



# Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. BOX 119  
SPRINGWOOD,  
2777

## APRIL NEWSLETTER 1983

President; Christine Stickley 53-6380

Secretary; Wendy Godfrey 39-1748

Editor; Paul Godfrey 39-1748

### CONGRATULATIONS and a "NEW MEMBER"

Andrew Richmond Bridle was welcomed into the peaceful home of Christine Stickley and Ross Bridle on 22nd March. All went well and we wish the enlarged Bridle/Stickley family a wholesome and enriching life together.

### PAST MEETINGS

#### APRIL

Crocodiles, water monitors, geckos, man-eating mosquitoes, scavenging herons, encounters of the buffalo kind; all these plus beautiful scenery captured in excellent slides. These were presented by Paul Gobert at our April meeting. Paul shared his 1982 trip to the Gulf and Kakadu National Park with us in fine form. Those of you who missed this fine exposition failed to see a fine show.

I found myself developing a bad case of "travellers foot" (also referred to as "itchy foot", "travellers tinea" or the "unwashed foot syndrome"). I can see a L.B.M.C.S. expedition being mounted in the near future to endeavour to match Paul's - but perhaps this is just a dream. Regardless, thanks Paul for a most enjoyable viewing.

### WORKS MEETINGS

These are proving effective with several new people participating. Next "nitty-gritty" get-together is the Monday following our May meeting ie. 16th May. New participants are most welcome.



Besse Bramsen - Publicity Officer

Besse's in the news again - poor lady. On her way to our cake stall day on Saturday 19th March, a Volvo gave Besse's car a slight nudge into the oncoming traffic - a Commodore station wagon. No one, fortunately, was seriously hurt. Besse received some cracked and broken ribs, mild shock and bruising plus a very bent Renault. While the car was a "write-off", Besse certainly hasn't lost her enthusiasm to participate in her many community affairs. Admittedly her busy social schedule was interrupted but she seems to be back on deck, supplying her normal sumptuous supper at our April meeting!

We all wish you a speedy recovery Besse.

WALK - SHIPLEY PLATEAU

This walk was not well attended because of its co-incidence with the unscheduled T.W.S. victory celebrations on the change of government to a, hopefully, more ecologically-minded one. The sparse walkers were heartily in sympathy and said their words of gratification and hope during the walk.

6th March was sunny and hot; though cooler at Blackheath than in the lower mountains. A gentle cool breeze helped us along. Starting along Porters Pass we soon came to a small creek with a cascade flowing over a space of rock. An old table and seats in fern-clad setting was a delightful invitation to an early stop for morning tea. Continuing the walk, we left Porters Pass where it descended down the cliff face, keeping to Centennial Glen Road. The track is well-defined, easy grade and signposted, though in some state of disrepair. Unexpectedly, at that still very dry time, some quite verdant patches of ferns occurred; and odd flowering plants were found. *Bauera rubioides* in some places was sparse and in others almost profuse. *Epacris rectinata* hung pink bells from rock crevices; and there were odd splashes of gold of *Pultenaea*, along with the common white *Epacris* of swamp areas.

Scenery is majestic as the track meanders under what, in wet times would be waterfalls, through breaks in cliffs and along ledges overlooking Hartley Vale. This would be another lovely walk in Spring and after rain.

It is easy to see why there is opposition to development on the plateau above. Already there is evidence of easy disposal of waste by rolling it over the cliff to ornament the verges of this walk below. The plateau carries the distinctive stunted vegetation of a westerly slope, probably too often burnt, open to frost in Winter and scorched by westerly winds in Summer. The service poles already erected, some too close to eroding cliff-edges, are a detriment to the scene.

Besse Bramsen.



CAKE STALL 19.3.83

We received some cream for our cake - \$68 in fact, from the recent stall. Although business was slow most of the time, Aleen,

Chris and Wendy managed to sell all the goodies. These were supplied by; Judy Smith, Besse Bramsen, Roslyn Powell, Richard Phillipps, Christine Stickley, Wendy Godfrey, Aleen Hanley and Jill Dark. Thanks to all concerned.

Note; The cake stall proved a welcome public relations exercise with a few people who purchased goodies. Therefore we will be conducting one of these stalls in the lower mountains every 6 months. This is in addition to our monthly Ivy Market stall in Springwood. (see below).

P.S. Sorry, didn't have time to advertise this function in last edition.

RAFFLE

Thanks must go to Shirley McGrath(Wendy's mum) of Bexley, for supplying an impressive terrarium for our raffle. The winning ticket will be drawn at the May meeting. If you haven't got your tickets yet, buy them at the next meeting (early!) or from the Secretary.

PRECIS of CURRENT BUSINESS

Sand Mine at Bell

Winmalee Water Pollution Control Plant

Local Environmental Study for the Blue Mountains (see later article)

Glenbrook Treatment Works and Outlet

Eastern Escarpment

Lennox Bridge

Blue Mountains Heritage Study (see later article)

T- shirt fund(see later article)

Bushfires and the Mountains (policy being formulated)

Recycling at the Tips

"Conservation Alert" (see later article)

etc etc etc etc etc.

THREATENED SPECIES - CONSERVATION ALERT

The organisations, treaties and issues involved in protecting the earth's wild fauna and flora form a complex web of information, political pressures and economic activities. Total Environment Centre (Sydney), in association with the Fund for Animals, is publishing a newsheet informing people of what is happening in this network. T.E.C. members will receive the newsletter as part of the Centre's reports or extracts which are still relevant at time of printing. The 'Alert' will be produced about every month and will be sent free to those people who are willing to lobby those nominated or give publicity to the issues. If you wish to receive 'Alert', please write to Box 371 P.O. Manly 2095.

Note: Our Society is participating and is lobbying as suggested



in the last 'Alert' Current issues are:

Sea snakes and snake skins - Queensland.  
 Ranching of the Saltwater Crocodile.  
 Endangered Norfolk Island Green Parrot.  
 West Australian Plant Proposal - Cause for Concern.  
 CITES - Conservation Group Representatives urged.

#### LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY of the Blue Mountains

Total Environment Centre, Colong Committee, Katoomba District Wildlife Conservation Society, Friends of the Earth (Blue Mtns) and our Society got together again last month at the Hut and our proposal was unanimously supported. All organisations, plus Mt. Tomah Society, will be signatories to our submission.

Craig Linn worked very hard in preparing our submission to the Premier. We thank him sincerely. We have asked Bob Debus to present our submission to Mr. Wran on our behalf. Details of our introductory letter are;

Dear Sir,

When the E.P. & A. Act, 1979 came into force on the 1st September, 1980, it was generally heralded as a major step forward for planning in N.S.W. The Act constituted an attempt to base planning and subsequent development on well thought out and environmentally conscious processes.

Hence, the main thrust, and very spirit, of the Act was to try and base planning and development on;

- i) the solid foundation of thorough "regional" and "local" environmental studies.
- ii) substantial public participation in the formulation of the planning instrument.
- and iii) a coordinated approach by all bodies concerned.

Unfortunately for many unique areas of the State, the spirit of the Act was set aside and the letter of the law followed instead by using Clause 3 of Schedule 3 to the Misc. Act as a grandfather clause.

This clause allowed existing planning instruments, with minor modification, to continue in force as "deemed environmental planning instruments" and to subsequently be gazetted as Local Environmental Plans.

All of this was able to occur without either an environmental study or public participation.

There may be a case for the use of this grandfather clause in some local government areas but for the Blue Mountains it represents a complete mockery of the spirit of the E.P. & A. Act 1979. Even the Blue Mountains City Council admits in published papers that "study in greater depth is necessary".

For reasons set out in the following pages the signatory environmental organisations most strongly urge that the Minister for Planning and the Environment use his discretionary powers, under



Section 74 of the E.P. & A. Act 1979, to direct that a complete Local Environmental Study of the area administered by the Blue Mountains City Council be carried out at the earliest possible

occasion.

Yours etc.

We then included a more detailed report.

#### BLUE MOUNTAINS HERITAGE STUDY

Society reps met with the consultants engaged to complete the Study. We agreed to provide as much information as possible on the natural heritage of the Mtns. from Lapstone to Lawson. Katoomba District Group is handling the remaining area.

You can help the Society in this huge task by filling out the attached form for items you consider worthy of this status and sending it back to us at P.O. Box 119, Springwood 2777. They have to reach us no later than 13th May.

All forms will be checked to avoid duplication and then despatched to the Consultants in June. But remember, first consider carefully what would constitute "natural heritage". It may not necessarily be every item of flora and fauna that exists here.

Other heritage 'areas' such as buildings, cultural etc are being handled by other relevant groups eg historical societies etc.

If you have more than one item to suggest, the form can be photocopied.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AND BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

## HERITAGE STUDY of the City of Blue Mountains

The Department of Environment and Planning and Blue Mountains City Council require a suitably qualified consultant for a period of 6 to 7 months to identify and analyse the environmental heritage of the City of Blue Mountains and to propose strategies for its conservation.

#### *The objective of the Study are to:—*

- (a) Identify and record items of heritage significance considered worthy of conservation within the context of a natural, historical, architectural and environmental assessment of the City of Blue Mountains.
- (b) Identify and describe the particular environmental qualities of the City of Blue Mountains, its unique and typical areas, assessing the relationships of physical landscape, built environmental and townscape, which contribute to its recognised character.
- (c) Evaluate identified heritage items and matters in the light of existing planning controls and other planning policies for the area to highlight existing conflicts.
- (d) Identify the likely effects of existing planning controls and other planning policies on heritage items.
- (e) Recommend conservation objectives, policies and strategies for use in a Local Environmental Plan.
- (f) Proposed priorities for conservation action in the City of Blue Mountains.



**BUSY**

Haven't we been busy - but do you feel left out? Don't worry, you can come along to any meeting whether a monthly

meeting on the 2nd Friday each month at the Teachers Resource Centre, Glenbrook, or a Works Meeting on some Monday evenings at 7 Kent Street, Glenbrook (39-1748). Everyone is most welcome. The nights rarely go late and are a great social experience. They also give you a chance to supply meaningful input for protection of our environment.

#### COMING EVENTS

##### FUND RAISING

The Society has a regular stall at the Springwood Ivy Market on the 2nd Saturday of every month. We sell anything. If you have any books, records, clothes, plants, typewriters, washing machines, old cars, blocks of flats or offshore islands (except Tasmania) you don't want anymore, we can sell it. Just call Aleen on 39-4079 and she will arrange to have your goodies picked up. Needless to say, DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

##### MAY MEETING     13th     A MUST!

7.30 General Business

8.00 (sharp) FORUM ON WATER POLLUTION

##### PROGRAMME

8.00 Introduction with a brief resumé of "Water Pollution".

8.10 Dr. David Hughes - chief instigator of the public uproar over pollution in the Nepean River and its consequences for Richmond residents.

8.30 Manager, Envirocycle P/L - will describe and illustrate a new method of sewerage disposal on-site.

8.50 A speaker from the State Pollution Control Commission on the Commission's 5 year study of the Nepean/Hawkesbury River system (soon to be published).

9.10 Questions and feedback (action necessary).

9.30 Another sumptuous supper.

This should prove to be a very useful, informative evening.

##### NEXT WALK

OVERNIGHT 14/15th MAY

This will involve an afternoon stroll on the Saturday, down (its steep) Canoe Creek to Colo "Gorge" country in Wollemi Nat. Park. We will camp down in the gorge, do some exploration and walk out on Sunday. Access and a meeting place could be difficult to explain for those unfamiliar with the area, so a prior commitment to the walk by telephone to the Godfreys (39-1748) is necessary. It could get cold, but the scenery is magnificent, lyre birds are plentiful and small pockets of rainforest survive in Canoe Creek.



WASTE NOT WANT NOT.

The basic premise of conservation is the "wise use" of resources. Intrinsic to this doctrine is recycling or using materials more than once.

The single direction of resource utilisation is one of the fundamental problems suffered by consumers of both renewable and non-renewable resources. We are told to buy - use - throw, the quicker this is done the better!

To stem this tide and ease the burden on our local environment, Blue Mountains City Council is investigating the feasibility of encouraging recycling at our tips. We support this proposal and only hope that it comes to fruition.

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T-SHIRT FUND

Spurred on by enthusiasm and financial support (loans) by many members present at recent meetings we are opening up a Blue Mtns. T-Shirt fund. Quotes have shown that we need approx \$400 to get our first order of 60 (10 each of sizes 6,8,10,12,14 and 16. Normal funds could not withstand such an expense. They will be sold for approx. \$8 each at our meetings and the Ivy Market (and possibly mail order to members. Can you help with a loan or pre-paid order. We think they will be light blue with dark blue lettering and motif. The motif will incorporate the 3 Sisters and flowers in a simple design.

All loans and pre-paid orders will be acknowledged with receipts. Once the order has been placed it will take approx 4 weeks to receive delivery. Can you help? The order should be placed in the first week of May to avoid lengthy delays in the whole process.

EDITORS NOTE

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.



POWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

MEMBER LETTER

RETURN ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 119, SPRINGWOOD, 2777

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST

PUBLICATION No. NRH 4748

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## BLUE MOUNTAINS HERITAGE STUDY, 1983, - INFORMATION FORM

The City of Blue Mountains + the N.S.W. Department of Environment & Planning have engaged consultants - Croft & Associates Pty. Limited + Meredith Walker - to undertake a study of the City's environmental heritage. Environmental heritage includes buildings, works, relics or places of historic, scientific, cultural, social archaeological, natural or aesthetic significance. If you have any information about the history or heritage of the Blue Mountains or know of some item which you think should be kept, the Council and its consultants would be interested in learning about it. Please complete this form and return it to Council's libraries or chambers.

### SUBJECT OR ITEM OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

(Insert here the subject of the information - e.g., a building, or series of buildings such as inns along the Great Western Highway, etc.)

### ADDRESS:

(Insert the address of the item or subjects, or describe its location and if possible mark on a map)

### INFORMATION:

(Insert here the information about the item or subject known to you and why you think it has heritage significance)

### PHOTOS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

(Please attach photos and copies of any other information, such as plans, sketches, historic data, references, that you may have)

### FORM COMPLETED BY, OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY

Name:

Address:

Phone No.

Date:

CROFT & ASSOCIATES PTY. LIMITED + MEREDITH WALKER for BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL + NSW DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING, 1983.