immediate matter to be discussed was the appalling destruction reported in the construction of the inter-village road between Wentworth Falls and Bullaburra. A letter has been sent to Council seeking an explanation.

Lloyd is seeking comments on Council's Jamieson Creek Report before drafting the Society's opinions of the objectives.

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The pupils of Wentworth Falls Primary School have drawn many colourful posters on the theme TREES ARE OUR FRIENDS. These posters are now on display at the Hut. Our congratulations to the headmaster, staff and pupils for their co-operation in this worthwhile project.

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A question by Senator Colin Mason in Parliament recently elicited the information that the spray has been banned in Canada and that the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council is so concerned about its safety they have set up a working party to investigate.

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This urea formaldehyde foam spray is widely used and is pumped into cavities for insulation of homes, flats etc. The foam sets but it is thought the trouble is caused by gases exuding from it later.

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deterioration, opportunity for the fulfilment of the human potential in place of stunted lives. How can a world which fails to bring the possibility of fulfilled lives to over half its four thousand million expect to cope with twice that number, let alone improve the situation?"

The above is an extract from the Penguin paperback "Confronting the Future" by Charles Birch, Challis Professor of Biology in the University of Sydney and a member of the Club of Rome. This book surveys all facets of the problems but this particular extract is from the chapter on the population explosion in which it points out that while it took mankind 1,000,000 years to reach 500 million (in 1600) it took only 15 years (1960 to 1975) to add the last 1,000 million and probably we will add another 1,000 million in only 13 years (by 1988). It is difficult to visualise the impact of such numbers on a world of finite resources, or to realise that millions of people have a per capita income of less than \$50.00 a year. Some idea of cost in human misery emerges when a woman in a Television documentary on the Third World recently said, "I had 13 children but thank God 11 of them died."

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BUSH LOVER IN SLACKS, BAG ON HIP.

"A small figure in slacks - never a skirt - fair hair windblown, a calico bag on one hip is how co-workers remember Joan Bradley.

Slipped into the bag, ripe seeds of weeds were prevented from generating in bushland where most of Joan's and her kelpie Velvet's time was spent.

An "old fashioned" scientist and former chemist of 65, Miss Bradley died while playing patience in her Mosman home.

She is mourned especially by 80 weeders trained in the Bradley Method of bush regeneration she and her late sister Eileen perfected.

Regenerators are taught the method in classes set up by the National Trust to help native plants replace without replanting, among others, privet, lantana, wandering jew, morning glory and trenchant exotic grasses.

Joan was foundation member of the Mosman Parkland and Ashton Park Association established in 1964 at the beginning of the sisters' research into their method.

The Bradleys and volunteer pupils worked in parks for six years without payment.

"When the Trust paid us in 1977," Miss Bradley once remarked, laughing, "we had professional status".

Professionalism is attested by the constant requests from NSW councils for Bradley Regenerators, and in the conviction of Evelyn Hickey who administers the classes that "Joan will be better known in 20 years' time. The method's reputation will get bigger and bigger".

After two days spent discussing the management of bushland at a recent ANZLIS conference, which Miss Bradley attended, New Zealand delegates echoed that opinion.

At a remembrance morning for their "boss" at Ashton Park, a regenerator summarised a warm, widely held memory with "Joan, a nice dog and an interest in everything".

(An obituary to the late Joan Bradley, noted conservationist, published in the Times last week, inspired a friend, IAN WOOD, to write this moving tribute.)

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*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in August 2022 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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