

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Highlight of the March meeting was a fascinating lecture by Mrs. Vellenga on her project of banding satin bower birds. Commencing in June of 1965 under a licence from CSIRO, she has so far banded 344 birds, the object of the project being to trace the bird's movements and to discover what plumage changes occur during the birds life. Using a numbered metal band and two of six different coloured plastic bands in varying combinations and positions, the birds may be identified at a distance.

For the following notes regarding a trip to Newnes State Forest, we are indebted to Mr. Frank Martin :-

Under the very able leadership of Mr. Ken Moore several members of our Society went up to Newnes State Forest on Saturday 11th. March. The weather was'nt the best. Some sun, some showers and some fog. Perhaps it was the best kind of weather to have as the dull day gave most of our members a look at kangaroos, wallabys, wombats, a number of lizards and many insects that perhaps on a brighter day would have been hidden.

To see the rock formations at Angus Place on the eastern slope of the Wolgan Valley was worth the trip alone without the added pleasure of the animal and plant life which lives and grows about there (Marie has a few samples)

After the fog lifted some of the members went along the old railway line some 20-25 miles to the tunnels, where in the second tunnel we were able to see thousands of glow-worms on the sides and roof of the tunnel. ( If you go take a torch — it is dark and rough) This railway was built by a Mr. Fell who had a shale mine in the Wolgan Valley where he used to extract the oil from the shale and rail it to Newnes Junction, a distance of some 30 odd miles. The railway has not been used since about 1914.

After being warned that the gate would be locked at 6 PM there was much haste to get out of the Forest by that time after seven very pleasant and instructive hours there.

Many thanks to Ken, also to the Lower Blue Mountains Group of The Society For Growing Australian Plants for the invitation to accompany them on this trip.

Next meeting: April 13th, when Mr. Martin will give us a talk on the Blue Mountains National Park.

G. Croghan  
Hon. Sec.