



LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION
SOCIETY.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1980.

P.O. BOX 119 SPRINGWOOD 2777.

President B. Bramsen Ph. 512787 Secretary. W. Godfrey. 391748.

Next MEETING:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th. Glenbrook Primary School
at 8p.m. Come along to see Beverley Fiedler's
beautiful slides on insects. Also it is proposed
to discuss the re-introduction of monthly meetings.
Help make the first meeting of the year a success!

FUTURE EVENTS.

MARCH 9th. A trip to the Kangaroo Orphanage of
Australia at 407 New Line Road, Dural where we will
be shown around the park with its 170 macropods
by Mr. Garth Moreland. Then a visit to the Pennant
Hills Forestry Commission Nursery is planned, and
the secretary, Wendy Godfrey has asked everyone back
to her place at 7 Kent Road, Glenbrook for afternoon
tea. Meet at the Kangaroo Park at 10 a.m.

MAY 11th. A walk at Mick and Jill Dark's new
property at Hazelbrook.

FEBRUARY 9th. Ivy Market at Springwood in the morning
at the Civic Centre. Enjoy a great time wandering around
the myriad of stores and support your society.

MARCH 8th. Ivy Market at Springwood.

LONG ANGLE GULLY.

The society received a letter from Blue Mountains Council recently, regarding the clearing taking place in Long Angle Gully, Warrimoo. In part, the letter states; "Council considered legal advice in respect to the breach of the Tree Preservation Order and on the basis of such advice, decided not to proceed with the prosecution for this breach.

The Council has taken steps to re-draft the Tree Preservation Order so as to increase its chance to obtain successful prosecutions in the future and has also adopted revised procedures on the collection of evidence to prevent a recurrence of this situation in future."

The Society has written to the Blue Mountains Council and the Minister for Local Government, asking that the matter be looked into urgently.

BLUE MOUNTAINS PLANNING SCHEME.

The Blue Mountains Planning Scheme Draft was exhibited for five months in 1973, following which, the Minister has considered a number of objections and a number of alterations ensued. Due to the extent of these alterations, the plan is again being exhibited to enable those people affected by the changes the right of objection.

It is recommended to members to view these changes, some especially good, along the escarpment, at the Council offices at Katoomba and Springwood. The Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Exhibition is open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 1.00pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm as well as Saturday Mornings.

PROPOSED BLAXLAND SHOPPING CENTRE.

The Blue Mountains City Council has an application to develop the site on the corner of Wilson Way and Mitchell's Pass Road for a shopping Plaza, similar to the one recently opened at Emu Plains. The proposal

allows for some 27 shops and parking space for 400 odd cars. The society is lodging an objection on a number of points; - the land is zoned Residential - there is already adequate shopping outlets available, and it is doubtful that residents will prefer to go there instead of Penrith....A mistake learned from the Emu Plains shopping complex. - disturbance of the quiet Residential nature of the area. etc etc etc.

If you strongly object to such a massive complex being built in your vicinity, please write to the Council stating your point of view. There is also a petition available at the Blaxland and Glenbrook shops.

SOUTHERN MACQUARIE MARSHES.

The Society has written to the State Pollution Control Commission objecting to the proposed water management works to be carried out by the Water Resources Commission in the Southern Macquarie Marshes north of Warren in N.S.W. Interference of the direction and flow of the water in this area will be disastrous for the breeding colonies of Ibis and other species of waterfowl. A decline in Ibis numbers could leave graziers in surrounding areas with plague locust problems.

SOUTH WEST TASMANIA.

Thanks to the efforts of our hard working members at the Ivy Markets the Society is in a financial position to help other groups in need of support. To date, \$200 has been donated to the South West Tasmania Wilderness Society to help in their bid to save the wild rivers, Franklin and Gordon, from being dammed by the Hydro-electricity Commission.

The Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service has proposed a Wild Rivers National Park over the area, but the bias in Tasmania is towards the H.E.C. A lot of support is needed and it is expected that a decision will be made within a month. Enclosed in your newsletter are post cards which you can conveniently post to lodge your support, or better still, write your own letter.

This new H.E.C. scheme will cost \$1.3 BILLION plus the interest. It has been estimated that 60% of the Tasmanian's electricity bill goes towards paying off interest and loans for such schemes.

A Lower Gordon Dam would affect the salinity of the water downstream of the dam, thus destroying the riverside vegetation and the famous reflections that some 30,000 people come to see each summer season. Other recreational activities pursued in the area include caving, rafting, liloing, walking and aerial sightseeing.

Wilderness is the most rapidly disappearing resource in the world. The South West comprises Tasmania's largest remaining wilderness and the Franklin and Lower Gordon are an integral part of this.

Channel 7, in its program, "The World Around Us" will be featuring Damon Smith's film "Tasmania's South West- a Wilderness in Question" in February. Don'T miss the program!

MUMBULLA MOUNTAIN.

Whilst on the question of finance, the Society made a further donation of \$100 to the aborigines in the south (fighting to retain their tribal grounds from being logged) in an effort to aid in the costs and restoration of their sacred sites. The talk by Gaboo Ted Thomas at Glenbrook last year has inspired many, and it is also hoped that a film documentary will be made featuring their culture.

BUSHFIRES

The Society is very concerned about the recent publicity concerning the recent bushfires, and how to combat them. Here is one disturbing article that appeared in the Star on January 23rd.

"Sydney's bushfires had exposed serious problems created by the State Government Policy of banning forest management practices in national park areas, an official of the Associated Country Sawmillers of N.S.W. said.

Mr. A.K. Jordon, executive director of the group, said that the policy had exacerbated the bushfires.

'Many National Park areas which were destroyed by recent bush fires could have been saved from the ferocity of the flames if the Government hadn't been backed into a corner by over zealous preservationists' Mr. Jordon said. "In state forest areas, where timber harvesting is one of the

permitted activities, logging roads open up access to otherwise inaccessible locations allowing fighters a far greater opportunity of containing the outbreaks. Yet the harvesting operations remove only 2% of the green cover of the forest, while leaving behind a regenerating new forest which is slightly more fire resistant," he said. Mr Jordon said unlogged areas of the forest accumulated litter from trees and shrubs in the form of twigs, branches and dead leaves, at the rate of 10 tonnes per hectare per year.

Mr. Jordon said the National Parks and Wildlife Service Policy of refusing to take any bushfire prevention measures inside National Parks made them tinder boxes.

"Logging and prescribed burning during winter months are two ways in which the threat of bushfires and the ferocity of bushfires can be reduced" he said. Mr. Jordon called on the Government to review its policy on National Parks and Wilderness areas.

"Conservationists have demanded that all logging and mining should be banned in the proposed Wollemi National Park, stretching for thousands of hectares around the western outskirts of Sydney," he said. "Such an exclusion is not justifiable in the public interest and can create another massive tinder box which can threaten Sydney's western suburbs within a year or two."

Statements such as those contained in the above article can be very damaging, especially when read by those seeking any method to stop the bushfires during a highly emotive and vulnerable time immediately after the event of such a serious bushfire. The society is very concerned that the conservationists point of view be put forward very strongly in the next few months in order that people may see the folly in articles such as those above. This is a very important question in which all members should be involved. At the next meeting it is proposed to reintroduce monthly meetings, such that one meeting in two will be given over to discuss the formulation of a strong Bushfire Policy.

The Society supports the conclusions of a submission to the Planning and Environment Commission by the Nature Conservation Council on Bushfire Control and Urban Development in the Sydney Region. Briefly these are; 1. Urban development should not be permitted in areas where;

- * - there is a history of serious bush fires.
 - the land slope exceeds 1 in 6.
 - water is not available at sufficient pressure for fighting a fire.
- * 2. Controls should be introduced through Statutory Planning Schemes and I.D.O.s including;
- construction of perimeter roads
 - provision of a belt in which intensive litter reduction is applied.
- * 3. Opposition to broad area control burning in national parks and nature reserves until the effects on natural systems is fully understood.
- * 4. Elongated and isolated ridge top development should be prohibited.
- * 5. Boundaries of urban zones in bushfire prone areas should be reduced to a minimum.
- * 6. The visual impact of these measures such as perimeter roads should be taken into account in plan preparation.
- * 7. Restrictions should be placed on materials used and design of house plans in order to encourage home owners to take some responsibility for the protection of their individual property.
- * 8. New subdivisions in fire hazard areas should be released on a progressive basis.

There is plenty of room for discussion, and we urge you to come along with your ideas, don't just leave it to the few to make decisions that will affect us all. Please give some serious thought to the above points. The society sent a letter to Mr. Wran expressing concern about bushfire control in NSW, the reply being that it was passed on to Mr. Crabtree for attention. An investigation was also asked for, into deliberately lit bushfires.

PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 1979.

"Despite continuing small membership, we have enjoyed another active and interesting year.

In activities we became more involved with other groups - i.e. tree and shrub planting with the Nepean District Historical Society at Arms of Australia Inn, weeding and clearing of debris with Glenbrook Lagoon Society, with Springwood residents interested in the Eucalypt Deanii stand, and in the grounds of Glenbrook Kindergarten. With Friends of the Earth and the Upper Mountains Conservation Society there was an excellent day out in Murphy's Glen and Bush Dance at Lawson. Also, with Friends of the Earth, celebration of Library Week and S.G.A.P. flower exhibition, we had displays on show.

Walks and camping expeditions have been from local areas to as far a field as Munghorn Gap: and we have travelled by means of slides from the Colo Wilderness to Nepal. There were also two good spotlight evenings during the year.

In talks we went back in history to the building of the railroad over the Blue Mountains and again further back to the very beginnings of earthly life from which, through millions of years, have evolved the creatures we now fight to preserve. And in this latter, members enjoyed the delightful opportunity of seeing through microscopes, some of these earliest forms.

By the efforts of the members manning a stand at the Ivy Market, money has been raised to give more aid to other bodies fighting specific causes.

I would like to thank all office bearers and willing members who have, by their efforts, made this a successful year."

Besse Bramsen.

Officers for 1980.

President.....Besse Bramsen
Vice PresidentMick Dark
Vice President.....Philip Simpfendorfer
Secretary.....Wendy Godfrey (assisted by Aleen Hanley)
Minutes Secretary.....Jill Dark
Editor.....Christine Stickley
Treasurer.....Colin Powell
Library is still at Aleen Hanley's garage, for members to use.

See you at the next meeting on February 8th at 8pm at Glenbrook Primary School.
