

# HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"



## Guest Speaker

At the General meeting on Friday 26 June, Blue Mountains ecologist Judy Smith will talk about vegetation of the Blue Mountains, and in particular protection of sensitive vegetation. How do we identify what vegetation is sensitive? What are the sensitive vegetation units in the Mountains? How can we protect these units?

The meeting at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, starts at 7.30. Visitors are welcome.

## Kids' Club

At the Kids Club night prowl at Katoomba Falls Reserve we saw Aboriginal artefacts and learned about how the Aboriginal people lived in the Blue Mountains, played didgeridoos and clapsticks, learned about the bush creatures who come out at night, took part in a puppet show, saw a waterfall, and, **very exciting!** we spotted two Greater Gliders, a very unusual sighting for the area. Thank you Lester for a great night prowl.

The next Kids' Club activity will be an exploration of Jamison Creek on Sunday 14 June. What lives along the creek? We will also do some bush regeneration. (Details are in Dates for your Diary on page 4.) More info: Jessica 4757.2783.

## Upper B.M. Sewerage Scheme

Residents in the townships of Medlow Bath, Blackheath and Mt Victoria would have heard by now of the proposed upgrade of sewerage services by Sydney Water.

As part of the community consultation process over the last few months there have been two newsletters, a telephone survey and a range of workshops and reports. It is a good opportunity for residents to have their say and to influence decision making in their own environment.

If you would like to know more, Sydney Water has established a freecall number: 1800 659 809. There will be another newsletter delivered to letterboxes in these three townships shortly. Residents are encouraged to read it carefully. It will contain important information about what has happened so far, as well as timing and details of actions planned from here on.

## World Heritage Update

The project is on schedule. The consultant, who has wide international experience, expects to finish the text by 1 June. Then layout, printing and Ministerial approval is to be completed by 25 June, when the document will be sent to Paris.

Blue Mountains satisfies three out of

## Amendment 25 Passed by Council

Local environmental groups, including ourselves, have put in many months of work (submissions, meetings and workshops with Council Officers, including commissioning the Smith & Smith report on Sensitive Vegetation Units and their Buffers), to get these issues and the exclusion of slopes greater than 20% (1 in 5) on development land, included into LEP1991.

At the Council meeting on 12 May, Roger Grealy of RAID presented a petition of 1000 signatures in support of Amendment 25 and he, Peter Wright of SWAG, and Philippa Fincher of BMCS, spoke for the recommendations and complimented Lee Morgan and her team for their hard work in finding a compromise between our point of view and those of the opposing land holders. Mayor Neall allowed seven individuals to speak against the recommendations with only the three above speaking for. Ultimately the vote went for the motion. Those voting in favour were Clrs Angel, Berriman, Clarke, Derum, Hamilton, Henson, and Kime. Against: Clrs. **Harris, Neall, and Williams.** (Clrs Gaul and Egan were absent.)

It should be noted that Mayor Neall voted against this important amendment. We have asked previously where the Mayor's fundamental obligation lies — to the people of the Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountains environment, or to a small pro-development group? The answer could be obvious.

Many thanks to those who signed the petition and wrote letters to Council, and a big THANK YOU to all the Councillors who voted in favour of the Blue Mountains environment.

the four criteria for Natural Heritage Listing, and satisfies Cultural values.

## Amendment 25:

### Why is it Important?

(Extract from Draft Amend. 25 LEP 1991)

Slopes in excess of 20% are a significant constraint to development in the Blue Mountains because of the highly erosive nature of the soils, which means that the major site disturbance occasioned by development will lead to major downslope impacts unless extremely well managed, both during construction and subsequent occupation. Disturbed sites in the Mountains are relatively difficult to restore, because of the soil type and the

climate. These potentials for impact are all the more significant, because the receiving environment immediately downslope is often a valuable natural area which is very sensitive to changes in hydrology and or sedimentation and the change in nutrient levels, changes which nearly always accompany the development of a site, unless it is particularly well managed. Bushfire risk and the difficulty of managing that risk, also increases with an increase in slope of the land, as does the area which must be fuel-reduced, so further increasing the size of the development footprint.

## Weed of the Month Leaflets

In an effort to target another avenue for educating the community on weed control, plans are afoot to place information folders in Blue Mountains Railway waiting rooms.

With the help of a number of groups, these folders are now ready and we are seeking volunteers to take on the responsibility of say, two stations each. To date, all but Valley Heights, Springwood, Faulconbridge, Woodford, Hazelbrook, Leura and Katoomba are accounted for. Would you like to participate? Enquiries to Laurel Osbourne 4739.1696.

## Submission to LEP 1997

BMCS representatives will make a submission to the Commission of Enquiry into LEP97 on 16 June. We need locations of places which are or could be impacted by inappropriate development and somebody to take photos (slides) to be presented at the enquiry. Examples are eroding slopes, near creeklines, weed infested creeks, impacts on lower catchment by upper catchment. If you can help phone Lyndal Sullivan on 4782.1635.

"Hut News", the newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.  
P.O.Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782. Phone 4757 1872. Fax 4757 1753

Email [bmcs@pnc.com.au](mailto:bmcs@pnc.com.au)

Web page: <http://www.pnc.com.au/~bmcs>

President: Imre Gahl, Ph:4784-3286 First Vice President: Don Morison, Ph:4759.2471  
Second Vice President: Heather Coster {Ph:Work 4759-1247, Home 4759.1837,  
Membership Secretary: Ross Coster {Fax 4759-1095, Email [haytech@pnc.com.au](mailto:haytech@pnc.com.au)

Correspondence Secretary: Mary Shaw, Ph:4757-4133

Meetings Secretary: Kevin Bell, Ph:4787-6436; Treasurer: Ivica Buc, Ph:4757-3435

Land Use: Jim Warburton, Phone 4759-1312; Walks Convenor: Jim Wallace, Ph:4784-3305

Plant Nursery Manager: David Coleby, Ph/Fax:4784-1395

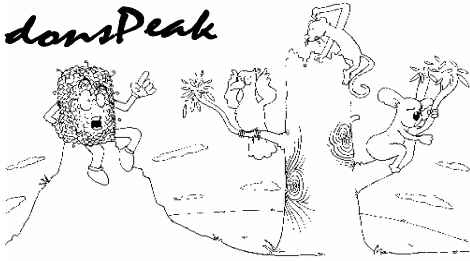
Publicity: Catriona Gillies, Ph:4782-1235; Bushcare: Helga Esamie, Ph:Mobile 0418-397-117

Education: Jacqueline Reid, Ph: 4739-8485; Bushfire Rep: Hugh Paterson, Phone 4751-2303

Projects: Philippa Fincher, Ph:4787-6436; Kathy Gott, Ph:4739-8124; Marion Hawley, Ph:4784-1933

Newsletter: Christine Davies, Phone 4787-7246 Fax 4787-7777 Email: [hutnews@pnc.com.au](mailto:hutnews@pnc.com.au)

*donPeak*



### **Air Pollution — It Can Happen Here**

The Environment Protection Authority does not maintain any air pollution monitoring stations west of St. Mary's. But you only have to be at Lapstone, Glenbrook, Blaxland or Warrimoo on certain days to know that Sydney's air pollution is rising.

The sprawl of Sydney's car-dependent suburbs is helping push air pollution Mountainwards where it can threaten our area's plants and animals, including humans.

Badgery's Creek Airport would make it much worse. There is some hope that Penrith City Council will soon argue to the State Government that Penrith's contribution to Sydney's population growth is now complete.

### **From the Bunker to the Water Hazard**

At time of writing no Development Application had been received for the revived Katoomba Golf Course development. This development could indeed be a hazard to the water flowing over Katoomba Falls. The Falls water flow is vital to the dwarf pine, *Microstrobis fitzgeraldii*, which has only a few hundred individuals surviving, as well as other rare and threatened species.

120 hotel rooms and 160 apartments would be built in the Katoomba Falls catchment if the development proceeds.

All praise to the Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley, Clr Jim Angel, and others who have fought for years against the golf course development.

### **Councillor Harris — A Hollow Protest**

Clr Dick Harris has publicly criticised the possibility that residents could be refused permission to remove dead trees that provide nesting hollows and other wildlife habitat.

In fact, the whole of BMCC's Tree Preservation and Vegetation Preservation policies need to be reviewed at the time Local Environment Plan 1997 comes into force.

BMCC is inviting BMCS and Bushcare Network to workshops on the issue. One of the problems will be to balance the preservation of habitat with the removal of trees posing a danger to life or property.

### **Councillor Williams — A Retrospective**

BMCC has retrospectively approved transfer of soil on Clr. Ralph Williams home/office property in Coughlan Road, Blaxland — Clr. Williams did not lodge an application until after the transfer had already taken place.

The final conditions in the approval will require stabilisation of soil and landscaping but will go nowhere near to restoring the area to its original condition.

— *Don Morison.*

### **Fairy Dell Bushcare**

Fairy Dell carers need help. From the time in 1990 when the restoration of the Fairy Dell Reserve, in Springwood Avenue, Springwood, had in excess of ten enthusiastic volunteers, the stage has been reached where today just two Blaxland residents and one from Wentworth Falls join a remainder of two locals from Springwood to continue the work on this popular Reserve.

It is a sad state of affairs brought about by aging and ill health with others having family commitments which understandably take priority.

We need to find more volunteers who can come on the third Sunday of the month from 9 am, or if a weekday would be more convenient, this could be arranged. Please contact Thelma Murphy on 4751.6046 or Gisela Chorley on 4739.1427.

### **Council Watch**

TV on Tuesday night is so bad that those in search of entertainment have been spotted congregating, eagerly, at the Council Chambers at 7.15 pm to get the best seats, and those local programs have been most enlightening.

Recently there have been two major wins for the Blue Mountains environment. On 28 April the Draft Tree Preservation Order and Draft Local Environmental Plans to Amend Tree Control in LEP No. 4 and LEP1991 came up for review.

Council officers' recommendations were that likely habitat trees be protected unless they pose imminent danger to life or property, and that the list of environmental weeds be increased. BMCS and bushcare representatives spoke pointing out that remnant native vegetation on large urban blocks also needed protection.

Clr Angel and Clr Hamilton moved an amendment to convene a workshop for all interested parties to resolve this issue. The Amendment was carried by Cr. Angel, Berriman, Clarke, Derum, Gaul, Hamilton and Henson. (Against: Harris and Neall.)

The other major win for the month was the last minute presentation of the long awaited Draft Amendment No. 25 to LEP 1991. (More about this in our editorial on page 1.) Those who voted in favour of this important amendment were Clrs Angel, Berriman, Clarke, Derum, Hamilton, Henson and Kime. (Against: Harris, Neall and Williams)

Sweet victory and compliments must go to all involved in what was a very long and difficult process with special thanks going to BMCS members Les Coyne, Hugh Patterson, Lindal Sullival, Linda Thomas and Jessica Yuille.

The bad news is that Clr Ralph Williams has again gotten off very lightly for his environmental vandalism on his property — during the last six months, without an approved DA, has dumped an estimated 2000 cubic metres of fill to a depth of 2 metres over understorey native plants and the root system of large trees (it is not known whether he also buried other natural features such as rock outcrops, Aboriginal sites known to be in the area, or slopes greater than 20%) and allowed excess soil to overflow an inadequate fence.

**Membership Enquiries:** The Society is keen to have new members who are concerned about the welfare of the Blue Mountains natural environment. Contact membership secretary, Ross Coster: Work (02)4759.1247, Home 4759.1837, Fax 4759.1095, Email [haytech@pnc.com.au](mailto:haytech@pnc.com.au), or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

As well, he has been for some time sending his sewage overflow down the escarpment into the national park. It was recommended that he immediately disconnect his sewage overflow pipe, remove 1 metre of the soil and re-vegetate the area over the next six months.

— *Philippa Fincher.*

### **Welcome to New Members**

AP and C Harrison, Katoomba  
Frances Howley and Gurf Yeo, Hazelbrook  
Mike and Geraldine Purtell, Springwood  
The Solomm Family, Blackheath  
Ian Finlayson, Katoomba

### **Recycled Paper Used**

The Society has used recycled paper for years to print Hut News, most recently by Mission Publications. The pre-stamped envelopes we buy from Australia Post are also recycled paper. In response to concerns from members of the Society, we have now moved to recycled paper for ALL office operations.

### **Mayflies**

A feather drifting in the breeze? A fairy on the wing? In May last year we met an unusual little creature near Bonnie Doon. Amanda, who knows about such things, said it was a fairy, and we could have believed her because a fairy would be just so pretty. Carol, who is an entomologist (and knows nothing about fairies) told us it was a mayfly.

We saw some last week (again in May), lots of them, by the Transit of Venus track at Woodford — with slender body a pretty blue, delicate wings outstretched, and a white feather for a tail. So I had a look in my book "Name that Insect".

The earliest winged insects, the Palaeoptera (ancient-winged), are characterised by being unable to flex their wings (that is, to fold them along the body) so the wings stick out from the body even at rest. All other insects are Neoptera (new-winged).

The present day representatives of the Paleoptera, the mayflies and dragonflies, are remnants of groups which seem to have been much more predominant and diverse several hundred million years ago. Among the mayflies the fauna of New Zealand, temperate South America and Australia are strikingly similar, and members of at least five of the nine families in Australia are believed to be of Gondwanan origin. The species in south-eastern Australia all have aquatic larvae.

Mayflies commonly take a year or more to complete a generation. Adults commonly swarm, and are usually found close to water. Adult mayflies are short-lived and do not feed. — *Christine Davies.*



ABOUT RAVENS ...

**Sonnet for Ravens**

In this crass age when dignity is rare,  
Consider the dignity possessed  
By the Raven. Watch them at their nest.  
Enter the territory of a breeding pair.  
At once a quiet dark sentinel will appear  
And eye you sternly with an implied request  
To get you gone, and he will not rest  
From his strict surveillance until you are clear  
Of his domain. Then he displays his coat  
In its black-silver splendour from some tall  
Tree, and ruffling the plumes about his throat,  
Bugles his slow descending clarion call  
To his high tree-top mate who sits alone  
Brooding their mottled eggs: they've go-o-o-ne!  
(Graham Alcorn)

**Our Ravens are Different**

According to Edgar Allen Poe  
"Quoth the Raven, 'Nevermore'",  
But in Australia we all know  
The Raven quotheth, 'Caw, caw, caw'.  
(Graham Alcorn)

**The Raven**

The writer likes the raven;  
He uses him a lot to spice up his dark stories  
and add terror to the plot.  
Yet the raven is a handsome bird and his call  
is all his own;  
It really compares favourably  
with currawong and crow.  
He can also be quite sociable  
and share with you the view.  
He's not so very pushy and prefers  
to be polite;  
Although he may just stare you out  
to gain a tasty bite.

(Myf Young)

**Where the Raven Lives**

On a headland above a valley  
we sit and watch the drifting shadows  
of the clouds, and the mountains,  
not blue, but softly grey,  
stretch out forever,  
mountain beyond mountain.  
(Christine Davies)

**In The Bush**

The variable weather of  
the mountains is one of its  
charms. A recent walk  
illustrated this. After days  
of cloudless skies our  
walking party set off for  
one of my favourite walks,  
namely Blue Gum Forest  
via Du Faur's Head. The  
ridge leading out is so  
windswept that only low  
scrub grows but this gives walkers  
splendid views all around. One can enjoy  
the subtle curtains of blue which drape  
each bay and headland lining both sides of  
the Grose as it flows east to the  
Hawkesbury down Yarramundi way.

Anticipating such pleasant views our  
group was confronted by a heavy cloak of  
mist which limited visibility to about fifty  
yards. Nevertheless all the party enjoyed  
the eerie atmosphere. The stark silhouettes  
of rocks and bushes gave them a markedly  
different character to when seen on a  
sunny day but still full of beauty. The mist  
pulsated like a live being — one moment  
the advance walkers disappeared from  
view then a momentary lift of the fog  
allowed a fresh sighting. And so it went  
on until Du Faur's Head was reached where  
a clear view was had of the Grose Valley  
floor.

**The Silent Hunter**

I am one of those people who  
find it difficult to reconcile their  
passion for cats with their love for  
birds and other wildlife. Even  
though my cat was never allowed  
out at night or when I was not at  
home, she enjoyed the occasional  
stroll in the garden. But not any  
more. I caught her catching a  
victim. Fortunately after a rest in a  
protected dark corner the bird got  
over the initial shock and flew  
away unharmed.

At this time of the year there is  
an increase in the presence of  
Silvereyes and other small birds in  
my garden in the Upper Blue  
Mountains. My cat has developed a  
'stealth walk' to prevent the bell  
announcing her approach. There is  
no bell heavy enough to weigh a cat  
down when she wants to hunt.

From now on, during the day,  
she will have to watch the birds  
from a comfortable cat run in a  
protected spot of the garden. No  
more demanding calls for me to  
open the kitchen door. At night,  
'Cuddles' is used to sleeping inside  
the house, no problem. This keeps  
her happy. I could be happy as  
well if it was not for the nightly  
visits of the tom cat from across the  
road.

It is not difficult to work out  
that, if left free to roam around  
outside a cat will kill more birds  
than fledge in a season — and the  
result? ... "Where have all the birds  
gone?" — Helga.

Who was this Du Faur?

Andy MacQueen in his  
wonderful book "Back  
from the Brink" gives  
us the answer to what  
is known and  
conjectured about the  
track's origin. Very  
briefly then — he was  
the chief draughtsman  
in the Lands Dept until  
1881 and had a  
passionate interest in  
arts and conservation.

He was the driving force behind  
the establishment of Kuring-gai  
Chase National Park. MacQueen  
conjectures the track was used by  
aborigines and later by fishermen in the  
1880s walking out from Leura. There is  
evidence that some brave soul took a horse  
down the head to Blue Gum and ascended  
via Pierces Pass! I can recall the track 20  
years back as a thin foot pad but now it is  
three to four feet wide and very obvious.

The drought no doubt had reduced the  
valley floor to a close cropped carpet but  
the Blue Gums soared skywards, healthy  
and oblivious to hiccups in the weather  
pattern. As usual one can temporality  
become confused in finding the correct  
exit path from the maze of tracks and the  
divided channels of the Grose and Govetts  
Creek not to mention the problem being  
aggravated if the surrounding headlands

**History of Our Walking Tracks**

**Part 4.** (Some of the early private track  
makers become trustees of public reserves  
— Extracts from Jim Smith's Draft  
Historical Report for the Walking Track  
Heritage Study.)

**Reserve Development**

The great majority of BlueMountains  
walking tracks were constructed under the  
auspices of community based voluntary  
organisations. The most important of  
these organisations were the trusts  
appointed under the Crown Land Acts.

The first list of trustees for Blue  
Mountains reserves was gazetted on 11  
October 1878. Some of the early private  
track makers such as Parkes, Fairfax,  
North and Piddington became trustees of  
public reserves and were in an obvious  
position to influence the way the public  
track system was designed. Parkes'  
passion for "landscaping" the bushland  
with lookouts, stone steps, bridges, and  
seats set the pattern for the development  
of recreational reserves in the region.

Trustees received no remuneration for  
their services but were allowed  
considerable freedom in how they spent  
the small annual grants allocated to them.  
Trustees could also lobby for extra  
additional grants for special projects. The  
trustee system allowed enthusiastic and  
energetic trustees such as Rodriguez and  
Murray to create remarkable monuments,  
still enjoyed today, such as the Grand  
Canyon and National Pass walks.

The peak of trustee track building  
occurred in the period 1890 to 1910.

(Next Month: Blue Mountains Towns  
Vied for Tourism.)

are obscured by  
mist. A map and  
compass are  
essential in such a  
situation. That  
night it rained  
heavily and regular  
showers have fallen  
ever since. Will  
this contribute to a  
good wildflower  
season?

How the  
seasons do fly. By  
the time you read  
this the sun will be  
commencing its  
return journey from

its position over the Tropic of Cancer.  
That gives us our shortest day and longest  
shadow.

Good walking in the bush!

— The Bunyip.

## Saving the Bush from Us

### Part 7: Health in Bushland —

#### Encouraging Animals

There is the vexatious question of wildlife animals in gardens and on farms. There is no doubt they are marauders, predators, and mostly quite unfair. Bands of bachelor currawongs descend and take EVERY LAST grape the day before picking them, and I would have left them a tithe of 10%. They did the same with the figs, the apples and the pears. Joined, of course, by the magpies, silver eyes, satin bower bird and possums. So it is a balance between encouragement and deterrence from absolute raids. However, the bottom line is, when it is a war between people and wild animals, the animals lose.

**Creating a Safe Habitat:** Only habitat design will bring the animals you want. There are different types of ecosystems if you want to encourage the small birds, or ringtail possums, or echidnas and bandicoots or you want an special environment to raise rare or endangered species.

For the animals to be free from the threat of foreign predators then a fox proof fence is necessary. In most cases introduced animals and wild animals are not compatible. Small animals are frightened or eaten by dogs. Cats ... well, I think you know about them. So, it is necessary to trap cats, and remove larger animals such as horses, sheep and goats which crop emergent native plant species.

A safe and varied habitat will have a few old trees (kookaburras like a permanent home), a variety of watering places with different quality of water, logs for hiding and feeding around, stones for keeping warm under, good floor litter for disguising oneself and browsing, and, middle storey for hiding in and moving through, not too far from the ground. Starting from bare ground or grass it will be two years or more before your permanent residents take up occupancy.

In the meanwhile, silver eyes, wrens and honeyeaters wait for the plants to grow, and hang around eating insects from the vegetable garden or feeding from fuchsias and pineapple sage near the house. Insectivorous birds search the fruit trees. Animals can die or become locally extinct simply by the removal of too much exotic vegetation too quickly. Wrens and possums lived in my straggly old cypress. I took only half the tree at a time so as not to create problems of homelessness.

Water must be permanent. Once animals grow dependent on a water source they quickly perish if it is allowed to dry out. Some animals like to fly through spray, others like to lie on their back and luxuriate (a huge currawong used to try to float on her back in my too small birdbath). A shelving edge to a pond gives good purchase for small claws and feet. A shrub close by gives a hiding place, or a lookout point for a mate to surveille the field for danger. Some birds need to drink several times a day, others will get their fluids from a juicy apricot or

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JUNE

06 (Sat)

**World Environment Day Celebrations.** Visit the Society's stall at the Springwood Civic Centre.

14 (Sun)

**Kids' Club — Exploration of Jamison Creek.** What lives along the creek? We will also do some bush regeneration. Suitable for six years upwards. Meet 10 am, Wilson Park, Wentworth Falls (near the Darwin's Walk sign). Bring lunch, a drink, and gardening gloves if possible. Jessica 4757.2783.

Contact

15 (Mon)

**Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group, 9-12.** Meet at The Hut at 9 am. Contact Jessica Yuille 4757.2783.

18 (Thu)

**Committee Meeting.** Mid Mountains Community Centre, 7 pm.

26 (Fri)

**General Meeting** at The Hut, 7.30 pm. **Judy Smith** (See page 1)

28 (Sun)

**Digger Cooper Reserve Bushcare Group, 9-12.** Contact Ross Coster.

#### Leisure Walks:

15 (Mon)

**Megalong Valley, Part of the Six-Foot Track.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.30 am. Contact Mervyn Bird 4787.7959. Easy.

22 (Mon)

**Transit of Venus.** Meet Mount View Street, Hazelbrook 9.30 am. Carolyn O'Neill 4757.3141. Medium grade.

Contact

29 (Mon)

**Evans Crown** (near Tarana), Lunch at Tarana Pub. (Bus leaves at 8 am). Contact Mervyn Bird 4787.7959.

Katoomba

#### Bushwalks (Weekends)

07 (Sun)

**Road Builders and Lyrebirds (Lockyer's Line of Road, Cox's Road).** Meet 9.30 am Mount Victoria Station. Contact Christine Davies

4787.7246.

20 (Sat)

**Walking Track to Euroka Clearing.** Meet at the National Park Glenbrook, at 9.30 am. (Walk from there). Contact Liz 4754.4966.

entrance,

### JULY

19 (Sun)

**Kids' Club — Early Morning Bird Walk with Carol Probet.**

20 (Mon)

**Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group, 9-12.** Meet at The Hut at 9 am. Contact Jessica Yuille 4757.2783.

23 (Thu)

**Committee Meeting.** Mid Mountains Community Centre, 7 pm.

31 (Fri)

**General Meeting** at The Hut, 7.30 pm.

#### Leisure Walks:

06 (Mon)

**Mount Boyce.** Meet 9.30 Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Gillian Janus 4787.6181.

13 (Mon)

**The Pheasant's Cave, Mount Wilson.** Meet 9.30 Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079.

20 (Mon)

**Rachel's Track/Clifftop/Braeside.** Meet 9.30 Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958.

Contact

27 (Mon)

**Mystery Walk.** Meet 9.30 Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079.

Jan Cutler

#### Bushwalks (Weekends)

06 (Sun)

**The Tessolated Pavement, Mount Irvine.** Meet 9.30 Mount Victoria Station. Contact Christine Davies 4787.7246. (previously rained out).

18 (Sat)

To be advised in next newsletter.

apple. It is not easy to know how many indigenous animals a well planted bush garden can support. Certainly a pair of maggies is said to need five large eucalypts to raise a pair of young. However it is not the large canopy-dwelling birds which are in danger. Landscaping, based on European design, removes the middle layer, leaving mainly the canopy layer, and so removes the homes of the small and inconspicuous animals and their safety routes which are along the dense leafiness of middle storey plants.

Of course the best thing is to design your garden to take advantage of any scraps of bushland outside your boundaries. In Japanese landscaping, this is called 'sheiki' which means that what you see is also yours to incorporate into your design. In this case, neighbour's gum trees or wattles, the council strip, or park, can complement your planting and add to the sense of wildlife territory.

Some plants are much better food sources than others. Banksia ericifolia is a superb source for many animals from late autumn onwards when there is little else. When there are plants like this, then practice enrichment planting — increase

the numbers of these plants and so increase the food bank at your place. A food calendar for animals is also a flowering calendar for plants. There must be something flowering and seeding every season.

A corollary to all this is to increase our agitation about removal of floor litter and middle storey to create foreign type landscapes. When the shrubs and the litter go, so do the wildlife. Local extinction happens quickly this way. A very subversive behaviour is to do guerrilla planting - scatter seed and plant out parks and roadsides as a social service to the animal life. — *Ro Morrow.*

*'Wilderness, where earth's wild face remains wholly intact, gives us one precious, precarious hold against the drift into the spiritual poverty of modern life — for it is a living link between ourselves and all that has ever happened on the planet. It is an avenue to our origins. It gives us an anchor on the reasons for creation and life, on all unwritten history.'* — *Bob Brown.*