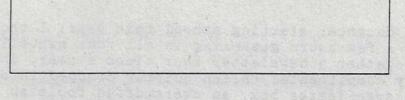


Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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



Notice of Meetings

8.00 p.m. Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Fourth FRiday of every month.

Friday 27th January 1995 Friday 24th February 1995 Friday 24th March 1995 Friday 28th April 1995

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

Contributions to this newsletter's next issue will be accepted up to March 31st, 1995.

Send articles to: The Editor,
Eco-News,
P.O. Box 119,
Springwood 2777.



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Jociety

AIMS.

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

MEMBERSHIPS.

Australian Conservation Foundation L. Nature Conservation Council of NSW Greening Australia (NSW)

OTHER GROUP INVOLVEMENT

The Wilderness Society

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

Eastern Escarpment 530A Cmt. Darks Common Trust Nepean River Committee The Colong Foundation (Inc.)

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Pres: Colin Anderson 394374 V.Pres: George Threlfo 395125 Richard Phillipps 392568 Act.Sec: Aleen Hanley 394079 Public.: Besse Bramsen 512787 Ed: Christine Stickley 536380 Treas: Elizabeth Stark 542019 Library: Wynne O'Brien 586504 Pub.Office: Ross Bridle 536380

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394079



EDITORIAL.

CHANGE

With my young daughter starting school this year, I thought I might be able to spare a few hours gathering in all your marvellous articles and putting together a newsletter four times a year, in amongst my work and study commitments. Aleen quietly dropped into my conveniently large letter box, an overstuffed foolscap envelope brimming with all sorts of newspaper articles, both national and local, showing the continuing need for carers of the environment despite the overtly environmentally aware society of the 90's. This is no time for complacency.

Headlines ring out: "THE CHIPS ARE DOWN", "OLD GROWTH FORESTS RAVAGED", "IS WOODCHIPPING SMART OR AVARICIOUS?", and "STAND BY FOR MORE PROTESTERS CHAINED TO BULLDOZERS."

" The Federal Government's decision yesterday to proceed with another year of woodchipping is tantamount to a declaration of war for environmentalists," writes James Woodford, in the Sydney Morning Herald. Perhaps the sentiment felt by so many is expressed by Gary Stowe of Springwood, in a letter to the editor of the SMH on 22/12/94.

"I am a 41-year-old 1960's leftover. I have voted Labour all my life. I have not been politically active since the Vietnam moratorium marches. This is about to change.

I will tolerate higher taxes to support a high deficit. I will tolerate high company profits in support of high investment and growth. I will even tolerate high interest rates to preserve low inflation. This is only money.

I will not tolerate the sale of Australian heritage forests to offshore interests for woodchip. These are our future.

Further, I worked casually for five years harvesting cypress pine and know a little bit about logging.

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I will not tolerate the Beddall lie that woodchip is a byproduct of controlled and sensitive logging in support of
small town mills. Anyone flying between Sydney and
Melbourne can plainly see the continuation of massive clear
felling operations. Anyone driving the southern lengths of the
Pacific Highway can plainly see that the by-product of small town

To the Prime Minister the message is simple. Stop the export woodchipping or lose my vote to whichever Independent and/or Green is electorally available and morally supportive.

Paul, the south-east forests are your Franklin."

mills is burned, not woodchipped.

And I thought this would be an easy task. I must replace that letterbox with something smaller!

Whilst I see this newsletter as a means to keep in touch with you all, to let you know what the Society has been involved in, and what is happening locally, as well as a way to present ourselves to society, I would like there to be more personal stories, some humour, cartoons, some creative writing, and "Win" articles. Please send me your stories, a great new place you found, new walks, what made it exhilarating for you, the walk that went wrong, the spiritual or esoteric aspects of being in Nature! Conservation is also about the celebration of Nature. Each of us has joined the LBMCS for different reasons. Let's see some of that diversity. I look forward to hearing from you.

Christine Stickley.



INVITATION to PUBLIC FORUM on KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES in the BLUE MOUNTAINS for the 1995 STATE ELECTION.

When: 22nd February 1995 Wednesday at 7.30 pm Where: Katoomba Civic Centre

M.C. and First Speaker: Penny Figgis, Vice President, Australian

Conservation Foundation.
Candidates standing for the seat of the Blue Mountains in the 1935
State election will present their/their party's environmental policies.

The environment is a key political issue in the Blue Mountains and may well influence the outcome of this <u>marginal seat</u>. Come prepared with your questions concerning the protection of our extremely sensitive environment.

This is organized by CORE (Coalition of Residents for the Environment Co-operative Ltd.) Further enquiries Ms. F. Kelly (047) 824407.



STOP PRESS: WOODCHIP MEETING.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1995. 7.30 p.m.

WHERE: TOWN HALL, SYDNEY. ARRANGED BY WILDERNESS SOCIETY.



URGENTLY NEEDED.

Aleen has generously taken on the job of Acting Secretary until we can find a <u>SECRETARY</u>. Due to ill-health, Aleen cannot continue, so dig deep into your energy reserves and say "YES" to this interesting position that brings involved fellowship and challenge. Make your positive contribution to your Blue Mountains environment that gives so much in return.



PRESIDENTS REPORT BY COLIN ANDERSON

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society has seen its members involved in a range of issues this year. These include:

- * Questioning the sale of private land in the Kanimbla Valley.
- * The Springwood Town Plan
- * Meetings in Katoomba and Penrith over the proposed raising of Warragamba Dam
- * Support for BMCC's initiative on the listing of privet and bamboo as noxious weeds
- * Support for BMCC's moves to ensure the retention of Water Board protected catchment lands in the Blue Mountains in the event of the Board's corporatization.

Our Secretary, Richard Phillipps, represented the Society at the Nature Conservation Council's "Environment in Crisis Conference".

Motions put by the Society to the NCC's Annual Conference in October dealt with the reform of Catchment Management Committees and a call for the rejection of a proposal by the New Zealand Company, Shotover Jet Ltd., to establish a "thrill ride" tourist operation on the Upper Nepean.

Two of the Society's members, Chris and Judy Smith, have been engaged by BMCC as ecological consultants to survey significant flora and fauna sites in Blue Mountains Urban Areas.

A weed stall was held at Blaxland during Weeds Awareness Week. A Garage Sale has helped to keep us afloat financially.

Talks held this year included Nick Gellies of the N.P.W.S. on fire, Wayne Brennan on aboriginal sites and artifacts and Mick Dark on his recent African trip.

The Society has, regrettably, seen the resignation of two key members of the executive; Vice President, Margaret Baker, and "Eco-News" Editor, Julie Senior. The Society wishes to take this opportunity to thank Margaret and Julie for the dedication and effort they have shown over the years on behalf of conservation as executive members of this Society and wishes them well in the future.

Margaret has been replaced as Vice President by Richard Phillipps, who has stepped aside as secretary, and Julie has been replaced as editor by Christine Stickley. Aleen Hanley is now Acting Secretary. Any takers?

The Challenge for the L.B.M.C.S. in 1995 will be, as always, to increase the Society's membership and recruit new blood to the executive.



1,433.27 1,202.23



TREASURER'S REPORT 1994

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For year end	led June 30th	.1994	
		30.06.94	30.06.93
INCOME			
to what he had a look day when		Link State	
lvy Market,Garage Sale Membership Fees		515.20 184.00	230.90
Donations Received		104.00	334.00
Interest Received		17.19	35.10
Sale Calendars, Diaries, Plants	atus again	32.00	51.00
LESS EXPENDITURE		748.39	669.00
Audit Fees		75.00	
Bank Fees & Charges		4.95	3.80
Insurance Licences & Lodgments		20.00	60.00
Postage Printing & Stationery		48.40	105.70
Rental		80.00	113.00
Rental Post Box		39.00	37.00
Sundries			85.50
Subscriptions & Donations		250.00	200.00
Total Expenditure		517.35	605.00
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		231.04	64.00
	ULATED FUNDS		
PERSONAL NAME OF PERSONS AND		30.06.94	30.06.93
Opening Capital Surplus of Income over Expend.	1,202.23		1,138.23
		1,433.27	1,202.23
Claster Selection			
Closing Balance		1,433.27	1,202.23
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		1,433.27	1,202.23
BALAN	CE SHEET	Manual Control of	
	OIILLI		
As at Ju	ne 30th.1994		
As at Ju		30.06.94	30.06 93
As at Ju		30.06.94	30.06.93
		30.06.94	30.06.93
CURRENT ASSETS		30.06.94 1.433.27	
CURRENT ASSETS		1,433.27	1,202.23
CURRENT ASSETS Cash Credit Union Account TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS		1,433.27	1,202.23
CURRENT ASSETS Cash Credit Union Account TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL ASSETS		1,433.27	1,202.23
CURRENT ASSETS Cash Credit Union Account TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,433.27	1,202.23

NET ASSETS

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BOUQUETS, BOUQUETS to the Premier Fahey's government for the declaration of 10 new National Parks in NSW on 1st December, 1995. These include the controversial Gardens of Stone National Park near Lithgow and the South-East Forests of Coolangubra, Yowaka, Tantawangalo, Genoa, Bemboka, Biamanga, and Bondi Gulf. However, the size of these parks in the South-East falls short of the areas that need to be protected, according to the Colong Foundation.

The Gardens of Stone is one of the most spectacular areas in the Blue Mountains, and is the best place in Australia for this type of sandstone formation. This announcement of 12,000 ha. should help the push for World Heritage Listing for the Blue Mountains.

The other additions are Cudmirrah National Park near Sussex Inlet, Cinjola National Park near Lake Conjola on the South Coast, Popran National Park on the Central Coast, and additions to Nangar National Park near Orange, Deua National Park and Wollemi National Park. More than 700,000 ha of extra land will come under the control of the National Parks, bringing the area under their protection to more than 5 per cent of NSW.



The State Rail Authority has become active in controlling noxious weeds on their land. You can help them by reporting any sightings on noxious weeds such as pampas grass on the railway, to Stewart King, SRA, Valley Heights (515444).

The LBMCS met with the SRA a couple of years ago to ask for some action on this question. At the time there were not the funds available.

The weight of public opinion and awareness is very important in allowing priorities to change in government policy. A bouquet to the SRA.

Sinclair Knight Road Maintenance has responsibility for weeds along the Great Western Highway. Give Ted Wilkes a ring (22 2167) next time you spot some noxious weeds along the Highway!

A further bouquet to the Water Board (Sydney Water) for removing their "Pollution Control Plant" (Sewerage Treatment Works) from the headwaters of Valley Heights Creek in Sun Valley. The valley is now a more pleasant place to walk, and the creek is taking on new life.

GARAGE SALE

As you can see in our financial report, the Garage Sale is our major fund raiser, enabling us to make donations to other groups involved in major campaigns. Any Items you may wish to contribute would be greatly welcomed at Aleen's house, 7 David Street, Glenbrook. Start clearing out those cupboards for a Sale in April or May.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

World Environment Day will be held at Springwood, on Sunday, June 4th, 1995. At least 2000 people came along last year. Kent Gillman at BMCC is co-ordinator. (820709).









MULGOA NATURE RESERVE.

The important archaeological site of Sir John Jamison's residence, "Regentville" is to be saved from future development at Glenmore Park in a decision announced in early December 1994. The area is to be administered by the NPWS.

The reserve, of 68 ha, is one of the few remaining examples of native vegetation on the whole Cumberland Plain. It also boasts significant geographical formations, sandstone and gravel cliffs 30 m high, and significant flora.

The LBMCS has been involved in working for the preservation of this area since subdivision of Glenmore Park was first mooted in the early 1980's. Recently, George Threlfo has worked on the preservation of this reserve, and a seemingly glowing press report belies the underlying problems, and shortcomings of this decision.

Writes George: "The recent declaration by the State Government of the Mulgoa Nature Reserve is a sad reminder of the tokenism shown to protection of remnant western Sydney bushland areas. The area declared is a fraction of the environmentally valuable land which could have formed a significant nature reserve. While the remains of Jamison's house and farm are recognised for their archaeological value in European settlement, the area of bushland to the south is small and bounded by the Glenmore Park Estate and other private property. Maintaining the equity of flora and fauna in such a small area will be extremely difficult, even if a full metal fence is used to separate it from the adjacent urban areas.

As well, the large forested area to the south of Glenmore Park is at least as significant. Its future is still undecided. Don't hold your breath waiting for it to be protected from urbanization."



WORLD HERITAGE SITES APPROVED.

The 16th December saw the approval of four more sites for the World Heritage list following the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Thailand. This brings to 14, the World Heritage Areas in Australia, including Kakadu, Great Barrier Reef, huge wilderness areas in SW Tasmania, Fraser Island and Lord Howe Island.

The listings are:

- * Uluru/Kata-Juta as a cultural landscape (already recognized for its natural values.)
- * Major extension of the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia, from 10 State forests, 14 flora reserves and one national park, in NSW and 6 national parks in Qld.
- * Riversleigh in NW Qld, part of a new Australian Mammal Fossil Site
- * Victoria Fossil Cave, Narracoorte, near Mt. Gambier in South Australia.



RAINFOREST TREE TALKS.

I stand here strong, and tall and green, layered over by vines and creepers, bearing much weight of a present shaky, and a future unknown. It was known once, perpetual, everlasting growth, sucking rich minerals and life from the red soil beneath, bathing in the torrents of rain falling on me each day. The earth was steady, and the rain. There was but air to breathe, rainbow to sooth, and life to generate. There was a constant coming and going of life as the forest floor relished the deep soft decaying litter of past generations.

Now my roots feel tender, unsure of their passage. Will I find this earth I need to survive and to give me strength, as I carefully reach around another corner, little white shoots afraid of where they are heading? From my heights I see the green blue ocean, white breakers padding the shore and brother mangroves.

I see, too, a red tinge in the water, growing from the sands. I hear the cries of distress from those near me, already feeling the insecurity brought by this uninvited stranger to our forest. He has brought noise that shatters our peace, sends birds off in squawking frenzy, and butterflies flutter at the edge of the scar of light in wonder at what has happened to their forest.

I feel the rays of sunlight dabble with my leaves, until the heat of the noon day becomes so intense. I long for the soaking rain of afternoon. There are rumbles in the distance, and I feel the crack of lightning shiver my smaller branches. Clouds must be gathering above me, massive, grey and responsive to my call. They answer with power, the rain soaking me, bending my leaves vertically with such force I need to brace myself with all the fibre left in me. The drops patter loudly on the leafy floor, pat, pat, pat.

The dust is washed away from my leaves; they feel fresh and renewed with energy, glucose flowing in my viens. The flow is stimulated by the solubility of minerals becoming energized to move towards these hungry roots, and the vital liquid zips through the capillaries in answer to my call for nurturing.

True needed nurturing is of a different kind, beyond the basics of just physics or chemistry. The need is for a warmth of love, a sharing of understanding, an empathy with me as a living soul, aching for the exaltation of recognition as an important and worthwhile contribution to the ongoing of all life, of survival for a green earth, and those upon it.

by Christine Stickley.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the view of this Society.