



October/November/December 1993

Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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

**ALL WELCOME AT THE
NOVEMBER MEETING -
THE LAST FOR 1993.**

**JOIN US FOR SOME
XMAS CAKE.**

.....MONTHLY MEETINGS.....

8.00 pm Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
Fourth Friday of every month.

Friday	26 November 1993
Friday	28 January 1994
Friday	25 February 1994

AIMS

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

MEMBERSHIPS

Australian Conservation Foundation
Nature Conservation Council of NSW

OTHER GROUP INVOLVEMENT

Society for Growing Australian Plants
(Blue Mountains Branch)
The Total Environment Centre
National Parks Association (NSW)
Upper Blue Mtns Conservation Society
WIRES
The Wilderness Society
CHANGE

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

SOCIETY CONTACTS

President: Colin Anderson	(39 4374)
V.Pres: Margaret Baker	(54 1196)
George Threlfo	(39 5125)
Secretary: Richard Phillipps	(39 2568)
Publicity: Besse Bramsen	(51 2787)
Editor: Julie Senior	(39 6465)
Treasurer: Elizabeth Stark	(54 2019)
Librarian: Wynne O'Brien	(58 6504)
General Enquiries:	
Aleen Hanley	(39 4079)

President's report

Conservation Society is lobbying on many fronts

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society has been an active fighter for environmental issues in this past year. Many of the issues we have championed have been ones local to the lower Mountains; others have concerned the wider region, state and nation.

Five important motions we submitted to the Nature Conservation Council 1993 conference were passed substantially intact, thanks to the able advocacy of George Threlfo. These were about:

- **undeveloped land**, calling on the State Government to ensure that undeveloped land is not disturbed without an environmental management plan and the permission of the local council; also, that where ownership of a parcel of land is to change hands, this be stressed to the seller and buyer at time of conveyancing
- **rivers in national parks**, asking the State Government to amend the appropriate legislation to permit inclusion in a national park of any river that flows through it, or any water bodies within it, and to permit control by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of activities on or in that water body
- **regulation of power boats**, seeking to have the Maritime Services Board and its NSW Waterways Authority strictly enforce the "distance-off" regulations that currently apply to power boats and jet skis on NSW waterways
- **reinforcement of Nepean River banks**, calling on the Nature Conservation Council to oppose the proposal from engineering consultants for Penrith City Council to use dumped rock and reno-mattresses to reinforce the eroding Nepean River banks on most of the five kilometres above Penrith Weir

• **Nature Conservation Council fire policy.** This policy which we submitted to the 1990 NCC annual conference was referred to the executive for finalisation in consultation with member societies. This did not happen. The 1993 conference accepted our slightly amended policy with a minor change to point 8 which now reads: *Where a real hazard exists in a small urban reserve, fuel levels should be reduced by using selective hand clearing and mechanical trittering, and ensuring that the hazard is mitigated on adjoining undeveloped properties.*

And a new point 11.9: *Research programs should continue* with an emphasis on the [problem] that where hazard reduction is undertaken in piles, they should be burnt well away from rocks and trees.*

(The conference added the words in bold)

The revised policy also includes our new point 17: *Education and awareness programs should be strengthened and increased with a particular emphasis on encouraging people to be responsible for appropriate fire hazard reductions.*

I represented the Youth Hostels Association of NSW on the NCC executive throughout the year and also attended both days of the annual conference. George Threlfo was the LBMCS delegate to the conference which was a smooth-running affair with occasional heated debates about such contentious issues as control of cats. Late motions included one submitted by the Total Environment Centre, opposing an increase in the height of Warragamba Dam.

Other lobbying activities undertaken by our Society have included representations about weeds invading bushland, species such as the Faulconbridge Mallee under threat from subdividers, dumped waste material, highway plantings, inappropriate subdivision of Mountains bushland and many other matters.

Margaret Essen and Margaret Baker have made representations to Council over development, people have been taken to see the damage to the Gardens of Stone caused by coal mining, members have helped clear weeds and plant native species in their place, and a garage sale raised \$100.

Special thanks are due our Treasurer, Elizabeth Stark, and to Julie Senior for her economical and effective newsletter production.

I feel it's time I stepped down as President and I wish Colin Anderson every success in the role. He has two able vice-presidents in Margaret Baker and Georg e Threlfo.

As 1994 secretary, I will strive to live up to the effectiveness of Colin and his predecessor, Rowan Huxtable, who relocated to Newcastle during the year.

We need a membership drive and your ideas on new activities. Please let us know what you would like your new executive to arrange and the type of guest speakers or visits you would prefer.

- Richard Phillipps

FIRE POLICY

The current Nature Conservation Council FIRE POLICY was originally submitted to the Council by the LBMCS in 1990 and was finally adopted by the NCC at its October 1993 Annual Conference. For interest, the 1993 LBMCS amendment to p.17 relating to Council accountability for fire control follows:

" Local Councils in areas of significant fire probability should have staff available who:

- *are qualified, trained and experienced in ecological aspects of fire and in fire prevention and control;*
- *have qualifications and/or proven skills in public education and information dissemination;*
- *can work co-operatively with both the fire control authorities and with the environment movement;*
- *will be available to residents and property owners on the urban/non-urban interface for advice regarding fire management plans, and fire prevention and control on their properties. Residents should be encouraged to formulate for their own properties a fire management plan that does not include removal of significant amounts of native vegetation. Particular emphasis in any fire management plan should be on the effects of fire on the aspect noted in para.18.*
- *can assess the competence of applicants for hazard reduction permits regarding their experience and ability in handling the levels of fire intensity that will be most environmentally suitable for the situation;*
- *can authorise and supervise hazard reduction by fire or manual methods on individual small properties on the urban/non-urban interface in order to complement any "Inner Fire Control Strategies" that might exist. In fire danger periods (Summer) authorisations should be with the concurrence of the bushfire authority for the area.*

18. Fire management plans should clearly identify the aims of the plans especially with regard to managing the effects of fire on: rare and endangered flora, fire-sensitive fauna, vegetation communities, and wildlife habitats.

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FIRE - A PERSPECTIVE

In a September issue of the BMG, was an article by Chris Cunningham stating "Fire is simply a natural part of the Blue Mtns environment". A further statement that eucalyptus and angophora species promote fire would be difficult to justify.

Fire has become "natural" here because of the inhabitants and visitors. Fire begins when and where it is lit. Lightning may be considered a vague and rare possibility of cause, though the most likely causes are camp fire (unattended or left), bottles and broken glass strewn in litter, careless discarding of cigarettes - but most frequently incendiarism.

Aboriginal people may have used fire in some instances. But when doing so would have been well aware of the right conditions in which to do it. Their knowledge of weather vagaries were far beyond what scientists can predict now. The oft quoted statement that Aborigines used fire to flush out game is ridiculous. They had intimate knowledge of the haunts of game, the time animals came out to feed and tracking ability - they had no need for such disturbing of animals to hunt them. I believe it is very likely that they may have set fires in attempts to stem the invasion of whites. If asked whether they were flushing game, would certainly have given the reply that was expected. That was the contempt in which they held white ignorance.

The earliest fires of white incendiarism were lit by teamsters, who burned undergrowth to raise grass for their animals. Their transport was slow, and they had to carry food for horses and bullocks. But that was kept as low as possible because their prime object was carrying freight. In my young days I was told by one of the old hands that a terrible fire which raged over Mt Irvine in Nov 1909 was deliberately lit. And I remember hearing discussions between "bullockies" about how often the bush should be burnt - one advocating every second year. And so fire became a fashion very early in white settlement, and has been accepted ever since either as a necessity or just "inevitable" and natural.

B. Irvine Bramsen, Sept 1993.

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

As at September 30th.1993

	30.09.93	30.09.92
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		
Cash on Hand	-	6.40
Credit Union Account	1,202.23	1,131.83
	1,202.23	1,138.23
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,202.23	1,138.23
TOTAL ASSETS	1,202.23	1,138.23
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	1,202.23	1,138.23
TRUST FUNDS		
Reserves		
Accumulated Profit	1,202.23	1,138.23
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	1,202.23	1,138.23

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION
SOCIETY INCORPORATED

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

For year ended September 30th.1993

	30.09.93	30.09.92
Ivy Market, Garage Sale	230.90	417.25
Membership Fees	334.00	266.00
Donations Received	18.00	90.00
Sale Calendars, Diaries, Plants	51.00	542.20
Interest Received	35.10	18.43
	669.00	1,333.88
LESS EXPENSES		
Advertising & Promotion	-	9.45
Audit Fees	-	75.00
Bank Fees & Charges	3.80	3.66
Calendars	-	423.00
Insurance	60.00	167.25
Licences & Lodgments	-	60.00
Postage Printing & Stationery	105.70	300.20
Rental	113.00	35.00
Rent P.O. Box	37.00	37.00
Seminars & Conferences	-	15.20
Sundries	85.50	-
Subscriptions & Donations	200.00	345.00
Telephone	-	29.45
Total Expenses	605.00	1,500.21
NET PROFIT	64.00	(166.33)

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

SCOPE

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We have audited the accounts being the Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheets and notes to and forming parts of the accounts, of THE SOCIETY for the year ended 30th. September, 1993.

The Association's Committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accounts and the information they contain.

We have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1984 so as to to present a view of the Association and of the economic entity consistent with our understanding of their financial position and the results of operations. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

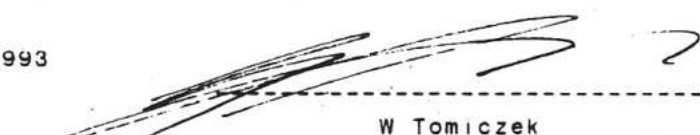
AUDIT OPINION

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In my opinion the financial accounts present fairly the financial position of LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INCORPORATED as at September 30th. 1993 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1984.

Date: October 10th. 1993

Address: 66 Emu Plains Road
Mt Riverview 2774


W Tomiczek

Qualifications: Registered Company Auditor
No. 2/A/1110



**MERRY XMAS
AND
BEST WISHES FOR 1994**