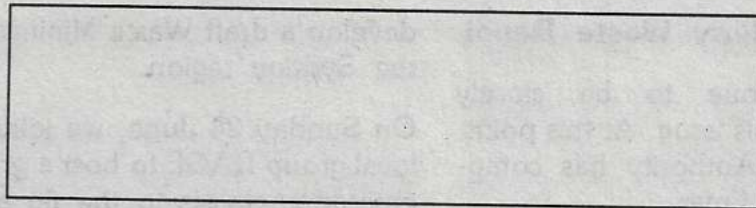




## Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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



### Notice of Meetings

#### General Meetings

Held at the Neighbourhood Centre, Springwood, at 7.30pm:

**August 24:** Jill Dark - Western Australian wildflowers.

**October 26 - (AGM)**

**November 30** - Christmas party.

#### Committee Meetings

July 20	August 21
September 25	October 16
November 23	December 18

No general meeting in December.

Committee meetings in August, October and December held at 7 David Street, Glenbrook, and in July, September and December at

Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, all at 8.00pm.

#### Coming events

**September 1:** Garage Sale, 58 Great Western Highway, Blaxland

**September 15:** Tree Planting Day & Picnic at Academy Paddock, Woodford. Meet 10am rear of Woodford Academy

**September 28, 29, 30:** Wildflower Show at the Native Plant Reserve, Glenbrook (organised by Society for Growing Australian Native Plants, Blue Mountains Branch)

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## Aims

To inform the public on environmental and conservation issues; research into population and distribution of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains and neighbouring regions.

## Memberships

Blue Mountains Environment Council  
Nature Conservation Council of NSW  
Australian Conservation Foundation

## Other Group Involvement

Society for Growing Australian Plants (Blue Mountains Branch)  
National Parks Association (NSW)  
Australian Museum  
Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
National Parks and Wildlife Foundation  
The Wilderness Society (NSW)  
C.H.A.N.G.E.  
The Total Environment Centre

Glenbrook Lagoon Society  
Eastern Escarpment '530A' Committee  
Darks Common Trust  
Nepean River Committee  
Escarpment Protection Group  
Echo Point  
Native Plant Reserve (Glenbrook)  
The Colong Foundation (Inc)

## Society Contacts

President: Richard Phillipps (39-2568)  
V. Presidents: Margaret Baker (54-1196)  
Margaret Esson (51-1826)  
Secretary: George Threlfo (39-5125)  
Publicity Officer: George Threlfo  
Editors (acting):  
Eileen Brammall, Aleen Hanley  
Treasurer: Eileen Brammall (39-6420)  
Librarian: Wynne O'Brien (58-6504)  
Gen. Enquiries and Talks  
Organiser: Aleen Hanley (39-4079)

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 1. Proposed Londonderry Waste Depot

Several members continue to be closely involved in actions over this issue. At this point, the Waste Management Authority has completed a two-volume Environmental Assessment Report and presented it to Penrith Council. Penrith Council has initiated an action against the WMA in the Land and Environment Court on four matters:



- Questions on the validity of the Report
- Seeking a judgment that the proposal is a Designated Development
- Obtaining an order for the WMA to prepare an EIS
- Restraining the Minister from making a decision under Section 91A of the Environment & Planning Act.

With CHANGE, the river environment coalition, we are quickly preparing a detailed response to the Report for use by Penrith Council.

A strong union ban has also been placed over the site.

We are working closely with the Sydney groups such as TEC, NCC, FOE, ACF and NPA to

develop a draft Waste Minimisation Strategy for the Sydney region.

On Sunday 24 June, we joined forces with the local group RAGE to host a group of 50 Sydney environmentalists to the tip and gravel mining sites. An informative and enjoyable day was had by all.

We have also presented a short submission on the Penrith Council Draft Waste Management Strategy.

## 2. Woodford Bends EIS

This large two volume statement by the RTA presents a case for the proposal to straighten out the road alignment between Linden and Woodford.

Among the matters of concern are:

- Threats to a hanging swamp area immediately to the north of the route
- Removal of part of the Bull's Camp Reserve
- Inadequate erosion and sedimentation control measures
- Use of complete cut and fill methods without full analysis of other means such as viaducts in some areas.

Several Society members will meet with the



RTA planning engineer for the project on 5 July to discuss our concerns.

### 3. Blue Mountains Environment Council Restructuring

All interested Society members are invited to discuss possible changes to the BMEC and its operations on Wednesday, 25 July at 7.30 p.m. at Hazelbrook School.

### 4. Heritage Funding

Eileen Brammall and George Threlfo have written a submission to the Department of Planning for funding of a consultant to write submissions for National Estate listing for the Blue Mountains Eastern Escarpment and a proposal for National Park status for the area.

### 5. Subdivision in Boorea Street, Blaxind

Society members recently examined this development and noted the absence of proper erosion and sedimentation measures at the lower end of the site as required in the DA. An inspection of the site with the BMCC Environment Officer, Mike Eades, and a BMCC engineer is planned in the next few days.

6. The Society has obtained copies of a number of relevant documents in recent weeks including:

- a. All Department of Planning Circulars and State Planning Policies (accessible through BMEC)
- b. Penrith Council *Heritage Study*. PCC is currently asking for further nominations of the heritage items. Please check this document and inform the Secretary if you have further nominations.
- c. *Penrith and Lower Blue Mountains Soil Map* and notes - just released by the Soil Conservation Service. The map was launched at a ceremony last week at the Glenmore Park Estate
- d. *Benson's Remnant Vegetation of the Cumberland Plain, 1987*
- e. *Sydney Into Its Third Century, DoP, 1989 Update*

We hope to collate an up-to-date list of all

relevant documents held by BMEC groups. Aleen has already compiled a list from our library.

### 7. F4 Matters

After a series of meetings, our Society has been able to secure proper erosion and sedimentation controls over the F4 bridge works at Russell Street. As well, we have had meetings with the Soil Conservation Service and the RTA on similar measures and landscaping on the work currently being done further up the escarpment.

We are strongly pursuing the issue of re-greening the entire freeway route and have been promised support from various quarters (even within the RTA).

### 8. Glenmore Park Estate

The more we examine the setting up of this mini-city of 25,000 people at the edge of the Mulgoa Valley, the more complex the issues become. Aleen and George have principally worked so far with Lisa Sinclair and Kennedy Wood of Mulgoa and Wyn Jones from NPWS on the issue of an appropriate boundary to the proposed Mulgoa Nature Reserve. A group from BMEC addressed the Labor Shadow Cabinet last week and raised this issue. As well, the Secretary has written to all Penrith aldermen asking for their support for formation of a viable nature reserve. Lisa, Kennedy and George spoke to the Penrith Labor Caucus last weekend and Lisa and Kennedy will see Tim Moore on Monday, 16 July. Has the Society a volunteer to attend this meeting? A visit by Society members would demonstrate the loss of some beautiful remnant bushland if we do not succeed on this issue.

Society members Peter and Judy Smith prepared a study of part of the nature reserve proposal in 1987 for Penrith Council.

### 9. Blue Mountains City Council Environment Management Plan Stage 1

Members will recall a series of actions from this and other groups in 1989 in response to the Simpson Commission of Inquiry. The Simpson Report has been available for some months but has not been closely analysed by members of



our Society. Could a volunteer compare its considerable findings with the detailed submissions given by LBMCS, BMEC and others?

Our Society has copies of all EMP documents including most of the submissions. The final submission presented by BMEC on 4/12/89 to Commissioner Simpson included these points:-

- \* BMEC generally supported the revised BMCC plan presented during the hearings
- \* We urgently asked for a clear identification of a population ceiling for the Mountains
- \* Measures for protection of escarpment areas
- \* Concerns were expressed on the expansion of the Bushland Conservations Zones and the potential for wider development potential
- \* The need for development of a Tourism Management Plan.

Where are we at? BMEC representatives expect to have further meetings with BMCC before exhibition of the plan. We are quite concerned at possible further watering down of its provisions and even have doubts as to its final release and implementation. Terri Hamilton, Chairperson for BMEC, made the point strongly to Bob Carr and his Shadow Cabinet that World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains will need State Government backing for an effective EMP to control development within the built areas of the Blue Mountains.

**10. Newnes Plateau Plan.** Margaret Essen has recently responded to the draft plan. Anyone with particular interest and expertise on the area, please come forward!

**11. The Water Board** has commissioned Mitchell McCotter to prepare a draft EIS on the sewage tunnel for the mountains. Members of our Society and others are now raising questions as to the sole reliance on a transport system off the mountains.

Several BMEC and CHANGE reps recently were taken on a guided tour of the MEMTEC membrane and filtration plant at Windsor and believe that this and other technologies should be further examined in the EIS.

Pilot plants with MEMTEC equipment are being set up at Cronulla and at Blackheath.

## SUPER GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, 15th September, at 58 Great Western Highway, Blaxland.**

Thanks to member Jean Jones for allowing us the use of her front garden for this year's Garage Sale. It is an excellent location on the southern side of the highway, just before Coughland Road (travelling west). Plenty of room for parking along the highway.

We would appreciate items for sale, bric-a-brac, native plants, clothes, furniture (old cupboards or wardrobes would be donated by the Society to the Nyngan appeal). Please deliver to 7 David Street, Glenbrook, or directly to 58 Great Western Highway on the day of the sale.

For assistance phone 394709 (Aleen) or 395125 (George). **COME ALONG FOR BARGAINS.**

W.I.R.E.S. will also be having a stall.

## COMING WALKS

**August 25 (Saturday):** Erskine Creek. Meet 10am, Glenbrook NPWS Centre, Car Park. Leader: R. Phillipps (392568)

**September 9 (Sunday):** Faulconbridge Area. Meet 10am, Faulconbridge Post Office. Leader: Margaret Esson (511826)

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new members Allan and Mary Macauley and Henry Foster.

Mollie Edmonds, long-time supporter, was the author of the poem entitled *Blue Mountains* in our last issue.

Congratulations, Ron and Christine Bridle on the arrival of a new member, Hayley.

## Coming events

**Continued from Page 1.**

**October 15 - 19:** Monday to Friday. Weeds Awareness Week (organised by BMEC). We are planning a Weeds & Cake Stall at Springwood Shopping Centre on Saturday, 20th October. Specimens of weeds for display, arranged by Besse (512787). Donations of cakes would be welcome - contact Besse or bring directly to the stall, if you can.

**December 1:** Spotlighting & Barbecue. Meet at Murphy's Glen, Woodford at 6pm. Bring your tea (Xmas cake provided) and a good torch. Contact Aleen (394079).



## The Bungle Bungles

Graeme Ravenswood gave the following talk, illustrated with slides, to LBMCS in June last. For those who missed the meeting we reprint the main points Graeme made.

"This unique area was 'discovered' in 1983 by the general public and since then, through magazine articles and television documentaries, the area has aroused much interest due to its colourful and unique land forms.

The Bungle Bungle Ranges are characterised by the unique "Bee Hive"-shaped domes of rocky outcrops that are best viewed from the easy walk along Picaninni Creek, which drains the heart of the Bungles. The domes and ranges consist of weathered sandstone, which is very fragile and brittle. The climbing of them is discouraged for that reason by the National Parks Service.

The Bungles is semi-arid, with little rain falling outside of the summer wet season. It also drains into the upper reaches of the Ord River.

The area is host to a variety of wildlife such as the seldom-seen rock wallaby, various species of bats, reptiles and numerous species of birds.

Aboriginal rock paintings can also be found in many areas.

In mid-winter the temperature can hover around 30 degrees and some of the pools remaining after the wet season have provided swimmers with welcome relief.

The Bungles was visited in June '89 along a rough 4WD track to experience the untouched wilderness prior to the new road planned to be built as early as July '89, that would be suitable to carry tourist coaches to service the proposed tourist resort.

The Kimberleys, until recently, was mostly a large, untouched wilderness. However, there are now proposals to open up areas to tourist resorts, naval establishments and mineral exploration.

This is the ideal time to select areas to be submitted for protection under National Park status. Present proposals by the Western Australian Government do not reflect a significant concern for the protection of this unique environment".

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## Noxious weeds targeted as a vicious enemy

Blue Mountains City Council has mounted an awareness campaign aimed at ridding the Mountains of noxious weeds.

State Government, council and conservation movement representatives met earlier in the week (beginning 3rd June) to start the campaign.

Competitions are being organised for primary and high school students to help identify weeds, understand the damaging effects they have and learn how they can eradicate the problem.

Displays will be prepared for Katoomba, Springwood and Blackheath to inform the community about the weeds.

Some of the worst weeds are being gathered, such as Scotch and English Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Blackberry and St Johns Wort so people can identify them correctly.

Weeds Awareness Week from October 15 to 19

will really push home the point against weeds.

Council will spend \$69,500 on noxious weed eradication, topped up with a \$28,000 grant from the State Government which is \$12,000 more than last year's grant.

Enquiries regarding weed eradication can be made to Terry Boyd, phone 82-0619.

(Reprinted from the *Blue Mountains Gazette*, 6/6/90).

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## BMEC CRISIS

The National Parks Association NSW Inc, Blue Mountains Group has requested a Special General Meeting of member group delegates as early as possible to discuss the restructuring of the BMEC. The NPA has written to the Secretary of the BMEC outlining the changes it sees as necessary to make BMEC a viable "umbrella" organisation, and suggesting that the NPA will feel obliged to withdraw from BMEC unless major reforms are carried out.



## Concern for Falconbridge rare Mallee heritage area

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the Shadow Minister for the Environment, Pam Allan, have raised fears that the Blue Mountains City Council and the State Government's newly created Property Services Division will not support the heritage protection of an 143-acre reserve in Falconbridge.

LBMCS vice-President, Margaret Esson, took Ms Allan on a tour of the site bounded by Shirlow Avenue, Grose Road and Meeks Crescent during a visit to the Blue Mountains last Wednesday.

Ms Esson said the land, near the Falconbridge township and extending into the National Park, is environmentally sensitive and includes some of the best communities of the rare plant species, the Falconbridge Mallee.

"The species has a limited distribution and is an area which has a very high fire risk and is unsuitable for development," Ms Esson said.

"The Heritage Council has nominated the area as worthy of protection under the Heritage Act and is recognised by conservationists and the Blue Mountains City Council as an area of high conservation value.

"The LBMCS has nominated the area for acquisition by the State Open Space and Heritage Fund and is being supported in this request by State Member Barry Morris, Ms Allan, Mr Ross Free, The Colong Foundation, the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society and the Blue Mountains Branch of the National Parks Association, along with 300 members of the public who have signed a petition for its conservation."

Ms Esson said the subject land was in an accessible bush-walking area and was enjoyed by residents for its natural beauty and wild flowers.

"The BMEC recently won a case in the Land and Environment Court which prevented an unsuitable subdivision on the escarpment block overlooking the gully.

This block also has an important area of Falconbridge Mallee, in addition to other rare plants and was documented by the Heritage

Council as an item of State Environmental Heritage.

"This area is worthwhile conserving both for its natural values and as an area of recreation, especially in view of its unspoilt nature and accessibility.

"But despite all these factors in favour of it the BMCC is not disposed to give it priority nor even support its nomination by state funds".

Ms Allan said the LBMCS had been unsuccessful in getting the National Parks and Wildlife Service to do a study of the area and assess its environmental value.

"There's already a fair body of information about the land but it is also important that Mr Robert Webster, the state minister responsible for administering the newly created Open Space and Heritage Fund, be made aware of its importance," Ms Allan commented.

"There's enough evidence of a number of worthwhile and rare plant species there but Mr Webster, who has no environmental credentials and is also a member of the National Party, should be reminded of his responsibilities.

"Mr Webster also administers the Property Services group through Planning Minister, Mr Hay.

"It sells off government assets, funds which should be providing funding for areas like Falconbridge."

Ms Allan described the response of the BMCC as "pathetic".

"It should be pushing the State Government to save the land."

Ms Allan said a question she had asked Environment Minister, Tim Moore, in State parliament on May 2 had gone unanswered.

(Courtesy of *The Blue Mountains Gazette*, June 13, 1990)

**Ms Allan has since visited the office of the Review Panel. The decision on funds for acquisition will be made this month. - Ed.**