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KALORI

November 68

Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society

COLONG CAVES

Please write a letter to our local Member, requesting him to ask the Minister for Mines, in the House, whether he will reconsider his decision regarding this mining in view of the information now available.

Use your own words; the points listed may guide you. Address your letter to Mr. R.A.Dunbier, M.L.A., Parliament House, Sydney, 2000.

By making known our views to the politicians, and by airing the affair in public, we can win.

1. The Murruin Creek limestone deposits, referred to as inadequate by Mr. Fife, have been proved, by a leading firm of geological consultants, to contain at least 50,000,000 tons.

2. The Murruin Creek deposits are significant in that they are just as close to Maldon as are the Colong deposits.

3. Cave systems do occur in the present leased area and also in the area of current lease applications, despite misleading statements to the contrary by Mr. Fife.

4. The Kowmung River, which the cement company proposes to dam, is the most beautiful in the Sydney region, and is the only remaining major unpolluted tributary of the Warragamba reservoir. Its valley is considered to be Sydney's most important wildlife refuge.

5. The fact that the Minister for Mines has thwarted any attempt by the public to oppose mining leases in the Kanangra-Boyd area constitutes a breach of democratic rights, and shows his complete contempt for the views and needs of all other sections of the Australian Public.

6. The Kanangra-Boyd area is the last remaining relatigely unspoiled natural area in the Sydney region. This area has enormous significance as a future recreational area in view of the fact that it is within easy reach of a high density urban area which is expected to reach a population of 5 million within the next 20 years.

Bulletin No.20
October 1968

MEMBERSHIP. I overlooked this important part of my report last month. Financial members at this date number thirtyfive, made up of two Life, twentyeight ordinary, three Associate and two Junior members. Subscriptions are due now, of course; so keep those cards and letters coming in with your cheques, folks.

You will see a sheet enclosed urging you to write Mr. Dunbier to ask him, as our Member, to ask the Minister for Mines a question regarding Colong Caves; in the House. Why should we think that our puny effort will do what - so far - the Nature Conservation Council and other powerful bodies have not been able to do? Well, perhaps your letter will be the one that tips the scale, and it is better than leaving it to someone else.

NEXT YEAR. A committee meeting will be held soon to thrash out and present for your approval a programme of activities. Suggestions are wanted; let us know at the next meeting of any field trips, etc. you want to do.

NOTICE OF MOTION. Don Perrin and Keith King (mover and seconder) consider that a "Family Subscription" rate should apply. Four dollars is a bit much for husband and wife, and Associate Membership may not be satisfactory for one party, so a three dollar subscription, giving both husband and wife equal voting rights is seen as a good compromise. It will mean altering the Constitution by a majority vote. Think it over.

ANNUAL DINNER. Yes, it will be on again this year. Saturday 30th. November -- cost $2.50 per head (or mouth!). The venue and speaker will be made known to you later, but in the meantime we would appreciate it if, before the 14th. November, you could return the bottom of this page to me with your name thereon - to let me know if you are coming.

Next meeting 14 Nov.

G. Croghan
Secretary.

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I am coming to the Dinner. Money herewith/I will pay later.

Name.....

Name.....

Variations in stems and roots

Lec.4

Stems differ from one another in shape, colour, strength and function. Stems of most trees and shrubs are roughly circular, but among herbaceous plants they may be circular, square (lantana) or triangular (nut grass). In other cases, such as broad bean, they may be ribbed.

Very young stems are green, but as they become older cork is developed, making the stems another colour.

We can make four broad classifications of stems:-

1. Woody. Trees, etc.
2. Monocotyledonous. Lilies, grasses, etc.
3. Herbaceous. Beans, most garden flowers.
4. Modified. Onion bulb, strawberry runner, etc.

Some of the modified stems are:-

a. Rhizomes - cylindrical stems growing underground. They store food and have nodes, internodes and scale leaves. Ferns, iris.
b. Tuber - a rhizome enlarged at the end. A potato is a tuber. The eyes are ~~xxxxx~~ buds.
c. Bulb.- an enlarged stem base surrounded by the bases of last seasons leaves, modified to store food. Onion.
d. Corm - enlarged stem base; on the upper and lower surface are lateral and terminal buds. Crocus, gladioli.
e. Runners - slender stems with long internodes and with leaves, flowers and roots at the nodes. Strawberries.

Tendrils. Climbing organs which arise by the modification of leaflets, shoots or stipules. Sweet pea, passionfruit and Smilax respectively are examples.

Cladode. A modified stem which has taken over the functions of a leaf. Usually succulent (prickly pear). The spines represent leaves. Not all cladodes are succulent, eg. Bossiaea ensata.

Thorn. A modified shoot in which the stem becomes short, hard and pointed, like a spine. As it is a modified shoot, so it must develop from a bud, thus beneath a thorn base there must lie a leaf or a leaf scar. Further, being a stem, it should bear leaves on its surface, and scale leaves can sometimes be seen on young thorns.

Variations in roots. All roots are either tap root or fibrous root systems, and there is no marked differences between roots, with the exception of those modified for climbing, food storage or the obtaining of air. Some roots, eg. of dandelion, wrinkle up, thus shortening the roots and pulling the plant more firmly into the soil. The mangrove puts up many small roots which project above the mud. These pneumatophores absorb air, which of course is not present in the mud, through lenticels.

The Flower- 1

The flower contains all the parts needed for the production of seed, and thus of new plants.

Parts of a flower. Every flower consists o a number of parts. These different parts all have special duties to carry out; what these duties are may be discovered by closely examining a flower such as that of the buttercup (Ranunculus). On the outside of this flower are 5 greenish parts which are all alike. These are the sepals, which together make up the calyx. The calyx protects the bud, and when it opens, reveals 5 other parts, brightly coloured. These segments are the petals, which together form the corolla.

The corolla is joined to the stem above the calyx; pull off the petals and at their base will be seen a tiny pocket; this holds nectar and is therefore called a nectary. Next to the petals are a number of small structures which carry the pollen ; these are the stamens. A stamen consists of a small stalk (called the filament) and a yellow head (the anther). In the buttercup are many of these stamens, which together make up the androecium of flower. Remove the stamens and you will see, in the very centre of the flower, many carpels, each consisting of a swollen part at the base, the ovary, and a thin hooked stem-like part, the style, the tip of which is flat, forming the stigma. The group of carpels forms that part of the flower called the gynoecium. Inside the ovary of every carpel a seed may eventually be formed.

The parts of a buttercup flower may be summed up as follows: 5 sepals forming the calyx, 5 petals forming the corolla, an indefinite number of stamens forming the androecium, and an indef--inite number of carpels forming the gynoecium.

To examine a flower As we want to be able to identify the plant from which a flower comes, it is necessary to find, and note, some of those characteristics which distinguish it. A sharp knife and a magnifying glass are useful at this stage.

First, count the sepals and petals, stamens and pistils. This is not always possible, eg. in an Acacia. Next, cut the flower vertically in half, being sure that the two halves are the same. Examine the cut rurface.Note the relative positions on the receptacle of the calyx, corolla, stamens and ovary. Is the ovary attached above or below the other parts ? A sketch of the half-flower should be made; do not rely on your memory.

TYPES OF INFLORESCENCE

There are really only a few basic patterns in which flowers are arranged. These are;-

Spike; a single stem bearing flowers which do not have individual stalks. (bottlebrush)

Raceme; a single stem bearing flowers which have individual stalks. The lowest stalks are usually somewhat longer than the upper ones. (snapdragon, Christmas bell)

Panicle; a central stem with branches, each branch bearing stalked flowers. A panicle is thus a compound raceme. (oat grass)

Corymb; a modified panicle. The main stem has branches, and the outer branches are the longest, so that the cluster is flat topped, or nearly so. (hawthorn)

Umbel; another flat topped cluster. The flower stalks all arise from the same point and radiate like the ribs of an umbrella. There may also be smaller umbels at the tips of the stalks, forming a compound umbel. (milkweed)

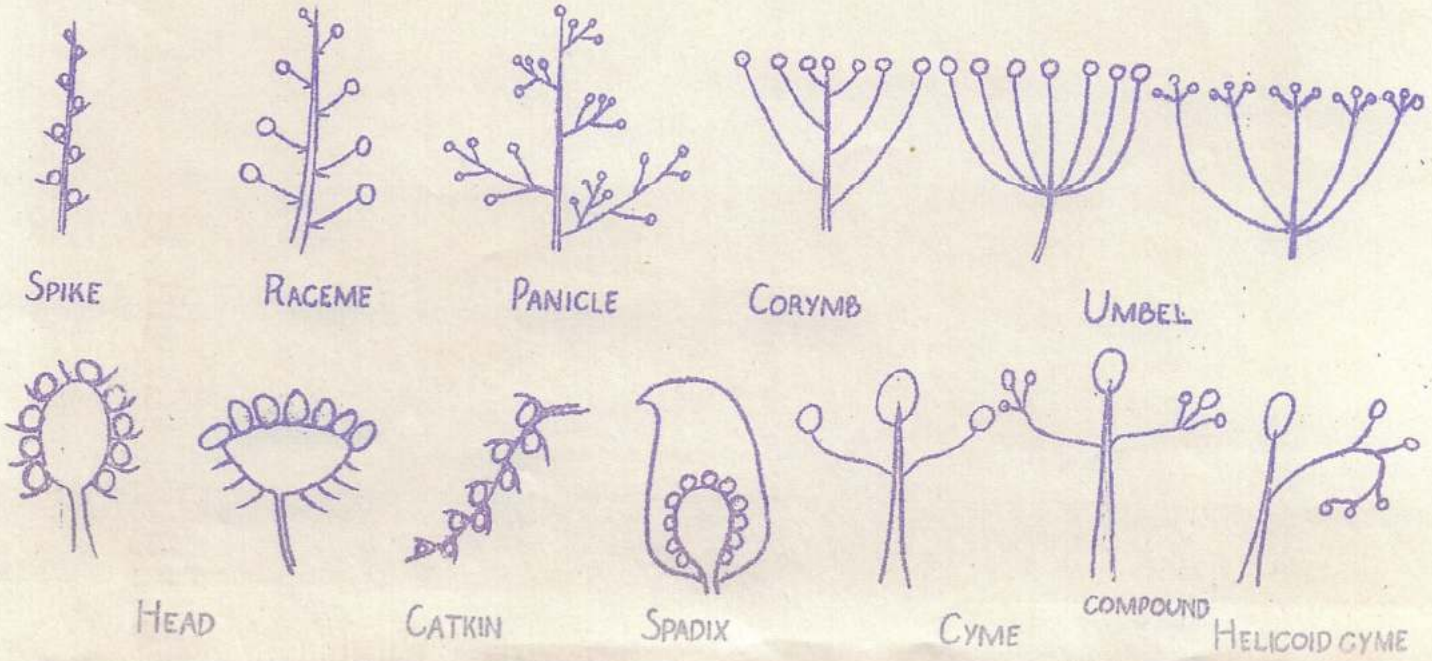
Head; a tight cluster of stalkless flowers on a very short stem or receptacle. (clover, daisy)

Catkin or ament; a hanging, flexible spike of very small flowers. (poplar,)

Spadix; a spike-like inflorescence with very small flowers embedded in a thick fleshy stem. It is usually surrounded by a large bract, the spathe.

Cyme; a cluster, usually opposite branched, with the oldest flower in the middle of each fork.

Helicoid cyme; a cyme in which the flowers on one side of each fork are missing, so that it grows in a spiral. (heliotrope)



LIST OF BIRDS SIGHTED ON CLUB OUTING TO BLUE GUM SWAMP - LYNCHS CREEK. 14.7.68

EASTERN SPINEBILL	ACANTHORHYNCHUS (Spine Beak)	TENUIRUSTRIS (Slender Bill)

One of the first birds sighted as usual, for this species seems to be one of the most plentiful and less fearful birds on the mountains. It feeds on both insects and nectar, and occasionally it will be seen to actually hover in front of a flower, humming-bird style, probing for the nectar with its long "slender bill".

YELLOW WINGED OR BEARDED HONEYEATER	MELIORNIS (Honeybird)	NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE (Of New Holland)

The yellow-wing was also plentiful; this is a rather striking small bird, the yellow wing patch standing out against the black and white striations of the breast and back.

YELLOW ROBIN	EOPSALTRIA (Dawn Singer)	AUSTRALIS (Of Australia)

The yellow bob was there with his preoccupied look. Although they will allow you to approach quite close, they appear to take not the slightest interest in the observer, carrying on their feeding uninterrupted in their characteristic manner, from low twig to ground, with perhaps a few hops, then quickly back to trunk or branch, never staying long and always with the same beady-eyed intensity.

GOLDEN WHISTLER	PACHYCEPHALA (Thick Head)	PECTORALIS (Breasted)

A Golden Whistler gave a display of caterpillar-catching to a few of the party. Even without his delightful whistle this attractive yellow-breasted bird with the black collar and white throat would grace any bushland setting.

WHITE THROATED TREE CREEPER	CLIMACTERIS (Staircase)	LEUCOPHAEA (White and Grey)
RED BROWED TREE CREEPER	CLIMACTERIS	ERYTHROPS (Red Face)

These two trunk-climbing birds are difficult to tell apart in the bush without the aid of field glasses, but in close-up the red eyebrow of the latter is plainly seen, while the former has much more white on the breast.

GREY FANTAIL	RHIPIDURA (Fantail)	FLABELLIFFERA (I bear a Fan)

This restless bird catches most of its food on the wing, and usually

flits from branch to branch, folding and unfolding its fan-like tail while waiting to dart out at some unsuspecting insect.

YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO	CALYPTORHYNCHUS (Hidden Beak)	FUNEREUS (Black)

The largest of the four black cockatoos, and although the beak is somewhat hidden by the plentiful head feathers, it is quite a respectable size, and can easily reduce a small sapling to shreds in the search for large wood-boring larvae of moths. When the birds are feeding on hakea-nuts the crunching can be heard at several chains distance.

CRIMSON ROSELLA	PLATYCERCUS (Flat Tail)	ELEGANS (Handsome)

The only other member of the parrot family observed on the day, the striking Lowry, as it is also called, is a familiar sight to all who live in this area.

RAVEN	CORVUS (Crow)	CORONOIDES (Raven Form-like)

I don't know whether the bird sighted was the Raven or the Crow-(Corvus cecilae). The Raven is the much maligned picker-out of lambs' eyes, which the crow does not do, though it often gets the blame.

EASTERN WHIPBIRD	PSOPHODES (Noisy)	OLIVACEUS (Olive-coloured)

The shy Whipbird mainly frequents the gully floors, where the heavier growth gives more cover, and also more leaf-mould and debris, amongst which it procures most of its food.

ROCK WARBLER	ORIGMA (A Hollow or Cave)	RUBRICATA (Reddened)

This Warbler has a restricted range, embracing the Hawkesbury sandstone area. It is usually seen in rocky gullies, where it searches actively over the rocks and under fallen logs, but can also be met along roads or tracks. It usually nests in caves but is quite happy to use man-made structures as nesting sites.

EASTERN SHUIKE-TIT	FALCUNCULUS (Little Falcon)	FRONTATUS (With conspicuous forehead)

These birds are usually in small parties, frequenting the taller trees and saplings, and vigourously tear off the bark with their strong bills searching for concoons, spiders etc.

WHITE- EARED HONEYEATER	MELIPHAGA (To eat Honey)	LEUCOTIS (White Ear)

This bird often becomes so fearless during the breeding season that it will alight on human heads and even dogs, seeking hair to line the nest.

STRIATED THORNBILL ACANTHIZA LINEATA
(I live in Thorny Places)(Lined)

This tiny bird frequents alike the leafy branches of tall trees, where to the observer it is just a small brown bird, or very low shrubs, where it can be observed more closely and easily identified.

VARIEGATED WREN MALURUS LAMBERTI
(Soft Tail) (A.B. Lambert 1761-1842)

This shy wren is often mistaken for its not-so-shy relative the Blue Wren. However it can be distinguished by its rufous-coloured shoulders, paler blue cheeks and slightly longer tail.

S.K. KING.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer,
Mrs. D.Dark,
"Nimaloola",
Russell Ave.,
Valley Heights.

Enclosed please find the sum of $ to cover one years membership.

Name in full.....

Address.....

Occupation.....

Individuals $2.00 annually or $20.00 Life.
Associates $1.00 annually.
Junior 30 cents annually.