Kalori



Newsletter of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

> 21st birthday issue: October, 1987

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Meetings (members and visitors welcome):

Second Friday of every month, 8 pm at Springwood Preschool, Macquarie Road, Springwood

Walks (all welcome):

Third Sunday of every month, weather permitting. Routes, meeting places and times are announced in Kalori.

Works meetings (open to all members):

Fourth Monday of every month, 8pm, venue announced at meetings.

Membership:

Single \$7, family \$10.

Aims:

- 1. Education of the general public and public leaders on environmental issues.
- 2. Conservation of natural areas.
- 3. Research into the distribution and population of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains.



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

A.G.M. and 21st Anniversary Celebration

When: 7.30 pm

Where: Springwood Reschool Maguarie Rd, Springwood.

hvest Speaker: Well known local naturalist v

dill Park

will speak with a dice present on

" KAINFOREST PLANTS

A NORTH QUEENSLAND

A special 21st Anniversary celebration supper will follow EVERYONE WELLOME



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119, Springwood, 2777.

NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER, 1987.

MEETINGS :

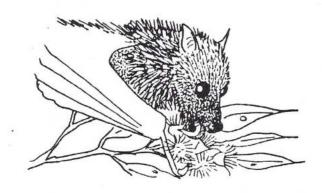
9 October -

Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Jill Dark on Rainforest Flora illustrated with slides.

THIS IS OUR TWENTY FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION !!

13 November -

A talk by two members of the Kuringai Bat Colony Committee accompanied by two flying foxes (One is named Gollem!).



11 December - Margaret Esson will give a talk on her visit to China with special emphasis on conservation aspects followed by our CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION !

WALKS :

18 October - Richard Wells will lead a walk in search of reptiles.

Contact Peter Mobbs for further details (512004).

15 November - Trip to Bent's Basin led by the redoubtable Dick

Venables. Again, contact Peter for details.

What's Happening Locally ?

Glenbrook Road

We have supported the residents adjacent to Glenbrook Lagoon regarding the use of Glenbrook Road (which crosses the lagoon wall) by heavy vehicles developing the eastern Mt. Sion area. BMCC appears likely to implement a number of changes to the use of the road (mainly drafted by Ald. Williams) and possibly use part of the innovative street works program funds to achieve this.

Copper Reprocessing

Members of our Society have worked closely with this keen and well organised group supplying various contacts and suggesting lines of action. We were represented at the 3 hour meeting recently in Penrith with the company, residents and Penrith Council staff and aldermen. The company has since decided to forego the Cranebrook site but may use another site in Emu Plains. It apparently also is looking more closely at sites in other States.

Railway buildings/Pilgrim Inn

We have informed the N.S.W. Heritage Commission of projected developments at the Ampol Service Station, Glenbrook and the Mobil Service Station, Blaxland which will affect part of our railway heritage and the Pilgrim Inn coaching relics.

Zig-zag development

A letter from Mr. Hallam fairly strongly rejects the possibility of a commercial development using the Lapstone Zig-zag area in Skarratt Park. However, we will watch further developments closely. The BMCC Escarpment Reserves Committee is currently preparing a draft management plan for the area and will canvass the possibility of a special use of the area near Green Gables e.g. for a local rail and road transport museum.

Fairlight Gorge

The Working Party formed by Mr. Anderson continues to assess submissions put to it by selected groups. Nepean Canoe Club recently put its concerns to the party through Ted Foster. Our Society will address the party within the next three weeks. Our consistent aim has been and will remain the removal of high speed power boats and skiers from the Fairlight Gorge waterways enclosed by Blue Mountains National Park.

Clearing at St. Msrys Ammunition Factory

Peter Mobbs recently raised the question of tree clearing around various Commonwealth sites and particularly at St. Marys Munitions Factory. The Federal Member Mr. Free has replied that this work was a one-off operation and is currently enquiring whether a heneral edict has been issued for similar works in other areas.

Heritage Trees, Penrith

Our source within Penrith City Council informs us that our request for a Heritage Tree Register is likely to be an item within a large heritage submission to be put before the incoming council.

Discussions with State Politicians

Tim Moore the State Shadow Minister for the Environment, and Barry Morris, the Liberal candidate for Blue Mountains, recently had discussions with our President George Threlfo regarding our stand on a number of Blue Mountains environmental issues.

Peter Mobbs and George Threlfo also recently presented ours and the Blue Mountains Environment Council case for representation on Mr. Debus' proposed Task Force on Blue Mountains Urban Run-off. Chris Cleary is likely to be accepted as the representative. We also secured his agreeement to convene a meeting of representatives of a number of State authorities to address the rehabilitation of many eroded sites within the Blue Mountains.

F4

Information supplied to us strongly suggests that a satisfactory compromise is possible on the freeway extension. While the alternative down route suggested by Blue Mountains City Council will not proceed, the DMR route will incorporate grade separated up and down lanes and permit the continued one lane use of Knapsack Bridge for down traffic.

Lapstone Oval

The Society has written to BMCC suggesting a Plan of Management be formulated over this area. We have specifically stated that we do not wish to be represented on any committee which produces a plan. However, we and the Escarpment Committee are concerned at separating the active recreational areas and the passive/natural/historical areas to the north.

Report on Bilpin Walk (Richard Phillipps)

On 20 September we met at Springwood Station and set off to meet Co Nuzum at Flat Rock, Mountain Lagoon. Co, who lives nearby, showed us the lagoon, then from the road above the lagoon, we walked about 5 km along the high fire trail to the ridge above the Green Scrub.

On the long walk in we saw masses of purple Tetratheca, yellow Pultenaea and Grevilleas of various species. The Green Scrub contained many flowers including patches of white Clematis in the trees. In the Scrub many birds were active including whipbirds, wonga pigeons, fan-tailed cuckoos and eastern spinebills. We saw a yellow robin and much evidence of lyrebirds.

The old logging road we had hoped to traverse was much overgrown. After battling fallen logs and lawyer vines we eventually turned back. A highlight of the return trip was a pied stilt crossing the road near the lagoon.

Keeping Our City Clean

Besse reminds us of the 1986 State Gazettal of new Noxious Plants
Rhus Trees: Pampas Grass: Temple Plants
Privet has not been declared possibly because it is so entrenched that clearance is impossible!

Broom, gorse and blackberry are also listed as noxious on the Blue Mountains.

We will print a full article by Besse on this problem in the next newsletter.

Editor's Note:

Space restrictions prevent us from printing many items at hand. A selection of these are reproduced on the following pages. PLEASE come to both our General and Works Meetings to be up-to-date on all issues.

WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION TO BE EFFECTIVE

THAT the N.C.C. request the State Government, in its revision of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act, to reinstate the following provisions relating to the purchase of Crown Lands by neighbours of such lands:

- The public must be informed of the proposed sale.
- Where the NPWS is a neighbour
 - a. it be given first option to purchase
- b. where it is not interested in a purchase, it should have the power to assess and control proposed developments on the land.

Clearing of Western Lands

THAT this Conference deplores the recent action by the Western Lands Commission in approving the clearing of a number of western land areas against the objections of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We reaffirm the recommendations of the 1983 NCC Conference Motion No. 20 with particular emphasis on the need for preparation of Regional Environmental Plans which incorporate proper assessments of the plant and animal communities involved.

Duck Hunting

- That the NCC opposes the concept of hunting of native fauna for sport.
- Specifically, with respect to the hunting of native ducks, this conference calls for the phasing out of this activity.

Tendering for Public Works

THAT the NCC call on the State Government to change its present practice of permitting a single company or group to advance plans for privately operated major public works and return to a system of open tendering whereby all proposals are assessed equally and independently





BLUE MOUNTAINS

NEW SOUTH WALES

WILDLIFE INFORMATION

AND RESCUE SERVICE

MEETS EVERY 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 8 P.M. SPRINGWOOD PRE-SCHOOL MACQUARIE ROAD SPRINGWOOD

INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO RESCUE OR CARE FOR NATIVE INJURED ANIMALS?

COME PLONG!

HELP!

WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TO HELP IN CONSTRUCTING EQUIPMENT FOR RESCUING OR FOSTER-CARING OF NATIVE WILDLIFE

ALL TYPES AND SIZES OF WIRE MESHING #LARGE AND SMALL MOODEN BOXES OR CRATES # ROOFING IRON

GALVANISED PIPES # HOLLOW LOGS # NESTING BOXES

INUSED AVIARIES, BIRD CRGES, OTHER CRGES
ANY GENEARL BUILDING MATERIALS FOR
CONSTRUCTING AVIARIES, BOXES, ETC.

*CONTRCTS

* SANDRA 51 3103

* JIM 51 2540 (bh.) 51 3147 (c.h.) * MICK or JILL

58 7061

BIUE MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL.

In early 1985, in the aftermath of the Leura Resort and Blaxland Woolshed campaigns, a number of Blue Mountains conservationists held a series of informal meetings to discuss the idea of forming a central or umbrella organisation to represent the common views of Blue Mountains environment groups.

As a result of these discussions, the first meeting of the steering committee of the Blue Mountains Environment Council was held on 21.11.85. This committee consisted of representatives of the Upper and Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Societies, the National Parks Association (Blue Mountains Branch) and the Blue Mountains Escarpment Protection Society.

An initial objective of this committee was the formulation of a constitution by which the BMEC was to be managed. This constitution has now been finalised and copies sent to member groups. The broad objectives of the BMEC as stated in the constitution are:

- i) the provision of a central forum for the discussion of environmental issues of relevance to the Blue Mountains and
- ii) the development and expression of the common policies of the constituent groups.

With the finalisation of the constitution, the process of incorporation of the BMEC was commenced. When incorporation is achieved, the first Annual General Meeting will be held at which a committee of management will be elected.

In the meantime, the affairs of the BMEC are being managed by an interim committee consisting of two elected representatives from each of the member groups.

The interim committee consists of :

John Walluce

Lyn Wallace , representing the Escarpment Protection Society

Dulcie Toseland

Reg Toseland , representing the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Heather Dutton

Steve Lockard , representing NPA

Chris Cleary

George Threlfo , representing the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Soc.

Since November 1985, the BMEC has, among other activities, -

- (1) convened the well-attended forum on Sewage Management in the Blue Mountains, in March 1986. It has subsequently made representations to the Water Board and N.S.W. Government in relation to deficiencies in the recently released Blue Mountains Sewage Strategy.
- (2) convened the forum on Waste Management in July 1986. Subsequent representations to Council succeeded in having adopted the recycling of glass tottles in association with Blue Mountains garbage collection.
- (3) made submissions to local, state and federal governments in relation to the Echo Point Rezoning debate.
- (4) made submissions to the Department of Environment and Planning in favour of the DMR preferred plan for the F4 Freeway extension on the eastern escarpment.
- (5) sponsored the establishment of the Blue Mountains Wildlife and Rescue Service (WIRES).
- (6) provided submissions on the first two stages of the Blue Mountains Plan of Management.

The monitoring, discussion and policy development on these and other issues relating to the natural, built and social environment of the Blue Mountains is the continuing role of the BMEC.

In addition to the elected representatives, all interested members of constituent groups are most cordially welcome at meetings of the BMEC. The next meeting is on Friday 4th September, at the Conservation Hut, wentworth Falls.

Government protects 'Tableland'

The State Government is to make planning changes to protect the landscape
number of the plan will stop further development on
"The plan will stop further development on
much of the tableland," Mr. Bob Debtus,
much of the tableland, "Mr. Bob Debtus,
much of the subcland," Mr. Bob Debtus,
much of the subcland, "Mr. Bob Debtus,
"It will re-zone much of the escarpment and
land under environmental protection,
"It will re-zone much approximate the subcland," of the escarpment and
mother parts either rural residential, for, lowedunsity housing only, or as open space,
"The plan will complement the Government
regional plan, under undeveloped land along
regional plan, under undeveloped land along
the scarpment, and in other areas.

The scarpment, and in other areas.

The land is to be zoned open space to
the tableland." Mr. Debtus said.

The land further along the main escarpment
ings, houses and a communications tower for
sord has houses among trees and more studed
ridgetop health and vegetation, where
further unaustable or unsympather development takes places on the escarpment." Mr.

Debus said.

Conservation network formed

A NEW group, the Western Sydney Network of Environmental Organisa-tions, aims to act as an information shar-tions are not for arrest and individuals who ing agency for groups and individuals who have an interest in environmental matters to the resion.

in the region.

The area to be served by WESNEO extends from Parramatta to Blue Mountains, Liverpool to Hawkesbury. in the region.

Convenor of the group, Mrs Robin Vermeulen said environmental groups felt there was a gap in information sharing in the region.

With the advent of the Western Sydney University there was a chance to have environmental studies provided there.

Some conservationists also felt there was a need to draw attention to problems of care and conservation of bushland and water habitats for recreation and study in the region.

It was felt WESNEO could focus on the

It was felt WESNEO could focus on these problems by organising seminars and field asys.

Eventually the network would help with research being undertaken on flora and fauna and aboriginal history of the area.

More information on WESNEO is available from Robin Vermeulen, PO Box 89 Kurrajong 2758 or by phoning (045) 67 7171 (day or gueraina) evening).

Farmers will be paid to protect wildlife

Farmers will be compensated for lost income if they maintain waterholes and fence off nesting trees on their farms to protect rare wallables and parrots under a new State Government

conservation scheme.

The system will allow farmers to voluntarily enter a contract with the Minister for Planning and Environment to protect valuable natural or cultural features on their properties.

In return, the Government will provide financial help, such as payment to cover any income lost through the protective arrangements and management of the areas. arrangements and management of the areas.

arrangements and management of the areas.

The contract will restrict the number of stock to be run on a certain area, where applicable, and include obligations to maintain fences and control weeds.

The Minister, Mr Carr, said yesterday that animal and bird populations needed more than national parks or reserves to easure their survival.

easure their survival.

This important initiative will complement national parks by protecting habitats outside parks," Mr Carr said.

SMH 24/8/87 — DENNIS SHANAHAN



Mining industry study reveals Daintree wealth

CANBERRA: On the eve of the Federal Government's announcement of the proposed World Heritage boundaries of the Daintree tropical rainforest, the mining industry has released a study which highlights the export potential of the area's mineral reserves.

The study, released by the Australian Mining Industry Council (AMIC), shows that the wet tropics area of North Queensland, which the Govern-ment is keen to have listed on the World Heritage Register, con-tains valuable deposits of gold, tin, tungsten and uranium. The AMIC has called on the

Government to apply a policy which balances development and conservation

The Minister for Environment

and the Arts, Senator Richard-son, will announce the indicative boundaries of the proposed World Heritage area in Cairns

The broad boundaries of the area being considered by the Government cover about 12,000 kilometres, extending from near Townsville to Cooktown and inland from between Ravenshoe and Innisfail.

The Government will then enter into a two-month period of consultation with the Queensland Government, conservation groups, the timber industry and the tourist industry before deter-mining the final boundaries of the area to be nominated for World Heritage listing.

MILTON COCKBURN

Keeping eye on black cockatoos

Blackheath and the Newnes Forest have conerged as two of the most important areas in the Mountains for large scal sightings of the yellow tailed black cocka

100.

"Flocks of 50-60 birds have been observed,
usually spread our between Blackheath and
Katoomba — a favourite feeding area being
Echo Point," Miss Ethel Girouard said this

Echo Point," Miss einer Ground in the week.

Miss Girouard, the co-ordinator in the Upper Mountains of a survey of these birds, said as a bicentennial project, all cools in the Upper Mountains and as far as Lithgow and Oberon had been invited to take part in the survey.

Oberon had been invited to survey.

"Updated information from YTBC Head-quarters at Falls Creek, Victoria, reveals that the birds can live to 100 years, flyat about 35 to 60 km per hour, and stay in the one area up to 200 km across all year round," Miss Girous et al.

said.

They only produce one fledging a year, and these are at risk from bird smugglers. So anyone knowing where they are nesting should keep it secret except for their local co-ordinator!

Persons who would like to the product of the product of

ordinatori"

Persons who would like to obtain survey forms should contact Miss Girouard on 87-8142. Co-ordinator for the Lower Mountains is Molly Edmonds, 39-4079.

for department

nis 4/9/5

SIR. — Our society strongly supports the call by John Baker of Friends of the Earth for the establishment of a separate department within the Blue Mountains Reserves.

Backs call

Mr Baker has pinpointed one source of funds within the council for the establishment of such a department.

We feel that the costs incurred in operating a separate department would be far outweighed by the long term advantages to residents and by the long term advantages to residents and operations greater status and independence.

We support his call for:

I. Reestablishment of the nursery.

All the priority being given to upgrading teachers.

The free sunnly by Rhis Mountains City

and maintaining tracks and other items within reserves.

3. The free supply by Blue Mountains City Council of at least two trees per year to its town Councils.

4. Outdoor staff be educated in weed eradication and bush regeneration techniques.

5. Closer fiaison take place between council and NPWS staff in the design of walking track integrated.

6. A higher priority be given to the co-

integrated.

6. A higher priority be given to the coordination of various voluntary groups
involved in reserve maintenance.

GEORGE THRELFO,
Conservation Society

Conservation Society

Rangers nab bird thief

A team of National Parks and Wildlife Service investigators in conjunction with the police have arrested a 68 year-old pensioner for illegally trapping and selling rare native birds.

The man was arrested and charged last week with illegally trapping gang gangs, an endangered bird species, crimson rosellas and king parrots, both protected species.

For trapping an endangered species, the man faces either a \$4,000 fine or 12 months prison while for trapping a protected species, he faces

a \$2,000 fine or 12 months in prison.

According to a Blue Mountains NPWS ranger, Anne Jelinek, the trapped birds were sold to unscrupulous bird dealers in the city for sale overseas.

sale overseas.

The NPWS is seeking the public's assistance in preventing an upsurge in illegal trappings of native birds and animals on the Mountains.

Residents are asked to help preserve the

native fauna by reporting any suspicious activi-ties in the parks to either the NPWS or the

ME \$/9/57

Eden...Barrie's Paradise Lost?

Premier Barrie Unsworth visited Eden and the surrounding region on Monday 31st August. He was taken to areas in Coolangubra which had recently been logged and presented with a detailed economic report offering employment alternatives to a renewal of the Harris-Dalshowa export woodchip licence.

Over 150 conservationists, representing the eleven local groups which oppose the renewal met the Premier in a cordial and informative exchange.

Back In the township of Eden, Mr Unsworth was less than surprised by the noisy parade of logging trucks which clogged the streets. It seems that this sort of display has become rather predictable and losing some of its impact. When Mr Unsworth was taken to the Harris-Dalshowa chip mill and to Duncans sawmill, he is reputed to have said, "Enough of this- I came to see the forests." An encouraging sign from a Premier who is only too aware that opposition to the wood-chip industry is not just confined to the South East voting population.

Prior to the Eden visit, Mr Unsworth was presented with a letter protesting against the continuation of the woodchip industry. The letter was signed by over 80 representatives of NSW-wide nature conservation groups.

Legal action

Logging has begun in an area of an extension to the proposed Coolangu-

bra National Park. An injunction to prevent the logging was taken out by the Tantawangalo Water Catchment Protection Association. The Environmental Defenders Office have secured financial help from Legal Aid to fight the logging and lawyers, barristers and possibly a QC will act on behalf of the TWCPA. The legal challenge has led the Forestry Commission and Harris-Dalshowa to engage 5 barristers and a large support team of lawyers. The injunction was due to be heard on August 28th, but was postponed until September 7 because the Forestry Commission team needed more time to gather evidence.

Meanwhile, the logging continues in this southern section of Coolangubra.

EARTH-SHATTERING NEWS

Logging is proceeding at Mount Coricudgy within the Wollemi (Colo) Wilderness. This area abuts the north-eastern boundary of the Wollemi National Park. We believe this is for the extraction of timber for pit props with some logging for sawlogs.

In addition to the area's wilderness value, it forms the catchment of a number of creeks flowing through the heart of the Wollemi wilderness in the mational park.

We have written to the Mr Carrasking that the logging cease and that Mt Coricudgy and the Great Divide Ridge be added to the national park so as to secure catchments and the Integrity of the Wollemi wilderness area.

Wollemi is one of the outstanding wilderness areas in NSW. Please help with your own letter to Mr. Carr, Minister for Planning & Environment, c/- Parliament House calling for logging to cease and for the wilderness values of the region to be protected by additions to the national park.

MORE DAMNING NEWS

The Department of Water Resources has received an application for a license to build a dam on the Styx River for the purpose water conservation and power generation. The applicant is a company named Fiuld Energy Systems Pty Ltd. This was advertised in the "Macleay Argus" on August 27th 1987.

This development files in the face of the recently published McDonnell Report commissioned by the Minister for Energy, Mr Cox. The report was critical of many of the Elcom's assumptions in their proposal that eight new power stations are needed in NSW by the year 2005. McDonnell was also critical of Elcom's site selection procedures which "do not adequately account for all the site-specific, socio-economic and environmental factors..."

The proposal is to dam the Styx River at Pantons Point and build a diversion tunnel from Spankers Gully through the Styx River State Forest into the Georges River catchment for power generation. Pantons Point is located downstream from the New England National Park and upstream from the proposed Macleay Gorges Wilderness Area. The proposal would seriously degrade the wilderness value of the area.

The Wilderness Working Group Report Included the Styx on the list of wild rivers, one of the finest in NSW, and is therefore of immense ecological, scientific recreational and scenic value.

Any diversion of water at a scale required for power generation would significantly after the hydrology of both the Styx and Georges River systems, depleting the former and increasing the latter. Additionally, there would be the impact of the tunnel, high voltage power lines and all the associated works involved in such a scheme.

McDonnell found that half of Elcom's proposed new sites were unnecessary and that others should be deferred to save money. THERE ARE ONLY 28 DAYS TO LODGE OBJECTIONS TO THE STYX RIVER PROPOSAL (following the placement of a small advertisement under Government Notices in the Argus on August 27).

Objections, and grounds thereof, must be lodged with:

A.D. Pike Secretary Department of Water Resources Box 952, PO North Sydney, 2060.

AS A MATTER OR URGENCY!

For further Information please contact the Macleay Greens c/- Ashley Wilmott, Mines Road, Willawarrin 2440. Ph: (065) 671 377.



MATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

OFNSW

THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW 176 CUMBERLAND STREET, SYDNEY, NSW 2000. PHONE: (02) 27 2228/27 4206. TELEX AA24041



HOW TO USE THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW SOUTH WALES A Brief Guide for Member Societies

The NCC acts as a co-ordinator of member societies in relation to state, regional and local conservation issues. It provides information to member societies and presents their concerns to government authorities.

The Potential Strengths of the N.C.C.

The NCC is located so as to have direct access to the centres of government in NSW.

Officers and members of the NCC meet regularly with State Government Ministers and maintain direct links with politicians and bureaucrats.

The NCC represents a large and politically powerful lobby group.

The NCC is able to facilitate actions which are otherwise difficult for many smaller and/or isolated conservation groups.

Through its members, the NCC can enhance the limited actions of local conservation groups to provide statewide awareness and support,

The NCC represents 79 conservation societies containing a total of approximately 140,000 individual members throughout NSW.

The Actual Weaknesses of the NCC

The NCC/Environment Centre is obliged to work within an annual operating budget in the order of approximately \$105,000. Out of this all expenses (such as equipment, wages, telephone, postage, stationery, etc) incurred in carrying out all of the functions of the two organisations, including acting upon about 60 resolutions resulting from the Annual Conference of NCC's member groups, have to be met.

The NCC/Environment Centre employs two full-time and four part-time office staff, of which two are part-time Project Officers acting on NCC issues.

Within these limitations, and without meaningful support from other individuals and member groups, the staff are only able to:

- * write a limited number of letters to politicians and bureaucrats;
- * cover a small number of issues and act on a small proportion of motions from Annual Conferences;
- * attend a small number of meetings with politicians, bureaucrats and other conservation groups;

An Annual Conference motion becomes NCC policy and provides the total guidelines for future action.