

KATOOMBA AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO: 51 - FEBRUARY, 1983 - Price 20¢

Editor: R.W. Alcorn, 43 Rutland Road, Medlow Bath.



WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH

Patron: Mr. Allen A. Strom. A.M.

"The degree of civilization of any people may be judged by their attitude to wildlife which is entirely at their mercy". Plato

OUR SOCIETY

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

Fri. March 23, 8.00 p.m. - Annual Meeting - Election of Officers.

Fri. April 29, 8.00 p.m. - A meeting directed to Society business, free discussion and ideas from the members.

Fri. May 27, 8.00 p.m. - Speaker to be announced.

COMING MONTHLY WALKS:

Sat. April 9 - A series of short walks to the several lookouts on the escarpment of the Shipley plateau. See for yourself why many of the residents are not so keen on further development. Meeting place 10.00 a.m. Cnr of Bundarra Street and Station Street i.e. cross the railway line from the highway and you are in Bundarra Street. Leader L. Jones 57.2270.

NOTE: This walk is on the second Saturday as the first is Easter Saturday.

Sat. May 7 - Federal Pass from Jamieson Lookout - its full length or the choice of ascent at Giant Stairway the approximate half way point. Transport arrangements will be made to suit both groups of walkers. Meeting point at corner of Mall and Highway 10.00 a.m. Leader K. Sherlock 57.1927.

Sat June 4 - Ingar Picnic Area - Mt. Bedford 2 hours return from Ingar. Your choice to potter about the picnic area or to join in the pleasant upland heath walk. Meeting place behind the Brown Horse Inn, Kings Tableland Road Wentworth Falls 10.00 a.m. Leader L. Jones 57.2270.

COMING MID-WEEK NATURE RAMBLES:

Thursday March 17 - Lyre Bird Dell. Meet Gordon Falls Picnic Ground at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday April 21 - Kanimbla Valley fire trail. Meet Mt. Victoria Station parking area at 10.00 a.m. Leader Rachel Makinson.

Thursday May 19 - Prince Henry Cliff walk, Silver Mist to Leura Cascades. Meet Silver Mist on Cliff Drive east of Echo Point at 10.00 a.m.

A BRIEF REPORT ON SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF OUR SOCIETY OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

Your Management Committee has decided to include in our Newsletter details of some of the more important work of the various committees of this Society so that you can be more aware of our achievements and activities. The following details are some of this work carried out over the last six months or so.

Request to Council that they remove rocks from the front of the Hut to improve parking. This has been done.

Inspection made of Korawal School and advice given on regeneration of disturbed areas.

Your President attended the Tasmanian Wildlife Society meeting in Sydney addressed by Dr. Brown.

The Land Use Committee prepared a detailed submission on Policy Guidelines of the Society. A sub-committee has been set up to finalise a draft for submission to members.

Our Society, together with the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society met with Council to discuss sand mining at Bell and to restate our objections.

A Delegation from our Society met with the Mayor to state our objections to the Convention Centre of Leura Golf Course. Mayor asked that we submit memo setting out our views. This was done.

Our President, together with Eric and June Blick, attended a two day Conference of the Nature Conservation Council in Sydney.

A particularly fine and detailed submission by the Land Preservation Committee on Water Nymphs Dell has been sent to the Lands Office, Council and Mr. Bob Debus M.P. We expect that our views for the protection of this endangered rainforest will be accepted.

Our Society was host to a special meeting convened by the Colong Committee to discuss conservation problems of the Blue Mountains and how best to protect the scenic wonders. Meeting was attended by Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Friends of the Earth, Mount Tomah Society, Total Environment Centre, Australian Conservation Foundation, Ald. John Dundas and Mr. Bob Debus M.P. A further meeting will be held in March 1983.

A special Management Committee meeting was held to discuss Society Policy. Sub-committee to reconvene to discuss further.

Following comments on lack of time for members to raise general business, your Management Committee has decided not to have a guest speaker every every third or fourth meeting and to throw the meeting open for members to discuss any matter which might concern you. The first such meeting will be in April or May.

Our Vice President has made an inspection of the Mountains by helicopter after the recent bush fires to check on the effectiveness of fire control. His findings were that, in this instance, the various authorities did a good job.

The Land Use Committee has organised a forum to discuss optimum population of the Blue Mountains.

Possible closure of the road to Narrow Neck. Another achievement of our Society.

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Approach to Land Board Office to have 6 ft. track - Katoomba to Jenolan Caves re-opened. Advice has been received that this has been approved and necessary signs are being prepared.

A SELECTION OF A FEW OF OUR LETTERS ETC.

Chairman sent a telegram to Prime Minister urging the Commonwealth Government to act on saving the Franklin River.

Letter to Ross Free M.P. re insufficient funding of the National Estate Programme. Reply received supporting our views.

Letter to Premier of N.S.W. supporting allocation of funds for re-forestation, provided natural timber is not cleared to plant pine.

Letter to Mr. Bob Debus M.P. expressing our concern about proposed changes to the State Planning Policy regarding Medium Density Housing and surplus Public Land.

A DAY WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Many visitors were attracted to the Hut on February 26 eager to learn how to grow native plants in gardens on the Blue Mountains. They were well rewarded. Jill Dark's talk was very informative and good to listen to. The audience was most appreciative.

The botany walk which followed Jill's talk was also much appreciated by all participants. They were amazed at how much they would normally have passed without noticing, especially the variety of inconspicuous little native orchids along the track.

Jill kindly donated 2 copies of Barbara Salter's "Native Gardens and Birds" for a raffle. The lucky winners were holders of tickets F35 (Lonsdale) and F19 (Sebbens).

The sale of native plants (26 & 27 Feb.) gave a \$490 boost to the Society's Land Preservation Fund. The increasing enthusiasm for growing native plants, especially local ones, is very gratifying. It is one way by which the Society is able to draw attention to the beauty in our bushland and the need for its preservation.

The Land Preservation Fund Committee would especially like to thank those who donated so many attractive plants, and to thank Jill Dark for so ably and generously sharing her knowledge.

JOINT MEETINGS OF MOUNTAIN CONSERVATIONISTS

Great news for the Mountains is the interest of the deservedly famous wilderness society, the Colong Committee. Its latest achievement was to spearhead the campaign which led to the Wran Government's decision to phase out logging in N.S.W. rainforests.

In response to a letter from Mayor Peter Quirk, the Committee initiated meetings of representatives of Blue Mountains Conservation Societies. The first one was attended by 40 people. The next meeting will be held at the Hut, 8.00 p.m. Friday March 18th.

WE HELP SAVE THE FRANKLIN

Participation of members of the Lower Mountains Society and our own with the Blue Mountains Branch of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society in giving out "Save the Franklin" how to vote cards in Calare undoubtedly helped considerably in defeating the sitting Government member in that swinging electorate. We are writing to the new member David Simmons A.L.P., asking him to stand firm on his Party's promise to stop the Dam.

INTEREST IN OPTIMUM POPULATION

Our February meeting discussion on population pressures on the Blue Mountains environment attracted much attention. Our thanks to Michael Ball and Shirley Jones for the trouble they took in preparing their addresses. Also to Mayor Peter Quirk, his wife Margaret and Chief Engineer John Metcalfe for attending and contributing to our meeting.

Thanks also to the Gazette for sending a reporter and writing up the proceedings so well, also to the Echo for their line report. We hope that positive action will flow from these discussions.

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

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