

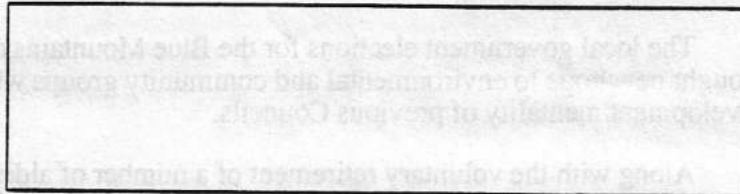


October/November/December 1991

## '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 7.30 pm.

October 11 - AGM followed by  
Margaret Turton - QUOLLS,  
AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE CAT -  
Margaret has been conducting a  
survey on tiger quoll in the  
Blue Mountains. She will give  
a talk on her findings, ill-  
ustrated by a slide show.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tues. 8th Oct. (Glenbrook)  
Fri. 8th Nov. (Springwood)  
Tues. 10th Dec. (Glenbrook)  
Fri. 10th Jan. (Springwood)  
Tues. 11th Feb. (Glenbrook)  
Fri. 13th Mar. (Springwood)

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The AGM also celebrates the Society's 15th  
Birthday - all welcome to help cut and eat the cake!!!

**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 Service  
The Wilderness Society (NSW)

C.H.A.N.G.E.

Glenbrook Lagoon Society  
Eastern Escarpment 530A Committee  
Nepean River Committee  
Darks Common Trust  
The Colong Foundation (Inc)  
The Total Environment Centre

**Society Contacts**

President: Margaret Baker (54-1196)  
V.Pres: Richard Phillipps (39-2568)  
Secretary: George Threlfo (39-5125)  
Publicity Officer: George Threlfo  
Editor: Julie Senior (39-6465)  
Treasurer: Eileen Brammall (39-6420)  
Librarian: Wynne O'Brien (58-6504)  
General Enquiries and Talks  
Organiser: Aleen Hanley (39-4079)

**Secretary's Report**

The local government elections for the Blue Mountains on Saturday, 14 September have brought new hope to environmental and community groups who have long despaired at the pro-development mentality of previous Councils.

Along with the voluntary retirement of a number of aldermen, newcomers appear to have caused the demise of at least the former Mayor. A clear majority of at least 8 aldermen can be expected to call for the revision of the Environment Management Plan to a form more in keeping with its original Aims and Objectives.

We can now rekindle our efforts with an expectation that such efforts will not be wasted.

To the general community who have carefully chosen a new direction for the Mountains -

**BRAVO !!**

**Management of the Nepean River Within Penrith Council Areas**

Completion of a detailed Plan of management for this section of the river is now at hand. A draft should be ready for a meeting on Thursday, 19 September. If it is accepted, some real progress should occur in all activities affecting the river and its surrounds including of course, one of the original reasons for our involvement - the use of high speed powerboats.

**Western Sydney Development**

CHANGE activist, Dr. David Hughes has been invited to join the task force set up by a recent State Cabinet decision to examine all management options for the river. With some persuasion on Dave's part, we may see a management body approximating that given in Kevin Rozzolis River Authority Bill. Good luck !

A potential threat to remaining bushland is a scheme currently being hatched to use all of the Defence Forces land between St. Marys and Cambridge Park for housing plus an outer ring railway connecting the North West sector, this development, South Creek and Badgery's Creek to Liverpool (and hence the Macarthur South development). Imagine how many more millions could then be squeezed into the Cumberland Plain and their effect on the river !

S.M.H.

# Battle lines drawn in war of the mountains

By PAUL BAILEY and DANIELLE COOK

The author and social commentator Mr Richard Neville believes next Saturday's local council elections will be the last chance to save the Blue Mountains.

He is not alone.

With the biggest field of candidates in a Blue Mountains City Council election and half the incumbent aldermen not included on the list of nominations, many are hoping for changes to what has been described as an "aggressively pro-development" council.

When a plan to allow up to 5,000 new housing lots in the Blue Mountains came before the council recently, half of the 12 aldermen declared their financial interest.

It was only after the Minister for Local Government granted special permission for three of those six aldermen to attend the meeting that the council could muster a quorum.

Incidents like this have led to criticism of the council's ruling pro-development faction, known locally as "the gang of seven".

Mr Neville wrote in the *Independent Monthly* earlier this year: "The [elections] will be the last chance to save the mountains. People who once anguished over the occupant of the White House or 10 Downing Street are already humored in strategies to change the complexion of the aldermen."

Ms Margaret Esson, vice-president of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society, said: "There is a great ground swell against the council, especially on environmental issues. The results of the



Development concern ... President of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society Margaret Baker, left, and vice-president Margaret Esson, overlooking Peggy's Pool near Faulconbridge. *Picture by RICK STEVENS*

election will show just how big that ground swell is."

But the Mayor, Alderman Ralph Williams, says the major election issue is the provision of basic services, such as garbage collection

and road maintenance.

The council's Environmental Management Plan has come in for criticism from conservation groups, which say it should be called a residential development plan.

When the council first sent the plan to the NSW Department of Planning for ratification, it was rejected for "not correctly addressing urban issues", said a spokeswoman for the department.

The Sydney Water Board and the State Pollution Control Commission were critical of the push for further residential expansion because of the possible effects of run-off and pollution.

In a letter to the council this year, the board implied that \$71 million worth of works it was undertaking in the mountains - funded from the environmental levy on NSW ratepayers - could be jeopardised if proposed residential expansion went ahead.

A revised Environmental Management Plan is now back with the Department of Planning. But conservationists, joined by many of the 45 candidates vying for a seat on the council, are lobbying for further revision.

A World Heritage listing for the area has been called for - a plan Aid Peter O'Toole said ALP candidates would support.

But Aid Williams defended the council's environment management plan, saying that while it provided for extra subdivision, it also set aside large areas of bushland for permanent protection.

"There is a very vocal group of so-called environmentalists who are claiming that this is the issue," he said. "What this fringe element is saying about the Environmental Management Plan, that it is horrendous, just does not hold water."

Aid Williams said the anti-development lobby had no concern for young unemployed people in the mountains, for whom the type of tourism development being encouraged could provide jobs.

## TEC WALK ... A DAY IN THE MIDDLE MOUNTAINS

Sunday .. 6 October .. 10am

Meet at 3 Ridge Street, Woodford, for morning tea.

This walk will be led by Jill Dark and will focus on the middle mountain bushland spring display.

After a spectacular final luncheon spread for 1991, Alex Colley and Keith Muir of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness will talk about the bid to have the Blue Mountains listed as a World Heritage area. A second walk, into a rainforest remnant at Woodford, is on offer to the vigorous.

BYO DRINKS AND CUPS.

DONATION TO TEC \$20

### Short Notes:

The NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW INC. is holding its Annual Conference for 1991 on the weekend of 26 and 27 October at Maiden Theatre, Botanic Gardens, commencing 10.00 am sharp.

ECOS - an excellent quarterly magazine on science and the environment published by CSIRO is available from PO Box 225, Dickson. 2502, for just \$18.00 per annum.

## **Incorporation of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society**

At the General Meeting (after AGM) of the Society on the 11th October 1991 at 8.00pm, your Committee will be asking you to approve our new constitution (a copy of which is enclosed). It has been necessary to revise the constitution because, with your approval, we would like to apply for incorporation of the Society.

If we become incorporated it will mean that the Society will become a legally recognised entity, separate from the individual members. At present we are regarded as a loosely organized group of people.

Apart from increasing our professional status and providing us with a legitimate existence, incorporation would protect individual members from being personally responsible for the Society's debts and responsibilities. At present, if the Committee overspends, individual members could be sued for outstanding debts. Of course incorporation is not a licence for the Committee to spend up big. Incorporation carries extra responsibilities for the Committee members.

To oversee the incorporation process, we must also appoint a Public Officer. Your approval of this person will be required.

We ask you therefore, to attend this meeting and to give your support to the following motions:

1. That the new Constitution of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society be accepted.
2. That the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society applies to become incorporated.
3. That Margaret Baker be appointed the Society's Public Officer and pursues the application for incorporation.

Moved: *C. ANDERSON*      Seconded: *M. ESSON*

### **Support the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society and buy your books from our stall at the Ivy Market**

Springwood Civic Centre, 2nd Saturday of every month except  
January, and two markets in November, 8.30am - 12.30pm

We sell new books on the Blue Mountains, Australian native plants and animals,  
bushwalking, conservation and related titles. If the book you want  
isn't there on the day we can generally obtain it for you.



▼  
P.S.

Don't forget to 'go green' when you do your Xmas shopping. Most conservation groups have wonderful items that can be bought and given - and at the same time your money is helping to continue the fight to protect our environment.