UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Black Cockatoos by G.J. Broinowski

Newsletter

Registered by Australia Post—Publication No. NBHO 925

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

Incorporated in New South Wales.

Registered Office: The Society's usual Registered Office has been demolished and is being replaced with a new Conservation Hut at the same address, Valley of the Waters Reserve, Valley Road, Wentworth Falls, 2782. Please address all correspondence to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782.

Subscriptions: Pensioners and Juniors \$6.00 per year; Single Membership \$10.00 per year; Family Membership \$15.00 per year. Membership fees are due in January.

Meetings: Are held on the last Friday of the month, and until further notice, will be conducted at the Wentworth Falls Public School, Falls Road.

For speakers at coming meetings, please see Public Notices in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Committee for 1990

President	Robin Corringham	58 6561
Vice Presidents	Mick Dark	58 7061
	Wyn Jones	87 7511
Secretary	Terri Hamilton	82 4554
Treasurer	Muriel Healey	58 6575
Membership Officer	Bruce James	87 7937
Newsletter Editor	Stuart James	87 7937
Walks Conveners	Olive Noble	87 8342
	Bob Jones	58 8361
Librarian	June Blick	88 1051
Hut Duty Organiser	Beverley Thompson	57 2076
Land Preservation Officer	Deirdre Morton	58 8137
Publicity/Information	Dianne Johnson	84 2197
Land Use Officer	Robin Corringham	58 6561
Hut Supplies	Reg Toseland	84 1682

Newsletter: Four issues a year - April, July, October, January. Advertising space is available.

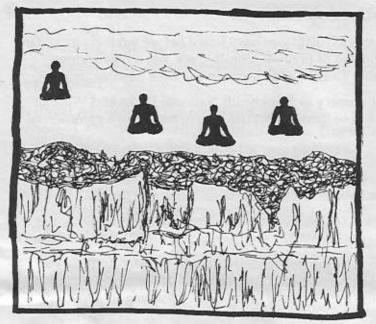
Library: The library has been stored away pending the construction of the new Hut.

The Hut: Temporary premises have been provided by the NPWS in a caravan at the Wentworth Falls Reserve. It is staffed by voluntary helpers on weekends to supply information and refreshments to visitors.

Publications: A limited range of booklets, posters, maps and postcards will be available at the temporary premises.

Sale of Native Plants: Opportunities to purchase native plants will be organised from time to time during the year. These sales will be held in the vicinity of the temporary Hut.

Walks: Walks, conducted by experienced leaders, are organised for the first Sunday, third Thursday and third Saturday of the month.



SOCIETY

UPPER

BLUE MOUNTAINS

CONSERVATION

Newsletter

No. 80 July 1990

Elphinstone (Radiata Plateau)

Coming Talks

July 27th John Low talks on Local History August 31st To be advertised September 28th To be advertised

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Presidential Address

An organisation is only as good as its members. This is a truism you have heard before but it is particularly apt now. The 1990 committee, building on the examples of previous committees, has a tremendous programme of innovative schemes which will further conservation work in the Blue Mountains.

These include the extension of the successful plant nursery to Blackheath National Parks and Wildlife Service facilities where locally found bush plants will be grown for bush regeneration on a commercial basis.

A series of professional-standard static information boards for public display is being researched to attract non-believers to environmentally conscious consumerism, the special natural aspects of the Blue Mountains, responsibility to our natural environment and so on. Publicity is being pursued.

The work of environmental watch-dogging that we do so well continues alongside the popular walks and talks.

To expand imaginatively requires perhaps more input from our friendly members. Do you think you could attract a few more friends into the Society? There are ideas floating around — ideas to further the Society's objectives — snare them and tell a committee member or bring them for airing to a Management Committee meeting.

The identified needs at the moment are increased membership, fund raising to do all things necessary and high participation in areas of your choice and initiative. Dull and dreary? Not a bit of it. Suggest an entertainment — dance on the table Think up research jobs within the capability of members, whose publication provides the information base for the pursuit of practical conservation. What about a kite design and flying competition or a scholarship sponsorship?

Conservation Front - What's Happening

In a predictable and typically irresponsible move, the first stage of the TM Centre proposal for Elphinstone (Radiata) Plateau has been approved by BMCC Aldermen Williams, Neale, Brown, Gillies, Kime, Blakemore and Whitehair. Negotiations to have the area included in an extension of the Blue Mountains National Park are continuing.

While the BMCC is busy flogging off urban open space for Gold Coast type development, other private hillbilly entrepreneurs are hocking private land of equal community value: the Sorensons Gardens Retirement Village proposal by A.V. Jennings (of Fairmont Resort notoriety) has been ammended and again placed on public exhibition.

The UBMC Society has responded to a request from Mayor Williams and nominated some critical environment lands for acquisition by the BMCC.

RTA proposals regarding access through the Mountains need to be carefully assessed.

Current National Parks and Wildlife Service projects include: rare plant monitoring by Wyn Jones; a coordinating group for a strategic plan of weed control in the Blue Mountains — Robin Corringham is participating with Cath Ireland of the NPWS on this committee; and a new composting toilet at Govetts Leap which will be finished in about 12 weeks. This is an experiment in using composting toilets for public facilities, and will hopefully be more suitable for the site than the existing septic system.

Society News

The National Parks and Wildlife Service Nursery, mentioned by Robin, was inspected by members on the 5th June. Plans are to use these facilities to augment the Hazelbrook nursery and provide more revenue for the Society.

A Royal Auction and the Greatest Garage Sale in the World will be held on Saturday July 28th at the School of Arts, Wentworth Falls at 10.00 am. This is an important fund-raising event for the Society, so if you have any unwanted goods for sale, contact Dulcie and Reg Toseland on 84 1682.

Construction of the **New Hut** has been delayed by rain and the new forecast completion date (bar rain) is mid-August. Work on the earth brick wall has started and the landscape and car parking plan has been completed and submitted to Council for review.

Les Hill (Vale) Those who remember Les as one of the foundation members of our own Conservation Society, will be saddened to hear of his recent death, at his home in Port Macquarie. At the time of his very extensive efforts in the formation of the Society, and some wonderful help with the restoration and rebuilding of the original 'Hut', Les was the headmaster at North Katoomba Primary School.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Rosi, who knows the Blue Mountains well. If you would care to contact Rosi, her address is Mrs Rosi Hill, 6 Joffre Street, Port Macquarie, 2444.

Dulcie Toseland

A rather novel co-incidence Our latest Newsletter – the April edition, was number 79 – and the last one to be edited by Ewart Collings, who celebrated his 80th birthday in the week following its printing. We would like to offer our heartiest congratulations and thanks to both Ewart, and his wife, Betty, for the smooth operation of all the membership recording and revisions, and the outstanding results they achieved with the style and artwork of our very own special Newsletter. We are very happy and proud of the results. Thank you.

Dulcie Toseland

This is the first of the **new Newsletter Committee's** publications, and though production has been rushed, you will notice some minor changes to the format. Our intention is to produce an informative and educational newsletter on conservation issues and the Blue Mountains environment. We hope to run a regular feature on a walk, place, species etc of particular interest to any members who care to write on favourite subjects. Observational pieces on our natural environment are also welcome. Black and white illustrations would be much appreciated, as would any comment or criticism on this and future issues.

Membership Renewals

The 'Red Spot' method of reminding members that their annual subscription to the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society is overdue, has not been successful. A significant number of the members who have been receiving the Newsletter have been unfinancial for more than fifteen months. These members are urged to continue their financial support of the Society by bringing their renewals up-to-date or by rejoining the Society.

A reminder slip has been included in this Newsletter for those members who are currently unfinancial. After this issue of the Newsletter, further copies will not be sent to unfinancial members.

Commencing next year, a renewal form will be included in the January Newsletter to remind members that their annual subscriptions will be due by 1st March.

OLIVES THURSDAY RAMBLE

Excursion Programme July - October 1990

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members should carry at least 1 litre of water.

Please carry on all walks: First Aid Kit, Torch, Matches, Warm shirt or Sweater, Protective Rainwear, Hat

Wear safe footwear

All people attending excursions do so at their own risk Members arriving by train should advise contact prior to the excursion

July 1st Sunday - Temples of Doom

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.30 am. Approx. 5 - 6 hours Contact: John Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 9.31 am

July 19th Thursday - Little Zig Zag, Reinitz Pass, Bushrangers Cave, Wilson's Glen and Ross Cave

7 OKAMA Rd HAZELRADOR

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.00 am. Approx. 4 hours

Contact: Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.57 am

July 21st Saturday - Queens Road area

Meet opposite Lawson Bowling Club (adjacent to Lawson Station) at 9.00 am. Approx. 4 – 5 hours Contact: Grace Bayley 59 1955 Sydney train arrives 8.54 am; Lithgow train arrives 8.47 am

SI RAILWAY Pole

August 5th Sunday - Inspiration Point, Roberts Pass, Moya Point

Meet at Fairmont end of Fitzroy St, Leura at 9.00am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: David Thomas 84 2121

August 16th Thursday - Terrace Falls, Victor Falls

Meet at Hazelbrook Station car park at 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: Ruth Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.35 am; Lithgow train arrives 8.41 am

August 18th Saturday - Mt Lonely, Waratah Ridge

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 8.45 am. Approx. 6 hours

Contact: John Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 8.36 am

September 2nd Sunday - Blue Gum Swamp Spring Walk

Meet at the end of Whitecross Rd, Winmalee at 9.30 am (approx. 5 1/2 km along Hawkesbury Road from Great Western Highway, Springwood, turn left into Whitecross Road), Approx 4 hours 31 185016 Contact: Enid Schaffer 54 1244

September 15th Saturday - Cox's Road, Lockyers Road

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 8.45 am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: Olive Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 8.36 am

September 20th Thursday - Hassan's Walls

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9 am. Approx. 4 – 5 hours

Contacts: John Noble 87 8342; Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.57 am P CLEARVIEW ALE HAPE

October 7th Sunday - Old Point Pilcher, Grand Canyon

Meet at Station St, Medlow Bath at 9.30 am. Approx. 6 hours

Contact: Bert Davies 58 8586 Sydney train arrives 9.18 am; Lithgow train arrives 8.23 am

October 18th Thursday - Inga Picnic Ground, Mt Bedford

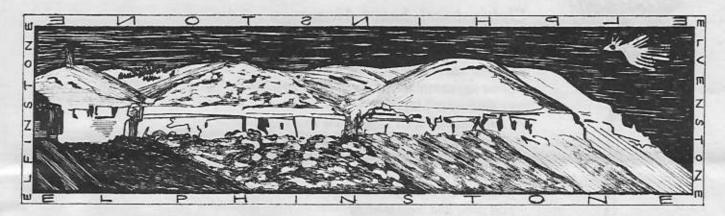
Meet at Bullaburra Station car park at 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.41 am; Lithgow Train arrives 8.35 am

October 20th Saturday - Rhododendron Gardens and optional walk

Meet at Blackheath Station car park at 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: Joan Storey 87 8226 Sydney train arrives 8.29 am; Lithgow train arrives 8.18 am



Elphinstone - Radiata Plateau

During the debate on the proposed TM Centre for Elphinstone Plateau, it was interesting to note local conservationists supporting small-scale development of the site or even asking, 'What's wrong with people meditating in the bush?'.

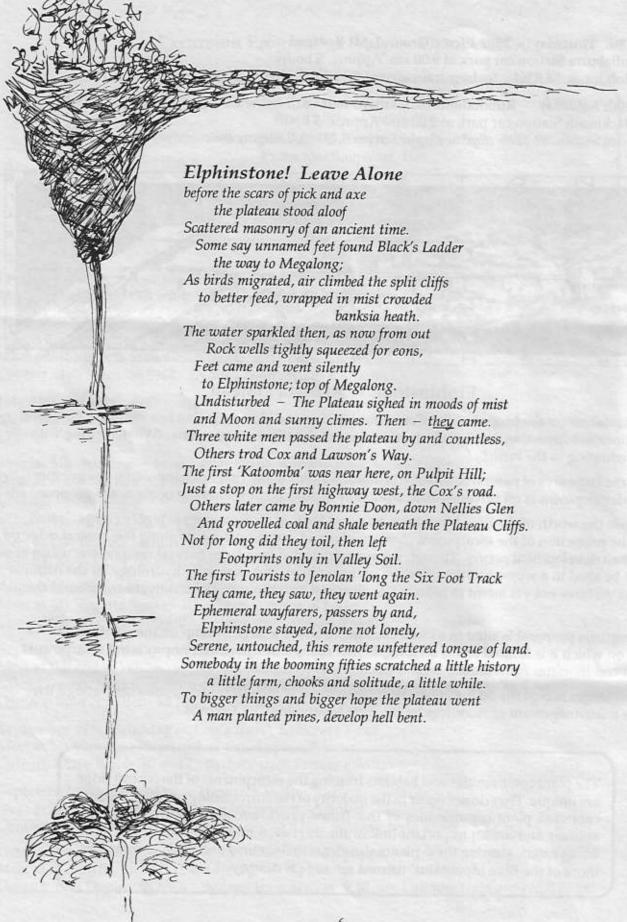
So, given the large area of natural reserve in the Blue Mountains and that this supposedly environmentallysensitive development is on privately-held land, why should no development occur at the proposed site?

It is because the worth of the Blue Mountains National Park as an ecosystem is highly compromised without the protection of the escarpment communities and water catchments along this central ridge on which urban development occurs. Though we are surrounded by a large natural reserve, our urban area could not be sited in a worse position in terms of the ecology, and especially hydrology, of the national park. And we have not yet learnt to redress this situation but continue, ignorantly, to compound the problem.

This pretentious proposal is sited in a clean catchment, above a large swamp on the escarpment. The property on which it is located forms an integral part of the distinctive and unprotected escarpments and plant communities from Bonnie Doon Falls to Mount Victoria.

We can no longer accept the ad hoc, piecemeal destruction of significant environments through irresponsible mismanagement of resources by the Blue Mountains City Council.

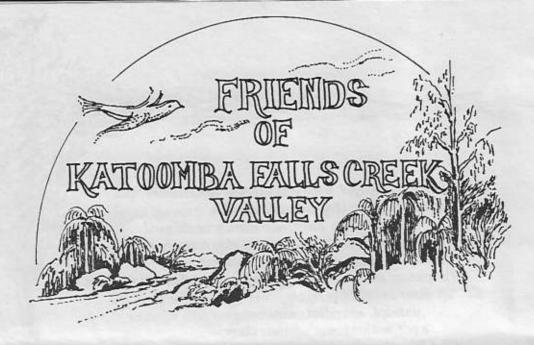
The plant communities and habitats fringing the escarpments of the central ridge are unique. They do not occur in the majority of the surrounding reserve. The concentrated plant communities of this fringe provide food for many birds and animals and are an important link in the migration routes of certain species of honeyeaters; clearing these plants also clears their animal and bird communities; more of the Blue Mountains' natural resource is destroyed.





Why must we pioneers always be?
Can't we feel and meditate in
Space unseen, places clean, unclad
Uncluttered by man's disgrace?
ELPHINSTONE! beyond the avarice and creed,
Aloof from egocentred men amiss
Ignore this sites ignoble heir
Return to future plateau bliss!
Maker of Eagle airs, Keeper of Moutain Ash
Secure your liquid carved crystal crags.
The last Misty Milestone -step to Kanangra,
Twixt Bluegum.
Elphinstone! Top of Megalong

Wyn Jones March 1990 Blackheath



Katoomba Falls Creek begins as a number of small seepages not far from the railway line between Cascade Street and Shell Corner, and eventually plunges into the Jamison Valley as the spectacular Katoomba Falls. Most of the creek flows through public lands, including Frank Walford (Catalina) Park and Katoomba Falls Reserve. These lands provide the largest remaining areas of bushland and open space within the urban area of Katoomba.

Despite problems of pollution, siltation and weed infestation, the catchment remains rich in wildlife and aesthetic appeal. For example, 94 species of birds have been recorded in Frank Walford Park, many of them regularly breeding there. The park contains an extensive swamp of tea tree, grevillea and native sedges, which is home to one of the rarest and shyest birds in the Blue Mountains — the Lewin's Rail. This is only half a kilometre from Katoomba shopping centre! Also within the catchment are magnificent stands of *Eucalyptus oreades* as well as a large variety of other native vegetation. The whole valley forms a wildlife corridor between the Jamison Valley to the south and the Water Board catchment to the north.

There is some mystery surrounding the Aboriginal history of Frank Walford Park but without doubt it is a significant site and was used regularly as a summer camp.

Amazingly, most of Frank Walford Park, including the swamp, is currently zoned 6(e) which allows for a range of developments. The park was omitted from the EMP Stage 1, although both sections of Katoomba Falls Reserve were included.

The Friends of the Katoomba Falls Creek Valley was formed in 1989 with the aim of protecting the area from harmful developments and ensuring it remains as public land for passive recreation. The name was chosen to reflect the view that the whole of the valley must be considered as an entity. The Friends are working towards a total environmental study of the valley, using local residents' knowledge and data collection for a preliminary study and hopefully then achieving funding for a full professional study.

There are two proposed developments currently of concern to the Friends. One is a multi-storey medical centre to be situated on a steep slope above the north-eastern corner of Frank Walford Park; the other is a proposed motel near the swimming pool. Both of these would severely add to degradation of the valley ecosystems as well as affecting Aboriginal sites.

The Catalina circuit is still used regularly for motor vehicle racing. This is strongly opposed by the Friends on the grounds that the noise levels are unacceptable, pollution of the swamp occurs, particularly from spilt oil, and the activity prohibits use of the park by pedestrians and cyclists.

The Friends organise regular picnic and clean-up days in the valley. These are advertised in the local press and anyone is welcome to come and lend a hand. At the first of these, over a thousand tyres were removed from Frank Walford Park. Weed removal and revegetation of degraded areas with local native plants is also planned.

Carol Probets

History of Darwin's Walk - Part 2

It was not until January 1926 that an attempt was made to recreate the old tourist track. A major meeting was called between 'representatives from the Blue Mountains Shire Council, the Urban Area Committee, the Wentworth Falls Group of the Blue Mountains Sights Reserves and trustees of the public Tennis Courts Reserve'.

The Blue Mountains Echo reported that:

The general aim of the movement is to open up a safe and picturesque track from the western road end, near the railway station, to the Weeping Rock, and to follow as closely as possible the meanderings of Jamison Creek.

However, the main stumbling block to the creation of the walk was also recognised: 'It was decided to respect the rights of private property and vested interests'.

Poor planning by the early authorities had resulted in the situation where the land on both sides of the creek above Weeping Rock was privately owned. At one stage it had been cleared, planted with ornamental trees and shrubs and fenced off as part of the garden of Sir John See, Premier of NSW. The plan to open up the track lapsed because the committee could not solve this access problem.

In 1936 the Field Naturalists Club of NSW commemorated the centenary of Darwin's visit to Australia by planting an oak tree on the site of the Weatherboard Inn. However, it was to be another 40 years before an attempt was made to recreate the walk taken by Darwin.

This was initiated by the Wentworth Falls and Valley of the Waters Reserves 530A committee, a group of local people who advised council on the management of the reserves. They carried out surveys of the route, negotiated with private property owners and lobbied council and government bodies for funds. The committee decided in 1978 to name the proposed track 'Darwin's Walk'. Prominent in the committee were Ken Gorringe, Winsome Gregory, council rangers Graham and Wilson Alcorn and the secretary Fred Astle.

In 1981 the work of the committee received a boost with the publication of the book *Spiral Vision* by local artist Reinis Zusters. The many attractive photographs and paintings of scenery along Jamison Creek drew attention to this neglected scenic and inspirational resource. The book further affirmed the association of the walk with Darwin's name. Also in that year a major article by Fay Sutton in the *Sydney City Monthly* magazine highlighted the beauty of the creek and the local battles to prevent inappropriate development on the private land beside the creek. Council responded to these concerns by releasing a Management Plan for the creek's environment.

Finally in 1984 the Blue Mountains City Council accepted the concept of Darwin's Walk. The problem of access through private property that had prevented action in 1926 was highlighted by Council's resolution 'that steps be taken to achieve public tenure of the route of Darwin's Pathway'.

The City Engineer at the time, John Metcalfe, saw Darwin's Walk as part of a bicentennial Grand Cliff Top Walk that was proposed to link the Weatherboard Inn site with the Marked Tree at Katoomba. It was hoped that the 15 km walk would be completed by 1988. Work began on other sections of the Grand Cliff Top Walk in September 1984 but it was not until mid 1986 that work started on the Darwin's Walk segment. In January of that year a small ceremony, organised by the Macleay Museum and Reinis Zusters commemorated the 150th anniversary of Darwin's visit by placing a plaque near Weeping Rock.

A group walked the rough path that had been 'worn' with local use beside the creek. The need for considerable upgrading to improve the track to tourist standard and also protect the environment along the walk was appreciated by all who took part.

Under the supervision of Council's then ranger, Phil Roux, a group of young unemployed people learned the skills of track-making along the creek. At an eventual cost of some \$110 000 the track, with its four bridges and hundreds of metres of raised walkways, represented remarkable value for money. The average figure of about \$44 per metre compared more than favourably with the track-making efforts of other authorities.

The State Government had earmarked some private property along the route for acquisition as part of its regional open space programme. Unfortunately, these negotiations were delayed and the public was banned from using the track in August 1987. At about this time, vandalism of some completed sections of the track occurred. After the State Government finally acquired the private land, the damaged section of track was restored with the aid of an additional grant from Council, and educational plaques were erected along the walk. Beside the Thomas memorial clock in the Wentworth Falls shopping centre, Darwin's words describing the Jamison Valley were engraved. In this way also the town's association with the great man was permanently recognised.

Even before the official opening, the track has experienced enormous popularity. Each weekend hundreds enjoy the walk.

During the week, the local primary school children can be seen studying nature along it. It is this obvious delight and stimulation that children derive from the walk that is most gratifying to the committee that worked so hard to have the walk built. They feel that the walk will be a source of inspiration to young people in two ways. Not only will the beauty of the creek's environment and its flora and fauna awake conservation issues in them but the adventurous life and wisdom of Charles Darwin will provide an appropriate model.

Jim Smith

Hut Reminiscences

My first introduction to the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society was at their monthly meeting at The Hut about 1981. How I loved it! Everyone so friendly – not having to dress up – how knowledgeable they all were – a race apart – what a lot I could learn from them – so unassuming – here were the real people of the world – they *cared* about the environment – how I loved them all.

How I enjoyed Hut duty — especially in winter, when I delighted in starting the fire and keeping it going so everyone would be warm. Its so different, mum,' said my daughter, 'Away from the Highway and commercialism — this is the real Mountains.'

How hard we fought to have the Fairmont Resort built on another site. How well the late Miss Isobel Bowden, at the Simpson Hearing, outlined the reasons for *not* wanting it built there: 'Its on a catchment area,' she pointed out, 'which was formerly reserve – permission having been given to sell the land to Leura Golf Club so that they could have an 18-hole course without disturbing the catchment. It was *never* intended to have a huge complex built there.'

How well she knew her subject, and when the man representing the people who wanted to build came after the meeting, and took both her hands and said, 'You were wonderful', I was naive enough to say, 'That means he'll withdraw?' 'Marie,' she said, 'He's a businessman.' I was shattered – what a lot I had to learn. Is it like this all over the world? What hope then, is there for our 'Planet Earth'?

It never occurred to me that I had come to the Mountains in my old age – age was something I never thought about – and that physically, my activities were limited. But my heart and mind will always be with the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society – God bless you all.

Marie Collins

Tiger Quoll Survey

The Tiger Quoll (Dasyurus maculatus) is the largest carnivorous marsupial on the Australian mainland. Rarely seen due to its shy habits, its range has been increasingly diminished by development and clearing. Once widely spread throughout Eastern Australia, it is now extinct in South Australia and uncommon to rare in Victoria. In NSW it is listed on schedule 12 for rare and endangered fauna.

My first encounter with a Tiger Quoll was through WIRES, when I was asked to look after one that had been injured. That was it, Quoll fever! I was captivated by their beauty and incredible agility, leaping

from the ground to a branch six feet above them.

Little work had been previously done

on Tiger Quolls, so with the generous funding from Australian Geographic to buy traps, I am now surveying Tiger Quolls in the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains and other mountainous regions on the divide, are great Quoll territory. The deep, rainforested gullies offer perfect habitat and little direct human interference.

There have been quite a few sightings of Tiger Quolls in the last few years, which is encouraging. Unfortunately, feral cats and foxes are frequently trapped, which is very disturbing, not only at the prevalence of these pests, but that they may also be taking over the Quoll's ecological 'niche'. It is hoped that the Tiger Quoll does not suffer the fate of the Eastern Quoll (Dasyurus viverrinus) which although common in Tasmania, was last sighted on the mainland in 1960, and is now considered extinct on the mainland.

A National Parks and Wildlife Service Project Officer from Sydney, is soon to start a survey of Tiger Quolls in the Jambaroo/Barren Grounds area. So Quolls are now starting to receive the attention they deserve.

Any information on sightings in the Blue Mountains (recent or not) would be much appreciated.

Also any help, physical or financial is always welcome. I can be contacted on 57 3149.

Marg Turton

Blue Mountains for World Heritage - Part 2

At the time the 'the Colorado River was just beginning to cut its 1.5 kilometre deep gorge, the Grose and the Jamison were already old'.

The natural journey continues through vegetation and fauna. There is an excellent summary of recent vegetation studies, descriptions, and the role of climate, soils and fire in the ecosystem. On shear numbers of rare plants, the Upper Blue Mountains would qualify for one criteria of World Heritage listing. Less well-known are the fauna. Although lists of species are reasonably up to date, so little work has been done on any but the birds. Like the rest of Australia some of the original mammal species are now extinct. Nevertheless even the few detailed surveys have found new species.

The Parks and Us Acceptance for World Heritage depends so much on us, as the residents and Blue Mountains community, proving to the world that we are caring and responsible guardians of this heritage.

Why the Blue Mountains for World Heritage? There are standards which must be reached if an area is to attain World Heritage Listing. These are standards of:

- * significance of natural features
- * integrity and survival of natural features, species and processes
- * protection of natural features by long-term legal and institutional means.

There is no question in my view that Mosely is right in his assessment of the Blue Mountains' claim to World Heritage. There are some important issues that we should all be aware of and, as a Society and Community, willing to act on.

Firstly, the Blue Mountains more than fulfill the criteria relating to on-going evolutionary process, scenery, and protection by the Parks of rare and threatened species.

Secondly, I believe Mosely should have included in his nomination, the proposed parks of:

- the Southern (Western) Escarpment including Bonnie Doon, Elphinstone (Radiata) Plateau, and Shipley to Mt Victoria
- 2. Hassans Walls Reserve
- 3. Eucalyptus pulverulenta reserve on Mount Blaxland
- 4. Eastern Escarpment Reserve

Other areas which should be included are:

- 5. Goulburn River National Park
- Other 7(e) land in the Mountains, much of it already defined by the UBMCS submission to the Environment Management Plan, 1989.

The status of sensitive and significant land, eg 7(e) and escarpment land, is insufficiently recognised by the Council to warrant heritage status. This reflects a poor attitude by Council to the management of these lands, eg *Microstrobos* is threatened.

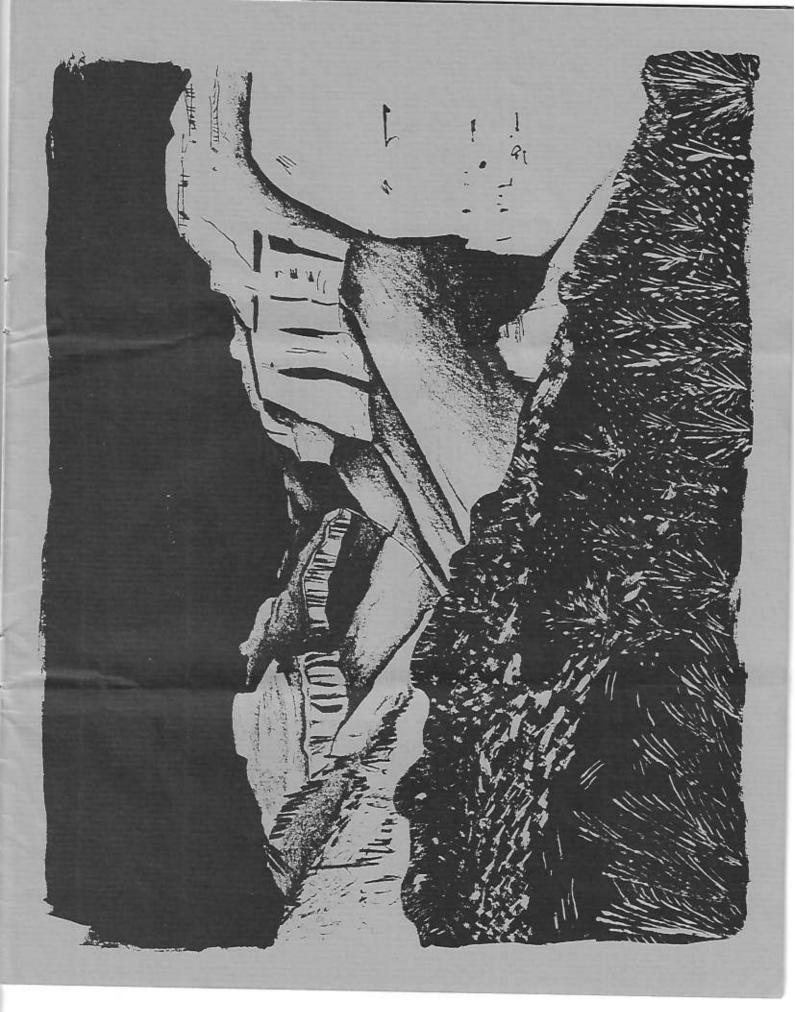
Management of urban systems needs urgent attention particularly in regard to:

- 1. scenic controls
- 2. design criteria
- 3. urban runoff
- 4. urban containment

What Can You Do? Read this book and re-read it. The UBMCS and the Community need to be aware of the valuable natural resources and of the history of development. This book is a good start. Every school student should know it cover to cover, every member and alderman should have a copy. It is the most valuable statement and action on the Blue Mountains Environmental Heritage since the UBMCS Inc. EMP1 submission. Used together they are critical tools for community co-operative care of the unique environment of the Blue Mountains.

Many thanks to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness. Give them support.

Wyn Jones



UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

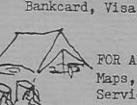
Objects of the Society as set out in the Constitution are:

- (a) To disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation among members of the Society and the public generally, particularly in relation to the unique resources of the Blue Mountains.
- (b) To conduct meetings, excursions and research, and such other activities as may be determined by the Society in relation to Wildlife Conservation, and especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls, to provide information on Conservation matters.
- (c) To maintain friendly relations with other Conservation Societies especially local bodies.

Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Newsletter Registered by Australia Post – Publication No. NBHO 925

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This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in May 2024 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.

July 1990 No. 80

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER.

Registered by Australia Post – Publication No. NBHO 925

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Incorporated in New South Wales. The Society's usual registered office has been demolished and is being replaced with a new Conservation Hut at the same address, Valley of Waters Reserve, Valley Road Wentworth Falls 2782.

Please address all correspondence: P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Pensioners & Juniors \$6.00 per year; Single Membership \$10.00 per year; Family Membership \$15.00 per year.

MEETINGS: Held on last Friday in the month, after January will be held at the Wentworth Falls Public School until further notice.

For speakers at coming meetings, please see Public Notices in the Gazette.

COMMITTEE FOR 1990

President Vice-Presidents	Robin Corringham Mick Dark	58.6561 58.7061
Secretary Treasurer	Wyn Jones Terri Hamilton Muriel Healey	87.7511 82.4554 58.6575
Membership Officer Newsletter Editors	Bruce James	87.7937
Newsietter Editors	Sara Jones Dianne Johnson	87.7511 84.2197
Walks Conveners	Stewart James Olive Noble	87-7937 87.8342
Librarian	Bob Jones June Blick	58.8316 88.1051
Hut Duty Organiser Land Preservation Officer	Beverly Thompson Deidre Morton	57.2076 58.8137
Publicity/Information Land Use Officer	Dianne Johnson Robin Corringham	84.2197 58.6561
Hut Supplies	Reg Toseland	84.1682

<u>NEWSLETTER:</u> Four issues a year – April, July, October, January. Advertising space available.

<u>LIBRARY:</u> The library has been stored away pending the construction of the new Hut.

<u>THE HUT:</u> Temporary premises have been provided by NPWS in a caravan at the Wentworth Falls Reserve. It is manned on weekends by voluntary helpers to supply information and refreshments to visitors.

<u>PUBLICATIONS:</u> A limited range of booklets, posters, maps and postcards will be available at the temporary premises.

<u>SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS:</u> Opportunities to purchase native plants will be organised from time to time during the year. These sales will be held in the vicinity of the Temporary Hut.

<u>WALKS</u>: Walks are organised on the first Sunday, third Thursday and third Saturday of the month, conducted by experienced leaders.

COMING TALKS

July 27th John Low talks on Local History

August 31st To be advertised September 28th To be advertised

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Marg Turton calls for any information leading to the capture of the elusive quoll

Book Review

Wyn Jones on Blue Mountains for World Heritage (Part 2)

Presidential Address

An organisation is only as good as its members. This is a truism you have heard before but it is particularly apt now. The 1990 committee, building on the examples of precious committees, has a tremendous programme of innovation schemes which will further conservation work in the Blue Mountains.

These include the extension of the successful plant nursery to Blackheath National Parks and Wildlife Service facilities where locally found bush plants will be grown for bush regeneration on a commercial basis.

A series of professional standard static information boards for public display is being researched to attract non-believers to environmentally conscious consumerism, the special natural aspects of the Blue Mountains, responsibility to our natural environment and so on. Publicity is being pursued.

The work of environmental watch-dogging that we do so well continues the popular walks and talks.

To expand imaginatively requires perhaps more input from our friendly members. Do you think you could attract a few more friends into the Society? There are ideas around – ideas to further the Society's objectives – snare them and tell a committee member or bring them for airing to a Management Committee meeting.

The identified needs at the moment are increased membership, fund raising to all things necessary and high participation in areas of your choice and initiative. Dull and Dreary? Not a bit of it. Suggest an entertainment – dance on the table...Think up research job within the capability of members, whose publication provides the information base for the pursuit of practical conservation. What about a kite design and flying competition or a scholarship sponsorship?

Conservation Front – What's Happening

In a predictable and typically irresponsible move, the first stage of the TM Centre proposal for Elphinstone (Radiata) Plateau has been approved by BMCC Aldermen Williams, Neale, Brown, Gillies, Kime, Blakemore and Whitehair. Negotiations to have the area included in an extension of the Blue Mountains National Park are continuing.

While the BMCC is busy flogging off urban open space for Gold Coast type development, other private hillbilly entrepreneurs are hocking private land of equal community value: the Sorensons Gardens Retirement Village proposal by A.V. Jennings (of Fairmont Resort notoriety) has been amended and again placed on public exhibition.

The UBMC Society has responded to a request from Mayor Williams and nominated some critical environment lands for acquisition by the BMCC.

RTA proposals regarding access through the Mountains need to be carefully assessed.

Current National Parks and Wildlife Service projects include: rare plant monitoring by Wyn Jones; a co-ordinating group for a strategic plan of weed control in the Blue Mountains – Robin Corringham is participating with Cath Ireland of the NPWS on this committee; and a new composting toilet at Govett's Leap which will be finished in about 12 weeks. This is an experiment in using composting toilets for public facilities, and will hopefully be more suitable for the site than the existing septic system.

Society News

The **National Parks and Wildlife Service Nursery**, mentioned by Robin, was inspected by members on the 5th June. Plans are to use these facilities to augment the Hazelbrook nursery and provide more revenue for the Society.

A **Royal Auction** and the **Greatest Garage Sale in the World** will be held on Saturday July 28th at the School of Arts, Wentworth Falls at 10.00 am. This is an important fund-raising event for the Society, so if you have any unwanted goods for sale, contact Dulcie and Reg Toseland on 84-1682.

Construction of the **New Hut** has been delayed by rain and the new forecast completion date (bar rain) is mid-August. Work on the earth brick wall has started and the landscape and car parking plan has been completed and submitted to Council for review.

Les Hill (Vale) Those who remember Les as one of the foundation members of our Conservation Society, will be saddened to hear of his recent death, at his home in Port Macquarie. At the time of his very extensive efforts in the formation of the Society, and some wonderful help with the restoration and rebuilding of the original 'Hut', Les was the headmaster at North Katoomba Primary School.

Our very sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Rosi, who knows the Blue Mountains well. If you would care to contact Rosi, her address is Mrs Rosi Hill, 6 Joffre Street, Port Macquarie, 2444.

Dulcie Toseland

A rather novel co-incidence....Our latest Newsletter – the April edition, was number 79 – and the last one to be edited by Ewart Collings, who celebrated his 80th birthday in the week following its printing. We would like to offer our heartiest congratulations and thanks to both Ewart, and his wife, Betty, for the smooth operation of all the membership recording and revisions, and the outstanding results they achieved with the style and artwork of our special Newsletter. We are very happy and proud of the results. Thank you.

Dulcie Toseland

This is the first of the **new Newsletter Committee's** publications, and though production has been rushed, you will notice some minor changes to the format. Our intention is to produce an informative and educational newsletter on conservation issues and the Blue Mountains environment. We hope to run a regular feature on a walk, place, species etc of particular interest to any members who care to write on favourite subjects.

Observational pieces on our natural environment are also welcome. Black and white illustrations would be much appreciated, as would any comment or criticism on this and future issues.

Membership Renewals

The 'Red Spot' method of reminding members that their annual subscription to the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society is overdue, has not been successful. A significant number of the members who have been receiving the Newsletter have been unfinancial for more than fifteen months. These members are urged to continue their financial support of the Society by bringing their renewals up-to-date or by rejoining the Society.

A reminder slip has been included in this Newsletter for those members who are currently unfinancial. After this issue of the Newsletter, further copies will not be sent to unfinancial members.

Commencing next year, a renewal form will be included in the January Newsletter to remind members that their annual subscription will be due by 1st March.

Excursion Programme July-October 1990

It is essential on all excursions in the hot weather that members should carry at least 1 litre of water.

Please carry on all walks: First Aid Kit, Torch, Matches, Warm shirt or seater, Protective Rainwear, Hat.

Wear safe footwear

All people attending excursions do so at their own risk Members arriving by train should advise contact prior to the excursion.

July 1st Sunday – Temples of Doom

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.30 am. Approx. 5-6 hours

<u>Contact</u>: John Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 9.31 am.

July 19th Thursday – Little Zig Zag, Reinitz Pass, Bushrangers Cave, Wilson's Glen and Ross Cave

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9.00 am. Approx. 4 hours

<u>Contact</u>: Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.57 am.

July 21st Saturday – Queens Road area

Meet opposite Lawson Bowling Club (adjacent to Lawson Station) at 9.00. Approx. 4-5 hours

Contact: Grace Bayley 59 1955 Sydney train arrives 8.54 am;

Lithgow train arrives 8.47 am.

August 5th Sunday - Inspiration Point, Roberts Pass, Moya Point

Meet at Fairmont end of Fitzroy St, Leura 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours

Contact: David Thomas 84 2121

August 16th Thursday – Terrace Falls, Victor Falls

Meet at Hazelbrook Station car park at 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours <u>Contact</u>: Ruth Jones 58 8361 Sydney Train arrives 8.35

Lithgow train arrives 8.41 am

August 18th Saturday - Mt Lonely, Waratah Ridge

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 8.45 am. Approx. 6 hours

Contact: John Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 8.36 am

September 2nd Sunday – Blue Gum Swamp Spring Walk

Meet at the end of Whitecross Rd, Winmalee at 9.30 am (Approx. 5 ½ km along Hawkesbury Road from Great Western Highway, Springwood, turn left into Whitecross Road), Approx 4 hours.

Contact: Enid Schaffer 54 1244

September 15th Saturday – Cox's Road, Lockyers Road

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 8.45. Approx. 5 hours

<u>Contact</u>: Olive Noble 87 8342 Sydney train arrives 8.36 am.

September 20th Thursday - Hassan's Walls

Meet at Mt Victoria Station at 9 am. Approx 4-5 hours

Contacts: John Noble 87 8342; Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.57 am.

October 7th Sunday – Old Point Pilcher, Grand Canyon

Meet at Station St, Medlow Bath at 9.30 am. Approx 6 hours

<u>Contact</u>: Bert Davies 58 8586 Sydney train arrives 9.18 am

Lithgow train arrives 8.23 am.

October 18th Thursday - Inga Picnic Ground, Mt Bedford

Meet at Bullaburra Station car park at 9.00 am Aprrox. 5 hours

<u>Contact</u>: Bob Jones 58 8361 Sydney train arrives 8.41 am;

Lithgow train arrives 8.35 am

October 20th Saturday – Rhododendron Gardens and optional walk

Meet at Blackheath Station car park at 9.00 am. Approx. 5 hours

<u>Contact</u>: Joan Storey 87 8226 Sydney train arrives 8.29 am;

Lithgow train arrives 8.18 am.

Drawing not copied.

Elphinstone – Radiata Plateau

During the debate on the proposed TM Centre for Elphinstone Plateau, it was interesting to note local conservationists supporting small-scale development of the site or even asking, 'What's wrong with people meditating in the bush?'.

So, given the large area of natural reserve in the Blue Mountains and that this supposedly environmentally sensitive development is on privately-held land, why should no development occur at the proposed site?

It is because the worth of the Blue Mountains National Park as an ecosystem is highly compromised without the protection of the escarpment communities and water catchments along this central ridge on which urban development occurs. Though we are surrounded by a large natural reserve, our urban area could not be sited in a worse position in terms of the ecology, and especially hydrology, of the national park. And we have not yet learnt to redress this situation but continue, ignorantly, to compound the problem.

This pretentious proposal is sited in a clean catchment, above a large swamp on the escarpment. The property on which it is located forms an integral part of the distinctive and unprotected escarpments and plant communities from Bonnie Doon Falls to Mount Victoria.

We can no longer accept the ad hoc, piecemeal destruction of significant environments through irresponsible mismanagement of resources by the Blue Mountains City Council.

The plant communities and habitats fringing the escarpments of the central ridge are unique. They do not occur in the majority of the surrounding reserve. The concentrated plant communities of this fringe provide food for many birds and animals and are an important link in the migration routes of certain species of honey eaters; clearing these plants also clears their animal and bird communities; more of the Blue Mountains natural resource is destroyed.

Elphinstone! Leave Alone

the plateau stood aloof
Scattered masonry of an ancient time.
Some say unnamed feet found Black's Ladder the way to Megalong;
As birds migrated, air climbed the split cliffs to better feed, wrapped in mist crowded banksia heath.

The water sparkled then, as now from out
Rock wells tightly squeezed for eons;

Feet came and went silently
to Elphinstone; top of Megalong.

Undisturbed – The Plateau sighed in moods of mist
and Moon and sunny climes. Then – they came.

Three white men passed the plateau by and countless,
Others trod Cox and Lawson's Way.

The first 'Katoomba' was near here, on Pulpit Hill;

Just a stop on the first highway west, the Cox's road.
Others later came by Bonnie Doon, down Nellies Glen
And grovelled coal and shale beneath the Plateau Cliffs.

Not for long did they toil, then left

Footprints only in Valley Soil.

The first Tourists to Jenolan 'long the Six Foot Track
They came, they saw, they went again.

Ephemeral wayfarers, passed by and,
Elphinstone stayed, alone not lonely,

Serene, untouched, this remote unfettered tongue of land. Somebody in the booming fifties scratched a little history

a little farm, chooks and solitude, a little while.

To bigger things and bigger hope the plateau went

A man planted pines, develop hell bent.

Small they stayed, a sad and hopeless commentary

Twenty five years they grew and stand,

in Three hundred million year old sand

These failed exotic trees left yet another scar

in name Radiata – stuck to mapmakers tongues.

The plateau struck back, or so it seems, the wilderness to reclaim

left alone and aloof to regain

unaided, unbridled, unnamed,

a self, without man's frantic claim.

Oh Elphinstone do you need

The weight of concrete blocks and,

flush designs on random rocks.

Now!...upstart man vainly tries again

Unhappy with two false starts

Scratch the plateau renew the pain.

Why must we pioneers always be?

Can't we feel and meditate in

Space unseen, places clean, unclad

Uncluttered by man's disgrace?

ELPHINSTONE! Beyond the avarice and creed,

Aloof from egocentred men amiss

Ignore this sites ignoble heir

Return to future plateau bliss!

Maker of Eagle airs, Keeper of Mountain Ash

Secure your liquid carved crystal crags.

The last Misty Milestone – step to Kanangra,

Twixt Bluegum.

Elphinstone! Top of Megalong

Wyn Jones

March 1990

Blackheath

FRIENDS OF KATOOMBA FALLS CREEK VALLEY

Katoomba Falls Creek begins as a number of small seepages not far from the railway line between Cascade Street and Shell Corner, and eventually plunges into the Jamison Valley as the spectacular Katoomba Falls. Most of the creek flows through public lands, including Frank Walford (Catalina) Park and Katoomba Falls Reserve. These lands provide the largest remaining areas of bushland and open space within the urban area of Katoomba.

Despite problems of pollution, siltation and weed infestation, the catchment remains rich in wildlife and aesthetic appeal. For example, 94 species of birds have been recorded in Frank Walford Park, many of them regularly breeding there. The park contains an extensive swamp of tea tree, grevillea and native sedges, which is home to one of the rarest and shyest birds in the Blue Mountains – the Lewin's Rail. This is only half a kilometre from Katoomba shopping centre! Also within the catchment are magnificent stands of *Eucalyptus oreades* as well as a large variety of other native vegetation. The whole valley forms a wildlife corridor between the Jamison Valley to the south and the Water Board catchment to the north.

There is some mystery surrounding the Aboriginal history of Frank Walford Park but without doubt it is a significant site and was used regularly as a summer camp.

Amazingly most of Frank Walford Park, including the swamp, is currently zoned 6(e) which allows for a range of developments. The park was omitted from the EMP Stage 1, although sections of Katoomba Falls Reserve were included.

The friends of the Katoomba Falls Creek Valley was formed in 1989 with the aim of protecting the area from harmful developments and ensuring it remains as public land for passive recreation. The name was chosen to reflect the view that the whole of the valley must be considered as an entity. The Friends are working towards a total environmental study of the valley, using local resident's knowledge and data collection for a preliminary study and hopefully then achieving funding for a full professional study.

There are two proposed developments currently of concern to the Fiends. One is a multi-storey medical centre to be situated on a steep slope above the north-eastern corner of Frank Walford Park, the other is a proposed motel near the swimming pool. Both of these would severely add to degradation of the valley ecosystems as well as affecting Aboriginal sites.

The Catalina circuit is still used regularly for motor vehicle racing. This is strongly opposed by the Friends on the grounds that the noise levels are unacceptable, pollution of the swamp occurs, particularly from spilt oil, and the activity prohibits use of the park by pedestrians and cyclists.

The Friends organise regular picnic and clean-up days in the valley. These are advertised in the local press and anyone is welcome to come and lend a hand. At the first of these, over a thousand tyres were removed from Frank Walford Park. Weed removal and revegetation of degraded areas with local native plants is also planned.

History of Darwin's Walk - Part 2

It was not until January 1926 that an attempt was made to recreate the old tourist track. A major meeting was called between 'representatives from the Blue Mountains Shire Council, the Urban Area Committee, the Wentworth Falls Group of the Blue Mountains Sights Reserves and trustees of the public Tennis Courts Reserve'.

The Blue Mountains Echo reported that;

The general aim of the movement is to open up a safe and picturesque track from the western road end, near the railway station, to the Weeping Rock, and to follow as closely as possible the meanderings of Jamison Creek.

However, the main stumbling block to the creation of the walk was also recognised: "It was decided to respect the rights of private property and vested interests".

Poor planning by the early authorities had resulted in the situation where the land on both sides of the creek above Weeping Rock was privately owned. At one stage it had been cleared, planted with ornamental trees and shrubs and fenced off as part of the garden of Sir John See, Premier of NSW. The plan to open up the track lapsed because the committee could not solve this access problem.

In 1936 the Field Naturalists Club of NSW commemorated the centenary of Darwin's visit to Australia by planning an oak on the site of the Weatherboard Inn. However, it was to be another 40 years before an attempt was made to recreate the walk taken by Darwin.

This was initiated by the Wentworth Falls and Valley of the Waters Reserves 530A committee, a group of local people who advised council on the management of the reserves. They carried out surveys of the route, negotiated with private property owners and lobbied council and government bodies for funds. The committee decided in 1978 to name the proposed track "Darwin's Walk". Prominent in the committee were Ken Gorringe, Winsome Gregory, council rangers Graham and Wilson Alcorn and the secretary Fred Astle.

In 1981 the work of the committee received a boost with the publication of the book *Spiral Vision* by local artist Reinis Zusters. The many attractive photographs and paintings of scenery along Jamison Creek drew attention to this neglected scenic and inspirational resource. The book further affirmed the association of the walk with Darwin's name. Also in that year a minor article by Fay Sutton in the *Sydney City Monthly* magazine highlighted the beauty of the creek and the local battles to prevent inappropriate development on the private land beside the creek. Council responded to those concerns by releasing a Management Plan for the creek's environment.

Finally in 1984 the Blue Mountains City Council accepted the concept of Darwin's Walk. The problem of access through private property that had prevented action in 1926 was highlighted by Council's resolution 'that steps be taken to achieve public tenure of the route of Darwin's Pathway'.

The City Engineer at the time, John Metcalfe, saw Darwin's Walk as part of a bicentennial Grand Cliff Top Walk that was proposed to link the Weatherboard Inn site with the Marked Tree at Katoomba. It was hoped that the 15km walk would be completed by 1988. Work began on other sections of the Grand Cliff Top Walk in September 1984 but it was not until mid 1986 that work started on the Darwin's Walk segment. In January of that year a small ceremony, organised by the Macleay Museum and Reinis Zusters commemorated the 150th anniversary of Darwin's visit by placing a plaque near Weeping Rock.

A group walked the rough path that had been 'worn' with local use beside the creek. The need for considerable upgrading to improve the track to tourist standard and also protect the environment along the walk was appreciated by all who took part.

Under the supervision of Council's then ranger, Phil Roux, a group of young unemployed people learned the skills of track-making along the creek. At an eventual cost of some \$110,000 the track, with its four bridges and hundreds of metres of raised walkways, represented remarkable value for money. The average figure of about \$44 per metre compared more than favourably with the track-making efforts of other authorities.

The State Government had earmarked some private property along the route for acquisition as part of its regional open space programme. Unfortunately, these negotiations were delayed and the public was banned from using the track in August 1987. At about this time, vandalism of some completed sections of the track occurred. After the State Government finally acquired the private land, the damaged section of track was restored with the aid of an additional grant from Council, and educational plaques were erected along the walk. Beside the Thomas memorial clock in the Wentworth Falls shopping centre, Darwin's words describing the Jamison Valley were engraved. In this way also the town's association with the great man was permanently recognised.

Even before the official opening, the track has experienced enormous popularity. Each weekend hundreds enjoy the walk.

During the week, the local primary school children can be seen studying nature along it. It is this obvious delight and stimulation that children derive from the walk that is most gratifying to the committee that worked so hard to have the walk built. They feel that the walk will be a source of inspiration to young people in two ways. Not only will the beauty of the creek's environment and its flora and fauna awake conservation issues in them but the adventurous life and wisdom of Charles Darwin will provide an appropriate model.

Jim Smith

Hut Reminiscences

My first introduction to the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society was at their monthly meeting at The Hut about 1981. How I loved it! Everyone so friendly – not having to dress up – how knowledgeable they all were – race apart – what a lot I could learn from them – so unassuming – here were the real people of the world – they cared about the environment – how I loved them all.

How I enjoyed Hut duty – especially in winter, when I delighted in starting the fire and keeping it going so everyone would be warm. 'It's so different, mum,' said my daughter, 'Away from the Highway and commercialism – this is the real Mountains.'

How hard we fought to have the Fairmont Resort built on another site. How well the late Miss Isobel Bowden, at the Simpson Hearing, outlined the reasons for *not* wanting it built there: 'Its on a catchment area,' she pointed out, 'which was formerly reserve – permission having given to sell the land to Leura Golf Club so that they could have an 18-hole course without disturbing the catchment. It was *never* intended to have a huge complex built there.'

How well she knew her subject, and when the man representing the people who wanted to build came after the meeting, and took both her hands and said, 'You were wonderful', I was naive enough to say, 'That means he'll withdraw?' "Marie,' she said, 'He's a businessman.' I was shattered – what a lot I had to learn. Is it like this all over the world? What hope then, is there for our 'Planet Earth'?

It never occurred to me that I had come to the Mountain in my old age – age was something I never thought about – and that physically, my activities were limited. But my heart and mind will always be with the Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society – God bless you all.

Marie Collins

Tiger Quoll Survey

The Tiger Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) is the largest carnivorous marsupial on the Australian mainland. Rarely seen due to its shy habits, its range has been increasingly diminished by development and clearing. Once widely spread throughout Eastern Australia, it is now extinct in south Australia and uncommon to rare in Victoria. In NSW it is listed on schedule 12 for rare and endangered fauna.

My first encounter with a Tiger Quoll was through WIRES, when I was asked to look after one that had been injured. That was it, Quoll fever! I was captivated by their beauty and incredible agility, leaping from the ground to a branch six feet above them.

Little work had been previously done on Tiger Quolls, so with the generous funding from *Australian Geographic* to buy traps, I am now surveying Tiger Quolls in the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains and other mountainous regions on the divide, are great Quoll territory. The deep, rainforested gullies offer perfect habitat and little direct human interference.

There have been quite a few sightings of Tiger Quolls in the last few years, which is encouraging. Unfortunately, feral cats and foxes are frequently trapped, which is very disturbing, not only at the prevalence of these pests, but that they may also be taking over the Quoll's ecological 'niche'. It is hoped that the Tiger Quoll does not suffer the fate of the Eastern Quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) which although common in Tasmania, was last sighted on the mainland in 1960, and is now considered extinct on the mainland.

A National Parks and Wildlife Service Project Officer from Sydney, is soon to start a survey of Tiger Quolls in the Jambaroo/Barren Grounds area. So Quolls are now starting to receive the attention they deserve.

Any information on sightings in the Blue Mountains (recent or not) would be much appreciated.

Also any help, physical or financial is always welcome. I can be contacted on 57 3149.

Marg Turton

Blue Mountains for World Heritage - Part 2

At the time the 'Colorado River was just beginning to cut its 1.5 kilometre gorge, the Grose and the Jamison were already old'.

The natural journey continues through vegetation and fauna. There is an excellent summary of recent vegetation studies, descriptions, and the role of climate, soils and fire in the ecosystem. On shear numbers of rare plants, the Upper Blue Mountains would qualify for one criteria of World Heritage listing.

Less well-known are the fauna. Although lists of species are reasonably up to date, so little work has been done on any but the birds. Like the rest of Australia some of the original mammal species are now extinct. Nevertheless even the few detailed surveys have found new species.

The Parks and Us Acceptance for World Heritage depends so much on *us*, as the residents and Blue Mountains community, *proving* to the world that we are caring and responsible guardians of this heritage.

Why the Blue Mountains for World Heritage? There are standards which must be reached if an area is to attain World Heritage Listing. These are standards of:

- significance of natural features
- integrity and survival of natural features, species and process
- protection of natural features by long-term legal and institutional means.

There is no question in my view that Mosely is right in his assessment of the Blue Mountains claim to World Heritage. There are some important issues that we should all be aware of and, as a Society and Community, willing to act on.

Firstly, the Blue Mountains more than fulfil the criteria relating to on-going evolutionary process, scenery, and protection by the Parks of rare and threatened species.

Secondly, I believe Mosely should have included in his nomination, the proposed parks of:

- 1. the Southern (Western) Escarpment including Bonnie Doon, Elphinstone (Radiata) Plateau, and Shipley to Mount Victoria
- 2. Hassans Walls Reserves
- 3. Eucalyptus pulverulenta reserve on Mount Blaxland
- 4. Eastern Escarpment Reserve

Other areas which should be included are:

- 5. Goulburn River National Park
- 6. Other 7(e) land in the Mountains. Much of it already defined by the UBMCS submission to the Environment Management Plan, 1989.

The status of sensitive and significant land, eg 7(e) and escarpment land, is insufficiently recognised by the Council to warrant heritage status. This reflects a poor attitude by Council to the management of these lands, eg *Microstrobos* is threatened.

Management of urban systems needs urgent attention particularly in regard to:

- 1. scenic controls
- 2. design criteria
- 3. urban runoff
- 4. urban containment

What Can You Do? Read this book and re-read it. The UBMCS and the Community need to be aware of the valuable natural resources and of the history of development. This book is a good start. Every School student should know it cover to cover, every member and alderman should have a copy. It is the most valuable statement and action on the Blue Mountains Environmental Heritage since the UBMCS Inc. EMP1 submission. Used together they are critical tools for community co-operative care of the unique environment of the Blue Mountains.

Many thanks to the Colong Foundation for Wilderness. Give them support.

Wyn Jones.