

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWS BULLETIN

P.O. Box 119
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OCTOBER 1976

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WANDERERS RETURN

Mick and Jill Dark recently returned from their four-month trip through the central areas of Australia. They had a wonderful time and found it hard re-adjusting to the rigours of civilization.

Lake Eyre was like a coastal lake with abundant wildlife. The Simpson Desert was like good grazing land; so much so that grass seeds blocked the van's radiator causing the only significant problem on the journey.

About 1000 slides were taken on the trip, and Mick will be showing some of these at future Society meetings.

A welcome-back barbecue was held recently at Bessie Bramsen's place.

NORTON'S BASIN

Our protests, along with those of others seems to have had some effect. Penrith Council is now re-examining their attitude to the proposed development and may tighten restrictions on the area. In fact we understand that the developer is considering changing the original land development plan into the development of a zoo!

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

Grants

The Australian Government has decided that conservation societies will no longer receive grants as in the past, but will receive an allocation of \$2 for each \$1 raised. This does not directly affect our Society as we do not receive a general grant although many Groups will be badly affected. However, we did receive a grant on an earlier occasion to carry out a special project on Blue Mountains planning. We would be hard pressed to get a similar grant under the new system should we need one.

Environment

The Australian Government is also considering relaxing the requirements of the Act requiring Environmental Impact Statements for developments in which the Government is in some way involved. This would be a serious backward step from a hard-won position of environment control.

The Society has written to the Australian Government protesting at these actions. Both actions would undermine efforts to improve our general environment.

Frazer Island

A report recommending no further sand mining on Frazer Island (Qld) has been tabled with the Government. We hope that they will be as keen to implement these recommendations as they probably will be to implement the recommendations of the Fox Report on uranium mining.

STOP PRESS On Tuesday November 2, Federal Cabinet decided to agree in principle with the recommendation of the Frazer Island Environmental Inquiry.

CHANNEL-BILLED CUCKOO

The early morning serenity of Glenbrook Lagoon was shattered recently by an aerial battle between a pair of Channel-billed Cuckoos and a family of Currawongs.

The Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*) is unusual in that it doesn't build a nest of its own. Instead the female deposits her eggs in other birds' nests; the chief hosts being Currawongs and Crows. Needless to say this migrant bird was not particularly welcome in the Currawongs nest and a noisy battle ensued. The bird is noted for its loud screaming call which is supposed to be an omen of wet weather. Who won the battle? It couldn't be ascertained.....but we have certainly had abnormally rainy weather since.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions of \$4.00 single and \$5.00 family are now overdue. Please pay as soon as possible so that we can budget properly for the coming year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to lack of a quorum at the October meeting, the Annual General Meeting had to be postponed. It will now be held on the November meeting (Sunday 14th November, Mulgoa)

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 14th November - A tour of historical sites of Mulgoa led by Mr. Arthur Downes. Meet at 10.15 am at Blaxlands Crossing.

Saturday 27th November - A bird watching expedition at Leura Falls led by Mr. Graham Alcorn. We will walk down to the rainforest below the falls and on to the Scenic Railway at Katoomba. Meet at 9.30 am at the reserve above Leura Falls. Bring a cut lunch.

Friday 10th December - Christmas Party at "The Settlers" Restaurant at Mulgoa. Friends of members welcome. Please advise us by 1st December.

Friday 11th February 1977 - first meeting for 1977 - Glenbrook Primary School, corner Woodville and Peel Streets.