

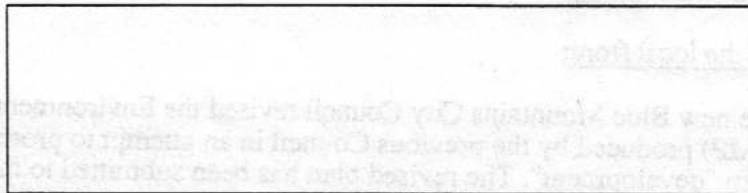
January/February/March 1992



## Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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



### Notice of Meetings

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**GENERAL MEETINGS:**

*Springwood N'hood Centre*

Friday 14 February, 8 pm - JILL DARK "Birds of the Orkneys  
and other northern islands"

Friday 10 April, 8 pm - COLIN ANDERSON "Rainforests of NSW"  
(to be confirmed)

**WALKS:**

Throughout Autumn and Winter months - to be advised.

**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**

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)  
CHANGE  
The Total Environment Centre

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

**Society Contacts**

President: Richard Phillipps (39 2)  
V. Presidents: Margaret Baker (54 1)  
Margaret Esson (51 1)  
Secretary: Rowan Huxtable (39 6)  
Publicity: George Threlfo (39 5)  
Editor: Julie Senior (39)  
Treasurer: Eileen Brammall (39)  
Librarian: Wynne O'Brien (58)  
General Enquiries and Talks Organiser:  
Aleen Hanley (39 4)

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Happy New Year to LBMCS members!

The LBMCS celebrated its 25th anniversary last September. The LBMCS collectively contains substantial experience and expertise on environmental issues, and we will continue to put the environmental case as strongly and accurately as we can, where we think we can help.

**On the local front:**

The new Blue Mountains City Council revised the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced by the previous Council in an attempt to protect some areas of land from "development". The revised plan has been submitted to the State Government, BUT, although most of it has now been gazetted, some of the more controversial areas which the Council attempted to protect, including land at Singles Ridge (Springwood), Cox's Rd (Glenbrook) and Coughlan Rd (Glenbrook) have NOT been gazetted. The Council is still (7/1/92) awaiting the Minister's explanation for this delay.

We wrote to the Blue Mountains Gazette supporting the Council's revision of the EMP.

The Council has advised us that it intends to plan to consult/discuss with environmental groups. We have accepted Council's invitation to register as a group interested in participating in such discussions.

**Elsewhere in NSW:**

Last September, the Land and Environment Court ruled that the NSW Forestry Commissions proposed logging in Chaelundi would be in breach of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, because such logging would disturb or injure many endangered or protected species. In response to this decision, the State Government introduced a Regulation exempting all government operations (including forestry) from the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

We donated \$50 to the Chaelundi campaign.

We wrote to the State Government complaining about the regulation.

We wrote to independent MP's Hatton & Nile asking them to support "endangered species" legislation.

We wrote to our local State MP, Barry Morris, expressing concern at the reduction in National Parks and Wildlife Service staffing, and at plans to integrate the NPWS with Conservation and Land Management.

We wrote to the Premier expressing concern about the smog problem in Western Sydney.

Elsewhere in Australia:

In response to a request for help from the Conservation Council of Victoria, we have written to the Victorian and Federal Governments asking them to investigate a woodchip company called Midway, and to move to plantation logging in Victoria.

Rowan Huxtable  
Secretary

# PHOTO-CHEMICAL SMOG

## WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO AVOID IT

Smog is not a serious problem in the Lower Blue Mountains - yet. But it is a serious problem for our next door neighbours in Western Sydney. A problem we add to when we zoom through Penrith and St. Marys on the F4.

What is Photochemical Smog? A mixture of chemicals, mainly Ozone ( $O_3$ ) and Nitrogen Dioxide ( $NO_2$ ). When strong sunlight shines on the mixture, fine particles form, creating a whitish haze.

Ozone causes temporary and permanent damage to lungs and respiratory tracts, attack plants during the growing season and damages buildings, rubber, clothing and plant dyes. Nitrogen Dioxide affects animal and plant health. It reacts with air and water to produce nitrous and nitric acids - which fall as acid rain.

Isn't it ironic! We have too much Ozone in the lower atmosphere - and not enough ozone in the upper atmosphere.

## HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM?



<u>Ozone Level</u> (parts per hundred million)	<u>Comments</u>
6-8	Adverse affect on children's and asthmatic's respiration.
8 (for a 1 hour average)	Japanese standard - maximum allowable level.
12	Degraded lung function during exercise.
12 (for a 1 hour average)	Current Australian standard - maximum allowable level.
12+ (time period not described).	Levels in Campbelltown and Camden now.
18	Expected maximum levels in Campbelltown, AD2011.
20	Expected maximum levels in Penrith, AD2011 - advisable to keep children indoors at this level.

## WHAT CAUSES THE PROBLEM?

Cars, planes, trucks and sun.



- Combustion engines emit Nitrogen Dioxide and hydrocarbons.
- Nitrogen Dioxide reacts with ultraviolet light to produce ozone and Nitric Oxide ( $NO$ ).
- Hydrocarbons produce compounds which change the Nitric Oxide back into Nitrogen Dioxide - which can react again with light to produce more Ozone.

Motor vehicles produce about 85% of the Nitrogen Dioxide and about half of the hydrocarbons in the air over Sydney.

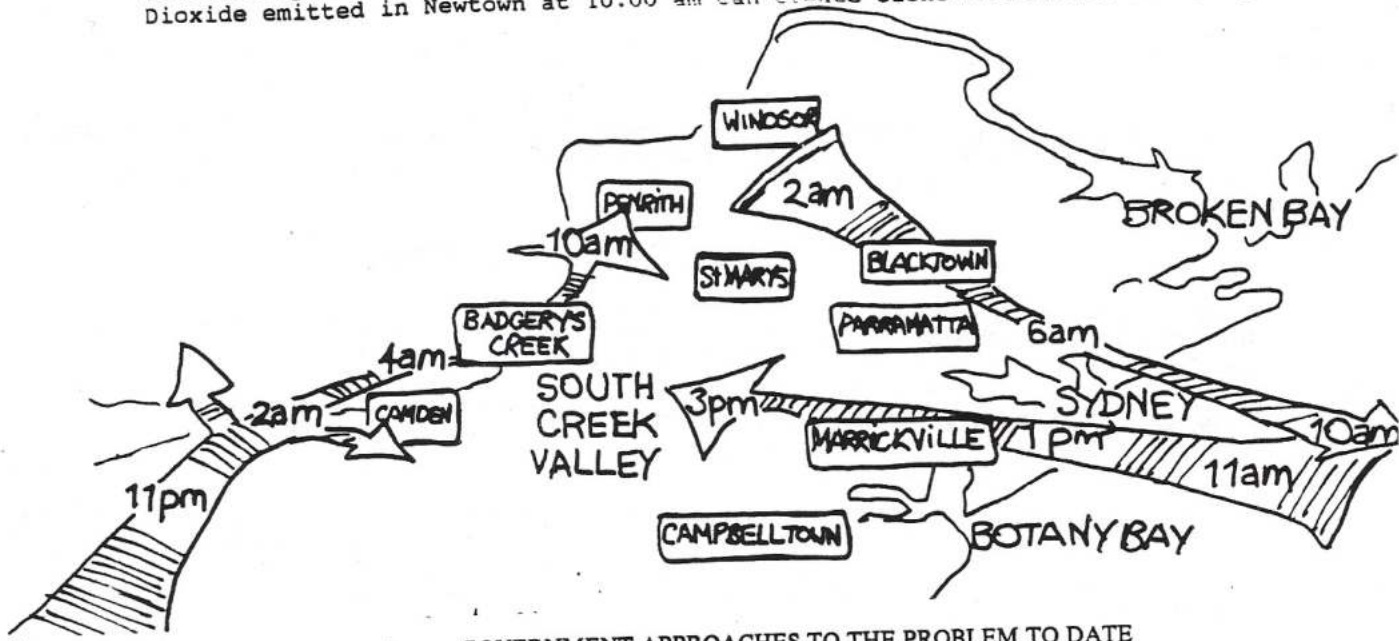
## HOW WE CONTROLLED THE SMOG IN THE LATE 70s AND 80s.

We reduced the level of hydrocarbon emissions. The introduction of lead free petrol 1986 made possible the use of catalytic converters in cars to roughly halve their hydrocarbon emissions. Lead-free petrol isn't just about reducing lead emissions. As described above, reducing the hydrocarbon level slows the production of ozone - and allows the pollutants to disperse.

### WHY THIS SOLUTION ISN'T ADEQUATE IN THE 90s

We have many more cars now and the average commuting distance is much longer. Therefore the total amount of Nitrogen Dioxide emitted is much bigger, and we have reached the point where simply reducing hydrocarbon emissions alone does not reduce the ozone level, but simply slows the ozone production.

Sydney's wind patterns move air from west to east in the morning (picking up pollution from the morning peak), then back from east to west (picking up pollution from the afternoon peak) in the afternoon. With slow rates of ozone production, the Nitrogen Dioxide emitted in Newtown at 10.00 am can create Ozone at Penrith at 5.00 pm.



### GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM TO DATE

- Build more freeways.
- Spend next to nothing on public transport in the west.
- Build Badgerys Creek airport.
- Make petrol cheaper (advocated by the Federal Liberal Party as part of their "fightback" policy)
- Put lots more people into Sydney, especially in the West where the pollution problem is worst.
- And (to be fair) new cars are now required to emit less than 1.95 grams of Nitrogen Oxides per km.

### HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM (And Save Money)

- Stop Sydney growing
- Shorten commuting distances
- Smaller cars with cleaner engines (eg electric cars)
- Public Transport.

Reduced oil consumption would lessen the need to import oil from overseas.

(Prepared by R. Huxtable. Source of some info: ECOS, Summer 91/92)

### WORLD-WIDE:

Mexico City-1988: pollution exceeds limit 312 out of 366 days.  
1989: pollution so bad schoolchildren given month off.

Athens: on heavily polluted days 6 times as many people die as on days when air is relatively clean.

District in Poland: more than a third of children and adolescents had symptoms of lead poisoning normally found only in workers in heavily polluted factories.

China: city dwellers are 4 to 6 times more likely to die of lung cancer than country dwellers.

In Florence traffic is banned from the city centre in daylight hours and from central Rome during 7 hours of the day. Budapest bans traffic from nearly all its down-town streets and in Santiago a fifth of cars are kept off the road by rotation each day.

In 1988 Southern Californians breathed air that exceeded health standards on 232 days of the year. Children in the most polluted area suffer reduction of 10-15 percent in lung capacity for life.

The great London smog of 1956 killed more than 4000 people. Sulfur dioxide still exceeds WHO safety standards in the city.



## President's Report

1991 has been a hectic year for the small band of active members of our Society and in looking back over the blur of activities it is easy to miss events and individual actions that have made important contributions to conservation in the Blue Mountains. I welcome this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted in the important role that our Society has had to play.

Special thanks must go to Aleen Hanley, without whom, at times, this Society would fall apart. Aleen has in recent years acted as programme organiser, minute secretary, newsletter editor, librarian, main fund raiser and general support. We were very grateful that this year two members provided Aleen with some breathing time, volunteering for two of these positions. Julie Senior has managed to squeeze in the job of Newsletter Editor into her very busy life, and we thank her for a year of very interesting reading. Colin Anderson has made an admirable Minute Secretary, and we applaud his endeavours in his weed eradication campaign in Lapstone.

Eileen Brammall has quietly re-organised our membership renewal system and has kept a tight rein on Society finances, so that we are in a respectable financial situation. Bessie Bramsen continues to provide excellent sustenance to see us through our meetings, and represents the Society and the environment generally wherever she can. We thank Richard Phillipps for negotiating for the venue for the very successful Urban Bushland Conference at UWS which a number of us attended, before he departed for foreign shores

George Threlfo, as Correspondence Secretary, and as part of the NCC, CHANGE, National Parks Advisory Board etc etc, has had another very busy year. He has ably represented us, and has otherwise been involved in such issues as the formulation of the Waste Minimisation Strategy, Glenmore Park Estate, Glenbrook Landcom Proposal, Blue Mountains for World Heritage campaign, and the Warrimoo-Springwood Powerline Enquiry.

George and I were also very actively involved in opposing the Londonderry mega-tip proposal which was finally abandoned prior to the State Election. Sadly it is obvious that the State Government has learnt nothing from the very capable and thorough campaign which the people of Londonderry waged against this environmentally disastrous and backward looking scheme. Current plans range from privatising the Waste management Authority (is this profiteering from waste?), to dumping rubbish into old Hunter Valley coal mines. We should all be asking why the government seems to be incapable of enacting waste minimisation and recycling legislation.

1991 could have been called on the Mountains, the Year of the Environmental Mismanagement Plan. I am sure that you are all now familiar with the Plan, which

aimed to rezone current rural acreages and large residentially zoned land on the outskirts of the towns and villages in order to realise a vision of the Mountains as a place of exceptional environmental and aesthetic quality for both residents and visitors. As the year progressed this and other aims were thrown away and with each new decision from Council, it became increasingly a blueprint for developers.

A number of Society members, particularly George Threlfo, Margaret Esson and I, continued to fight for its revision, lobbying every possible member of Parliament, and every appropriate government department. Margaret Esson and I developed a number of documents opposing the Plan and achieved some sympathetic publicity in the *Blue Mountains Gazette* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. I sincerely thank Margaret, my Vice-president, for her considerable support and efforts at this time. Disheartened by lack of action at every government level about the conservation of the increasingly rare and endangered Faulconbridge Mallee (for which she continues to campaign), Margaret nevertheless threw herself whole-heartedly into the EMP fight.

As the Council elections approached we held our breath and hoped that the Plan would not be gazetted. We were pleased when the new Council recalled the Plan and announced its revision. We were most appreciative of the efforts of those aldermen who argued for improvements on social and natural environmental grounds. Many EMP meetings have been held in the last few months and changes made one week were often overturned the next. We were pleased about some of the changes, others we were not. Most of us in fact, are quite confused about what was finally submitted to the Department of Planning. I understand, at the time of writing this report, that part of the Plan at least has been gazetted, but exact details are not available.

Regardless of the final format of the Plan, it is essential that we all continue to provide reasoned environmental input into the decision making of our local council. We must remain ever vigilant about minimising the impact of urban sprawl in our area. This year air pollution levels over Western Sydney and the Lower Blue Mountains have been alarming, and anyone venturing along streamlines could not have failed to detect the obvious signs and smells of the water pollution that is adding to the deterioration of the Nepean-Hawkesbury River.

Collectively and individually we all have an environmental contribution to make, and I wish the new committee well in its activities over the coming year. I also welcome back from overseas, Richard Phillipps, who has generously agreed to take on another term as President. Thank you.

Margaret Bake

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

For year ended September 30th. 1991

	30.09.91	30.09.90
Ivy Market	356.64	540.63
Garage Sale and Fund Raising	1,131.45	104.00
Membership Fees	544.00	372.00
Donations Received	100.00	10.00
Xmas Dinner	-	18.00
Sale String Bags	-	6.00
Q Theatre Party	-	45.00
Interest Received	38.98	13.48
	2,171.07	1,109.11

LESS EXPENSES

Advertising & Promotion	27.00	55.40
Audit Fees	170.00	-
Bank Fees & Charges	6.24	8.72
Calendars	179.10	-
Heritage Study	-	15.00
Purchase Books	160.42	-
Postage Printing & Stationery	338.53	280.21
Rental	95.00	70.00
Kent P.O. Box	35.00	30.00
Subscriptions & Donations	397.00	285.00
Telephone	20.00	-
Soil Landscape Map & Book	-	30.00
T.E.C. Fees	60.00	-
Xmas Dinner	-	20.00
Total Expenses	1,488.29	804.33

NET PROFIT

682.78      304.78

BALANCE SHEET

As at September 30th.1991

	30.09.91	30.09.90
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash		
Cash on Hand	7.77	-
Credit Union Account	1,296.79	621.78
	1,304.56	621.78
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	1,304.56	621.78
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	1,304.56	621.78
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	1,304.56	621.78

TRUST FUNDS

Reserves		
Accumulated Profit	621.78	621.78
Retained Profits	0.00	-
<b>TOTAL TRUST FUNDS</b>	621.78	621.78

GENERAL LEDGER - SELECTED ACCOUNTS

For year ended September 30th. 1991

A/C 144	Subscriptions & Donations		
30.09.91	6CB	32.00	NATIONAL PARKS ASSOC
30.09.91	7CB	20.00	C.H.A.N.G.E.
30.09.91	8CB	20.00	URBAN DEVL COALITION
30.09.91	9CB	50.00	NATIONAL PARKS ASSOC
30.09.91	10CB	35.00	AUST CONSERV SOCIETY
30.09.91	11CB	15.00	NATURE CONS COUNCIL
30.09.91	12CB	50.00	P.O.W.E.R.
30.09.91	13CB	50.00	FAULCONBRIDGE RES AS
30.09.91	14CB	50.00	NATURE CONS COUNCIL
30.09.91	15CB	50.00	B.H.E.C.
30.09.91	16CB	25.00	MAN OF THE TREES
		397.00	

BUSH REGENERATION

We are currently exploring the possibility of organising a course in Bush Regeneration. A bush regeneration expert from the National Trust has kindly indicated that if we can get at least 8 people interested, they will undertake a Training Course for us.

There are already a few people interested - but we need more.

This course will be an introduction to Bush Regeneration and the theory behind it. The latest proven methods will be shown and practical experience will be an important part of the program. We envisage choosing a few different sites for this practical work.

The course will either run over 2 days (Saturdays or Sundays) for 5 hours a day OR 4 days for 3 hours a day, depending on peoples preference. We expect it to happen in March/April when the weather is milder.

Cost will be between \$20 and \$30 for the course, depending on numbers.

INTERESTED ..... GREAT .....  
Telephone Julie Senior on 39 6465 and  
let us know your preference for the timing.



Public Forum

**Are the Blue Mountains  
Killing the Hawkesbury?**

**Speaker: Dr David Hughes**

**Water Quality in the Mountains and  
Hawkesbury-Nepean  
- and what YOU can do about it.**

**Saturday February 15, 2-4 pm  
Ellison Public School Hall  
Ellison Rd, Springwood**

**Further information:**

**Annie Daley  
(047) 542206**

*The Wilderness Society, Blue Mountains  
Australian Education Network*

**BLUE MOUNTAINS EMP - LEP 1991**  
**SHEET 8 - THE FAULCONBRIDGE AREA**

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since the last report (Eco-News July-Sept) on the significant Faulconbridge Mallee area - an important part of the land depicted on the Sheet 8 map.

Margaret Baker (working on Sheet 9 Winmalee and Springwood) and I attended innumerable Council meetings and workshops (now also open to the public) dealing with the EMP zoning proposals. We attended a meeting when the Canberra Heritage Officer visited Council. We spoke in favour of Heritage listing for the eastern escarpment and the Faulconbridge Mallee area, though lack of time and energy did not permit us to put this request in writing - yet again! Tony Towers, Town Planner, agreed to further consider these requests.

I lobbied aldermen with the hope and expectation of achieving changes on Sheet 8 that would improve protection of the environmentally sensitive fragile fringes of Faulconbridge. This succeeded in a number of reductions in density and improvements - though not always to the extent we thought desirable.

The Faulconbridge Mallee area will be better protected if Council's changed zoning proposals are accepted by the Department of Planning. These are:

- (1) Shirlow Avenue ridge restored to 7e from 4/ha;
- (2) East Shirlow Ave from 8/ha to RBC NS;
- (3) no change was possible for the Meeks Avenue sub-division, but a proviso of an alternate track to the gully has been made for DA approval;
- (4) the 8/ha at the head of this gully remains - some 5 houses will be built, though 3 would be a more acceptable sub-division;
- (5) the escarpment block off Muriel Street zoning proposal was changed from 8/ha to 4/ha - though a number of aldermen (agreeing with us) were not happy to see any development on this site;
- (6) a strange change was made in St Georges Cres when the sub-division lot was moved from adjacent to the NP border (a good move) to further along the road at the head of the gully (a bad move!!). Thus a total of 3 sub-division lots was maintained, contrary to Commissioner Simpsons recommendation for 2 lots.
- (7) The Numantia Ridge BC NS proposal of a long finger like projection, almost to the NP border and in a "land between towns zone" was not reduced to its original dimensions;
- (8) Chapman Parade BC NS zoning proposals were restored.

It remains to be seen if these changes have been gazetted, but we are greatly indebted to the hard-working aldermen who strove to improve the EMP.

Council has to date received no details of the EMP but anticipates these this coming week. We anxiously await the outcome.

Margaret Esson  
Vice President 12.1.92

**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.

**WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

If you have any articles,  
cartoons, drawings, etc.  
phone the editor on 39 6465.