

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:-

SEPTEMBER CONSERVATION

BLUE MTS. REGIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

Warrimoo Citizens Hall ~ September 16th.

ENVIRONMENT EXHIBITION '73

Sydney Lower Town Hall ~ September 10-15

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

"Man is confronted with the difficult and complex problem of finding out how he can fit into his environment so that it will not deteriorate but will continue to provide what he needs."

R.G.Downes

This newsletter is published monthly by and for the members of the LowerBlue Mountains Conservation Society

The aims of the society are briefly to;-

1. Educate the public and civic leadership towards a better understanding of environmental conservation.
2. Work for the dedication of areas of natural environment and for the maintenance of their values in perpetuity.
3. Carry out research into the distribution and population of wildlife in the Blue Mountains.

President

Mr. B.M.Dark
58 Emu road,
Glenbrook 2773

Secretary

Mr. D.J.Pain
8 Rickard road
Warrimoo 2775

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, SPRINGWOOD,
ON SEPTEMBER 14th. AT 8:00pm.

EDITORIAL.

Accent on Planning:

With the growth of the Blue Mountains region, problems to Conservationists have a direct correlation, bringing about many taxing issues which now are receiving wider cognizance than the previous "Voice in the Wilderness" stereotype of the local Conservationist.

This is exemplified in this issue by two letters to the Editor both seeking solutions to the mammoth task of managing great populations and associated development and yet retain a tolerable quality of life together with unique characteristics of the community beloved by so many. In short Conservationists principals.

In this spirit the long awaited release of the B.M.C.C.'S. Town Plan is of great importance. Aspects of the plan have been met with loud opposition, while some of its innovations can be seen as a direct result of community organisation, particularly in mind here is the Escarpment Preservation Area (the society's objection to the Escarpment Mini-plan are included in this news letter).

The residential areas zoned High rise and Town houses have brought into existence active groups in Glenbrook and Blaxland. Formed after a packed meeting (Aug.22nd). the Blaxland Committee voices local condemnation of Town Housing/Highrise in their area. It also condemnes the planning principal of exclusive zones for Town Housing/Highrise where whole streets, sections of a community, are up-rooted and replaced by high density populations.

The Town Plan will be on display for three months in which time the community must give it careful consideration.. This document will map the course of management in this area, from which deviation will be difficult. The many pressures on the quality of life in this region oblige its citizens to take a stand as a Conversationist or otherwise. The time for action is now.

The Town Plan is available for inspection at the following centres:

Council Headquarter, Grt. West. H'way. KATOOMBA.

Weekday - 10a.m. to 1p.m. & 2p.m. to 4.30p.m.

21st Aug. to 22nd. Sept. each Tuesday & Thursday evening from 6.30p.m. to 9p.m.

Sat. mornings from 9a.m. to 12 noon.

Springwood Civic Centre, Macquarie Rd. SPRINGWOOD.

Weekdays from 21st Aug. to 21st Sept. Thereafter to 20th November each Tuesday & Thursday from 10a.m. to 1p.m. and 2p.m. to 4.30p.m.

from 21st Aug. to 22nd Sept. on each Tuesday & Thursday evening 6.30p.m. to 9p.m.

Sat. mornings 9a.m. to 12 noon.

STATE PLANNING AUTHORITY OF N.S.W.

Weekdays 8.45a.m. to 4.45p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

Members of Blue Mountains Conservation Societies, in conjunction with the Total Environment Centre, have been concerned for some time over the complex problems confronting regional conservation planning in the Blue Mountains.

As a result it was decided to arrange a conference to enable an exchange of ideas, opinions and policies between interested and concerned groups and individuals, which could serve as a guideline for decision-makers, both administrative and voluntary, in the environmental planning of the Blue Mountains Region.

Enclosed is a summary of current developments affecting the region as well as guidelines for the conference (see below). Faced with the acceleration of development of the Blue Mountains Region, we expect members of your group to be interested in an examination of regional planning for the Blue Mountains.

The organisers, however, ask assistance in planning the conference, in particular, we need to know of your interest in participating, as promptly as is convenient. Thank you for your regard in this important matter,

The date set for the conference is SEPTEMBER 16th, 1973, at a location to be announced.

E. M. DARK.

Blue Mountains Regional
Planning Committee.

REGIONAL PLANNING FOR THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

These notes contain background information on the present development of the Blue Mountains in preparation for an upcoming conference. They are meant to focus attention on a very serious problem - the lack of an overall regional

plan for the Blue Mountains.

Regional planning has in the past had a growth and development bias instead of being based on conservation principles and social policies. Isolated decision making by a multitude of agencies has determined the allowable uses in the mountains. What has this unco-ordinated approach achieved in the Blue Mountains? One way of measuring this is to look at: 1. The present pattern of development and 2. Population characteristics.

1. Present Development.

For years now the estate agents and tourist people have predicted a return to the boom days in the Blue Mountains that existed before the Second World War. It wasn't until the late 1960's that the Blue Mountains became attractive again to investors and home seekers.

Poor controls on development have however led to instances of premature subdivisions (i.e. in 1967 only two-fifths of the blocks of land facing water mains were occupied in the Central Mountains). The development of the Lower Blue Mountains escarpment was a prime example of inadequate controls in a regional context.

In November 1972 T.E.C. produced a map detailing the major development projects planned for the Mountains. Some of these included.

- a) 190,000 acre coal exploration licence to Coalex (Slater-Walker Group).
- b) 100,000 acres (min.) of pine plantations proposed in Oberon area.
- c) Forestry Commission proposes Kraft mill and paper pulp mill at Oberon - highly polluting industries.
- d) Last 1,200 acres of natural forest within sight of Oberon to be bulldozed by Forestry Commission for another pine plantation.

At that time T.E.C. called for careful, co-ordinated planning to include:

- a) A single services corridor
- b) Cancellation of subdivisions on the eastern escarpment.
- c) Extension of parklands
- d) Restrict pine plantations to land cleared in the past.
- e) Urgent attention to eliminate river pollution.

2. Population Characteristics.

The reaction of Sydney siders against pollution and the stresses of city living is likely to hasten the movement of people further away from the city. The fringe areas of Sydney feel the urban growth the greatest. Speculation in and demand for land has accelerated the movement of people to the Mountains. As a result the biggest percentage increases in land values has been occurring in the outer areas of Sydney.

The most significant trend in the Blue Mountains has been the increase in its population: The area has seen young families seeking suburban blocks thirty miles from the central business district. How has the population structure changed between the '66 and '71 Census?

The percentage of elderly people residing in the Blue Mountains continues to be out of proportion with the Sydney Region average (6.1% versus 3.7% in the '71 Census). The Blue Mountains also outstrips the Sydney Region average in population growth (19.5% versus 11.04% between '66 and '71). Likewise the workforce of the Blue Mountains grew faster than the Sydney Region average between '66 and '71 Census (5447 people out of 12917). Finally, on the environment side, three times as many households had flush toilets not connected to a public sewer as those that did (3357 versus 1317 households). It is also

significant that nearly one out of four households did not own a car.

If you are interested in pursuing any of these matters further you may want to attend a one day conference on regional planning for the Blue Mountains. Representatives from various government bodies involved in planning in the Blue Mountains will be invited along to give papers on the approaches their organisations take in planning. Conservation body speakers will also be giving their views.

The seminar should cost about \$4.00 (to include lunch and papers) and be held in Springwood.

Mick Dark.

Dear Sir,

Concrete Regional CO-Operation

- a necessity
- but how?

In 1971. the loose Blue Mountains Conservation Federation formed an action committee to fight CLUTHA company operations on the Blue Mountains. Providing grass-roots activism, comment and organisation. I believe the group was one of the major forces that won the day against CLUTHA and for conservation in the Blue Mountains.

With CLUTHA gone, the committee faltered and. after some months of pseudo-existence, folded, leaving the loose Blue Mountains Conservation Federation. Alas at such an inopportune stage. CLUTHA had just been a promise of things to come.

Since CLUTHA, the volunteer conservation societies have been confronted by a bewildering array of environmental threats to the local quality of life. Often we in the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation

Society have had to neglect pressing issues to concentrate on others because of a lack of personnel - and thus time. We are concerned with this situation. The tremendous problems that are (and will be in the future) confronting the Blue Mountains have gone unnoticed outside the Mountains. Late last year, Total Environment Centre, Ecology Action and the Wilderness Protection Committee tried to get action on Blue Mountains environmental problems - and how the vested interests howled. Even now there is great need for Blue Mountains Conservation to bring its problems to the notice of the National Estate Committee.

Let us look at what developments are taking place on the Blue Mountains at this time:-

1. 190,000 acre coal exploration licence to Coaltex (Slater Walker Group).
2. A minimum of 100,000 acres of pine plantations proposed around Oberon.
3. Boyd Plateau to be bulldozed for pine planting instead of dedication as a National Park.
4. Bitumen sealed road along Narrow Neck.
5. Blue Circle Cement combine still holds Colong lease.
6. Network of eroding firetrails over whole of forested area of Blue Mountains.
7. Haematite mining at Mt. Irvine.
8. New expressway up Eastern Escarpment of the Blue Mountains.
9. Repeated sand mining applications over public reserves at Bent's Basin.
10. Crown land subdivisions on the escarpment.
11. 330 k.v. powerline across area promised as

furure National Park.

This is just the cream. It does not show the many local issues that confront all local societies.

And what of that other area Hawkesbury/ Nepean lying half prone to the tremendous urbanisation and change that is taking place west of Sydney. Many forested areas are threatened, as is waterfowl habitat. Pollution, Castlereagh State Forest and swamp reclamation are also issues.

It must be apparent from this list that co-ordination and co-operation is needed if conservation of our regional environment is to be effected. The local conservation societies are quite numerous. I list a few:-

1. Katoomba and Districts Conservation Society.
2. Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society.
3. Blue Mountains Environmental Preservation Soc.
4. Springwood Bushwalkers.
5. Springwood Speliologists Society.
6. Hawkesbury & Districts Conservation Society.
7. Ebenezer Conservation Society.
8. (Kurrajong) Scenic Preserve Society.
9. Mt. Tomah Society.

If regional co-operation can be found, in what direction can we co-ordinate? I would list the following as major considerations:-

- a) Maintenance of communication between all societies
- b) The establishment of a co-ordinating body to:
 - (i) Co-ordinate research and study into the various aspects of environmental problems
 - (ii) CO-ordinate policy on enviromental matters effecting the region
 - (iii) Co-ordinate action and representations

The local societies are necessary for such a large area as our region but they are severely limited to act on a regional basis. Such proposals are definitely not a threat to local autonomy.

Present communication between volunteers within the region is rather haphazard. For example, many members of the Hawkesbury and Districts conservation would know little of the Katoomba and District's fight to save their famous cliffhines and, in reverse, few in Katoomba would know of the important Castlereagh State Forest issues. If regional action is to be taken, communication is needed.

Perhaps a regional newsletter would be the answer - that would need further thought. But the establishment of a co-ordinating body for the region is needed. The idea is not new however, Mick Dark, President Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society, is convenor of a committee for regional planning trying to get action. However, such co-ordination would need a committee with aims such as already outlined earlier. A Blue Mountains - Hawkesbury/Nepean Conservation Federation would need the co-operation of all conservation societies in the region and would help the conservation cause considerably.

We need research (i) into the various aspects of conservation issues in the region, e.g. the eastern escarpment or the Nepean/Hawkesbury River. But often two or more societies are undertaking the same work and would be better achieve their aims with a unified approach, e.g. the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society. A co-ordinating Federation would review the Societies interested and organise a unified approach to the problem.

Policies (ii) can be a trap. One society can often give away the ground another society is striving to achieve. Such was the case when the Colong Committee was fighting for the Boyd Plateau only to find that a few

years earlier, the N.P.A. had compromised the area and the situation was exploited by the Forestry Commission. Policies on such things as burning programmes for National Parks need regional attention.

Representations (iii) made on environmental issues mean more when undertaken on a regional basis. Just recently, the N.P.A., the Australian Littoral Society, the Conservation Society of N.S.W., Ecology Action, the Environmental Defence Council, the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia (N.S.W.) met and set up OIKOS - a conservation clearing-house designed to co-ordinate state - wide conservation action. It was decided that, at the steering committee's discretion, interested conservation societies be invited to participate as a delegate to the steering committee.

This is a marvellous opportunity for the conservation problems of the region to obtain a greater degree of attention. In addition, some of the region's societies belong to the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. (most do not). Representation as a region at the council would be fruitful in a similar way.

I could go on but I will leave the question with all conservationists of the region.

Already one proposal - the Moomba gas pipeline - affected us as a region - and it won't be the last. We cannot afford not to respond as a region.

Mark me down as one for the Blue Mountains - Hawkesbury/Nepean Conservation Federation, and create regional co-ordination.

It will take work - that is why we need dedicated conservationists.

Michael Smithson.

MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING. 10th August, '73.
SPRINGWOOD CIVIC CENTRE.

Minutes of the previous general & committee meetings were read and accepted.

It was resolved that M. Smithson & D. Pain would compile and submit the Society's objection to the Escarpment Interim Development Order along the lines of our policy.

The two motions passed at the previous committee meeting re filing of correspondence and reading pamphlets received were ratified by the members.

M. Smithson gave his views on a need for a regional conservation attitude. He moved the following motion (seconded by N. McGrath):-

"That the Society agrees in principle with the idea of Regional Co-ordination in Conservation and commends it to further investigation and action by the members". carried.

N. McGrath volunteered to investigate the Town House/Villa situation and write a report for the newsletter.

It was moved by N. McGrath, seconded J. Dark that an account for \$4.36 due to Cumberland Newspapers be paid. carried.

M. Smithson informed the meeting of reports he had received of people inquiring on the "Mini" Town Plan being given misleading information by Council officers.

Moved D. Pain, seconded M. Smithson - "that the Society write to the State Planning Authority reporting the Council officers action in misleading the public, and requesting an extension of time to object to the "Mini" Plan. carried.

It was also moved M. Smithson, seconded by D. Pain "that we write to B.M.C.C. in protest against the Mayor's inference that only certain Blue Mountains residents were entitled to object to the Interim Development Order and that Council's officers had refused to give forms to residents interested in making objections. That further, we ask for clarification and a public statement on who is entitled to object and that further appropriate action

be taken to enable all people wishing to object to do so"..carried.

It was moved D. Pain, seconded J. Dark that we reimburse M. Smithson \$6.50 for cost of information cards used in the trapping programme. Mrs. Bramsen donated the \$5.00 refunded from Econews to Society funds. A vote of thanks was moved.

Meeting closed 11p.m.

N. C. C. CONFERENCE 1973.

If you have any ideas for motions to be put to the Nature Conservation Council Conference bring them forward at the next meeting. The Annual Dinner and Conference is to be held on October, 13th. 1973.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES.

Sept. 15th ..5p.m. B.B.Q. meet at Hazelbrook Railway Stn. Grt. Western H'way. followed by inspection of glow worms, some spotlighting.

Sept. 22nd..7.30p.m. Slide night at Mrs. Bramson, 52 Boomerang Road, Springwood.

BUNGONIA NOT SAVED!

February edition of Kalori under the heading "Bungonia Saved" stated that the N.S.W. Mining Warden Mr. R.S.Anderson stated "the public interest in presentation of scenic aspects and recreational uses outweighs the public interest in the mining of the area, having regard to the everlasting impairment of the environment as compared with the short-term benefits of mining". Unfortunately the State Premier Sir Robert Askin does not share this view in his opinion the mineral resources belong to the whole community. It is unlikely that any attempt will be made to conceal the quarry workings.

TOWN PLANNING SCHEME & INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDER

- CONFUSION REIGNS

The following is a copy of our objection to Interim Development Order No.26 which was lodged with the State Planning Authority on August 16th, 1973.

"The following objection is submitted in respect of the exhibited proposals. The Society does not own land in the affected area although several members do reside in the area. We feel entitled to object as a community organisation having in terms of the Act "an interest in land affected by the Scheme".

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society's main objection to the proposed scheme is that the various zonings if brought into effect would not be sufficient to permanently preserve the Eastern Escarpment of the Blue Mountains although this is the intention of the majority of residents of the area and the stated objective of the Blue Mountains Council.

The most effective method available is to dedicate as much as possible of the Escarpment as national park / historic site or similar dedication. Obviously it is not possible to dedicate the entire escarpment as considerable development has already taken place, and indeed there is room for further limited development. However, we feel that nearly all land on the escarpment which is below the 800ft. contour can be preserved in this way, although the acquisition of some private land could be expensive. There are large blocks of reserved and unreserved Crown land available for inclusion in a dedication and unless this is done we feel there is danger of this land being too easily alienated for development.

The Proposed Zonings

The Scheme zonings of Non-urban and Open space are clearly not appropriate for the preservation of the escarpment when such development as agriculture, country dwellings, caravan parks and extractive industry could be carried out in non-urban zones. Similarly, open space zoning is not sufficient when agriculture, forestry, sports grounds, roads and utility installations could be carried out in an area intended for preservation.

Certain areas shown as "Residential A1" are essential for the preservation of the escarpment as they are in a largely natural state and below the 800ft contour. These lands are:-

1. All land to the east of Emu Rd. Glenbrook and bounded by Explorers Rd. in the north except for (i) in that area zoned 5A and (ii) all land previously built on (i.e. Lapstone Estate).
2. All of Crown land portion 179 (Parish of Strathden) which is below the 800 ft. contour.
3. All that land in portion 12 (Parish of Nepean) which is below the 800 ft. contour.
4. All that land in portion 52 (Parish of Nepean) which is below the 800 ft. contour.

The above lands should be acquired and dedicated as part of a national park or similar reserve. All ^{non-residential} other private land shown on the scheme map as being in the escarpment area should be acquired and together with the existing Crown land should be consolidated to form the basis for the national park. We feel the present reserved Crown land also needs this dedication as at present it can be alienated without effective public involvement.

Our Reasons for Preserving the Escarpment

1. The Eastern Escarpment is a superb scenic feature as a backdrop to the Cumberland Plains and as an introduction to the Blue Mountains - and should be preserved as the property of the people of New South Wales rather than that of a minority of land-holders or other interested individuals.
2. The escarpment is an admirable open space buffer between the developing areas of the Lower Mountains and the developing areas of Emu Plains.
3. The escarpment should be preserved in a natural condition to secure a representative selection of flora of the landform and to provide a reservoir of wildlife in the area.
4. To preserve the escarpment in a natural condition would be to preserve the unique geological phenomenon of the Lapstone monocline.
5. The area has unique historical significance as the first major barrier the early settlers faced in developing the new colony. The permanent preservation of historic sites such as Lennox Bridge and the Zig-Zag Railway would be guaranteed by dedication of the Escarpment in the manner we have outlined.

We shall be pleased to further elucidate our views before the Authority when required."

The major Town Planning Scheme is at present on exhibition and anyone is able to object to any of the zonings or provisions of the scheme. Certain misleading information has been given to members and the public in general as regards the Escarpment 'mini-plan' and its relation to the scheme overall. We have written to Council for clarification so watch this space for further details.

- D. Pain

*** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ***

Friday October 12th 8p.m.

Springwood Civic Centre

You can help decide who runs your Society

Be there !

CASTLEREAGH STATE FOREST

A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL

Castlereagh State Forest (No. 422) lies between Penrith and Windsor, between the Windsor and Llandilo Roads, and within the Municipality of Penrith.

Its geological structure consists of Tertiary deposits of clay, silt, sand and river gravel, with beds of laterite.

Today, the Forest existence depends equally upon the decision making processes of the people of N.S.W. Only the actions of concerned citizens will ensure the Forest's continued survival.

I am writing this lengthy article to allow the reader to inform himself on all the information available to the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society on the Forest, and to decide whether it should survive.

* * * * *

The Vegetation

Kartzoff in "Nature and a City" (Edwards and Shaw 1969) classifies the vegetation type in the Forest as predominantly Broadleaved Ironbark Association.

The climate of the area is harsh by County of Cumberland standards. The mean annual rainfall is low (25 inches as compared to 31 inches at Penrith, with four months from June to September being a mean monthly rainfall of 157 points) and the area experiences more extreme temperatures than are usually experienced in the Sydney area.

The Broadleaved Ironbark, *Eucalyptus fibrosa*, is the dominant Eucalypt, occurring as pure stands on the clay ridges (where it is seen as good quality pole timber), and as poor scrubby forest on the sandy beds.

On the beds of laterite, however, *Euc. fibrosa* and the mugga ironbark (*Euc. sideroxylon*) generally disappear and are replaced by the drooping red gum (*Euc. parramattensis*) and the melaleucas (*M. nodosa* and *M. linariifolia*). The melaleucas are the dominant tree of the swampy zones of the Forest. *Angophora bakerii* occurs on the dryer sand ridges.

Also present in the Forest is Woollybutt (*Euc. longiflora*), scribbly gum (*Euc. haemastoma* var. *schlerophylla*) and, as commonly, Red Bloodwood (*E. gummifera*).

Kartzoff glosses over the understorey plants describing them as mainly belonging to the Proteaceae family, whilst Isopogon is well represented. Much work has yet to be done in the area. However, I have found of interest the Macrozamia palm (*M. spirilis?*) and the Boronia (*B. polygalifolia*) as well as a rather uncommon *persoonia* species.

Understorey plants in the pure ironbark stands are poor and mainly comprise the native grasses including the kangaroo grass, *Themedia australis*. *Acacia falcata*, *Callistermon lineraris* and *Hakea* and *Melaleuca* species also occur abundantly.

The area is a wonderful wildflower reserve and one of the most beautiful areas on the Wianamatta Plains for spring wildflower displays.

Fauna

Much less information is available on the fauna of the area. Of interest have been sightings of the Lace Monitor (*Varanus (varanus) varius*).

Of the mammals, I have sighted the European Hare (*Lepus Europaeus*) in the Forest. The Society (L.B.M.C.S.) has spotlighted the Brush tailed possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). I have also noted the spoor of a member of the macropodidae in the Forest.

Kartzoff notes that Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus major*) occurred within the Forest as late as 1958. But they were under great pressure from shooters and dogs. Locals are divided as to whether these kangaroos still survive. One local, living quite close to the Forest, believes the kangaroos still roam between Riverstone and the Forest in the large areas of bush still found in the area. He also mentioned that they were still under pressure from shooters and dogs.

Mr. K. King, former President of the L.B.M.C.S. sighted a red necked wallaby (*Wallabia rufogrisea*) at Castlereagh in 1971. A Penrith resident has also reported seeing a group of macropods swimming the Nepean River to Castlereagh. There seems every indication that at least wallabies occur in the Forest. I have small hope for the survival of any grey kangaroos however.

The birds of the area have been recorded more fully than the mammals.

The Hawkesbury District Conservation Society and Mr. Athol Colemane, and the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society have lists for the Forest. These are condensed into one list and Mr. Colemane's indications of bird habitat are used except where designated with an asterisk (sighted L.B.M.C.S.).

R = Resident
RE = Rare

M = Migratory
N = Nomadic

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Little Pied Cormorant | N | Superb Blue Wren | R |
| White Faced Heron | N | White Throated Warbler | M |
| White Egret | N | Weebill | R |
| Black Duck | N | Straited Thornbill | R |
| Black Shouldered Kite | R | Little Thornbill | R |
| Australian Goshawk | R | Brown Thornbill | R |
| Little Falcon | N | Buff Rumped Thornbill | R |
| Mankeen Kestrel | R | Yellow Rumped Thornbill | R |
| Brown Hawk | N | White Browed Small Wren | R |
| Fainted Quail | R | Speckled Warbler | R |
| Spurwinged Plover | N | Jacky Winter | R |
| Japanese Snipe | M | Scarlet Robin | N |
| Spotted Turtle Dove | R | Hooded Robin | N |
| Peaceful Dove | R | Rose Robin | RE |
| Common Bronzewing | R | Yellow Robin | R |
| Rainbow Lorikeet | N | Grey Fantail | R |
| Musk Lorikeet | N | Rufous Fantail | M,RE |
| Little Lorikeet | N | Willie Wagtail | R |
| Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | N | Leaden Flycatcher | M |
| Galah | N | Restless Flycatcher | R |
| Eastern Rosella | R | Black Faced Flycatcher | M |
| Red Rumped Parrot | R | Golden Whistler | R |
| Pallid Cuckoo | M | Rufous Whistler | M |
| Fantailed Cuckoo | R | Grey Shrike Thrush | R |
| Horsfield-bronze Cuckoo | N | Shrike tit | R |
| Golden-bronze Cuckoo | N | Eastern Whipbird | R |
| Boobook Owl | R | Orange Winged Sittella | N |
| Tawny Frogmouth | R | White throated Tree Creeper | R |
| Spinetailed Swift | M | Mistletoe Bird | N |
| Laughing Kookaburra | R | Spotted Pandelote | R |
| Sacred Kingfisher | M | Red-tipped Pandelote | R |
| Rainbow Bee-eater | M,RE | Grey Breasted Silvereye | R |
| Dollar Bird | M | Fuscous Honeyeater | R |
| Willow Swallow | R | Yellow Faced Honeyeater | N |
| Tree Martin | N | White Plumed Honeyeater | R |
| Aust. Pipit | N | Yellow Tufted Honeyeater | R |
| Black faced Cuckoo Shrike | R | Brown Headed Honeyeater | N |
| Eastern Spinebill | N | White Naped Honeyeater | N |
| Noisy Miner | R | Regent Honeyeater | N,RE* |
| Red Wattlebird | N | Noisy Friar Bird | N |
| Red Browed Finch | R | Banded Finch | R |
| Zebra Finch | N | House Sparrow | R |
| Gold Finch | N | Starling | R |
| Indian Mynah | R | Olive Backed Oriole | N |
| Magpie Lark | R | White Winged Chough | R |
| White browed Wood Swallow | M | Dusky Wood Seallow | R |
| Pied Currawong | R | Grey Butcher Bird | R |
| Black Backed Magpie | R | Aust. Raven | R |
| White Winged Triller | M | Bell Miner | R,RE* |

This list numbers 98 birds

History

The Castlereagh State Forest was dedicated on the 20th April 1917. Two extensions followed in 1919. In July 1946, the total acreage of the Forest was 2361.8 acres. By 1970, it had fallen to less than half this figure.

The first sizeable revokation of land from the Forest occurred in October 1960 when over 500 acres were removed for the establishment of the Daruk Training Centre for Boys.

With a decline in the quality of some of the timber stands in the Forest, certain areas were opened up for open strip extraction of laterite gravels. By July 1946, 51.8 acres of land had been mined by the gravel industry.

In December 1968, Mr. Allen A. Strom, advisor in Conservation to the Department of Education, advised the Forestry Commission that, in his opinion, the Forest was the only remaining example of the original vegetation of the Cumberland Plain. He requested the Forestry Commission's consent to use the Forest for teaching purposes.

However, in October 1969, the District Forester endorsed a recommendation to revoke some 1150 acres of the northern section of the Forest. The Forestry Commission viewed the recommendations as follows (Dec. 1969) - The southern section of the Forest was useful in providing revenue and employment from timber production; the northern section was useless for timber production as a result of legal and illegal strip mining, its protection from fire and illegal mining would constitute more than it was worth. It was assumed that Mr. Strom would be interested in the southern section of the Forest, as the northern section "whilst educational, would hardly provide examples of the type required by him".

It was decided then that the northern section of the Forest be revoked "paying due regard to the need to remove any merchantable timber thereon", and that the Department of Education be informed of the action to be taken. Should it, however, be interested in the Forest, it was decided to advise the Department that the forest retained would be available for educational purposes whilst being used for the continuation of its timber production.

It was also recommended that the District Forester be requested to prepare a plan of management for this Forest "which incorporates both its production activities and indirect benefits". No reason was seen why Mr. Strom should not be invited to put his views forward.

M. A. Smithson

(to be continued next issue)

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....

OPTIONAL INFORMATION

Occupation.....

Skills/Interests.....

.....

I would like to participate in:-

() Field Trip.

() Live Trapping Programme.

() Meetings etc.

() I cannot be an active member.

I wish to apply for membership of the society.

I enclose \$ for subscription.*

signed.

*SUBSCRIPTION RATES

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Adult.p.a. | \$ 2-00 | Life. | \$20-00 |
| Family.p.a. | \$ 3-00 | Associate. p.a. | \$ 1-00 |
| Junior.p.a. | \$ 0-50 | | |

All members receive a copy of the society newsletter.

SEND TO:-

The Secretary,
LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY
P.O. Box 119
Springwood N.S.W. 2777

Authorised by D.J.Pain 8 Rickard road, Warrimoo. 2775