

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1976

The President:  
Mick Dark,  
58 Emu Rd.,  
Glenbrook.  
Ph. 391764

The Secretary:  
Bob Chapman,  
83 Cross St.,  
Warrimoo.  
Ph. 536107

Next Monthly Meeting: Friday 13th February  
8 p.m. at the Springwood  
Red Cross Hall.

TREE AND SHRUB PRESERVATION

Council asked us for suggestions for advertising the Tree Preservation Order, and possibly extending the Order to include other native plants.

We suggested to them that these aims could best be achieved by:

1. Avoiding destroying the original vegetation of new subdivisions by encouraging developers to selectively clear only parts of the blocks, and even to leave some blocks relatively untouched;
2. Encourage new residents and land owners to retain native vegetation by sending a prominent notice with all house plan approvals and all new ratepayers;
3. Encourage established residents to retain and increase what native vegetation they have, by sending a notice or pamphlet on growing native plants to all residents, perhaps with the annual rates notice. Native plants for street plantings could also be supplied by Council.

oOo

GLENBROOK TRAIN SMASH

Following the recent fatal train smash near Glenbrook, when the damaged carriage ended up in the National Park, there was some dispute as to what actually happened with the carriage. As in the classic detective stories, it was a case of "did she fall or was she pushed".

Initial stories said that the carriage was pushed over to clear the tracks. Other stories said that the P.T.C. wanted to balance it on a lower ledge for later recovery, but the ledge collapsed and the carriage fell. If "pushed", it indicates an irresponsible and illegal approach by the P.T.C. If it "fell", the P.T.C. showed incompetence by not having adequate means to hold the carriage. The right thing would have been to have dragged the carriage a short distance up the tracks to where it could be pushed aside for later easy recovery.

### Glenbrook Train Smash (Cont.)

At first it seemed that the P.T.C. was going to leave the carriage in the National Park. A later newspaper report said that the carriage would be recovered as the P.T.C. "was as concerned about the environment as anyone". Fortunately suggestion to bulldoze a track into the wreckage was not followed through; this would have caused even greater damage than that caused already. However, a P.T.C. representative at the recent public meeting held to discuss general transport matters, stated that the P.T.C. only intended to recover some of the more valuable items.

Perhaps the P.T.C. is relying on local people to souvenir the wreckage.

The Society wrote to the P.T.C. and the Minister for Transport asking that the wrecked carriage be removed, and that in the future more care be taken when clearing blocked rail lines.

oOo

### COMING EVENTS

Friday 13th February - Meeting, Springwood Red Cross Hall, Macquarie Road, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Delphine Andrews will be giving a talk on "The Use of Environmental Resources in Education". As well as being of general interest, it should be of special interest to teachers. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please invite them along too.

Friday 12th March - Meeting, Springwood Red Cross Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Dot Svensen will be giving a talk on "The Geology of the Blue Mountains". This also should be most interesting.

Excursions - Because of the success of last year's excursions, we intend to run several more this year. The first one will probably be to the Bilpin area to study an area which has been untouched by bushfires for 40 years, and also to visit the Mountain Lagoon area. We hope to have the latter incorporated into a National Park. Details have yet to be arranged.