Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

MAY 1985

P.O. Box 119, Springwood, 2777.

N E W S L E T T E R - editor Sue Threlfo

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SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

At the April general meeting a very worthwhile display and talk on weeds, by Besse and others, was unfortunately supported by a rather small attendance.

The last two committee meetings were held at Besse's, thanks Besse. Would anyone offer their home for the next or future workshop meetings? This could be YOUR contribution to the LBMCS. Let one of the contacts know.

The Blue Mountains City Council tip at Blaxland - The Society has been involved through a deputation to a BMCC committee meeting, a Gazette article and 2KA coverage. We are concerned about the unrestricted access to the tip, dumping of hazardous wastes, no moves to recycle wastes, direct increases in littering and rates consequent to dumping charges being imposed.

Chris Stickley compiled submissions on the Blue Mountains Heritage Study, and the Mulgoa Basin. Thanks Chris.

The Gazette published our letter of protest about the possible airport siting.

We continue the campaign to heal the waterline scarring west of Mt Riverview, with articles, photographs, letters, telephone calls. The same destruction will possibly remain as the MWS&DB extends the line towards Katoomba.

George is in the middle of a late but worthwhile submission on the proposed national woodchip industry.

LBMCS donated $50 to the ACF Antarctic Action Group.

Bob Chapman submitted comments on the Blue Mountains Environment Management Plan. Thank you, Bob.

We continue to hold the plants, odds and ends table at the Springwood Ivy Market on the second Saturday of each month. Please help us by donating (or BUYING) pre-loved goods. Aleen will receive any goods donated. If you can help also, by minding the stall, let Aleen know.

We are planning to liaise more closely with the Upper Mountains conservation group. These activities are planned:

- joint management committee meetings to be held quarterly, the first being at Mick and Jill Dark's in August. Contact George nearer the time for details.
- we will draw up a combined roster for attending BMCC meetings, with transfer of information to either group via the respective presidents.

- joint walks - the first being our September walk from Lennox Bridge to Bluff Lookout through Darks Common. Details next newsletter.

FUTURE ISSUES These may inspire your future involvement at meetings:

- Castlereagh toxic waste disposal
- damming of the Upper Murray
- proposed Wild Rivers Act
- campaign to add Mt Werong to National Park and save it from foresting
- alternative highway proposal (Bells Line of Road or through the National Park?)
- water sample testing in the Blue Mountains
- and many more new and ongoing issues.

SPECIAL NOTES

* When the next subscriptions fall due the LBMCS will be offering a discounted five year membership. Details next newsletter.

* Paul and Wendy Godfrey are no longer able to publish our newsletter. We thank them for their prolonged and energetic contributions.

* There is always the need for more help in our group. Would anyone be prepared to print our newsletters? George is presently refurbishing the Society's electric REMINGTON RAND REX ROTARY! duplicator. This help would save on current printing costs.

* MEMBERSHIPS were due in OCTOBER 84. If your subscription is NOT current this will be your LAST newsletter. If in doubt contact Aleen. The fees are $5 individual and $7 family membership.

* We continue the plea for a volunteer to arrange speakers and/or entertainment for the monthly general meetings. If you can help us phone one of the contacts.

* On Sunday 25 August Margaret Esson will lead an inspection of the endangered Faulconbridge Mallee, Eucalyptus burgessiana. Meet at 10 am opposite Faulconbridge Post Office.

* Dr Kate Short, of the THCC OF TEC, would welcome any information on pesticide use in the Blue Mountains. They would like to build up a seasonal picture of usage - what, when, where and by whom. She can be contacted on 02-278476, or if you contact Sue on 395125 I will convey the information.

* 5 June each year is World Environment Day. It is celebrated by member countries of the United Nations Environment Program. The Australian theme this year is "involving youth in the environment".

CONSERVATION SNIPPETS

* The N.S.W. Government will add 4700 hectares (the Wheeny Creek area) to Wollemi National Park, making its total area about 484830 hectares.

* The S.P.C.C. has recommended a moratorium on further government approvals for sand and gravel mining in the Upper Hawkesbury River. Reasons given were:
- saline intrusion could increase
- removing shallows would increase nuisance algal blooms (caused by nutrients in sewerage discharge)
- taste, odour and public health problems would increase with blue-green algae growth in the drinking water supplies
- turbidity would increase, affecting aquatic life.

* A group of cavers have formed a protection group for the Jenolan area. Issues in contention are sewerage pollution of the Jenolan River (a tributary of the Coxs River) and lack of planning for development in the Reserve.

* Tomaree, near Newcastle, is a newly established coastal National Park, with an area of 800 Hectares.

* Bauxite mining is continuing and gradually destroying jarrah forests in W.A. Detailed information can be obtained from "Campaign to Save Native Forests", 794 Hay Street, Perth, 6000.

* Morrisons Lake, western N.S.W., is the site of a new 312 hectare nature reserve - a wetland habitat for birds, including the endangered freckled duck.

* Plans to dam the Upper Murray at Murray Gates are being considered. This would inundate part of Kosciusko National Park.

* The East Gippsland Coalition has been formed (from A.C.F. and other groups) to campaign against destruction of critical areas of local forests, and for ecologically sensitive management practices of timber felling in alternative areas. Clear felling is currently occurring.

* Tasmanian Government has refused to make a National Park of a botanically significant sandstone and dolorite region in the Douglas-Apsley area. Forestry Commission is now making plans.

* The final stage of the Pieman River hydro-electric scheme has begun to fill.

* Approval is being sought from the Tasmanian Government, to develop an old gold-mine near the Jane River. This is in the heart of the World Heritage Area.

* A "forest education kit", suitable for educating school students on forest conservation issues, is available. It comprises teacher notes, student excercises and slides. Although researched in W.A., it is a good introduction to general forest conservation. More information can be obtained from C. S. N. F. of W.A., 794 Hay Street, Perth, 6000.

* Like Australia, New Zealand suffers the problems of species facing extinction due to the smuggling racket. The world's oldest reptile, the tuatara, and a flightless parrot, the kakapo, are two endangered species.

* The Antarctic Action Group has formed within the A.C.F. You can obtain information about this group from A.C.F., 672B Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122.

* A.C.F. has expanded and revitalised its office in Sydney. There is now a shop-front with lots of books, gift ideas, souvenirs, etc, for sale. They have begun a roster of volunteers, which you may be interested in joining. The office is next door to T.E.C., third floor, Argyle Centre, 18 Argyle Street, The Rocks.

* Since Bob Carr took over the Planning and Environment portfolio he has resumed the bi-monthly meetings with conservation groups.

* Dr Kate Short is working with T.E.C. this year, as consultant on toxic and hazardous chemicals. She will research; initiate new publications; liaise with government, media and public.

* Herdsman Lake, six km from Perth centre, is a newly established Wildlife Centre, a World Wildlife Fund Australia project. This wetlands is a haven for migratory and local birds, and other wildlife.

* The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has named twelve plants nearing extinction. The Philip Island Hibiscus, Hibiscus insularis, is one of these, due to grazing by introduced species. Only four plants remain!

* Over eighty Australian native animals are listed as endangered, by IUCN.

* Victorian Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands has promised the establishment of an Alpine National Park to link up with Kosciusko National Park. Grazing, mining and logging activities will be allowed to continue unless lobbies are successful.

* In Gordon, a breeding colony of grey-headed flying foxes has been safegarded by Ku-ring-gai Council and the Heritage Council. Together, they bought adjacent land to add to the existing reserve.

* A wetlands area near Brunswick Heads has been temporarily saved from urban development. An interim conservation order of two years has been placed on the area, with the aim to have a permanent conservation order imposed under the Heritage Act. Some damage has already been done by illegal clearing.

* A fire, which burned in eastern Kalimantan, Borneo, for eleven months, has caused the probable extinction of certain plants and animal species. It has changed the local climate and will probably reduce food production for a long time.

* Queensland Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and the Arts (how's that for a portfolio!) has launched a campaign to make national parks more appealing to a wider proportion of the community. How? By suggesting the building of kiosks and lodge style accommodation facilities in or near national parks.

* Atleast fifty of the endangered freckled duck were shot during the first week-end of the 1985 open season on ducks. Only the game species can be shot legally. These are Black Duck, Wood Duck, Shoveller, Hardhead, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Pink-eared Duck and Mountain Duck.

* Yuraygir National Park, in the Maclean area, has survived the threat of a through road. The proposed road will now not go ahead.

* CSIRO scientists have demonstrated that forest fire causes nutrient losses so high that it takes many years to replenish the soil. Their experimental sample took eleven and twenty years for the nitrogen and phosphorus levels respectively

to reach pre-fire quantities.

* Newnes Plateau is being considered as an alternative to the Palm Beach area for construction sand mining. The area contains 150 km^2 of readily extractible friable sandstone to a depth of 100m.

SNIPPETS SOURCES

National Parks Journal; March 85 and May 85

Australian Wild; Summer and Autumn issues 85

Total Environment Centre Newsletter; February/March 85

Wilderness News; March 85

World Wildlife Fund Australia Newsletter; Jan-Mar 85

A.C.F. Newsletter; March, April and May issues 85

N.C.C. of N.S.W. Newsletter; April 85

BOOKSHOP BROWSING - prices approximate

FIGHTING FOR WILDERNESS; ed. Molley and Messer; Fontana and ACF; 84; $8.95
GREATER DAINTREE - World Heritage Tropical Rainforest at Risk; Gregg Borschmann; ACF; 84; $9.95
POPULATE OR PERISH? The Stresses of Population Growth in Australia; ed. Birrell, Hill and Nevill; ACFand Fontana; 84; $8.95
WONNANGATTA MOROKA NATIONAL PARK; John Siseman; Algona: 85; $8.95
NATIVE PLANTS OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS; Margaret Baker, Robin Corringham and Jill Dark; Three Sisters Productions; 84; $8.50
THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA A Book of Identification; K. Simpson and W. Day; Lloyd O'Neill; 84; $36
AUSTRALIAN FRESHWATER FISHES - Biology and Management; Merrick and Schmida; 84; $45
BOB BROWN OF THE FRANKLIN RIVER; P. Thompson; Allen and Unwin; 84; $9.95
THE UNDERSTANDING OF ANIMALS; ed. Ferry; 84; $12.95
BASIC MUD BRICK; Lin; 84; $3
THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM COMPLETE BOOK OF AUSTRALIAN MAMMALS; ed. Strahan; 84; $45
MAMMAL TRACKS AND SIGNS - A Field Guide for South-eastern Australia; Triggs;84; $13
THYLACINE - The Tragedy of the Tasmanian Tiger; Guiler; 84 $25
THE PLATYPUS; Grant; 84; $7.95
STRANDINGS, WAYS TO SAVE WHALES - A Humane Conservationist's Guide; Robson; 84; $20
AUSTRALIAN GRASSES; Burbidge; 84; $29.95
A FIELD GUIDE TO WEEDS IN AUSTRALIA; Lamp and Collet; 84; $21.95
USEFUL WILD PLANTS IN AUSTRALIA; A.R. and J.W. Cribb; 84; $5.95
FOREST TREES OF AUSTRALIA, fourth ed.; Boland et al; 84; $45
INSECTS OF AUSTRALIA; Goode; 84; $14.95
INSECT ECOLOGY; Matthews and Kitching; 84; $17.95
AUSTRALIA AND THE NUCLEAR CHOICE; T.E.C.; 84; $7.95
TREES AND SHRUBS IN RAINFORESTS OF N.S.W. AND STHN QLD; Williams, Harden, McDonald; 84; $8
THE RECYCLE-IT-KIT; Environment Strdies Assoc. of Vic.; 84; $4
PESTS, PREDATORS AND PESTECIDES; Conacher; 84; $3.60
PESTICIDES:THE NEW PLAGUE - The Victims, The Politics, The Alternatives; Cawcutt, Watson; 84; $7
AN ALTERNATIVE GUIDE TO PEST CONTROL; THCC of TEC; 84; 60¢
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT; TEC/ACA; 84; $7.95
WETLANDS; NPWS; 84; $5
HOW TO MANAGE YOUR BUSHLAND RESERVES; NCC; 85; $7 including postage
WATERBIRDS OF AUSTRALIA; National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife; Angus and Robertson; 85; $51
READERS DIGEST GREAT BARRIER REEF; 84; $35
THE MACQUARIE ILLUSTRATED WORLD ATLAS; Macquarie Library; 85; $59.95
AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE; Fox and Parish; Rigby; $24.95
FROM KATOOMBA TO JENOLAN CAVES - The Six Foot Track 1884-1984; Jim Smith; Second Back Row Press; 84; $12.95
AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS; Sue Thompson; Quest; 84; $5.95
THE FOREST BOOK - Photographs of Tasmania's Endangered Forests; compiled Blakers et al; Tasmania Conservation Trust; 84; $7.95
THE LIVING PLANET; David Attenborough; Collins; 84; $25

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LBMCS CALENDER

MEETINGS: Fri 14 June — Kevin Rozzoli, state member for the Hawkesbury area, will speak on the future of the area.
Fri 12 July — Ruth Overton will present her travelogue.
Fri 9 August — A representative of Aust. Trust for Cons. Volunteers speaks.

WORKSHOPS: phone Aleen or George for times and venues, but dates are
Mon 1 July
Mon 29 July
Mon 26 August

WALKS: Sun 16 June — Blue Gum Swamp to Grose Lookout.
Meet 9am at the end of Whitecross Road, Winmalee.
This will take most of the day.

Sun 14 July — Lockleys Pylon from Mt Hay Road.
Meet 10am at start of the walking track about 15km along the Mt Hay Rd. If heading up the G.W.H. turn right near Leura Public School.
A day's rations and warm clothing are required.

Sun 11 August — Erskine Creek for the spring blooms.
Meet 10am at Jack Evans track.
For directions, obtain a map at the National Park Visitors Centre, or decipher instructions in the previous newsletter.