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KALORI

September 1971

Society

Conservation

Wildlife



Kennedia rubicunda

Lower Blue Mountains

"Man is confronted with the difficult and complex ecological problem of finding out how he can fit into his environment so that it will not deteriorate but continue to provide what he needs."

R.G.Downes

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 public and civic leadership towards a better understanding of environmental conservation.
2. Work for the dedication of areas of natural environment and for the maintenance of their values in perpetuity.
3. Carry out research into the distribution and population of wildlife in the Blue Mountains.

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The next meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Glenbrook, on Friday 10th. September, at 8.00 PM.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST ORDINARY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

It was resolved (moved M Smithson, seconded D Pain) that the Society purchase the necessary materials to make a display board.

Treasurers Report. - Balance at Bank	\$83.80
Account payable (rent)	6.00
Balance available	<u>77.80</u>

Committee Reports.

Conservation Week Display. Held at Commonwealth Bank, Blaxland - photographs of Blue Mountains localities on the theme 'Blue Mountains 2000' - descriptive captions pointing out polluted streams, Clutha lease area.

Federation Action Committee. Three meetings held, formed a subcommittee to write letters to newspapers, resolved to spend \$18 on stickers, badges and pamphlets.

It was resolved (D Dark, D Pain) to pay the Federation \$22.00 as this Society's proportion of the Action Fund.

General Business. - Mrs Smithson and Adrian Connelly have volunteered as typists to aid the Kalori editor.

- money making proposals should be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

- membership fees are due in October.

- a committee was formed to look into the acquisition of a Society Reserve, including the necessary action of investigation. (M Smithson, D Pain). Suggested members of the Committee are M McGrath, M Dark, M Smithson, B Bramsen, A Connelly.

- It was resolved (M Smithson, D Dark) that a letter be sent to the Manager of the Commonwealth Bank, Blaxland, thanking him for the use of his premises for the display in Conservation Week.

- the Chairman stated that as all officers were not properly elected, an election of new officers will be necessary at the Annual General Meeting in October.

- It was resolved (L Paish, B Bramsen) that the next meeting, on Friday 10th. September, be advertised in the Penrith Press and the Blue Mountains Gazette.

At the Committee meeting held on the 21st. August, it was resolved that a draft Management Plan for the Sasafra Gully Reserve be drawn up before approaching the Trustees with a proposal to manage part of the Reserve as a Society project.

- A Federation Dinner was proposed and a programme of field trips was drawn up. See the details elsewhere.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Another giggle from "Environmental Quality Bulletin" of the Australian Mining Industry Council. The Bulletin reported the Chairman of Rio Tinto-Zinc as saying, in part :-

"I am particularly concerned about the relevance of this subject (the environment) to the natural resource industry, for mankind has to win minerals from the deposits where he finds them, not where he would like them to be.Unfortunately the techniques of exploration have not yet reached the stage where the growing demand of mankind for raw materials can be satisfied without selecting for mining, areas which we would prefer to avoid. Therefore we have to make a choice as to whether ecological and environmental considerations should always take precedence over raw material demands which are entirely essential for rising living standards in a world enjoying a major population explosion."

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FIELD TRIPS

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:-

11 September - St. Helena Ridge

2/3/4 October - Myall Lakes. Leaders N McGrath
D Pain

9/10 October - Kanangra Walls

24 October - Castlereagh S.F. - M Smithson

14 November - Long Neck Lagoon. D Perrin

27 November - Mt Wilson or Mt Irvine (tentative)

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FEDERATION DINNER

The Society intends to organise a Buffet Dinner on Saturday 6th. November at Warrimoo Citizens Hall in order to raise funds for Federation activities. Speaker will be Mr. A.A. Strom. Tickets will be \$2.50 per head. The next Federation meeting will be on 7th. October, at which time we should know whether the Dinner will be a proposition or not. Even if you can't come, when the hard word is put on you, buy a ticket and help with the fighting funds.

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Myall Mining-a Few Figures.

The worlds biggest rutile and zircon producer, Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd, has replaced a 250 ft. hill on North Strabroke Island "pretty much as is". Mineral Deposits (second biggest) is confident it can do likewise with 350' hills at Myall Lakes.

Mineral Deposits leases in the Myall Lakes-Seal ROCKS area contain at least 330,000 tons of rutile and 360,000 tons of zircon. This is worth \$54m. at today's prices. Mining would employ 230 people for up to 15 years in the area. Payment to local contractors for cartage etc. is about \$1 million per year. In all areas including Queensland, Mineral Deposits reserves will last for about 20 years.

The 350' high dunes along the lakes shores represent about 25% of the Company's reserves in the area and contain ore worth about \$14m. The Royalty paid to the NSW Govt. is about 2% a ton on sales. On Mineral Deposits 1969/70 production, royalties work out at about \$200,000. Provision for current Income Tax was \$520,000, but amortisation & depreciation was \$1084310, which means that taxpayers generally are helping to pay for the dredges and the dredged.

The royalty for the high dunes along one shore of the Myall Lake works out at about \$250,000. A secondary consideration is the employment of about 230 people in the area.

The Lakes, with their varying layers of fresh to salt water in a depth of only 12', are the spawning grounds for 95% of the species of fish found along the North Coast. Speedboats, at present almost unknown on the Lakes, are possibly a greater danger to the variously salted layers of water, and to the spawning fish in them, than the miners are; but access over the miners roads must mean more boats.

NL Industries Inc. of New York (owning 85% of Mineral Deposits) owns huge reserves of Ilmenite in the US and Norway. Ilmenite is a much more common mineral than Rutile. Ilmenite contains less Titanium than Rutile, but various organisations are researching beneficiation techniques. It is not inconceivable that the bottom will drop out of the rutile market.

What price the high dunes then?

The foregoing figures were taken from the "Financial Review".

One effect of the construction of the high tension system on the Lapstone Monocline (escarpment), that has had little publicity, is the construction of myriad maintenance roads to service that camouflaged network.

Areas previously inaccessible to the vandal and vehicle are now so. Apart from enabling an increase in vandalism such as soil removal and massive stone removal, the trails have interrupted the continuity of the monocline environment - creating potential erosion hazards and causing stream disruption.

From the looks of these trails their presence is likely to be felt for some time yet. The gates at the entrances of the systems may, at present, foil vehicular access - so long as Transfield Corporation locks them after they knock off - but when will the locked gate novelty wear off?

We may possibly expect to see many inroads into the monocline as gardeners, from areas unendowed with sandstone, and others with targets other than the home garden in mind, for their sandstone, descend upon the monocline sandstone, while others fill up spaces left by the bush stone with domestic or garden refuse.

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On a recent trip, members sighted two more drilling rigs near the Blue Mts. National Park, one along the King's Tableland and another midway along the road to McMahon's Lookout. The latter was examined, but no identification was observed on the rig. Drilling rigs have been observed at various points around the Park such as Martins Lookout, Springwood, Bedford Ck. and Sth. Woodford. All points forming a curve around the Northern and Western boundaries of the Park.

The Clutha Company is the sponsor of this drilling programme.

M.A. SMITHSON.

That well-known American ecological activist, "The Fox", has done it again. For his latest exploit he crawled three quarters of a mile underground to block the discharge pipe of a plastics factory with straw and bricks.

Previously, he hid a mixture of dead fish and sludge oil in the lobby of an oil company, and regularly erects signposts on roadsides, pointing to polluting factories.

"You can't be serious about the environment without being a revolutionary. You have to be willing to restructure society."

THE CLUTHA DEVELOPMENT

Clutha is now on the Blue Mountains.

Is anyone going to do anything about it? Yes.
The Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society is going
to fight for our natural beauty. They are not going
to stand around and gawke while our flora and fauna
are destroyed beyond restoration.

They fight. Will you?

Rozanne King.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
Mrs.D.Dark,
"Nimaloola",
Russell Avenue,
Valley Heights.2777

Enclosed is 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 - subscription to Kalori.
Junior 30 cents annually.
Family \$3.00 annually.