

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 119,  
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JULY NEWSLETTER

1978

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NEXT MEETING: Friday, 11th August, 1978 at Glenbrook Primary School,  
Woodville Street, Glenbrook at 8.00 pm.

OUTDOORS PROGRAM

16th July, 1978 - Castlereagh State Forest. Meet 9.30 am at Glenbrook  
Primary School.

3rd September, 1978 -- Working Bee at Arms of Australia.

10th September, 1978 - Walk to Faulconbridge Point. Meet 9.30 am at  
Springwood High School.

THE LOWER WOLGAN VALLEY

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Wolgan Valley is under threat from the Electricity Commission who are considering damming the Colo River.

It must be pointed out there is also a threat to the Lower Wolgan Valley (the area most visited by campers) by Coalex Pty. Ltd. who have leases in the area. In 1979, construction of a colliery is planned on the plateau between Rocky and Deanes Creeks at the headwaters of Surefire Canyon. with a dam possibly being built on Deanes Creek near Constance Gorge. The last 12 months have seen the building of miles of new roads associated with drilling operations.

Until recently, signs of human presence in the area were fading. The floor of the valley had been used for marginal grazing. Forestry roads on the plateau to the south had become indistinct.

THE LOWER WOLGAN VALLEY (Cont.)

The whole valley has many scenic features. The floor of the valley has superb flat, grassy campsites and many magnificent stands of trees. The river has cut its way through a level scrub covered plateau creating massive sheer cliffs, hundreds of metres high, forming the sides of a truly great gorge. In some places on the plateau, the vegetation is almost alpine with stunted snow gums and yet other areas are open heathland. The Hawkesbury sandstone has been eroded away exposing the top layer of Narrabeen sandstone (the layer that forms the upper cliffline in the main valley) creating complex rock formations. This sandstone contains thin bands of ironstone which is more resistant to erosion. Wind and time have sculpted these rock formations or pagodas into the most bizarre shapes imaginable.

One of the most remarkable features of the area is its sandstone canyons. These are very deeply entrenched valleys that formed when tributaries of the Wolgan cut through the lower of the main clifflines. The canyons are exciting places to visit; places of eerie beauty. Swirling water over thousands of years has worn the walls into incredible pothole formations. Daylight is often almost totally excluded.

After cutting dark twisting canyons, the walls of the creeks widen to form massive gorges. They are flanked by two separate clifflines each about 100 m high. The main gorges are those cut by Rocky Creek (which has more than fourteen canyons alone within its catchment area), Deanes Creek and Annie Rowan Creek.

As stated above, Coalex propose a colliery in the region of these gorges. What effect will the waste products from the mines have on these creeks? Will we have a repeat of the subsidence and landslides in the Burragorang Valley once the coal is removed resulting in damage to those unique rock formations, the pagodas?

Extracts from the Minutes of the General Meeting held 9th June, 1978 at Glenbrook Primary School.

Correspondence In: Movement Against Uranium Mining literature  
A.C.F. lecture program  
National Parks Association information  
National Parks and Wildlife literature

M. Dark reported on bushfire committee meetings and Council bushfire meetings. A joint submission has been presented to Council.