



# Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc Newsletter

No 87 April 1992



Meetings are held in the new Conservation Hut at the end of Fletcher St Wentworth Falls on the last Friday of each month. Please bring a cushion or chair as the Hut is not yet furnished.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

April 24, Friday  
7.30pm

GENERAL MEETING: Speaker is Ms Alison Evans to explain how the National Parks Foundation works. Mr Gregor Manson has also promised to address the members regarding our standing at the new Hut.

May 29, Friday  
7.30 pm

GENERAL MEETING: Speaker is Dr Peter Smith and his subject is 'Birds of the Blue Mountains'.

June 26, Friday  
7.30pm

GENERAL MEETING AT KATOOMBA COUNCIL CHAMBERS. The speaker will be Dr Michael Dingley, secretary of the Postal Microscopical Club of Australia. This club enables members to participate in microscopical sciences, particularly natural history. Come and find out more.



## OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

Friday, April 10  
Heritage Week:

Meet at 10 am at the Golden Stairs, Narrow Neck, Katoomba, for the annual seed-gathering foray.

Friday, June 5

World Environment Day: It is the custom of this society to have a display at either Coles or Jewels store in Katoomba.



There will be a TRADING TABLE at our May Meeting. Please help to stock it and to buy the goods.

## FOLLOW-UP NOTES



Annual Subscriptions are now OVERDUE!  
Please check whether you have paid yours.

The Autumn plant sale was a success and a credit to those who provided the plants and to those who came and bought. The Spring sale will be on October 25 1992.



On 'Clean Up Australia Day, March 1, members of this Society cleaned up part of Cliff Drive and Narrow Neck. Next year we'll concentrate on Narrow Neck,

There was also a weed eradication morning at Hazelbrook on March 9.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Remember how we hoped for younger members to take office? It didn't happen! However, there are some new faces on the management committee. We say 'thank you' to those retiring from office. Reports for 1991 are included in this newsletter.

1992 COMMITTEE

President	Mr W Tomasetti	57 1086
1st Vice-President	Mr R Toseland	84 1682
2nd Vice-President	Mrs R Corringham	58 6561
Minute Secretary	Mrs J Ferfogia	84 3232
Correspondence Sec.	.....	
Treasurer	Mr J Ferfogia	84 3232
Membership Sec.	Mrs B Thompson	57 2076
Land Use Sec.	.....	
Newsletter Editor	Mrs G Bayley	59 1955
Walks Conveners	Mrs O Noble	87 8342
	Mr B Jones	58 8316
Plant Nursery	Mrs R Corringham	58 6561
Publicity	.....	
Auditor	.....	
Public Officer	.....	
Committee Members	Mr and Mrs D Thomas	84 2121
	Mrs M Healey	58 6575
	Mrs D Toseland	84 1682

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1991 has been a successful year for our Society, especially in regard to the smooth operation of the Blackheath Nursery, and the extensive variety of native plants that are being processed for local authorities - Council, National Parks and Water Board, etc. The year also brought a welcome change of Councillors to the Blue Mountains City Council, with a long overdue change of planning and promotion for our beautiful but fragile area. Conservation and care are no longer dirty words to our local leaders, and the 'Development regardless of consequences' attitude of the previous 'gang' has passed into history. One of our older and highly respected lady members invariably uses the word 'devilment' and in so many, many cases this is unfortunately true.

An even wider Conservation gain through the year was the return of the State Government with a much reduced majority - and we are not being nauseated with the 'mandate' to change which has been such a part of previous election results.

Unfortunately for our Society we are still 'in the air' as to what we can expect to be offered for our use within the new Conservation Hut - or even, when. This has applied for over two years following the destruction of our home and headquarters, the original Hut. It appears that the latest building with all the car and coach parking facility, is complete. All that remains is an official opening by some politician who will have no idea of the effort and voluntary work that has gone into the smooth co-operation between us and the visiting public during the last 30 years. Whatever words are said, or decisions made as to the future operation of the building, it will obviously be nothing similar to anything that applied previously.

May I express my very sincere thanks for all the courtesy, kindness and help that has been supplied by the executive who have functioned through the year - and in many cases, years. The majority will continue to offer help, advice and support while not actually taking office, and we are sure - nay - certain, that we shall establish ourselves very thoroughly and safely in the near future. So be it!

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With our membership of approximately 250 families there must be a large amount of interest and ability - plus a quantity with youth on their side... so as a group of 'oldies' retires gracefully and gratefully - It's Up To You - In '92'.

Reg Toseland.

#### NURSERY REPORT

April 1992

As you are aware from newsletters, the nursery group operates at two sites. At Jill and Mick Dark's house the good work of years continues with great profit to the Society.

The Blackheath nursery is now on stream after 15 months' incubation. Here the focus is on a capability to produce local native plants for bush regeneration, when the weeds are removed a start for rehabilitation is given by planting suitable trees and shrubs.

Contracts at commercial rates have been won and are presently being supplied to the Water Board, National Parks and Blue Mountains City Council. Part of the income goes to supporting the nursery but profits will not be accumulated but will be directed to worthwhile projects of education and bush regeneration. Now the Blackheath nursery has found its feet a more formal management policy will be put into operation. One purpose of this is to widen its educative role.

An Environmental Trust Grant is being sought to upgrade technical facilities and plant storage area.

The Spring and Autumn plant sales at the Conservation Hut are successful and will continue.

It is commonly considered that there has never been such a consistently hardworking and agreeable group as those who turn out every week to work at the nurseries. The product is good and that is because the work is done with good heart and harmony. Perversely, this creates a small concern in that the plants are relying on the same skilful hands for attention. With some rationalising this will be overcome.

For the Nursery Group - R. Corringham. 27/3/92

#### PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT TO A.G.M. 1992

My duties as Publicity Officer from April 1991 to March 1992 have been:

- \* Keeping the press clippings on environmental and relevant issues from the Blue Mountains Gazette.
- \* Placing Public Notices announcing the Society's bushwalks, monthly meetings and other activities in the Gazette.
- \* Placing details of monthly meetings and other activities in the 'Here and There' page of the Gazette.
- \* Placing details of bushwalks on noticeboards in the branch libraries.
- \* Arranging for Society Newsletter to be sent to Blue Mountains 'Whisper' and 'This Month in the Blue Mountains' so that details of bush walks are now published in 'This Month'.
- \* Small number of press releases in the Gazette - World Environment Day (June 1991), Heritage Week 1991, and Native Plant Sale, March 1992.
- \* Stalls and displays organised by R Corringham for World Environment Day, Carnivale at Katoomba, Nov 1991, and Mid-Mountains Festival at Hazelbrook in October 1991.
- \* Working on display boards for 'Waste Reduction'.

Jan Ardill

LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

April 1992

This Committee is concerned with the correct use and appreciation of land in the Upper Blue Mountains. Necessarily this is influenced by decisions at a high level. We have a delegate on decision-making bodies where it is felt we can be effective. These include the District Fire Committee, the District Noxious Weeds Committee and the Environment Forum. Members have attended forums, seminars and public discussions which advance the ethic of conservation locally, regionally and globally. The Society is a paid-up member of the Australian Conservation Foundation, the National Parks Association, the Colong Committee, the Total Environment Centre and C.H.A.N.G.E. (Hawkesbury/Nepean Coalition). We communicate regularly with groups of allied interest in the Blue Mountains and beyond.

Submissions were made to State Rail and the Water Board for inappropriate and shoddy work. As would be expected it has been to the B.M. City Council that most submissions have been sent. Every exhibited development application has been addressed and where the Society considered that improvements for environment protection were inadequate, or where the development was undesirable, council has been informed. The Society was a witness for Council on the Kedumba Emporium development before the Land and Environment Court. The job of draining, road works and provision of services at Woodbury St, Woodford became a major demonstration of how carelessly some things are done. As a result, we hope, Council will conduct in-house training.

Our members are engaged in bush regeneration and it has become a significant focus for activity. With the protection of sub-catchments the upgrading of headwaters is urgent. While we continually press for responsible land management from Council, we can get out there in the valleys and clear weeds as a preliminary to rehabilitation. Why? Don't weeds hold the soil? But it is an alien environment for a healthy ecology. Everything works better in a natural state. We have led the lobbying for a council-employed bush regeneration officer, to streamline community efforts. The position will be filled shortly. Only for one year, so we need to continue to lobby.

The Society's Fauna Survey of the Woodford Dam Catchment for the Water Board was completed in May 1991. As promised, the \$3000 earned was donated for a bridge on the reconstructed track in that area, and was named the Transit of Venus Track as an allusion to the astronomical survey held nearby last century.

The Committee has also provided references for an Environmental Trust grant application for Council for environmental education, and for a private application for a bird survey at Mellies Glen.

We are alarmed that with all the information available there is little improvement in environmental care in land management, especially on larger construction jobs. We must continue to press for closer monitoring. The Mountains community is responsible for good stewardship of the land and streams. We think that the intrinsic value of the natural environment is a sufficient reason for care, and must be tenacious as protectors and spokespersons through our Society.

Robin Corringham

Land Use Committee 27/3/92

WALKS REPORT 1991

We have had another successful year of bushwalking, with a variety of walks exploring different areas. The walks are usually attended by about 25 people and they all appear to enjoy them. The Walks Conveners would like to thank all those people who have led the walks, we do appreciate your efforts, and also 'thank you' to all the folks who came on the walks and made them a great success.

Bob Jones and Olive Noble.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have now approximately 222 single and family members. Last year I eliminated many people from the membership list because they were no longer financial. In the July Newsletter I shall place a red spot on the address sticker of those people who have not paid this year's fee and they will again be removed from the mailing list, as we are no longer in a financial position to carry people who haven't paid.

Beverly Thompson  
Membership Secretary

MEET OUR PRESIDENT FOR 1992 - MR BILL TOMASETTI! Welcome!  
He has written a few words to challenge us...

At its Annual General Meeting held on March 27, the Society elected members of the Management Committee for 1992/93. (See page 2 for the list) Members will note that the new Management Committee members include some who served on the outgoing committee, and some newcomers. This, of course, will do much to ensure continuity of management; but unfortunately some positions remain unfilled.

Conservation matters in the Mountains seem to take on an added urgency each year, and I am sure that the Committee will quickly take up outstanding matters, and new ones, as they present themselves.

Bill Tomasetti,  
Incoming President

The Financial Statement is too long to include. Anyone wishing to see it may contact our treasurer. Here is the Auditor's Report.

*Davis, Mair & Co*

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

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John W Mair FCPA

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the book, vouchers and records of the UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC in respect of the year ended 29th February 1992 and report that the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended have been prepared in accordance with those records.

In my opinion the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at the date of preparation and the Income and Expenditure Account is drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the Society's trading for the year then ended.

Dated at Katoomba this 27th Day of March 1992.

LYLE M DAVIS C P A

Registered Company Auditor.

