



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society NEWSLETTER

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NO. 57 - AUGUST, 1984 - Price 20¢ - P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls.

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PATRON: Allen Strom, A.M.

PRESIDENT: Michael Dark (58.7061). VICE-PRESIDENTS: Barry Barnes (88.1053); Keith Sherlock (57.1927); SECRETARY: Graham Kerr (87.7139).

TREASURER: Judy Kerr (87.7139)

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COMING MEETINGS: AT THE CONSERVATION HUT, VALLEY OF WATERS RESERVE,  
VALLEY ROAD, WENTWORTH FALLS AT 7.30 P.M.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: For a trial period your Management Committee has decided to start the Meeting at 7.30 p.m. instead of the usual 8.00 p.m., and to attempt to streamline the Meeting so as to allow more time for Guest Speakers, films, etc. We might also finish a little earlier too.

Friday, August 31

Friday, September 28:

Friday, October 26:

Friday, November 30:

PLEASE WATCH

THE

NEWSPAPERS FOR

DETAILS

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COMING WALKS:

Sunday, October 7: Six Foot Track Part III - From the end of Black Range to the Coss River, (the point reached in the August walk). The distance is about 22km return and we descend 300m to the Coss. There is no scrub bashing. It would be quite within the capabilities of anyone in reasonable nick and wearing sensible footwear. One could easily abandon the walk at any point and return to cars. We suggest however that this hike would not be suitable for any who feel they could not tackle a very steep climb out. The track is well defined and the scenery beautiful. Meet at Mt. Victoria Station 9 a.m. (Sydney train arrives at 8.59 a.m.). Ring the leader David Noble or his parents 87.8342.

COMING WALKS (Cont.)

Thursday, October 18: Lockleys Pylon, Flat Top, The Pinnacles, Fortress Ridge - All these areas have prolific displays of wild flowers - their accessibility depends on the condition of the Mt. Hay Road. Jill Dark who will be leading the walk will make the final choice of site but no matter which is chosen, we can be assured of an interesting scenic and botanical ramble. Meet at parking area of Leura School at 10 a.m., Jill Dark, Ph. 58,7061.



P.S. October-November sees the mountains at their best. Lloyd Jones states that if he is around he would like an excuse to lead a wild flower ramble on a regular Thursday basis after Jill's walk until mid-November. Ring him at 57.2270 if interested.

Sunday, November 4: Blue Gum Forest: Govetts Leap - down the creek (part Rodrigues Pass) to Blue Gum Forest, then up Perry's Look Down to awaiting transport. The ascent up Perry's is very steep but offers no problems if taken slowly. Leaders Graham & Judy Kerr, 87.7139. Meet at Blackheath P.O. at 9 a.m. (Sydney train arrives at 8.53).

Thursday, November 15: Braeside Walk, Blackheath - an easy flower strewn ramble terminating in grand vistas of the Grose Valley. Leader Beverley Thompson, 57.2076. Meet at P.O. Blackheath.

DECEMBER: Xmas gathering - Cliff Stroll - B.B.Q. - Details in next Newsletter.

Those faced with any transport problems should ring Keith Sherlock, 57,1927 or Lloyd Jones, 57.2270.

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NATIVE PLANT SALE AND MINI FETE

A Native Plant Sale is planned for Saturday and Sunday, 27th - 28th October. As this is the last Newsletter prior to the activity, please make sure to note it in your diary.

Jill Dark will also demonstrate native plant propagation on Saturday, 27th October at 11.00 a.m. and at 1.30 p.m. Jill will conduct a ramble in the Reserve starting from the Hut, during which she will identify native plants and flowers.

In addition to the plant sale, there will be a well stocked Opportunity Table plus a selection of home-made jams and cakes. Any donations will



NATIVE PLANT SALE AND MINI FETE: (Cont.)

be gratefully received and we look forward to your continued support. It should be a most enjoyable day so make sure you come along and bring your friends.

For further details, contact Winsome Gregory (57.1573). All proceeds in aid of the Land Preservation Fund Committee.

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AUGUST MONTHLY WALK - A PORTION OF THE SIX FOOT TRACK.

A group of 26 members undertook a ramble along the Six Foot Track from the Megalong Valley Road to Coxs River and return.

The total distance walked was probably some 14km over a change in elevation of about 270m.

Overcast at the start changed to showery periods as the day progressed and this weather served to heighten for many the beauty of the bushland, especially the colour-blotched trunks of the eucalypts in the valley.

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It was a good day for birds to be about and sightings included a pair of gang-gang cockatoos, a black-faced cuckoo-shrike, brown thornbills, yellow-tailed thornbills, a rose robin, red-browed finches, white-browed scrub-wrens, superb blue wrens, yellow-faced honeyeaters and an orange-winged sittella. The spotted pardalote was regularly heard.



The roar of the rain-swollen Coxs River was exciting as we descended into the valley and in the soft light, the granite tors had a certain mystical feeling about them.

Before returning, some members walked a further distance down the banks of the Coxs River towards the crossing. They were rewarded by sighting two red-necked wallabies, one a big fellow and probably a male.

We look forward to walking further portions of the Six Foot Track in September and October.

BARRY BARNES.

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The following is a most interesting article received from two of our Society members:-

"Members may be interested in this experience. In 1941, my fiance and I decided to climb Mt. Banks, which we knew as Mt. King George. It was a very hot January day and we laboured, sweating, to the cairn of stones on top. Fred joked about 'messages in bottles' and thrust his arm into the hole under the cairn. To our amazement he brought out an old bottle which did have a rolled-up message in it, very old and fragile. We got it out and as far as we could decipher, this is what it said, although the date was illegible, and some of the words missing:

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"I kept the message and it remained a tantalising mystery until a few weeks ago when Fred and I visited the museum at Mt. Victoria. There we saw memorabilia of the Reinits family and concluded that the H.G. Reinits on our message was the same man, so the message must have been written about 1900. Perhaps I should give it to the museum.

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In mid-July, we decided to try it out with a trip to Kinchega National Park and then on beyond Broken Hill to Mootwingee Reserve, hoping to see a yellow-footed rock wallaby.



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For interest, we took back roads and at Ivanhoe ran into wet weather - first for three months, the locals said. The dirt roads became skating rinks. We spun off the road four times between Ivanhoe and Menindee. The last time we just had to stay and wait for the sun.



No trouble - we were fully self-contained for cooking, eating, sleeping and fate had marooned us in an interesting bird area of native callitris forest.

Of course, the birds we were excited about seeing were the ones we don't see around here. The car had spun off in the middle of an old lake bed, and here were three Banded Plovers - a new bird for Wilson.

In the callitris were Red-capped Robins with brilliant red forehead patches and chests, crested Brongewing pigeons with their perky, elongated top knots, chestnut rumped Thornbills, a pair of Eastern Whitefaces, Mallee Ringneck parrots, Blue Bonnet Parrots - hard to see with their quiet brown backs until they turn and show their yellow underparts and bright red stomach patch. There were a pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos with a youngster, and best of all, a pair of Mulga Parrots. The gleaming bright green male obligingly sat on a branch in full view, a great sight. There were cheerful Brown Tree creepers hopping about on the ground as well as up the tree boles. A large flock of Apostle Birds appeared and when I did some squeaking by sucking air in through my lips, 30 or 40 of them gathered in the trees all round us, squeaking and carrying on. This species seems to favour Callitris country.

We heard the mysterious, ventriloqual call of the Crested Bell-bird - surely one of the world's most remarkable bird calls.

Another typical call of the inland - the rich, deliberate fluting of the Pied Butcherbird - we heard several times on our trip, and admired the handsome singles with their jet black heads and throats contrasting brilliantly with their pure white underparts.

Next morning the sun shone brightly and by midday the road seemed dry enough to give it a go. Just as we were preparing to cut brush to put under the wheels, along came a shearer in a 4-wheel drive vehicle and pulled us up onto the crown of the road. With great care, driving right in the centre of the crown, we reached Menindee and the tar-sealed road to Broken Hill.

Next day the rain started again. We had to abandon Mootwingee and couldn't go far into the Park. We met a Council worker in the pub who had just been putting up "Road Closed" signs. We learnt later all the dirt roads were closed, some for days, even weeks.

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Well, we arrived back safe and sound, glowing with enthusiasm for the fascinating inland and its exciting plants and birds. And the Wilsonmobile came through the test with flying (and spinning!) colours.

GRAHAM ALCORN.

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OPEN DAY AT WIRIMBIRRA FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

The Wirrimbirra Field Studies Centre is holding an open day on Sunday, 16th September, 1984 between 9.45 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Free guided walks plus speakers from the National Trust, the David G. Stead Memorial Wildlife Research Foundation, the Department of Education and Centre staff will be featured.

Bring your own food, or arrange to share in a "sausage sizzle" at \$3 per head, by contacting (046) 84.1112 before 11th September.

The Centre is 5km south of Tahmoor on the eastern side of the old Hume Highway.

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PAST SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

Your Management Committee has been endeavouring to catalogue all Society letters, papers, newsletters, etc. so that they are readily available for reference purposes.

We find that a number of Society Newsletters are missing from our records and if any member can supply the following numbers, either in original or photostat form, the Society would be most grateful.

No's	1	12	21	35
	3	13	23	36
	4	14	26	37
	5	15	30	38
	6	16	31	39
	8	17	32	40
	9	18	33	41
	10	19	34	45

It would be unfortunate if we were to lose a most important part of Society history. If you can help fill in gaps, please contact Society Secretary Graham Kerr (87.7139).

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S T O P P R E S S I T E M S

The Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers is working at the Explorers Tree site at Katoomba. The Trust plans to restore the area to look much as it must have done in 1883 by putting back the original species and linking the historic spots by bush paths. Work will take place on the weekends of 1-2 September, 15-16 September, 29-30/1 September/October.

Volunteers are urgently required to make a success of this very worthwhile venture. All tools are provided and if you feel you can't wield a spade, then you are needed to boil a billy.

Field Officer for the Trust, Rowe Morrow, is the guest speaker at the General Meeting of 31st August so come along and hear the background and aims of this Organisation.

Remember, this Meeting will start at 7.30pm as detailed on the front page of this Newsletter

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It is with regret that we advise Members that one of our Vice-Presidents, Wieslaw Lichalz, has had to resign due to obtaining full time appointment with the National Parks & Wildlife Service at Muswellbrook. Wieslaw has been a tireless worker for the Society and we wish him well in his new appointment.

For the remainder of the year, Keith Sherlock has kindly

STOP PRESS ITEMS (cOntinued)

consented to act as the Society's second Vice-President.

Your Management Committee has also asked one of our young Members, David Noble, to join the Committee to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Wieslaw. As David is at present doing a full time course in Environmental Studies, he should be a welcome addition to the Management Committee.

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*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in November 2022 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.*

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