

August 1968

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LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS
WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

KALORI

CONSERVE, PRESERVE, INVESTIGATE, EDUCATE

Kalori is published monthly by and for the members of the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society.

The aims of the Society are, briefly, to:-

1. Educate the members and the community to the cultural values of nature.
2. Work for the reservation of areas of natural environment for the refuge and breeding of indigenous flora and fauna.
3. Carry out research into the distribution, population and species of flora and fauna in the Blue Mountains.

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Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Springwood Fire Station, commencing 8.00 PM.

The last meeting produced an animated discussion on the reported plan by the Katoomba C.M.F. unit to bivouac in the Mini-Ha-Ha Reserve. We agree that the Army must train somewhere, but that the Trustees (ie. the City Council) are at fault in allowing the Reserve to be used in this manner. I am writing letters to the Council, the Lands Department and the Battalion Commander, but we would need to show, I think, that damage has been done and that there is an alternative area.

The last field trip -- to Lynchs Creek -- under the guidance of Ron Smithard, was a great success, especially in an ornithological sense.

Next trip will be to Sassafras Gully.

Next meeting -- August 8th.

G Croghan, Hon. Sec.

Have you seen the latest Australian stamps depicting the State floral emblems? While wildlife has been the subject of stamps in the past, these are almost as good as the Swiss flower series or the Papua/New Guinea frogs, beetles, birds, etc.

The values and subjects are;

6 cents Kangaroo paw

13 cents Pink heath

15 cents Tasmanian blue gum

20 cents Sturts desert pea

25 cents Cooktown orchid

30 cents Waratah.

NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND: A Forestry Commission (Great Britain) spokesman stated recently that a famous old oak tree, said to have been used by Robin Hood as a hiding place, is in danger of being destroyed. The oak tree is about 1400 years old and stands near Edwinstone in the Sherwood Forest. Cause of the danger: souvenir hunters, who are gradually hacking the tree to pieces.

AUSTRALIAN TREE RECORDS

EARTHS MIGHTY MIRACLES

In the National Geographic magazine July 1964, which has been presented to the Conservation Hut Wentworth Falls by Mr. J. Anderson, the story is told of three newly discovered Californian Redwoods towering to a height of 367 feet.

The trunk of the champion indicates that it is still a comparatively young tree - a mere 400 to 800 years old. Some trees of this genus are believed to be 2,000 to 3,000 years old.

It is thought that as these records of tree giants come to our Hut, members of the Conservation Society may be interested in some Australian notes which I have collected over the years. It is with feelings of sadness if not humiliation that it must be recorded that the tallest living things on earth have been destroyed in our own land.

When Governor Phillip landed in Sydney Cove the North Shore was covered with enormous forests which extended to the Hawkesbury and were "believed to be inexhaustible." Timber was exported to England from Kissing Point and Ryde until the middle of the last century.

When farms were established on the Field of Mars they were cut from these forests. Some trees were estimated to be over 300 feet high and a German woodcutter lived in a hollow tree on the river bank at Ryde with his bed and furniture in the trunk. This was known as the Germans tree.

A story was told by a woman who came to the Colony in 1789 that she and seventeen other women lived in a hollow tree in Sydney for seventeen weeks. Even if they slept sitting up it was no mean tree.

Biddulph Henning took up 100 acres at the top of Bulli Pass in 1853, paying about 25/- an acre. He wrote "There was some of the finest timber in Illawarra on my land both hardwood and brush timber. I engaged men to clear part of the land but the expense was very heavy. The agreement was that they felled all trees not over six feet in diameter. But it left several to the acre up to 9 ft."

His cottage was built on the ground with floors of sassafras and doors and windows of cedar the cost of the four bed roomed cottage was £60.

In Western Australia in the establishment of fire lookout posts in the depleted forests a tree measured 250 feet before being lopped to put up a fire tower at a height of 190 feet.

Western Australian Forests were "believed to be inexhaustible", until by 1903 a Royal Commission of enquiry found "That State acquiescence in the destruction of good timber simply because export trade demands it, is a crime against coming generations."

In view of the fact that 25% to 30% timbered land is considered safe in any country and we have about 3%, the word crime is not too strong even for the continued denudation of our hardwood forests today.

The tallest of our trees grew in Victoria, and it is believed that the biggest of them were felled in the 1860's without being measured. However some remarkable

records remain for us. J.H. Maiden in Forest Flora Vol. 2 records a description of a fallen tree which was measured to the broken top and found to be 392 feet, the broken top (an estimated extra 30 feet) making the tree a total of 420 feet high. A prize offered in 1888 for a tree over 400 feet high was not claimed, but the following records of early trees are of interest. Maiden speaks of a tree measured by a surveyor at Thorpdale, after it was felled it was 375 feet high.

A.R. Penfold of the museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, mentioned in a letter to the S.M. Herald a tree which was reported to the Assistant Commissioner of Lands Victoria by the Inspector of State Forests in 1872 measured 435 feet to the top of the trunk where the tree had broken in its fall. Several others were accurately measured which were well over 300 feet. The King Edward the VII tree was 80 feet in girth 10 feet from the ground and 112 feet at ground level.

In 1832 when visiting Tasmania the two quaker missionaries gave many interesting records of mighty trees.

The surveyor for the Vandiemans Land Timber Co. entered the forest at Emu Bay and measured the trees on two separate acres of land as follows -

	2nd Acre
500 trees under 12 inches in girth	704 trees 12 inches in girth
992 trees 1-2 feet in girth	880 trees 1-2ft. in girth
716 trees 2-3 ft. in girth	148 trees 2-3ft. in girth
56 trees 3-6ft. in girth	56 trees 3-6ft. in girth
20 trees 6-12ft. in girth	32 trees 6-12ft. in girth
12 trees 12-21ft. in girth	28 trees 12-21ft. in girth.
4 trees 30ft. in girth	8 trees 21-30ft. in girth
84 tree ferns	8 trees thirty feet and over
	112 tree ferns
Total 2,384 trees	Total 1,976 trees.

Eucalyptus gigantea was sometimes referred to as a stringy bark in early records and I am not sure of the tree referred to in the following records. Measurements of stringy barks at about five feet from the ground - (Tasmania)

Hollow and broken at top 49 feet in circumference.

Supposed 200ft. high and sound 41 ft.

Supposed 250 ft. high 55½ ft. in girth. As this tree spread at the base it would have been 70 feet at ground level. Backhouse stated that his companions sounded so far away that he supposed they had left him, he called and they remarked on the distant sound of his voice and asked if he were behind the tree. Other records - *Leptospermum lanigerum* 7 feet in girth and one 80 feet high a silver wattle 11ft. 2ins. round. In half a mile they measured 10 trees from 28 to 55ft. in girth. Near the houses was a tree felled which was too large to be cut into lengths for splitting.

The same missionaries recorded pines on Norfolk Island nearly 200ft. high and 23-28ft. in girth.

At Morton Bay they recorded softwood trees 100 to 200ft. high and figs with girths of 40ft. and buttresses extending thirty feet over the ground.

In the sad story of the slaughter of the forest by the Pioneering O'Rielly Brothers on green Mountains, Bernard mentions trees forty feet round and brush box (*Tristania conferta*) 150ft. high.

How about a competition among members to discover the biggest and the tallest tree still standing on the Blue Mountains?

In this machine age trees have been likened to delicate machines. How simple can we be?

A tree grows of itself from a minute seed runs itself, repairs itself, maintains itself and largely recreates itself. The delicate root tips pass not only through soil but through rock, taking up minerals as required to grow the right tree. Each leaf is a factory of such vital life giving necessity that without them man could not survive on the earth.

A birch tree gives off between 15-80 gallons of water a day.

A well grown elm tree has about 7,000,000 leaves. The total chlorophyll area of such a tree would be 147.4 square miles - - "And the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Is there anything in this machine age - electric brains, computers and space ships - to compare with the vital silent mysterious majesty of a tree?

Notes - Isabel Bowden.

References - History of Ryde - Levey
Letters of Rachael Hemming.
Story of 100 years W. Australia. Sir Hal Colehatch
Victoria as stated and various records from Wild Life Magazine
Quaker Missionaries - James Backhouse and William Walker.
St. Barbe Baker. Green Glory.

SASSAFRAS GULLY WALK

Leader D. Perrin

Date Sunday 11th August.

Purpose of Walk:

- (1) To see one of the parts of the Blue Mountains National Park ear marked as a 'Wilderness Area'.
- (2) To familiarise members with the common plant names; their botanical name and meaning.

If you do not know them already, you may learn to recognise the following (and others):

MIMOSACEAE family.

- Acacia linifolia - flax-leaf wattle, foliage like a flax plant
- obtusifolia - no common name - foliage, 'leaves' obtuse or pointed
- elata - Cedar wattle
- suaveolens - sweet scented wattle
- botrycephala - sunshine wattle (name refers to heads of flowers).

RUTACEAE family.

- Boronia ledifolia - Sydney boronia (leaves like the plant ^{Ledum})
- Zieria - species unknown.
- Boronia always has 4 petals; leaves can be simple or compound.
- Zieria always has 4 petals, leaves are always compound.
- Boronia has 8 stamens; Zieria has 4 stamens.
- Eriostemen hispidulus - Underneath the leaf is 'hispid' (covered with dense stiff hairs)
- Eriostemen always has 5 petals and 10 stamens.

MYRTACEAE family.

- Eucalyptus gummifera - Red Bloodwood (Mr. Smithard please note)
- agglomerata - Blue leaved Stringybark, glomerate fruit; magnificent, glossy, metallic, blue leaves.
- notabilis - Blue Mountain Mahogany ('notable')
- Angophora costata - Smooth Barked Angophora - Costa, rib (on fruit)
- floribunda - Rough Barked Apple - (floribunda - abundant flowers)
- Syncarpia glomulifera - Turpentine - name refers to compressed nature of fruit.

PROTEACEAE family.

- Banksia serrata - Old Man Banksia (serrate leaves)
- spinulosa - leaves spine like.
- Telopea speciosissima - Waratah - (telopea, seen from afar; speciosissima, most attractive).
- Xylomelum pyriforme - Woody Pear - (pear form)
- Grevillia mucronulata - Green Spider Flower - leaves like small mucron
- Lambertia formosa - Honey Flower/Mountain Devil - formosa, beautiful.

SASSAFRASS GULLY WALK (Cont'd)

The walk will be an easy 3 to 4 miles.

Meet: the end of Sassafras Gully Road, Springwood. Drivers will be ferried back to the starting point from the finishing point at the level crossing at Faulconbridge.

ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER SOCIETIES.

Katoomba & Districts:-

August 17th: Mount Victoria. Meet at Mount Victoria Station at 11 a.m. Walk to old Railway Dam. Explore gully. Take Thermos.

September 21st: Glenbrook area - Lennox Bridge. After lunch visit the Kelly's garden and inspect the Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve.

October 19th: Meet at Kiosk near Leura Baths 10 a.m. Walk to Federal Pass and by fire trail. Take thermos. No base camp - return according to time.

November 16th: Blaxland. Meet north side of Blaxland Station. 11 a.m. Car four miles north. Walk on ridge and to gully. Very good flowers. Take thermos.

December: Barbeque at Hut with members and friends. Date to be fixed - probably a walk will be arranged on a week day early in the month.

For further details contact Miss I. Bowden, 50 Fletcher St., Wentworth Falls.

Blue Mountains Group: SGAP

September 14th: Flower show at Springwood Civic Centre - Lower Blue Mountains Garden Club.

September 21st: Garden inspection, Mrs. Kelly, Glenbrook.

October 12th: Open House - Alderman Andersons. Fund raising for Reserve.

August 2nd: Next ordinary meeting.

For further details contact Mrs. R.D. Overton, 11 Hill Street, Glenbrook.

SPRINGWOOD BUSHWALKING CLUB

- August 10-11 Mt. Kelly (Near Canberra) HARD
ADRIAN STANBOROUGH (per Moya Hibbard 511-235 (H))
- August 17-18 Jenolan Road - Mini Mini Range - Gibraltar Rocks - Billy Healy
Range - Cox River - Pulpit Hill Ck. - Devils Hole - Katoomba.
MEDIUM. KEN IGGLEDEN - Sydney 29-4901 (B) 37-1124 (H).
- August 24-25 Kalang Falls - Thurat Spires - MEDIUM-HARD.
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H)
- August 31-1st. Colong Caves - 1 day caving plus 1 day walk - Batsch Camp -
Clearys Cedar Rd. - Still Crk. - Waterfall Ck. - Mannagam Mt. -
Buangi Ridge - Longs Rd. - Batsh Camp MEDIUM.
RAY KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H)
- Sept. 7-8 The Blue Breaks MEDIUM HARD.
PHIL FOSTER 25-086 (H) 511-554
- Sept. 14-15 Carlons Farm (Good Bludge, bring plenty of food)
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H)
- Sept 21-22 Nattai-Mittagong - Malcoms Farm - Nattai River - Starlights Track -
Hilltop EASY
John Spinney 20640 (B)
- Oct. 5-6-7 (Six Hour Weekend) Budawangs MEDIUM
PETER VANAMOIS 511-554 (B)
- Oct. 13-14 Leura - Lockleys Pylon - Blue Gum Forest - Grose River -
Victoria Falls - Mt. Victoria - EASY.
ALLEN BARRY 604-5967 (H).
- Oct. 20 Warragamba - Jack Evans Trail - Erskine Ck. - Breakfast Ck. -
Euroka Ck. Glenbrook - MEDIUM.
PHIL FOSTER 25-086 (H) 511-554 (B)
- Oct. 26-27 Wee Jasper Caves MEDIUM
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H)
- Nov. 9-10 Horseriding - From "Packsaddlers"
NONI STANBOROUGH (per Moya Hibbard 511-235 H).
- Nov. 16-17 Kanangra MEDIUM
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H)
- Nov. 23 Arethusa Canyon - Introductory Canyon - Abseils and swims. MEDIUM
PHIL FOSTER 511-554 (B) 25086 (H).
- Dec. 7-15 Shoalhaven River - Canoe Trip
HANS LANGEJONS (per Phil Foster 25086 (H)).
- Dec. 25-26 Tuglow Caves. HARD
BERNIE KALTENBACHER 511-196 (H).
- New Year Morong Deep - Cascading.
PETER VANAMOIS (per Phil Foster 25086 (H))
- MEETINGS: 19th Aug. 16th Sept., 21st Oct. 18th Nov. ALL VISITORS WELCOME.
- WALK SECRETARY: Phil Foster, "Birchangar", Bromley Road, Emu Plains. Penrith
25086.

ACTIVITIES FOR 1968

Field trips are generally held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting. Final details of meeting times etc. will be given by the leader of each trip to the meeting immediately before the trip, and will be published in Kalori.

August 11th. Sassafras Gully. Leader D.Perrin, phone 512078.
August 17th. Wwntworth Falls. Kat. and Dist.W.C.S. Hut.
Sept. 14th. North Springwood Show.
Sept. 15th. Heathcote Primitive Reserve.G.Croghan,Warrimoo 402.
Oct. 13th. Barren Grounds. Leader J. Ferguson.
Nov. 17th. Newnes State Forest.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
Mr. P. Gregory,
115 Grose Road,
Faulconbridge.2776.

Enclosed please find the sum of \$ to cover one years membership*

Name in full

Address in full

Occupation

*Individuals \$2.00 annually or \$20.00 Life.

Associates \$1.00 annually.

Junior 30 cents annually.