

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Good news first --- as a result of our representations to the Minister for Lands and Mines, we have succeeded in halting quarrying operations on Portion 17, Parish of Nepean (at the Gap, on Singles Ridge Road) until investigations as to the suitability of the land for a Faunal Reserve have been completed.

Regrettably, the Chief Guardian of Fauna, Mr. A. A. Strom, has now investigated the area and states that it is not suitable for a Reserve, because (a) the land is not viable due to urban and industrial encroachment and (b) sufficient of this sandstone-dry sclerophyll country is already held under Reserves. Mr. Strom suggests that we apply for part of the area as a Reserve for Special Purpose, such as koala regeneration, etc. There is no reason why we cannot have more than one special purpose on more than one piece of land.

At the moment there is, as far as we know, only one lyre-bird sanctuary --- in Victoria. Mr. F. Martin says there are a number of birds near his home on Singles Ridge Road and this special purpose seems to be a popular choice at the moment.

Field day. A number of members drove part of the way along the Warrimoo fire trail and walked into a gully off Long Angle Creek on Saturday 14th. No lyre-birds were seen but old nests and recent scratchings were noted.

Mrs. Vellenga, of Leura, will be giving us a talk on her speciality, satin bower-bird banding, at the March meeting. She is a practised speaker and should be most interesting.

At the last meeting, January 12th., Mr. Rex Gilmore, the noted entomologist of Mount York, spoke on butterflies, particularly those species which can be found on the Mountains. He said that although most of the 68 Mountain species are common, there is a danger to their existence from over-zealous collectors and from the destruction of their habitat by land clearing. Collectors have reduced butterfly populations in England to such a level that all species there are rare. Rex showed some beautiful butterflies from his collection of 50000 insects.

Next meeting ? ^{16th.} ~~9th.~~ February.

G. Croghan
Secretary.