

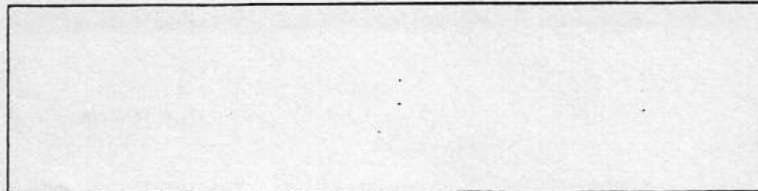


OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995

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

Annual General Meeting FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER 1995

Special General Meeting FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER 1995

December: no meeting.

8.00 p.m. Springwood Neighbourhood Centre.

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

Articles, letters, creative writing would be welcomed for the next issue of ECO-NEWS by 30th November, 1995. send to: The Editor, P.O. BOX 119, Springwood, 2777. NSW.



Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

AIMS.

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

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

MEMBERSHIPS.

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

OTHER GROUP INVOLVEMENT

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

WIRES

The Wilderness Society

CHANGE

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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

EDITORIAL

In view of Aleen's motion to be discussed at the Special Meeting in November, this may be the penultimate newsletter. I am asking if anyone would like to share their memories of the society on paper, to please send me your thoughts for publication next newsletter.

This newsletter brings back many memories of very full and hectic times in the life of the Society, and Molly's poem sums up the feeling of the triumphant relief felt by conservationists when a victory could mean their River or Mountain or cave would be left strong and free. Conservation is progress.

Christine Stickley.

NOTICE OF MOTION

"That the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society consider folding up of the society with a view to amalgamation with another Blue Mountains Conservation Group."

Moved: A. Hanley

Seconded: B. Bramsen.

In section 11 of the Constitution, the Society may be dissolved at any time by a resolution passed by a majority of three fourths of those present and entitled to vote at a special general meeting properly convened for that purpose.

Notice is given that there is a **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING** to be held on **24th NOVEMBER, 1995 at 8.00 p.m. at Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, Macquarie Road, Springwood.** (Next to the Civic Centre Hall) The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the above motion concerning the dissolution of the Society.



A SHORT HISTORY

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society was formed in 1967, and incorporated in 1992. Originally the main emphasis was on natural history and fauna studies, researching the population and distribution of fauna in the Blue Mountains and neighbouring region. The first President was Lindsay Paish, the second Keith King and the third Mick Dark.

It was a timely formation, for the Blue Mountains were beginning to feel the march of progress, and informing the public on environmental and conservation issues came to be a major role played by the Society. This developed further in the 1970's and 1980's to become an important pressure group for conservation issues in the Blue Mountains and surrounding region.

In 1971, the society had a display on the fauna studies at the Sydney Town Hall Wildlife Show.

The proposed limestone mining of the Colong Caves in the early 1970's caused an outcry, with local protests at Springwood, 1,000 people stamping and shouting against Clutha's proposal despite its \$100,000 spent on exploration. In 1970, the Askin government alienated thousands of acres of public reserves on the Boyd Plateau for private commercial gain, with proposed pine plantations. Both proposals were defeated.

Writes J. G. Mosley in "The Australian" June 4th 1971,
"The sharp land-use conflicts of the past four years have
provided searching tests of the sincerity of Australian
government conservation policies. They have also
severely tested the skills and resources of the voluntary
conservationists who have been the chief advocates for
conservation even though the conflicts in nearly every
case concerned the use of public lands."

With the demands that were being placed on the natural resources of the Blue Mountains by the increasing population growth, the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society organized a Planning seminar, in June 1974. This was well attended by residents and representatives from local, state and federal governments. It was becoming evident that the key to maintaining the natural ecosystems of the Mountains depended on population levels.

The Society has been at the forefront in the protection of the Eastern Escarpment during the 1970's, and is still as the current proposals for the area to be declared a National Park are processed.

A submission on the natural and historical conservation aspects of Dark's Common (Named after Mick and Jill Dark, whose home abutted the area, and who had worked so hard to have this area preserved) was successful in 1981.

WRAN'S WORD ENDS 10-YEAR LAND BATTLE

A WORD from Premier Neville Wren last week ended a 10 year battle by local residents to preserve a section of land for use by future generations.

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Conservation society
surveys residents

Group hits council's decision

Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society has accused Blue Mountains City Council of "scaremongering on proposals for a services corridor over the m

The society said counseling "appears to be most helpful in influencing public opinion."

decision

Blue Mountains

Unco-ordinated development was a great peril to the national movement of the past millennium, the leader of the movement in the Legislature declared, Mr Weiss, chairman yesterday.

Mr Weiss stated a new law calling for the State Department to study

of planning and development."

He said the long devastation of property values in the area had ended, and farms had quadrupled in a year.

The appearance of houses, buildings, the water supply made in the wake of the national development can be seen

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TOWN PLANS CONSIDERED

Planning was a new activity involving members of the lower...

Thursday, August 14, 1975

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ENTS

LIMIT GROWTH, SAY RESIDENTS

Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

ECO-NEWS

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A major detailed submission by Margaret Esson for the Society on the Faulconbridge Mallee was successful in part by having a development slightly modified and a small reserve for these rare plants was established nearby.

Amongst the many excellent submissions this Society has presented over the past twenty-eight years there have been those by George Threlfo on Waste Management, Bushfires and the Hawkesbury /Nepean River Catchment, by Richard Phillipps on Florabella Pass, and Margaret Baker on Agnes Banks.

Particularly important to the Blue Mountains in recent years, concerning the protection of valuable ecosystems from development, has been the Blue Mountains Environmental Management Plan. This was first mooted by Craig Linn at one of our meetings, and then presented at a meeting convened by the Colong Committee at The Hut. At that meeting, Bob Debus took up our motion, and ran with it.

Some of the headlines that appear in the Society's filing cabinet include:

BLUE MOUNTAINS

Highways and roads,

Lapstone tunnel

Erosion

Creek Pollution

Sewage

Florabella Pass

Population

Open Space

Bush Fires

Bush Regeneration

Blue Mountains Planning Schemes

Recycling Transmission Lines

B.M. Environment Council

Environment Officer for the Blue Mountains City Council

EMP stage 1

Weeds

Glenbrook Lagoon

Crown Land

Proposed Subdivisions

Urban Sprawl

Fauna

Feral animals

Tourism

World Heritage Listings

Waste Management Energy

Quarries

Warragamba Dam

PENRITH and WESTERN SYDNEY

Hawkesbury Nepean

Castlereagh Tip

Bents Basin

Agnes Banks

Penrith Lakes Scheme

St Marys ADI Site

Mulgoa Nature Reserve

Badgerys Creek & Sydney

Airport

SUPPORT FOR THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS ISSUES such as

Leura Resort

"Fauna Park" Bodington Hill

Newnes Plateau

"Gardens of Stone" Radiata Plateau

OTHER ISSUES

Forestry, woodchipping SE forests (NSW)

Franklin River

Nuclear and Uranium Mining

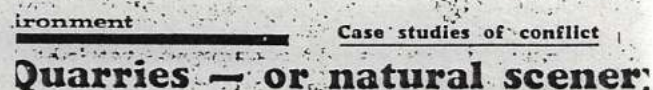
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals

Barrier Reef



**Park
or
Pines?**





Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

ECO-NEWS

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Rainforests (NSW and Qld.)
Coastal Protection
Fauna protection in NSW and other States

COMMUNITY WORK

Various displays from Sydney to Penrith to the Blue Mountains
Ivy Market stall for 14 years
Memberships of ACF, NPA, Greening Australia.
Nature Conservation Council Representatives George Threlfo,
Richard Phillipps, Mick Dark.
Historical, support for heritage buildings and sites

Talks
Excursions
Bushwalks
Production quarterly newsletter (was every 2 months)
"Eco-news" was originally "Kalori"

The detail of the role played by the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society in each of these issues is beyond the scope of this short report. Each would bring up memories to us all in some way. One word in this list hides hours of work by dedicated members of this society in researching, attending meetings and writing long submissions. There were meetings with politicians, council candidates, in our own homes, or on sites or in Council. There were regular Council meetings to attend, inquiries such as the Penrith Lakes Scheme and Leura Resort, popular forums run by the society on contentious issues such as Bushfires, Hawkesbury/Nepean and Waste Management. The Society organised a concert with pianist Gerald Williams to raise money for the Franklin Dam issue. We raised around \$1,000 to send to Tasmania.

Without the tireless efforts of past Secretaries, Presidents, Vice Presidents, and executives and members, with their specialist knowledge and interests, many of these issues may not have been raised for public debate. It is to be remembered that all this work is voluntary.

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society has grown to be a respected Society particularly dedicated to the Blue Mountains environment, and the wider national environment, important in the fabric of the workings and decisions of this Blue Mountains community.

-----oOo-----

Aleen Hanley prepared the background information and supplied the newspaper cuttings. Thank you Aleen.

December 28, 1972

Progress scars a beauty spot

New South Wales' best known scenic area, the Blue Mountains, is being seriously threatened by commercial development which conservationists claim is ruining it as a natural tourist attraction.

By JOHN SPENCE

The Blue Mountains, world famous for their scenic beauty and wildlife, are falling victim to the ugly scars of urban development.

A carve-up in the mountains

Already an old one of the most scenic and popular of the Blue Mountains is being carved up by a series of new roads and developments. The area is being divided into small plots of land, some of which are being sold for residential development. The area is being divided into small plots of land, some of which are being sold for residential development.

Treasures — a civil war
Already, there's all but blood on the beaches which are being turned upside down for profit.



What makes "The Knoll" so special...

The wide back verandahs running from 22 to 25 metres.
The great study — from looking great looking to great.
The beautiful landscaped views available from all windows.
The extensive landscaped & care taken to protect the natural bush & rock formations.
The unique "Bespoke" furniture, built-in, & the rest.

GRAND OPEN

Has that perfect home in the Blue Mountains? L.J. Hooker Springwood has n your family... proudly announcing the n exclusive blocks in the prestigious Rest. This offer is limited to the li

Rush Sale East

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A WESTERN SAFARI by BESSE BRAMSEN Part 2.

At Mootwingee National Park we were greeted by concerned rangers - four aboriginal and one white. They all pitched in unloading tents and erecting them, unloading luggage by the headlight of the van, while the crew cooked up a very good, hurried dinner.

Next morning our guide "Badger" Bates was on deck and took us up rocky hills through a gate which is barred to any who do not have an aboriginal guide. He was an excellent fellow who could read the rocks and ground better than we read books. We were lucky to have him aboard till we dropped him off on our way home, at Ivanhoe to get the train back to Broken Hill.

He told us much about the trees and plants of the area and showed the almost faded out inscription of explorer Giles' name and date (1860). He insists on these "white fella" marks being preserved; considering that all history should remain. On this morning we saw mostly picked art. Like all the art that exists, it is wearing out, but still quite visible. Another ranger heard a very slight rustle near the track on the way back to camp and picked up an echidna and told the party all about it. Then we were led to where there was an historic oven - where a termites nest had been dug out for cooking emu and kangaroo meat. The termites there all nest underground. In the afternoon we climbed more rocky hillsides to see the clay and ochre stencils in caves and saw how the feral goats were wrecking them. No method of eradication can clear out that population. The herds of goats we had seen along the road were frightening. They were eating the earth away.

The next morning we went to "The Gorge" - a stunningly beautiful place. By a walk along Homestead Creek, we were led to the mighty crevass with a clear pool with beautiful reflections of the coloured rocks. Three Euros were drinking there and "Badger" pointed out an almost hidden rare fern, of which he had been the discoverer. Its site appeared to be inaccessible; but he said a piece of it had been sent away for identification. The result was that it was an unknown species: and that is the only one ever found.

.....to be continued.

To Dr. Bob Brown.

by Molly Edmonds.

Rush on Wild River, you now in safety may.
Through your rocky gorges flow strong and free.
In quiet places sing softly,
But in the splendid cataracts shout loudly
A paean to one who, like Horatius in the brave
Days of old, stood and faced the vandal horde
And their vandal Lord.
Praise too, those who stood on either hand
And helped to win the day.

So Wild River, may God for ever speed you
On your wild and lonely way.

--oOo--

Molly has been a member of the L.B.M.C.S. for many years and wrote this poem after the successful Franklin campaign.

