

5c

# KALORI

Society

Conservation

Wildlife

Lower Blue Mountains



JULY 1971

Troubles! Sorry about the rather thin issue of Kalori this month, but our duplicator was not able to handle any more. There are articles and items of news aplenty, but I am not able, temporarily at least, to print them.

You recall the Federation campaign, spurred on by the Springwood Bushwalkers, against the proposal to build a Trail from Mount Hay to Mount Whitton? The proposal, we heard, lapsed due to a lack of money and it seemed as if we had a victory on our hands. Perhaps so, but speaking for myself, I have had so little experience of victory in this business that I think it is extinct. All this is to lead up to an announcement of a Federation meeting;- called by the Springwood Bushwalking Club, to be held in the Springwood Civic Centre on Thursday 8th. July at 8.00 PM.

Agenda:- Power lines in the Megalong Valley  
Mount Whitton Fire Trail  
other urgent matters.

Delegates of all Societies are requested to attend.

It is a funny thing, but have you noticed that whenever the conservationist mob have a win against the exploiters, it doesn't count, but when the exploiters win, the precedent is graven in stone and becomes an article of law? The Colong Committee looks like the winner of Mount Armour, but they (we) now have to turn around and fight the self-same battle of Barbers Creek.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Friday 9th. July at 8.00 PM in the Civic Centre, Springwood. At the last meeting Mr. Colin Slade of Everglades gave a talk on ferns; identification, biology, care and feeding thereof. Extremely interesting.

Keith King has a tape recording of a lyre bird giving its display. A great personal effort was involved but the result is beautiful. By way of contrast, Michael Smithson has a tape recording of the proceedings of the recent Town Hall Clutha Ltd. meeting. It also has its own peculiar charm.

G Croghan

# KALOR

August 1971

At the last meeting, the following items were discussed. They are briefly recorded here so that the secretary will not have to read the minutes at the next meeting. The idea is to save time and to allow more time for new business, etc. Also, if you wish, you may keep up to date with the activities of the Society.

The sub-committee charged with the display for Conservation Week planned a photo expedition on 11th. July to collect material of local interest for the display. Following a discussion on possible sites, it was decided that Mr. Bain enquire about the Commonwealth Bank at Blaxland.

The speaker for the August meeting, Mr. Kettle, will talk on local history. The date of the meeting is to be Thursday 12th. August. (NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL NOW BE HELD ON FRIDAY 13TH. AUGUST. SPALINGWOOD CIVIC CENTRE, 8.00 PM.).

The Secretary gave a report on the Federation meeting. Briefly, these are the items discussed at that meeting:-

1. Clutha. The exploration licence has been extended till next January. Good results have been obtained from the exploratory drilling in the Woodfor - Paulconbridge areas. No objection can be lodged until the Company applies for a Mining Licence. A watchdog committee has been formed.
2. Megalong Valley. The 500kV power line has been sited so that it cannot be seen, ie, it passes through a primitive area in the bottom of the Valley.
3. Mount Whitton Trail. The Trail is now planned to go over the top of Mt. Hay. This is due to the existence of unsound foundation material at the base of the Mount.
4. Manangra-Boyd. A sub-committee has been formed to gather information and to print and distribute a pamphlet on the matter. The cost of this, and possible future pamphlets, is to be levied from each Society of the Federation. Cost could be \$20 to \$30 from each.
5. The Federation will hold regular quarterly meetings, instead of irregularly, as at present. The first meeting is set for 7th. October.

It was resolved that meetings of the Society be held alternately at Springwood and Blaxland. The September meeting to be held at Blaxland.

At the committee meeting held on the 17th. July, it was proposed to hold a Federation buffet dinner to raise money for the Clutha campaign. As soon as preliminary plans can be made, the views of the other Societies will be obtained.

## Conservation Notes

Keith Kin and Michael Smithson carried out a trapping run at Glenbrook during early April. One Stuarts Antechinus (marsupial mouse) was captured and a sugar glider and a number of large kangaroos were sighted.

On the Sunday following a number of members of the young, active, conservationist Australian Wildlife Club met the Society's trappers and a walk along Campfire Creek was made after a preliminary lecture on the area's natural history and its conservation was given by rangers John Duhr and John Gallard. To most of the visitors it was an introduction to the Blue Mountains environment, and the day was an interesting one with the discovery of two aboriginal axe-grinding grooves.

In answer to our appeal to local residents to report wildlife sightings to the Society we have had a few interesting replies. Some Penrith residents gave information on Brush-tailed possums and wallabies at Castlereagh. One woman remarked on the planned destruction of an interesting forest near her home near Kingswood; however as many of us agree, "Progress" does not like a bushland setting. Some residents of the Blue Mountains reported sightings, the most interesting being the sightings of a tiger cat at Blaxland and a native cat at Hawkesbury Lookout. We have had quite a number of sightings and one capture of tiger cats on the lower Mountains. Perhaps these uncommon marsupials are more plentiful in the area than was once thought. The native cat sighting was the first to come to our notice in the lower Mountains. Both descriptions were excellent and little doubt exists as to the classification of these animals. Unfortunately no specimens of dead native mammals discovered by residents have been received for identification as yet.

Your Society Library is ready for use and the Librarian, Mr. Nick McGrath, will soon publish a list of maps, books and pamphlets available for borrowing. Two newly acquired books worthy of mention are "Last of Lands" -- a concise discussion of Australian conservation by many outstanding conservationists. "The Environmental Handbook" -- a comprehensive handbook expressing the views of the ecology movement which is a new evolved form of conservation and which has buried the adjectival rendering of the word 'conservation': conservative. Both are a must to conservationists who can read. "The Environmental Handbook" is available on order through Michael Smithson at the price of \$1.30. The library will soon appear at meetings, or it may be cornered at 4 Ross Crescent, Blaxland. (ring Nick at 991035)

Six members are organising a trip to Tasmania in January, 1972. This is hoped to entail journeying to Melbourne, thence to Devonport and Cradle Mtn., a walk to Lake St. Claire (54 miles), and then a bus journey to Launceston via Queenstown and Burnie, thence home. The trip should take a fortnight in entirety, the bus trip being optional. Members considering coming along should be prepared to :-

endure hardship - physical and possibly mental

endure camping out - no motels

walk to great lengths

ring M. Smithson, Penrith 23567, for further information as soon as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*