



JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH 1996.

## Lower Mountains Eco-News

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

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



## 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

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



### President's Report 27th Oct., 1995

Colin Anderson

The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society has been active over the past 12 months in several areas.

Letters and responses have addressed a wide range of issues, both local and national: woodchipping; the McDonalds proposal at Wentworth Falls; Fairy Dell; the federal Government's Administrative Services Bill; planning issues in the Blue Mountains And Western Sydney; and the need for a population policy for the Blue Mountains.

As usual, Besse Bramsen has continued her involvement in weed control programs, especially that against Scotch Broom; and Aleen Hanley has continued her fundraising activities through garage sales.

Christine Stickley's role as editor of "Eco-News" in this period has been outstanding, and we thank her for her efforts.

The Society's thanks for a job well done are also extended to our treasurer, Elizabeth Stark, who will be resigning her position this year.

Talks given this year by Jill and Mick Dark on the work of WIRES and African Wildlife were much appreciated by those who attended.

Despite the enthusiasm and work of individual members of the Society, however, the time has come to consider merging the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society with another Conservation group, mainly because of the difficulty in raising Society funds. We have decided to hold a Special General Meeting in November to consider our future.

Finally, I take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to all who have been involved in the work of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society both past and present. The mountains would have been a sadder, more degraded place without them.





### President's Report February, 1996

by Colin Anderson.

At a Special General Meeting held in November 1995, it was decided to ask the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society if they would agree to a merger. They did so at their Committee meeting in December, which was attended by Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society Committee Members Richard Phillipps, Aleen Hanley and myself. The UBMCS generously offered free membership for our members until 1st March 1996 and to send their Monthly newsletter to all our members. It is hoped that LBMCS members will join. An application form for membership is included in this newsletter and in the March issue of the UBMCS newsletter.

The UBMCS will keep open a position on their committee for someone from the Lower Mountains and of course, letters concerning this area are welcome.

Perhaps someday a new group will be formed to tackle conservation issues in the Riverlands and Western Sydney, areas currently in need of a "Voice."

Thank you again to members involved in the work of the LBMCS.

--ooOoo--



The positions of the Committee members elected at the Annual General Meeting in October 1995, are as follows;

President; Colin Andersen

Vice President; Richard Phillipps

Treasurer; Elizabeth Stark

Secretary (Acting); Aleen Hanley

Editor; Christine Stickley

Librarian; -

Publicity; Besse Bramsen

--ooOoo--



### UBMCS Nursery, Blackheath.

David Coleby has invited members to visit the Nursery on any Tuesday, at Blackheath. The Nursery is on the corner of the Workshop Compound of the NPWS Hertiage Centre down Govetts' Leap Road. On approaching the roundabout, turn sharp left along Lyndsay Lane. At the end of the 200m lane is the compound and the nursery is straight ahead. UBMCS Members are in attendance between 9 am and 12 noon on Tuesday mornings. Members are assured of a warm welcome.

--oOo--

## LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

### Balance sheet

for period from 1 July 1994 to 30 September 1995

#### Assets at 1 July 1994

At bank	1433.27
Petty cash	<u>15.05</u>
	1448.32

Less deficit, expenditure over income	616.96
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Closing balance	<u>\$831.36</u>
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#### Assets at 30 Sept. 1995

Cash at bank	827.61
Petty cash	<u>3.75</u>
Total funds	\$831.36

## LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INCORPORATED

### Income and Expenditure Statement

for period from 1 July 1994 to 30 September 1995

#### Income

Membership subscriptions	343.00
Markets and garage sale	406.20
Interest received	<u>18.02</u>
	767.22

#### Expenditure

Audit fee for 1993-94	75.00
Bank fees and charges	9.13
Insurance	310.00
Registration fees	30.00
Postage, printing and stationery	144.15
Room rental	150.00
Post box rental	40.00
Sundries and advertisements	127.90
Subscriptions and donations	<u>498.00</u>
	1384.18

Deficit, expenditure over income	616.96
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#### NAME CHANGE.

"At the A.G.M. the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society was officially merged with the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society, and Richard Phillipps, president of the LBMCS, presented a cheque for \$700.19, being the remaining funds of LBMCS, to the society.

It was then agreed, almost unanimously, that the name of the Society be changed to **Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.** (now pending Consumer Affairs Dept. paperwork)."

From: **Hut News**, April 1996. No. 105.

Newsletter for Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society.





## Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

### Statement of income and expenditure

October 1, 1995, to March 19, 1996

#### Income

Credit balance at Oct. 1, 1995	\$827.61
Interest on account	7.98
Return of Credit Union shares	10.00
Total	845.59

#### less Expenditure

Account charges	1.22
Newsletter printing, postage	80.60
Advertisement in Blue Mountains Gazette	11.58
Department of Consumer Affairs	30.00
Secretary's postage and stationery	22.00

Balance presented to Upper Blue Mountains  
Conservation Society \$700.19

We, Christine Phillipps and Graham Roberts, having examined the minutes, accounts and banking records of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc., express the opinion that the above statement presents a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Society for the period from October 1995 until its merging with the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. in March 1996.

We also note that the only physical asset of the Society is an electric typewriter which is to be presented to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc., the new name of the merged societies.

..... Christine Phillipps

..... Graham Roberts

Date 12/4/96

We are not members of the L.B.M. Con. Soc Inc or  
the U.B.M.C. Soc. Inc.

.....  
Christine Phillipps



GREEN TIPSby Frank Winternitz

In this issue I would like to talk (or should that be "address") in a totally refined manner, the subject of excrement.

When camping and someone heads off alone into the bush you can be pretty certain they have not gone to do a spot of bird watching. Therefore it behoves us to unflinchingly look at the ensuing problems.

Minimal impact guides exhort us not to defecate closer than 50 metres to a stream but do not say how to implement the advice in a canyon or when getting up at night. The alternative, namely to carry out waste, I have never seen done.

There is another possibility - burn the stuff. Thirty minutes on a hot fire solves most of the problem; appearance and infectivity rendered innocuous. Nitrogen compounds are volatile and driven off by burning phosphorous as phosphates remain, however. In summary, a pretty unpleasant issue can be largely dealt with - given a modicum of clinical detachment.

Now is the time to give thought to the garden. With more El Nino ( Spanish for "Christ it's dry" ) to come, it may be time to consider diverting household waste water into the garden. Despite official reservations doing the above is safe and effective. If you wish, try one of the commercially available diversion valves to re-route water from bath, sink, shower and washing machine.

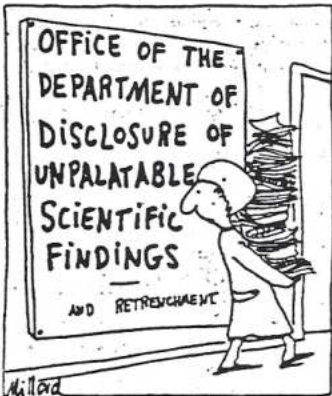
Rainwater tanks; have you thought of the possible benefits - feeling of self-sufficiency, non-fluoridated, non-chlorinated water, a reliable source of water in the case of bush fire, less storm water run-off to name some. A large 3,000 gallon tank costs about \$960.

It is not well known that the Lower Mountains is a premier fruit growing area. Despite this, not a great amount seems to be grown. Plums, apples and figs give heartening results. Figs, in particular, are pretty well maintenance free and give a highly prized crop.

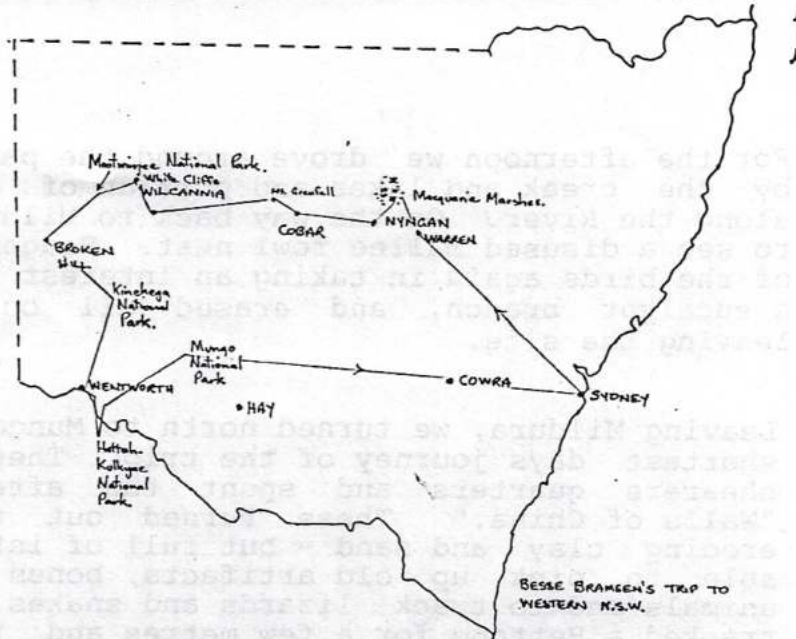
On the bird front, keep an eye out for the return of the Channel Billed Cuckoo and the less endearing Koel, both sojourning in foreign climes this winter. Less obvious returnees of the cuckoo family are also about - such as the fan-tailed cuckoo with its descending trill heard everywhere in the mountains.

The Council elections; not a good result for those who value the natural attributes of the Blue Mountains. For those who would make a living from these same attributes - subdividing the land, retailing, building and "extractive" industries a felicitous result.

I would like to offer an observation: those candidates with day-to-day links with community groups did well, vide Ms. Henson. Perhaps it is time we channelled effort between elections to promote and nourish suitable candidates and then not run two or more "green" candidates against each other. This in a "senate" type contest allows neither to get a quota and permits a third to come through the middle and seize the prize.







### A Western Safari.....Part 3

by Besse Bramsen

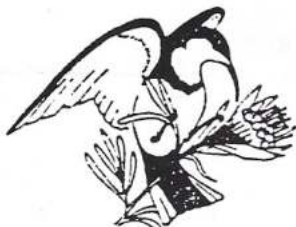
Our morning in Broken Hill was taken up with a visit to the ghost town of Silverton and to a hill of stone sculptures - a memorial to the pioneers of the district and mining. The sculptures had been done, each one by an artist of a different country, and very spectacular, placed on this rocky hill which afforded a vision of 360 degrees - at one side overlooking the town of Broken Hill. One sculptured rock had been fashioned by our guide, Badger. and before leaving the town, we visited his home to see his work on wood, stone and metal. He has also done some painting; but does not consider himself a brush artist. His heavier art work is phenomenal.

In the afternoon, we went on to Kinchega National Park - via Menindee - getting a fleeting look at the Menindee lakes. Arrival at the park and our shearers' quarters accommodation was early enough to drive out to see the sunset over Lake Caundilla. On that drive was our first opportunity to see kangaroos in good numbers - Western Greys and Western Reds, and a few Emus and Euros.

Next morning we drove South via Pooncarie (A delightful clean and tidy little town) following the Darling River to its junction with the Murray at Wentworth. There we climbed the viewing tower; then took a look at the memorial plaque where Bob Hawke had launched his "Billion Trees." Then on to camp at Mildura. and at last John was able to have the tow bar on the bus straightened and strengthened - ensuring a trouble free trip home.

From Mildura, next day, we went to the Hattah Kulbine National Park in Victoria to enjoy a most interesting day. First was a drive around the marked track nearest the ranger station and an inspection of the exhibition in the station - history, archaeology, and examples of wood carving. Some beautiful furniture was made from Eucalyptus camaldulensis. On the track, Badger called for a stop where he realised we were driving over an old midden. He pointed out the many features of it which would not be noticed by the normal "white-man" eye, but clearly shown when he pointed them out. So, back at the station he was left to go with the ranger to mark the spot for preservation while we went down to the lake-side for lunch. There the waterbirds, emus and kangaroos were plentiful and the shade of the trees delightful.





For the afternoon we drove around the park, over sand hills, by the creek and lakes and portion of the Murray Kulbine along the River. On the way back to Mildura we took a detour to see a disused Mallee fowl nest. Badger picked up evidence of the birds again in taking an interest in it. He collected a eucalypt branch, and erased all our footprints before leaving the site.

Leaving Mildura, we turned north to Mungo National Park - the shortest days journey of the trip. There we settled into shearers quarters and spent the afternoon exploring the "Walls of China." These turned out to be piles of vastly eroding clay and sand - but full of interest. Badger was able to pick up old artifacts, bones and teeth of extinct animals and to track lizards and snakes. In one instance he tracked a Bettong for a few metres and then showed where it had been taken by a kite and how the sand had been blown by its wings when rising.

Next day was out into the Mallee to the east and north-east and to Round Tank. The tank is fenced as a goat trap, with a swinging gate so that odd animals can get in to drink and leave the tank. When Trapping is in progress the gate is fixed so that they can get in and not out.

Then a short walk along an educational site marking names of trees and birds and on to Vigar's Wells - depression in the sandy clay hills where there are several soaks. The water is not clear, but drinkable, slightly saline. Then to old Zanci homestead with its stables and woolshed still standing, derelict and the dugout which was a shelter from heat. And here was an example of the land clearing which had been done for the building and fencing, using up forests of white Cypress Pine. Walls are all of logs. Although Lake Mungo was dry long before white settlement, terrible destruction has been inflicted on it since.

The three National Parks we have visited in western N.S.W. all had been sheep and cattle stations. Now all are drought stricken, much cleared of trees and vegetation except for the very low shrubs and salt bush, eaten out by feral animals; where people have made and lost fortunes by greed and mismanagement. The topsoil is gone and still being further denuded. Wild pigs have been eradicated from Lake Mungo. Foxes, cats, rabbits and goats are hunted or trapped in effort to control their numbers: but still come in from surrounding country and are virtually out of control. What is amazing is that some native wild life still exists.

Kangaroos, in some places, are plentiful; having been able to build up their population from the fact that water has been made more available from tanks sunk for stock.

On our way home the second - last day of travel was the longest - lake Mungo to Cowra via Hillston and Lake Cargellico. We lunched at the old Hillston Homestead, having said our sad farewell to badger at Ivanhoe, from where he would make his own way back to Broken Hill. Here was another example of a deserted station. The homestead has been refurbished, and is a residential for tourists, in charge of a National Park ranger.

We spent the last night at Cowra. Before setting out for home next day we visited the Japanese Garden and site of the old internment camp for Japanese prisoners in World War Two.







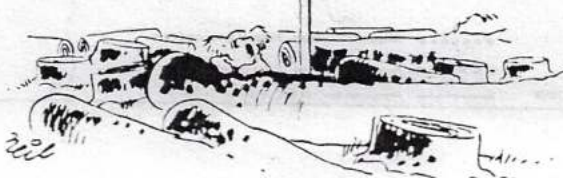
# NOXIOUS WEEDS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL REGION.

Declaration 19 May 1995.  
Order No.7.  
Government Gazette No.60

<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	
Acacia karoo	Karoo Thorn	W1	Shall not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Established plantings must be prevented from flowering and fruiting.
Ageratina adenophora	Crofton Weed	W3	
*Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligator Weed	W1	
Arundo donax	Giant Reed, Elephant Grass	W4a	
Bambusa spp.	Bamboo	W4a	
Cannabis sativa	Indian Hemp	W1	
Cenchrus incertus	Spiny Burrgrass	W2	
Cenchrus longispinus	Spiny Burrgrass	W2	
Cestrum parqui	Green Cestrum	W3	
Chromolaena odorata	Siam Weed	W1	
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor Laurel	W4d	Shall not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Occupier must prevent spread to adjoining property.
Cortaderia spp.	Pampas grass	W2	
Crocosmia crocosmiiflora	Montbretia	W4c	
Cuscuta spp.	Dodder	W2	
Cytisus scoparius	English/Scotch Broom	W2	
Echium spp.	Paterson's Curse, Vipers/Italian Bugloss	W3	
*Eichhornia crassipes	Water Hyacinth	W1	
Equisetum spp.	Horsetail	W1	
Erythroxylum coca	Coca Leaf	W1	
Genista monspessulana	Cape Broom.	W4b	
*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides	Senegal Tea Plant	W1	<u>W4b. NOXIOUS WEED</u>
Hypericum perforatum	St Johns Wort	W2	
Kochia scoparia	Kochia	W1	
*Lagarosiphon major	Lagarosiphon	W1	
Ligustrum lucidum	Privet (broadleaf)	W4b	
Ligustrum sinense	Privet (narrow leaf)	W4b	
Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	W2	
Nassella trichotoma	Serrated Tussock	W2	
Papaver somniferum	Opium Poppy	W2	
Parthenium hysterophorus	Parthenium Weed	W1	
*Pistia stratiotes	Water Lettuce	W1	<u>W4c. NOXIOUS WEED</u>
Protasparagus aethiopicus	Asparagus Fern	W4c	
Rubus fruticosus (agg.) spp.	Blackberry	W2	
*Salvinia molesta	Salvinia	W1	
Sorghum halepense	Johnson Grass	W2	
Sorghum x alnum	Columbus Grass	W2	
Sporobolus indicus var. major	Giant Parramatta Grass	W2	
Toxicodendron succedaneum	Rhus Tree	W2	
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	W2	
Xanthium spp.	Bathurst / Noogoora / Californian / Cockle Burrs	W3	
<u>* AQUATIC WEEDS.</u>			<u>W4d. NOXIOUS WEED</u>

WOULD THE  
LAST KNOW  
TO LEAVE  
PLEASE  
WATCH  
YOUR STEP.

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CONTROL CATEGORIES Action required to be taken under the Act.

W1 NOXIOUS WEED

The presence of the weed must be notified to the local control authority within 72 hours of identification.

The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

W2 NOXIOUS WEED

The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

W3 NOXIOUS WEED

The weed must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced

W4a NOXIOUS WEED

Shall not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. No part of the plant can grow within 3 metres of a property boundary.

W4b- NOXIOUS WEED

W4c NOXIOUS WEED

W4d NOXIOUS WEED





ENVIRONMENT ROUND UP

Time To Round Up The 'Roundup'

The WA Environmental Protection Agency has evidence that the commonly-used glyphosate herbicide, Roundup, has killed three species of frogs. At first, the reaction from the National Registration Authority was dismissive, but now a snap review of Roundup in or near aquatic environments is being undertaken. It is suspected by the WA EPA that it is the surfactant in Roundup that kills the frogs. The manufacturers, Monsanto, have not released the names of the other ingredients in Roundup and they have not been tested in the environment in conjunction with the active ingredient glyphosate. Monsanto has reported "severe local effects and testicular effects in rabbits", so watch out. Roundup is only conditionally registered because 19 out of 20 fate studies have still not been done. These are studies such as movement, accumulation in water, soil, air, fish, irrigated crops, aquatic systems and forests.

—Going Organic/Nimbin News



EARTH GARDEN, MARCH - MAY, 1996. N°95.

About the Sydney West Airport proposal

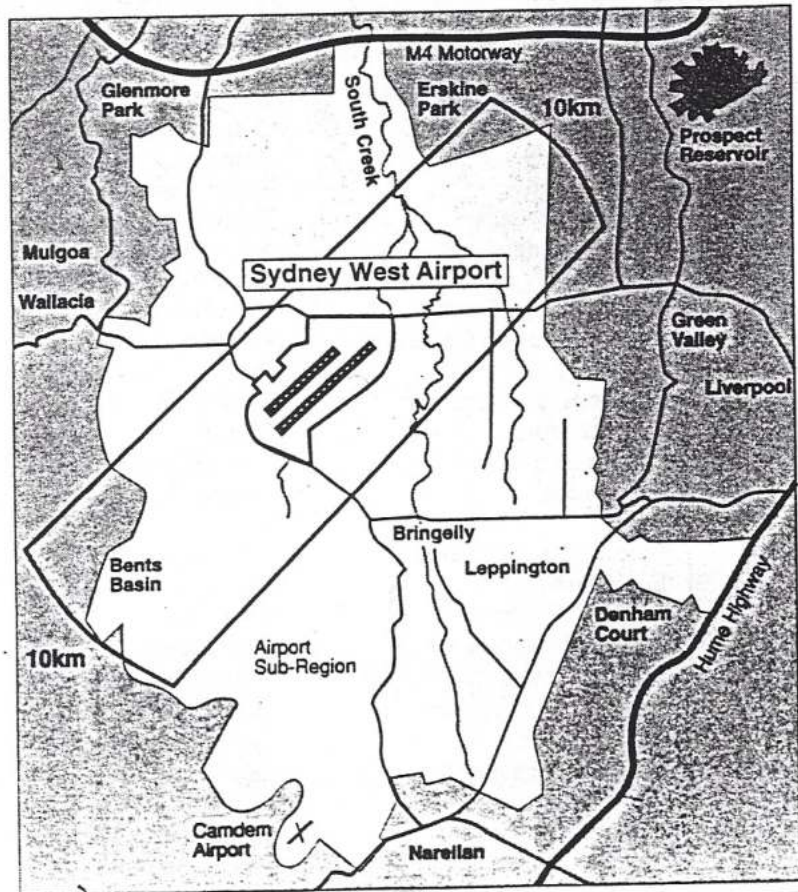
When the airport opens in 1999 or 2000 it is expected to handle 750,000 passengers per year, rising to 2-4 million by 2010. There will initially be about 2000 on-site workers.

The Airport will have 24-hour passenger and freight terminals, a computer/charter centre, maintenance,

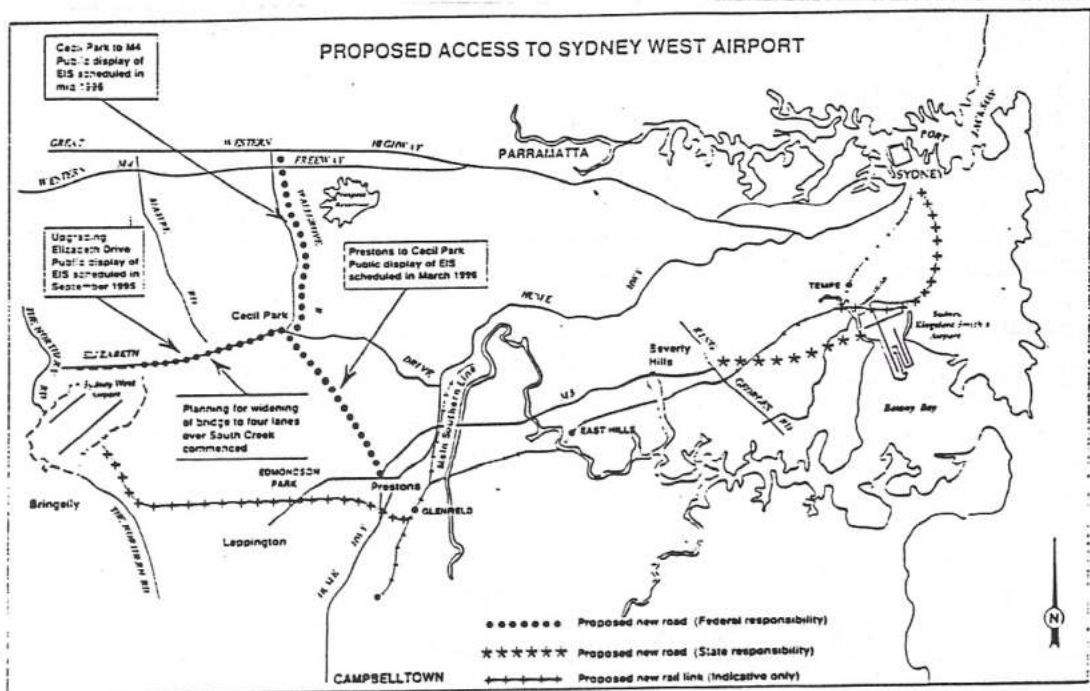
administration, commercial and industrial sections.

There will be two runways, a 2,900 metre runway, with a 4,000 metre runway being built later.

The current proposal includes a sewage treatment plant on-site for 2,000 people.



"RIVERPOST" DEC., 1995. N°21.



CAMDEN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (INC.) NEWSLETTER. DEC., 1995.





## EDITORIAL

The last meeting of The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society took place on Friday, 23rd February, 1996, at the home of Besse Bramsen, an appropriate setting as Besse has been a member since the Society began, 29 years ago. Vice President, Richard Philipps chaired the small gathering. In attendance were Secretary, Aileen Hanley, Treasurer, Elizabeth Stark, Publicity Officer, Besse Bramsen, past Public Officer, Ross Bridle, and Editor, Christine Stickley.

This historic merging with the Upper Blue Mountains Society will bring into being a stronger group, dealing with the whole Blue Mountains area. There is the promise of a greater list of activities, bushwalks and social functions, with the added advantage of a permanent and very comfortable meeting place. Already, some of our members have attended a "Meet the Members" day at The Hut.

A position is to be held open on the committee especially for a member from the Lower Mountains. We need a member to fill this position on the committee, and ask that those who are able to travel to Wentworth Falls to attend the meetings to give serious consideration to filling this position.

Each of our members have been receiving the UBMCS newsletter. In the March issue is a membership form, an invitation to join the Society. Joining fees are similar to those of LBMCS, and you will be kept up to date with conservation and environmental issues in their monthly newsletter.

This is the last newsletter for the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles over the past year and a half, especially Aileen Hanley for all her support.

Milo Dunphy has been an inspiration in his dedication to conservation, and the results he has achieved. Australia will sorely miss him. I will close this newsletter with the words of Milo, an extract from an interview he had with Richard Glover on Radio 2BL before the March election, the day after Milo had received his Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of New South Wales, the highest honour from the University.

Milo demonstrates, that while public awareness on the environment has changed, the environment is "still definitely getting worse." The coming together of two societies to take an overall view of the Blue Mountains Environment does not reflect that environmental issues in the Blue Mountains, the Lower Mountains and Nepean District, have been solved.

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Milo Dunphy: "The government has become more clever. It is paying lip service to the environment. It's not doing the things that will save the environment."

Milo went on to describe the dying-out of Oysters on the Georges River, due to pollution. "In every region you'll find people who are aware of those major (environmental)

changes in their region."

Richard Glover: "So you're saying things are still getting worse rather than better?"

Milo: "Things are definitely still getting worse, except that the public understands what has to be done in broad terms. We just can't get a major (political) party to put these things into action."

Richard: "But what about the recycling that we are doing each week, what about the new National Parks? New South Wales seems to be full of them at the moment. Aren't these achievements?"

Milo: "They are minor achievements. They don't go anywhere near what is needed. When I started as a conservationist, New South Wales had 1% of its area in National Parks. It's now 5%. Now 5% won't go anywhere near preserving the ecosystems and the biodiversity that we hear so much about from governments. We need 15 or 20% of a country like Australia, perhaps more, in your national Park system."

"There is this accelerating rate of change in the environment due to a greater, ever increasing degree of exploitation, and the ability of bigger and bigger companies to employ more and more money on more and more bulldozers."

Milo went on to talk about some of the further work he saw was needed for the environment in Australia.

"We need to save all our natural forests, not just the old growth forests, or the best of the old growth forests, but all our native forests." He continued that we have already destroyed 2/3rds of our native forests and 3/4 of our rainforests.

Australian's input into global warming "is the highest in the world for the number of people". Australia runs the world's greatest coal export industry, which will have a great impact on the world environment in the next 100 years.

On a positive note, Milo spoke of the distinct possibility of saving the original Lake Pedder in Tasmania.

"The issues are still there, and they've become more important with the passage of time," said Milo Dunphy. "What the environment movement is trying to do, is to change our attitude to the way we treat the world."

Christine Stickley.  
19th April, 1996.





MILO DUNPHY

CONSERVATIONIST

HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE FOREVER.

1929 - 1996.

Photo from "The Sun-Herald", 14th April, 1996.