

April 1968.

Mountain Moss. This is a popular plant for dried flower arrangements, so much so that we think it may need protection. When we know more about it perhaps the Nat. Parks and Wildlife Service will be asked to declare it a protected plant.

Alan A. Strom Has made his farewell from the Wildlife Service and is now with the Education Department. His going will be a loss to all of us, but the next generation, at least, will be the better educated.

Insignia How about designing an insignia for a letterhead for the Society? A sketch, no matter how rough, or a description will be all right.

Faulconbridge Mallee Don Perrin's letter to the newspaper is reproduced, also his report on the survey carried out on 16th March. This is a fascinating and beautiful tree. See it when you get a chance.

Kanangra Walls Instead of Fitzroy Falls, Frank Martin is leading a trip to Kanangra Walls on Sunday, April 21st. Details are enclosed.

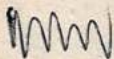
North Springwood Gala Day The Committee has tentative plans to sponsor, in conjunction with the Society for Growing Aust. Plants and the Springwood Bushwalkers a display at the Gala Day, to be held next Sept. All assistance will be needed. More details later.

We reproduce a "letter to the Editor" by Don Perrin, which focussed a lot of attention on the Faulconbridge Mallee:-

"The Prime Ministers' Avenue of English Oaks at Faulconbridge has distinguished the town as an important stopping place on the Blue Mountains. There are pines near Sir Henry Parkes' grave which, I understand, were planted in his life-time. To walk among these oaks and pines is to dwell for a moment in the past with those who came to plant the trees - with those whom the trees commemorate.

Yet it is not these trees alone which ennoble Faulconbridge, for growing uniquely in the bush for a few miles around is a small shrub-like tree, known as Faulconbridge Mallee Ash, discovered quite recently and as yet undescribed botanically.

The author of the book: "Our Blue Mountains Yesterdays", states





incorrectly that the tree is found also in the Valley of the Waters at Wentworth Falls. Officially, the tree is reported only from Faulconbridge but it grows in small pockets at Springwood and Linden.

The Faulconbridge Mallee Ash, like all other mallees, is really a eucalyptus tree with an underground, modified trunk; only the limbs being above ground. If all the aerial parts are destroyed the tree is not killed but merely pruned, and soon juvenile leaves appear, large, attractive and leathery. Such leaves are greener than the mature ones which are glossy and grey-green.

Faulconbridge can be proud of its namesake - it is one of those eucalypts which are attractive in all three features: trunk, foliage, flowers. Very often a eucalyptus tree with good trunk and foliage will have unremarkable flowers, e.g. "Lemon-scented Gum", whereas in this Faulconbridge tree the trunks (limbs) are attractive, the leaves very attractive and the cream flowers profuse and delightful. The Blue Mountains City Council has erected a sign on a group of these trees in St. Georges Crescent, Faulconbridge, referring to its rarity.

The Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife conservation Society is concerned that a great percentage of the trees are on private property, (the rest are in the Blue Mountains National Park) and that the owners are, in all probability unaware of their significance. The Society is to initiate action to have the species protected, even to the extent of having it proclaimed a rare species and placing it on the schedule of protected plants of N.S.W.

If anyone would like further information on this interesting tree they should contact the Society at Springwood 51 2058."

#### Faulconbridge Mallee

Result of Survey by members of the Society on Sat. 16th March.

This mallee is common at Faulconbridge, north of the railway line, many being in private gardens. North of the settlement the species forms a number of pure stands - on the highest parts of the ridges and extending some distance down the sides.

Elsewhere the tree was observed in isolated stands at such places as: along the Grose Road, Springwood; at the end of Grose Road at Faulconbridge Point; at Linden; below Pitt St., Springwood; and below Bee Farm Road, Springwood. The latter is an extremely small stand, curiously enough in a swamp shelf associated with callistemon citrinus (Red Bottlebrush).

What is the reason for the occurrence of this rare species in a number of unconnected localities?

- Don Perrin,  
leader of survey.

STOP PRESS == Next meeting 18th. April.



TRIP TO KANANGRA-BOYD NATIONAL PARK  
SUNDAY 21st. APRIL

Leave Springwood 7.00 AM sharp.

Arrive Kanangra Walls 10.30 AM. Morning tea 10.30 to 11.00

Those people who wish to walk to Mount Thurat via the Fire Trail, crossing Rockytop Creek and Thurat Rivulet ( about 3½ miles ), I suggest they leave their cars at the Walls and I will ferry the drivers back from Mount Thurat. Those not walking can inspect Marrilman Heath and the views.

Leave Kanangra Walls at 12.30 and proceed along South Boyd Range Fire Trail to Boyd River ( about 8 miles from Walls ) for lunch at about 1.00. To see the wild life in this area I suggest that cars travel slowly and some 3 or 4 ~~xxxxxxx~~ minutes apart so that each party has a chance to see all there is to be seen.

We will spend about 2½ hours in this area -- wildlife, plant life and rock formations are hereabouts in plenty. There is a small waterfall downstream about a ½ mile. Note as you travel this fire trail the difference between the unburnt country and country that was burnt about 2 years ago. Have a good look around and send your report to George; we would like to know what you think of this trip.

We will leave no later than 3.30 PM via Boyd Mt. and Sally Camp. Home 7.30.

A FEW PLACES TO SEE ON THE TRIP TO KANANGRA WALLS

Hartley Court House -- built by convicts, in the 1830's.

Glen Roy Bridge -- Coxs River. Site of Army barracks in the 1820's.

Mount Blaxland -- with a monument being erected to the explorers. It

looks like a triangle shed at the moment. Mts. Lawson and Wentworth to the north of Mt. Blaxland seen looking west, or right as you go up the hill from Glen Roy.

Table Mountain -- seen to the left as you enter the pine forest.

Mount Bindo -- to the right with a fire tower on top.

The Summit -- being the highest point this side of Jenolan and the Dividing Range.

Rock cuttings on road -- three totally different rock formations in 3 successive cuttings between the 7 and 6 miles posts from Jenolan Caves.

Swans on dam at Arch, Jenolan Caves.

View from Mt. Bailey -- about 3 miles from the Oberon road on the Kanangra road. You are 4233 feet above sea level. Looking to the right you see the area which forms the two main rivers which feed the Kowmung; that is, the Hollanders and Tuglow Rivers. A lot of the area is farm land, quite a lot is cleared. Some is State Forest.



