

## KATOOMBA & DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Newsletter No. 23.

February, 1976

Price 10¢.



Sacred Kingfisher  
JOIN THE GOLD LEAGUE OF BIRD LOVERS  
OURS TO PROTECT  
NATURSCHUTZ UNSERE PFLICHT!  
TOCCA A NOI PROTEGGERLI  
ΕΙΝΑΙ ΦΡΟΝΤΙΣ ΑΙΧΗ ΜΑΖ.

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom.  
Dept. of Education N.S.W.  
Conservation Adviser.

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This being so, it behoves us to learn how to manage our resources wisely. Non-renewable resources are going to become scarce eventually - resources such as oil, coal, minerals - these should be used much more conservatively, for from these are produced a large number of by-products considered essential.

Foreseeing future problems, wise management of present resources must be accompanied by much more research into alternative resources, in particular, solar energy.

A third area in wise management is the way we dispose of used materials and the necessity for recycling, especially as waste disposal is now becoming unmanageable.

Within this framework, Mr. Strom saw the need for conservationists to work out their local issues and orders of priority, while lending support to State and national environmental policy as a whole.

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".....St. Francis proposed what he thought was an alternative Christian view of nature and man's relation to it. He tried to substitute the idea of the equality of all creatures, including man, for the idea of man's limitless rule of creation. He failed. Both our present science and our present technology are so tinctured with orthodox Christian arrogance towards nature that no solution for our ecological crisis can be expected from them alone. Since the roots of our trouble are so largely religious, the remedy must also be essentially religious, whether we call it that or not. We must rethink and refeel our nature and destiny. The profoundly religious, but heretical sense of the primitive Franciscans for the spiritual autonomy of all parts of nature may point a direction. I propose Francis as a patron saint of Ecologists."

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Kevin Smith.

NUCLEAR POWER

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"Environmental planning for the future activities in the Hawkesbury basin is probably of greater importance than for any other river basin in New South Wales, and possibly in Australia", says a Study commissioned by the State Government. Our Society has submitted that there is no more important or more vulnerable area than the Blue Mountains, the whole of which lies in the Hawkesbury Basin. It is most pleasing therefore, that the venue of this important Symposium should be in the Upper Mountains.

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For example, the panel discussing the Use of Resources, represents the Dept. of Tourism, Conservation groups, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Agriculture, Real Estate Institute, N.S.W. Water Ski Association, State Pollution Control Commission, Soil Conservation Service of N.S.W., Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission.

Kevin Smith and Graham Alcorn have been elected to represent our Society at the Symposium. There are limited places for individuals. Registration Fee is \$15.00. If interested, write to the National Trust Observatory Hill, Sydney 2000, but registration forms must be in by Feb. 27th. The Secretary, Kevin Smith, has some.

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- English Sparrows and Starlings eat the farmer's cop and soil his corpse.
- Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.
- The chief animals of Australia are the Kangaroo, Larkspur, Boomerang and peccadillo.
- The two genders are masculine and feminine. The masculines are divided into temperate and intemperate, and feminine into frigid and torrid.
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We also have instances of birds using the same nest site again, although their nests had long since disintegrated a pair of cuckoo shrikes built in the crotch of a tree in Katoomba Cascades picnic area. The following year they used a nearby tree, and last spring built again in the first position and successfully raised 3 young. At Leura Cascades, a pair of frogmouths have used the same crotch to build their nest in for 4 years running. Nests of both these species are somewhat flimsy, and soon disintegrate after the young have left.

In the spring of 1974, after building for the 2 previous years in the same crotch, the frogmouths built in another tree just across the road. We had noticed that the female bird always sat in the nest during the day, the smaller male perching in a nearby tree. Frogmouths, of course, are night birds. One morning we found a dead male frogmouth on Cliff Drive. The female still sat on the nest. The next day the nest was vacant, and there were white eggshells on the ground below - the contents probably eaten by a currawong.

The following day the female was sitting on a new nest built in the old position! She sat in it calling all day (we were working in the vicinity). A couple of days later, she was sitting serenely on the nest, with a new mate perched in the next tree. They successfully raised 2 young, and nested again in the same place last spring, raising 2 young. Although it appears that the male frogmouth takes no part in nest building or daytime brooding, apparently his nighttime activities are essential to the successful hatching and raising of the young.

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*This version of the Newsletter was re-typed from the original by Phoebe Coster in February 2021 to enable search engines to 'see' the text. Minor changes have been made to correct typographical errors and to add clarity.*

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- March 6<sup>th</sup>: Car ride to Bouddi National Park. Meet 8.30 am at Wentworth Falls Station  
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- April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Pulpit Rock. Meet 9.30 am. Blackheath Station.
- May 1<sup>st</sup>: Megalong Valley. Meet Blackheath Station 9.30 am.
- June 5<sup>th</sup>: Mount Hay. Meet 10 am at Leura School.
- July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Day trip to Wirrimbirra.

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