



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

NEWSLETTER MARCH 1980.

P.O. BOX 119 Springwood 2777.

President; B. Bramsen ph 512787 Secretary; W. Godfrey ph 391748.

Next MEETING.

Friday night, MARCH 14th at 8 p.m. at the Glenbrook Primary School.

At the last meeting it was decided to return to the format of monthly meetings in order to keep members more in touch with each other and events in the conservation field that may be missed during the two month interval that previously existed between meeting dates.

Also, the structure will be such that guest speakers will be arranged for every second month, while the intervening month will be a business meeting for fuller discussion of issues. This will allow members to have a greater say in the running of the society, and in policy decisions.

For the first meeting, there will be a discussion on formulating a strong BUSHFIRE POLICY for the society. Please bring along your ideas, having consulted the Nature Conservation Council policy guidelines presented in the last newsletter.

Newsletters will continue to be sent once every two months so keep an eye on the calendar for meeting dates, every second Friday of the month at 8pm at Glenbrook Primary School.

Also to be discussed at this meeting is the prospective showing of films on Nuclear Energy, costing \$65 to hire.

Next OUTING

Sunday, 9th MARCH at the Kangaroo Park at Dural. Meet at 10am at the gates at 407 New Line Road, Dural. This visit has been arranged so that the owner will be taking the group through. A visit to the Pennant Hills Forest Nursery will follow in the afternoon. Everyone is then invited back to Wendy Godfrey's home at 7 Kent Street Glenbrook for afternoon tea.

FUTURE MEETING.

Ann Jelenik will be the guest speaker at the meeting on April 11th, at Glenbrook Primary School, 8pm.

NEW OFFICE BEARERS.

Last newsletter mentioned that our minutes secretary for this year was Jill Dark. In fact, Jill was filling in for Helen Black until she had knowledge of teacher postings for 1980. Helen is now able to take on the position as Minutes Secretary.

BUSHFIRES.

The following letter appeared in the latest edition of the N.P.A. Journal, (Feb., 1980 Vol 2, No. 1.) and sums up the position of Controlled Burning. Here is an inspiration to do something positive in creating a strong Bushfire Policy. Come along to the next Meeting with your thoughts!

"The recurring violence of bushfires brings the predictable reaction "Why is nothing done about it?" Controlled burning of vulnerable areas during safe seasons has been enthusiastically advocated by many and accepted as policy of the N.P.W.S.: it is as bitterly condemned by others who doubt its value and fear its long term consequences.

What is its value? Have the controlled burns in Kuringai Chase and the Blue Mountains done anything to mitigate the damage in subsequent blowups. This vital question is calling out for decision, and it is not to be decided purely on the impressions of weary firefighters or frightened property owners or the curators of our suffering national parks. It seems to call for a

team of unprejudiced observers to study on the map precisely what areas were controlled in the past few years and to observe now, while the evidence is fresh, what benefits, if any, may be attributed to this practice.

If there is no clear evidence of its value, then controlled burning should cease until a great deal more is known about its effects. It has been shown (Bradley and others) that after each burn weed invasion occurs rapidly, there seems to be a progressive loss in the diversity of the species of flora and fauna in the area, and probably too a leaching out of nutrients from the soil, all leading to an ultimate impoverishment of the native bushland.

The panic reaction of "do something" should not lead us to continue a practice which may, in fact, be doing much harm and little good."

Dr. Phillip Millard,
Longueville, NSW.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

1980 SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE DUE.

Oct. 1979 - Oct. 1980.

\$4 Single
\$5 Family.
