

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

1977

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NEXT MEETING: Friday, 12th August 1977 Glenbrook Primary School, 8.00 pm

NEXT FIELD EXCURSION

Saturday, 13th August 1977 - Erskine State Forest.
We will be meeting at the junction of Kings Tableland Road and Great Western Highway near the Brown Horse Inn.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FAIR

Will be held at the Penrith Plaza on 4th - 6th August 1977. Our Society will be participating in the fair with a small display.

BOTANY BAY

In mid June the State Government rejected the proposed Botany Bay coal loader. Instead, they plan to construct a coal loader at Port Kembla and enlarge the facilities at Balmain. The Government plans for the Port Kembla development include the construction of a railway from Douglas Park to Port Kembla to move coal from Clutha's mines. Let us hope that in saving Botany Bay the State Government does not create another environmental problem by disfiguring the Illawarra escarpment with the proposed railway.

URANIUM

The Second and Final Fox report was released at the end of May. This second report dealt with the local environmental effect of developing the Ranger and other nearby deposits and like the first report, makes no firm recommendation that mining go ahead:

Some Salient points of the Report:

1. The commissioners believed the greatest threat to the environment and particularly to the welfare, well being and culture of the Aboriginal people might prove to be the large white population (and the additional roads, communication lines, power supplies structures and excavations) which the mining ventures would bring.
2. A recommendation by the commissioners that Kakadu National Park be trebled; that the entire Alligator River region should become a vast national park covering more than 400 square miles, but ...
3. The Ranger and Psncontinental mines would be within the park but not part of the park.

4. New restraints on air pollution, radiation and the release of contaminants into the regions rivers and creeks.
5. The Koongarra deposit should not be exploited at this stage because of the threat to the environment and wildlife and the decision to develop the Narbarlek should be left with Arnhem Land Aborigines.

The Federal Government is expected to make the final decision on the development of an Australian uranium industry within the next month.

MYALL LAKES

The State Government has decided to extend the Myall Lakes Park beyond the recommended boundaries. Two sandmining operations will be allowed to continue in the park until they are completed in 1980 and 1982. After that time, no sandmining operations will be allowed in the park. The new park will take in the western foreshores of Myall Lake, a large area to the south bounded by the Myall River, the sea and Hawkes Nest and the area from Smiths Lake to Seal Rocks, including the spectacular high dunes area. Mr. Landa, the Minister for Planning and Environment, described the area as the most beautiful lake system in the world.

DOG CONTROL

At a recent meeting, called by the Minister for Local Government, to obtain a cross section of opinion on dog control, irresponsible owners were blamed for the increasing problem of nuisance dogs. It was rightly suggested that dogs be prevented from entering national parks. Dogs roaming in the bush form packs and endanger the native animals. The existing Dog Act is being reviewed and suggestions raised at the meeting will be considered in proposed legislation.

MEETING OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY ON FRIDAY,
10TH JUNE 1977 AT GLENBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes -

Write to Mayor inquiring about reply to our letter on Hawkesbury Road Subdivision.

Correspondence (Out)

- i) To Minister for Planning and Environment re Liquid waste in Captlreagh State Forest.
- ii) Premier N.S.W. - re trail bikes
- iii) Premier N.S.W. - re domestic pets legislation.

Correspondence (In)

- i) Scout Association - reply
- ii) Woodchips and Environment
- iii) Ecology action newsletter
- iv) Nature Conservation Council re special conference on Environment Protection. Our delegate to attend.
- v) Country Sawmillers Association - copy of environmental policy.
- vi) Katoomba and District Newsletter.
- vii) Information on Community Services Fair.

General Business

- i) Telegram sent to Minister for Primary Industry re: "Saving the Whale".
- ii) That the plan and site of Boorea Street town house development be inspected to decide whether to object or not.
- iii) That a letter be written to the Catholic Church asking what is to happen to St. Columbus's.

CASTLEREAGH STATE FOREST

With the controversy brewing over liquid waste disposal and Castlereagh State Forest, we thought it timely to review the features of this forest. The forest lies between Penrith and Windsor, between Windsor and Llandilo Roads and within the Municipality of Penrith.

The Vegetation

Kartzooff 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. parramatensis*) 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, less commonly, Red Bloodwood (*Euc. gummifera*).

Kartzooff glosses over the understorey plants describing them as mainly belonging to the Proteaceae family, whilst *Isopogon* is well represented.

To be continued.