



# Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119, Springwood, 2777

## FEBRUARY 1986 NEWSLETTER

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Up front apologies for this rather short newsletter. To quote a well known conservationist, I've been too busy!

### EDEN WOODCHIP LICENCES

Towards the end of this year the Federal Government will decide on future (15-20 year) woodchip licences for the 100% Japanese company Harris-Daishowa. This will be preceded by a company Environmental Impact Study followed by public submissions and later a company reply. The State government will then make recommendations to Cohen who will then send recommendations to Federal Cabinet and particularly Mr Kerin.

Hope for a complete halt to woodchipping is not strong. However, if restrictions on areas and activities are included in the licence some ground will have been gained. The environmentally reasonable NSW Government is open to conservationists' persuasion at least. Their actions saving at least a third of the northern NSW rainforests is a good precedent.

TEC, NCC, ACF and TWS are leading the campaign against woodchipping. Their main activities are raising public awareness of the issue and publicly promoting reasons for saving the areas. Two magnificent national park proposals, for Tantawangalo and Coolangubra, have been produced by TEC. If these proposals are adopted, a chain of adjoining National Parks will extend along the southern part of the eastern Great Dividing Range.

George began his recent trip by looking around the areas, and attending one of the public meetings organised by the Far South Coast Environment Group. He has also undertaken to co-ordinate the Blue Mountains Action for Native Forests. This group will operate in the time leading up to the licence decision.

### \*\*\*WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- \* join Blue Mountains Action for Native Forests, simply by telephoning George, and help organise and address meetings, show videos, slides, and promote awareness in our area,
- \* read the South East forest Alliance pamphlet enclosed and follow their suggested actions,
- \* DONATIONS are life-blood to these groups,
- \* express your feelings in letters to papers - you do not necessarily need swathes of data to justify judgements, opinions or beliefs,
- \* lobby Carr, Wran, Cohen and Kerin by personal letter or petition.

### BLACK COCKATOO SURVEY

The following is a request from Molly Edmonds:

'Would any member happening to see yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos please note date, time, how many, what they were doing, direction of flight, etc., and ring me on 51 2601 so I can record the information on the official sheet.'

Molly added a further bird note in her letter:

'There is a colony of Bell-birds "running and ringing" loud and clear in that deep gully bounded by Lawsons Road, the dead end of Siva Street and the Highway. They don't appear to be the least disturbed by the noise of the traffic. I just noticed them early last summer.'

### MEMBERSHIPS

Many memberships have still not been renewed for 1986.

If your newsletter is marked with a dreaded red cross near your name and address, SHAME ON YOU!, we have not yet received your 1986 subscription.

Please send \$7 for family, \$5 for single or \$40 for life to me, Membership secretary, P.O. Box 119, Springwood, 2777.

### HERITAGE CENTRE

Besse attended the opening of the workshop complex of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Heritage Centre at Govetts Leap on behalf of LBMCS.

'The Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr John Whitehouse, in greeting guests and introducing Mr Bob Carr, Minister for Environment and Planning - also afterwards thanking him - kept this ceremony simple and friendly. Mr Carr spoke briefly and officially declared the workshop centre open. Visitors inspected the complex, seed bank, nursery and regeneration areas surrounding that and future building sites.

Much good work has been done. The Centre in future should be a beautiful and educational attraction to the Mountains. It is an ambitious project and a credit to NP&WS foresight and planning.

Plans and maps were on exhibition: also some comprehensive folders of photographs and information.

The workshop complex will be the headquarters for maintenance of more than 390,000 hectares of National Park lands. It will provide space for building park equipment, propagating native plants and housing fire fighting equipment. It has provided work for a number of CEP workers - and no doubt will continue to do so.

With ceremony over, a sumptuous morning tea was served.

Then followed a social hour of meeting acquaintances from various services and discussing the plans involved.

Altogether a pleasant and informative morning, giving high hopes for a lot of conservation in these mountains.'

Thanks, Besse, for this report.

### LBMCS MEETINGS

Tuesday 25 February - workshop at Eunice's, 9 Plateau Parade, Blaxland

Friday 14 March - Merle Thompson will speak about George Cayley, early white explorer of the Blue Mountains.

Look in the Public Notices of the Mountains Gazette for details of future meetings, which will normally be at the Springwood and District Pre-school.

### ENJOY A PICNIC?

Members, friends and families of various local environment groups are gathering at Murphy's Glen on Sunday 23 March for a picnic, good time and possibly some fund raising and serious discussion. Please come along and add your party skills, food, money and invaluable opinions to the whole happening. But seriously, come and enjoy the day, place and company.  
Ring Lyn on 82 4276 for further serious details.

### SOME LBMCS ACTIVITIES

The Society's letter to BMCC regarding the formation of a Council 530A Committee for the eastern escarpment reserves is presently being considered. Alderman Bob Clarke has and will continue to see that it at least is considered fully. Our concerns relate to the preservation of the natural, scenic and historical values of this escarpment. We have been concerned in the past few years with the lack of co-ordination of various groups as they have attempted restoration of parts of the escarpment.

Members of our Society have been closely involved in the woolshed, aviary and St Johns Road developments at Blaxland since the middle of 1985. The battle continues.

At last the LBMCS appears to be making progress in becoming incorporated.

We are also considering the advantages of joining the Environmental Defenders Office.

The Society has been lending support to the recent proposal for an extension to Wollemi National Park north of Lithgow, by lobbying letters and answering antagonistic reporting and opinion in the local press.

Anomalies with Crown Lands brochures and actual events have been noted with respect to bushrock collection from Crown Lands. New licences to collect bushrock are not issued but old licences are renewed annually. We are investigating.

Following discussions with Mr Bob Debus, the LBMCS, UBMCS and NPA will be meeting regularly with our local member.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL - continue to support it. Various events will occur throughout the year. Keep combing the Gazette for details. The BMEC has applied for some Federal funding for environment research within the Blue Mountains.

### IMPORTANT DATE

On Friday 7 March at 7.15 pm ACF presents a public meeting with Hon J.C. Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry. He will answer questions from the audience and an invited panel, including Jeff Angel (assistant director of TEC), Dick Mason (state president NPA) and Dr Fred Bell (senior lecturer Physical Geography at University of NSW). Admission cost is \$3, or \$2 concession. The venue is the Merewether Building, Sydney University, on the corner of City Road and Butlin Avenue (Codrington Street), Darlington. For further information telephone ACF on 02 - 665 2869 or 02 - 27 4285.

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