

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1974.

The year just past has been probably one of the busiest years the society has had. Certainly it has been the busiest I can remember.

Most of the work done during the past year involved a complete departure from any of our previous conservation experience. I am referring here, of course, to our town planning exercises. I think there were two important ways in which this exercise widened our ideas. Firstly in the insight we all gained into the mechanics and problems of land use planning, and secondly, I think we all gained a certain measure of respect for the problems faced by local government, and particularly council staff. The co-operation we received from the staff of Blue Mountains City Council was, in most cases, tremendous.

There is no need to reiterate the history of our planning exercise, suffice to say working with our tame town planning expert Ray Rauscher was an enjoyable if somewhat exhausting experience.

Unfortunately, due to a combination of work load and extended wet weather the trapping and spotlighting side of our activities suffered considerably, in fact I think only one or two trapping runs were held. On one of these we were accompanied by Mr. Allan Fairley who subsequently gave us quite a generous mention in the new edition of his book "On the beaten track".

Unfortunately the good work of the early part of the year could not be kept up entirely. My own forgetfulness leads the record here - in forgetting the date I was due to appear before the commissioner on our town plan submission. For that omission I apologise to the society.

In general, when reading through the minutes, particularly during the last three or four months, there seem to have been many motions passed and immediately forgotten. Possibly we attempt too much, perhaps we should be much more selective in what we try to cover during the coming year.