



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

NEWSLETTER.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! The meeting time has been changed.
Meetings now start at 7.30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, February 12th. We have invited Bob Debus to be our guest speaker to participate in a general discussion on conservation and interests of mutual concern.

Future Meetings: Friday, March 12th. Mr. Koperberg, Executive Officer of the Blue Mountains Bushfire Prevention Association has been invited to speak at this meeting.

Friday, April 9th. Shirley Patterson has been invited to discuss the function of the National Trust in conservation matters.

Future Events: Sunday, March 21st. There will be a bush-walk to Blue-Gum Swamp ^{Creek} North Springwood. The meeting place is White Cross Road corner at 10.00 a.m. Forty members of the Department of Sport and Recreation will join us on this outing and they are keen to find out more about native plants and animals.

Walks proposed for the future are;
Florabella Park and St. Helena during the autumn and Dante's Glen in the Spring.

REPORTS.

Constitution: We hope to amend and streamline our constitution to a more manageable form and a committee will work on this.

Publicity: We plan to have a small article published from time to time in the Mountains Gazette and Week-ender and also to advertise activities in the Public Notices.

Escarpment Issue: We will make an application to Mr. Eric Bedford, Minister for Planning and Environment and to the Heritage Council for a permanent Conservation Order on all Crown Land on the escarpment.

We hope to follow up this later with a similar request for all Crown Land on the Blue Mountains.

Lennox Bridge: We are sending a further letter to the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board requesting removal of detergent from effluent from Glenbrook Sewerage Treatment Works.

Raffle Result: Mrs. Barbara Darcy of Boomerang Rd., Springwood won the Picture Raffle, drawn at the Christmas Party. Congratulations to her and commiserations to the losers!

2KA and Publicity: Wendy Godfrey has spoken for the Society on the News Bulletin about the Escarpment issue.

If there are any other suggestions for news and publicity please let us know.

Donation: \$50 has been sent to the National Parks Association for legal action being undertaken against the Forestry Commission for disregarding the Environmental Impact Statement in the Hastings Catchment Rainforest area.

Weeds: Council has been asked to declare certain plants as noxious weeds, among them Gorse, Broome and Blackberry - and we have requested the following additions - Privet, Lantana, Pampas grass, Honeysuckle, Ochna, Wandering Jew and Morning Glory.

Weeds are nuisance plants that prevent the plants preferred from germinating and growing. Conservationists usually prefer native bush to introduced plants, especially in such places as reserves and National Parks. But weeds invade such areas where clearings have occurred. These weeds grow from wind-borne seeds and even plants carried by humans and animals from our gardens. So the first step is to remove from our gardens flowers and shrubs we didn't know were weeds!

Do you have any of the following? Ochna, Nasturtium, Privet, Honeysuckle, Cape or English Ivy, Asparagus, Pampas grass, Japanese knotweed, Ribbon plant, Lantana or Winter Cherry. (the 2 latter are sold in nurseries) Coreopsis or Camphor Laurel?

Weeds should never be removed from bush areas unless there is an adequate plant cover or bigger and better weeds will enter and take over where the soil has been disturbed.

The Forestry Commission developed a Lantana eater (bug) as a biological control but in areas where it had success the Camphor Laurel now grows - a much more vigorous and more difficult plant to eradicate. Where Camphor Laurel grows nothing else can - in part due to a poison it produces. Leaves and stems have a characteristic camphor smell when crushed. The small seedlings should be removed at first appearance.