KALORI

DECEMBER
1971

At the December meeting Miss I Bowden will be the speaker. Come and hear her!

Natural Lands Ltd are negotiating to buy land suitable for National Park. We have promised $50-00 and have raised $30-00. Help meet our quota with a donation. No amount is too small.

Lower Blue Mountains
Wildlife Conservation Society

PO Box 58 Springwood 2777

paid your subs?

"Man is confronted with the difficult and complex problem of finding out how he can fit into his environment so that it will not deteriorate but will continue to provide what he needs."

R.G.Downes

Kalori is published monthly by and for the members of the Lower Blue Mountains Wildlife Conservation Society.

The aims of the Society are, briefly, to:-

1. Educate the public and civic leadership towards a better understanding of environmental conservation.
2. Work for the dedication of areas of natural environment and for the maintenance of their values in perpetuity.
3. Carry out research into the distribution and population of wildlife in the Blue Mountains.

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THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, SPRINGWOOD, ON 10TH. DECEMBER, AT 8.00 PM.

PROGRESS OF TRAPPING 1971

The first four trapping runs have previously been reported in Kalori. This report will deal with surveys carried out from February this year.

No.1. 1971.

Location. Euroka camping area, Blue Mountains National Park.
Date. Feb 1970.

35 traps at 10' intervals were set in two separate lines.
16 were placed along Euroka Creek adjacent to the Nepean River walking track.
19 were set approx. 100 yds. away, traversing the slope on the northern side of Euroka Creek.

Results. Nil.

These two traplines covered completely different environments. That along the creek was very lush, with shrubs to about 6' and dense civer at ground level. Canopy sparse.
The slope covered was of scattered sandstone lumps, almost scree in places, with very low ground cover, sparse in most areas, from 6" to 2'. Canopy broken.

No.2. 1971.

Location. Ridge above Euroka (Northwest).
Date. 17 April, 1971.

19 traps set. Two runs made. 8 p.m. 10 p.m..

Results. 1 Marsupial. Antechinus sp.

This was a dry sclerophyll on shale environment, with sparse canopy of Grey gum, Stringybark and Bloodwood. Hopbush understorey to 12', leaf litter light, ground cover sparse. Some fallen timber and logs, light grass in open areas.

No.3. 1971.

Location. Portal Waterhole. Eastern side.
Date. 22 May, 1971.

24 traps were set at approx. 10' intervals covering ½ acre.

Results. 5 Marsupials. Antechinus ssp.

The trapline sampled the transitional zone from shale to sandstone. The shale section consisted of a very wet grassy environment along the eastern edge of Portal Waterhole, which changed quite abruptly to dry sandstone environment approx. 20 yds. from the swamp edge. Animals appeared to be distributed evenly along the trapline, and there was no significant difference in numbers caught in either habitat type.

No.4. 1971.

Location. Portal Waterhole.
Date. 29 May, 1971.

Same locality, same trap positions as No.3.

Results. 4 Marsupials. Antechinus ssp.

No.5. 1971.

Location. Portal Waterhole. Western side.
Date. 20 June, 1971.

24 traps at approx. 12' intervals.

Results. 5 Marsupials. Antechinus ssp.

The area was dry sclerophyll on shale. Canopy restricted to scattered Scribbly gum and Stringybark. Lush wallaby grass and sedge, with scattered Banksia paludosa and Hakea (dactyloides?) and thickets of Melaleuca thymifolia to 5'. Some fallen timber and logs. Ground cover generally very dense to 2 or 3 feet.

No.6. 1971.

Location. Same as No. 5.
Date. Sept., 1971.

19 traps approx. 12' intervals.

Results. 2 Marsupials. Antechinus ssp. Breeding females with 7 and 8 pouched young respectively.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1971.

This year the Society benefitted from a recent injection of young blood, which has brought about a considerable rejuvenation.

However, we still seem to be suffering from the malady of previous years, the turnover of new members. Perhaps this can be overcome by more interesting meetings, and a determined effort will be made towards this end.

We should perhaps give more thought to providing day trips of a nature more suited to those either not able or not inclined to do much walking. The field trips that were arranged this year were quite successful, with the possible exception of one.

The trapping project is proceeding satisfactorily, and, if not strictly according to schedule, then as close as possible, considering the time at members disposal.

An attempt was made to organise a dinner to raise funds for the Blue Mountains Conservation Federation, however the response was insufficient to warrant the hiring of a hall and caterer. A smaller function was held at the Wanderlight restaurant, and those attending were treated to a very thought-provoking talk on conservation by Allen Strom. This venture cost us $10, being the deposit on Warrimoo hall.

In March this year it was decided to purchase a share in Natural Areas Ltd., a company formed to purchase land for conservation purposes. $27 was quickly raised towards the cost of a $50 share, however we are still somewhat short of the full amount. It is desirable that we complete this purchase before the end of the year.

The latter half of the year has been a busy one for conservationists generally, and, being parochial, especially so for those on the Blue Mountains. The very real threat of coalmining in the area was a challenge to all those dedicated to preserving what little naturalness we have left. The Conservation Federation took the lead in opposing the mining proposals, and many members of our society were particularly active during the entire campaign. Although the danger has been temporarily averted, we can not afford to relax, as there is not likely to be any guarantee that this danger will not reassert itself in the future.

Generally speaking, we have had a successful year, and I am looking forward to a further year of similar harmony, co-operation and dedication.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Treasurer
P.O.Box 58
Springwood. 2777.

Enclosed is the sum of $ to cover one years membership.*

Name in full.....

Address in full.....

Occupation.....

* Individuals $2.00 annually or $20.00 Life.
Associates $1.00 annually - subscription to Kalori.
Junior 30 cents annually.
Family $3.00 annually.