

A CASE AGAINST THE USE OF POISONED WHEAT.

In a large garden in the western suburbs, sparrows were nipping off the tops of young salvia plants, and occasionally pulling out a plant. Poisoned wheat was laid. .. RESULT:

- 2 dead sparrows - sparrows are numerous in the garden.
- 6 dead doves - fairly numerous.
- 3 dead peewees - about the total population.

The gardener who supplied this report claimed that the sparrows caused better shaping of plants & did little actual harm.

.....

A REMARKABLE SIGHT.

Mr. Bill Keech reports having recently seen 30 Gang-Gang cockatoos in an Acacia tree within 10 yards of a house near Sussex Inlet. He approached within 10 feet without disturbing the birds.

.....

MYALL LAKES APPEAL.

Contributions are requested by a company being formed to purchase a vital area on the western side of the Myall Lakes, to be held for eventual resale to the N.P. & W.S. for inclusion in the Myall Lakes National Park. There is an immediate danger of the land being lost to developers, and it is essential that it be preserved in its natural state. (see NOV. OFF NEWS).

The company will be the registered proprietor of the land and contributors of \$50 or more will be shareholders. The target is \$28,000 and \$12,000 has already been assured. Donations of less than \$50 will be gratefully accepted.

For further information 'phone.. 53-7060 or 57-5909.

.....

LECTURES ON AUSTRALIAN FAUNA.

A course of 10 lectures during 1971, commencing February, arranged by the N.P.A. in conjunction with N.P. & W.S. Lectures will precede NPA meetings and will be held on 7th Floor, G.U.O.C.F. Building, 149 Castlereagh St., Sydney. FEE: \$3.00 for members, \$8.00 for non-members. They take place on 2nd. Monday of each month except April and June, which are on the first Monday.

FURTHER INFORMATION .. 'phone .. 53-7060 or 57-5909



O.F.F. NEWS

Published by

OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Category B1

Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by post as a periodical.

Price 5 cents.

JANUARY, 1971.

OFF NEWS wishes all our members a very Happy New Year ! We hope 1971 brings to Australians a greater concern for all living things.

EDITORIAL:

PROGRESS.

In the past 'progress seems to have been regarded as exploitation of all natural resources with little or no consideration for such consequences as polluted air and water, noise, radio-active fall-out, contaminated food supplies from pesticides and other chemicals, disappearance of natural areas and sheer ugliness. On the home front, we have the continued expansion of urban industries along the central coastal belt, with its accompanying pollution of the environment, destruction of bushlands, traffic problems, noise, over-crowding and a general deterioration of the quality of life.

All these we seem to have regarded as inevitable --
"A shame, but you cannot stop PROGRESS !! "

Highly qualified experts are repeatedly telling us that there are limits to this corruption of the environment and that in our technology advances and massive increase of numbers, we are rushing headlong towards probable collapse of the biosphere within a few decades.

Simon Ramo (New York Academy of Sciences, Anniversary Meeting, Dec. 1967), complained that "It is a mark of our failure to control our technology that we ... can provide pure air to an astronaut on the Moon, yet we cannot do so for the citizens of our cities.

In 1970, people began to question this inevitability of 'progress' and the wisdom of continuing to change the environment. However, little or no positive action has been taken to reverse the

process.

1971 should be the year of drastic action by parliaments. Experience has shown that the best way to influence politicians in conservation issues is to arouse public support. Public opinion and administration authorities must come to regard as essential to quality of life, such things as fresh, clean air, clear water, uncluttered living, natural areas, clean beaches and recreation areas.

In our small way we could attempt this by:

1. making sure that every person in this locality knows of the existence of our Society and is invited to attend,
2. asking each candidate in the forthcoming elections his views on conservation and what he is prepared to do about it.

This, for all who care about the future of the country, should be the most important election issue.

.....

THE BARRIER REEF STORY.

In the far north of Queensland, two years ago the story begins. A small mining notice announced that an application to mine limestone on Ellison Reef would be heard in the Innisfail mining wardens court. It might well have passed unnoticed, if local conservationists had not been alert. If unopposed, it would of course have been granted.

The local society, with the co-operation of the W.L.P.S. of Queensland, the Littoral Society of the University of Queensland and the A.C.F. gathered scientific evidence, and aroused public concern. The battle was waged against great odds, but eventually the mining warden, and later the Minister for Mines refused the application.

It was undoubtedly pressure of public opinion that won the day.

The campaign brought to public attention the whole question of the Barrier Reef's future and made it, though certainly not impossible, at least difficult, for unwise exploitation to proceed without public knowledge.

Condensed from and account by Judith Wright, 1969.
A.C.F. Publication No.2.

COMING EVENTS.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd, February, 1971 at 7.45 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting, which has to be on Wednesday because of the long week-end, is even more important than usual, because several of our committee members will be retiring.

Our Publicity Officer, Mrs. Goldstein, who launched OFF NEWS and has always been a tower of strength to the Society is leaving the district.

Vice President, Mr. Keech, expert on native plants and gardens, official signwriter for display purposes and general right hand man, is also leaving the district. Mrs. Keech has been of great assistance by providing a 'cuppa' for the Guest Speaker.

Mrs. Newbould, who has been the backbone of the Society for so long, and has always worked arduously for it, will not be undertaking the arrangement of the programme for 1972. Mrs. Newbould has done much more than her share of work but we still hope that she will remain on the committee in an advisory capacity.

We need to fill these positions at the General Meeting. If you feel that you could help, or take a minor position on the committee, your offer will be much appreciated.

The business meeting will be kept short, and will be followed by slides and a talk on INLAND WESTERN AUSTRALIA presented by Mr. Harry Goldstein. This should be very enjoyable and we hope for a large attendance.

WE WANT AT LEAST 70 AT THIS MEETING. PLEASE COME.

.....

A REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE.

A resident wrote expressing concern about some of the trees along Mulga Road. We contacted the Technology Department of the Forestry Commission and Mr. Cornell, Tree Pathologist examined the trees. He diagnosed attacks by Rosalia lugens, Glycaspis sp. and gall forming insects. Spraying was advised only with extreme caution, but tree surgery was recommended. The report was sent to the Hurstville Council.

President: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223. .. Phone 579-1703
Secretary: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST, 2210 .. Phone 53-7060
Editor: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 .. Phone 57-5909

INTO THE ENEMY CAMP !

Mr. Cec. Sainty gave an illustrated talk to members of the Real Estate Institute of N.S.W., at a luncheon at the Hotel Australia on 15th January. The title of the talk was not especially selected for this particular audience - their programme organiser was present when Cec. gave the same talk to a totally different organisation some time before.

The title: OUR NATURAL RESOURCES & WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU.

Cec. reports that he was very well received by an interested audience.

.....

A CASE AGAINST PESTICIDES.

Gordon Conway, Entomologist, carried out investigations into cocoa pests in Malaysia from 1961 to 1966. He reports that after three years of spraying with various pesticides the position was extremely serious and spraying was stopped.

Almost immediately, parasites appeared and the pest population dropped. Since then, other pests have invaded the trees, but in the absence of contact-acting sprays, their natural enemies have brought them quickly under control, leaving only the low density pests in need of attention. The spraying seems to have prevented the natural enemy of the pest from moving in.

Copies of a precis form of this report are available from the Hon. Sec.

.....

VISITORS CENTRE AT THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.

The Centre at Audley is now open, and is already well patronised. It includes a museum and theatre and may be seen at weekends, holidays or at other times by special arrangement. Literature and information are available. The Centre is well worth a visit and the staff are to be congratulated.

.....

WELCOME; to two new committee members, Mrs. Wyn. Tonkin and Mrs. Joan Rosey.

PRESIDENT:	Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223	..	579-1703
SECRETARY:	Ali Lloyd, 18 Belmore Rod. PEAKHURST, 2210	..	53-7060
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Category 'B'

Price 5 cents.

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FEBRUARY, 1971.

EDITORIAL:EARTH DAY.

Remember America's "EARTH DAY" in 1970 ! People turned out in their thousands with brooms, buckets, rakes, placards etc. to indulge in a mass clean-up campaign and to demonstrate against the degradation of their environment.

The value of all this activity was not so much in the clean streets as the publicity that resulted. Pollution and ugliness would have become obvious to even the least discerning citizen.

As we know, the best way to begin to tackle a problem is to make people aware that the problem exists. VINCENT SERVENTY, with the aid of several large conservation societies, is planning an EARTH DAY for Australia, involving schools, colleges, universities - everybody! 1971 he said, "will be our big year for alerting all Australians to the dangers of their environment".

Such a scheme deserves our fullest support and I hope the Oatley F. & F.C.S. will make this a major project for 1971,

.....

COLONG CAVES AND THE BOYD.

The Kanagra-Boyd National Park has been extended by 42,000 acres. This is good news but unfortunately it does not revoke the mining lease in the Colong Caves area, or prevent the conversion of natural forest to pine on the Boyd Plateau. We hope these matters will receive priority from the 1971 Government.

ARE YOU A SHAREHOLDER YET ? APPLY TO HON. SEC. FOR FORMS.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.Vote for Conservation.

Leaflets stressing conservation as an important election issue were distributed to all homes in the district. The committee is grateful to all who assisted.

Roselands Conservation Display, 1970.

This material on "HABITAT" was loaned to Penshurst High School where it was displayed during the third term.

Removal of Trees.

Concern has been expressed about the unnecessary removal of trees on privately owned land. Many people do not seem to know that permission must be obtained from the Council before cutting down large trees. Alert conservationists could often save the trees by explaining this to the owner. The Secretary has a copy of the Council Ordinance on the removal of trees for any enquiries.

Kogarah Council Anti-Pollution Committee.

Mr. Ray Knight, our representative on this committee, reports: "pollution is any disturbance of the environment produced by our activities which reduces the quality or safety of life". This is the definition adopted by the Committee.

The first goal is to be education of the public, aimed mainly at the younger generation. Competitions are to be held among Primary and High School children to obtain anti-pollution slogans. Prizes to be \$20, \$10 and \$5.

Other activities will be involved with Air Pollution Noise, Water Pollution, Garbage Disposal and Litter.

We can play our part Mr. Knight tells us, by reporting immediately to our committee any action within the Kogarah Municipality that contravenes the above definition.

.....

Environmental Education.

Our committee was represented at the Macquarie Uni. on 10.12.70 to consider the establishment of ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CENTRES in NSW. Speakers included Dr. G. Meyer, Macq. Uni (Chairman), Mr. Piesse, Director of A.C.F. & Dr. M Calder, Melb. Uni. After discussion, a committee was formed to investigate the possibility of launching the project.

REMINDER:

Subscriptions and now due Would you please pay at the next meeting, or post a cheque to the Treasurer, 46 Glen Road, OATLEY, 2223. We are not permitted to post (P.M.G. regulation) O.F.F. NEWS to unfinancial members

COMING EVENTS:

MONDAY, 22nd. February, at 7.45p.m.

" A CONTINENT IN DANGER" by VINCENT SERVENTY.

We feel that we are very fortunate to have Mr. Serventy who will give a talk followed by slides. He is one of Australia's most distinguished naturalists and wildlife photographers, an author and a T.V. personality.

Bring your friends, and any folding chairs. We hope for a record attendance.

.....

SATURDAY, 27th February, at 2 p.m.

BIRD FIELD DAY lead by ERIC WHEELER & DAVID ELDRIDE.
at the rear of "YERAMBA" RESERVE.

Meet at the bottom of Drysdale Avenue (off Burns Road Picnic Point). The area to be visited is lake and bushland. There should be many birds.

Bring BINOCULARS if possible.

Val Boyan
(after 4 p.m. 533-1013)

.....

SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION & MINING.

At the Union Theatre, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

SATURDAY, 20th February from 10a.m. to 6 p.m.

FEE; \$5.00 - includes lunch and afternoon tea.

Apply to Hon. Sec. or Mrs. M.W. Macgowan, 17 Eastbourne Road, Darling Point 2027 by the 15.2.71.

KOGARAH ANTI-POLLUTION COMMITTEE.

The February meeting of this Committee was addressed by Prof. C. Watson-Munro of Sydney University.

Prof. Watson Munro outlined the magnitude and seriousness of the pollution problems. The atmosphere he said, has been polluted to a dangerously high level by coal and oil burning. Energy from atomic fission results in radio-active wastes. The population is too great and is increasing too rapidly.

Suggestions he made to solve these problems include:-

1. Develop the use of solar energy. This causes no pollution and is unlimited.
2. Reduce pollution from cars, revise plans for more highways, free rail transport and decentralisation.
3. Review our immigration policy. (The cost of assisted migrants would solve our education and social services problems).

Mr. Ray Knight our rep. on the Committee advises:

"Avoid non-returnable bottles and wastefully packaged goods. Have a free pollution inspection of your car at the N.R.M.A. Depot, Harwood Street, PYRMONT. Adjustment of the carburettor is also free (to NRMA members). LET US WORK FOR 'POLLUTION FREE BY SEVENTY THREE!'".

.....

LIBRARY ADDITIONS:

"Animal Migration" by Von Frisch, a noted German authority on natural history. Well illustrated, the book should be of interest to young and old.

"Australian Natural History" - Dec. 1970. This edition is larger than usual & is devoted to the important subject of modern man & his environment. In the words of Cec. Sainty "some real meat for conservationists."

.....

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Miss A. Allen, Mrs. L. Roberts, Messrs. S. Martin, T. Harris L. Braithwaite and R. Jonathon, also to the visitors who came along to our last meeting, especially the girls from Penshurst High School. We hope you will come again.



O.F.F. NEWS

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Price 5 cents.

MARCH, 1971.

EDITORIAL.DETERGENTS & PESTICIDES IN THE HOME.

Which brand should we buy ???

Plenty of warnings against these pollutants are current, but the information is mostly negative. After consulting a number of authorities on the subject OFF NEWS has come up with this advice:

Detergents. Where possible, SCAP should be used. Certainly for hand washing clothes and for washing dishes. It does no harm once it enters the sewer, probably the clothes will be hygienically cleaner even if they are not "whiter than white", and it is kinder to your hands.

Almost all detergents on the market are 'hard'. They form a persistent foam in rivers and ocean. The foam can carry bacteria and parasite eggs, and it reduces the oxygen intake by the water into which it flows.

Leading manufacturers are changing to 'soft' detergents in 1971.

Insecticides. These seem to be on the market until proved harmful and in that time much trouble can be caused. Reliable authorities such as CHOICE, AIR RESOURCES BOARD, CALIFORNIA, and the U.S. COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, suggest that D.D.T. should be avoided. Sprays containing dichlorvos and lindane are dangerous if used near food, babies, invalids, pets, or if breathed. Shelltox strips and spray, Selleys Vaporific, Nutrax and Cheks All contain dichlorov (DDVP)

The "safe" sprays are those containing PYRETHRINS,

PIPERONYL BUTOXIDE, N-OCTYL BICYCLOHEPTENE DICARBOXIMIDE and N-OCTYLSULFOXIDE. We investigated sprays in a local shop and found that PEA-BEU and MORTEIN PLUS fit into this category. Probably there are others we did not see. AERGGARD carries a warning which should be heeded.

In all cases, insecticides should be used with caution. They are meant to kill insects, and almost all have harmful effects on other animals even when used with care.

.....

CALLING ALL JUNIORS - - - (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS).

We need notices advertising our Society - intended for display in shop windows. Two prizes will be offered:-

A. Under 11 years .. \$2.50. B. Between 11 & 16 years .. \$2.50.

Notices should be about 10" x 8" and clearly printed. Decorate it if you wish. Each notice should contain this information:

OATLEY FLORA & FAUNA CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

meets at the Swimming Club Hall, Myall Street, OATLEY at 7.45 pm. on the 4th Monday of each month.

ENQUIRIES: 53-7060 or
57-5909

Invite the reader to Join.

Write your name age and address on the back and give your entry to Mrs. Carder, 84 Waratah St., Oatley, 57-5909, before or at the APRIL meeting.

.....

COLONG COMMITTEE.

An application for a mining lease in the Barber's Creek area of Marulan came before the Mining Warden's Court at Goulburn on 16.2.71. It was opposed by the A.C.F. and Colong Committee on the grounds that mining would result in destruction of country 'unrivalled in scenic grandeur', and would cause pollution of the Shoalhaven River. The Committee stressed that it does want limestone mined at Marulan but not at the expense of this scenic area. There is adequate limestone on the plateau where the spoil is respread.

The case was adjourned and will come before the court later this month in Sydney.

A Private Member's Bill on the Colong & Boyd issues will be prepared by the Colong Committee and presented to Parliament by Mr. Walker (Georges River). A mammoth petition will be presented to the Premier.

COMING EVENTS.

Monday, March 22nd. at 7.45 p.m.

POLLUTION. - A talk given by Mr. J.G. Schroder B.A., M.I.E. (AUST). President of the Clean Air Society of AUST. & N.Z. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear about the causes & effects of pollution from an expert. The talk will be followed by a prize winning film entitled SHADOW OF PROGRESS. The film, projector and operator kindly supplied by B.P.

Bring as many friends as you can. Folding chairs will be useful.

.....

Saturday, March 27th. at 1.15 p.m.

MARINE FIELD DAY. - Led by Dr. John MacIntyre, University of N.S.W. Meet outside the Toll Gate at Kurnell at 1.15p.m. Visit mangroves & the seashore at very low tide. Wear strong shoes and be prepared for the mud of the mangroves.

Val Boyan.
(533-1013 after 4 p.m.)

.....

FOUND !!!!! One pair of sunglasses in the hall after the last meeting. Phone Mrs. Lloyd 53-7060.

.....

FINAL REMINDER.

This is the last time we are permitted (PMG regulation) to post OFF NEWS to unfinancial members. Please send your sub. to Mr. Arnold Bryden, 46 Glen Rd., OATLEY, 2223 or pay at the next meeting. \$1.50 adults, \$2.50 married couple, 60cents students, 20 cents juniors.

PRESIDENT: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223. .. Phone 579-170
SECRETARY: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST 2210.. " 53-706
EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 .. " 57-590

Would the owner of RECEIPT NO. 31 contact Arnold Bryden as he does not have your name & address (carbon was missing in receipt book)

PUBLIC FORUM.

To be held at;

AMAROC HALL, HURSTVILLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.THURSDAY 13TH MAY, 1971 - 7.30pm. to 10 pm.

on

POLLUTION OF THE GEORGES RIVER & BOTANY BAY.

The meeting has been organised by the St. George Branch of the Australia Party but is non-political.

Mr. Milo Dunphy in the chair, and the speakers include Dr. Bell, Health Dept.; Dr. Buckle, Food Technology, Sydney University; & Dr. Mullins, NSW Institute of Technology. Invited speakers from Councils, Atomic Energy Commission & the Australian Water & Waste Water Association.

All members of our Society are invited & urged to attend.

.....

HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR CAR EXHAUST ????

The N.R.M.A. will test and adjust if necessary, free of charge at Roselands Shopping Centre on May 13th and 14th. Most cars give off 6 to 8% poisonous carbon monoxide. N.R.M.A. engineers will reduce idling controls to the accepted 4%. The testing will be carried out each day from 2pm to 10pm if demand warrants it.

This is an excellent opportunity for all car owners in the district to help reduce air pollution, and a valuable contribution from the N.R.M.A. to the cause for clean air.

.....

THE WOLLI CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

Members of our Committee were invited to attend the last meeting of this newly formed Society. Their President is "our" Arnold Bryden. Cec. Saintry gave an interesting talk with slides on the activities of our Society. The Wollli Society has got away to a very enthusiastic start. It was good to see so many young people actively involved. Our congratulations & best wishes.

.....

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. Whitfield.



O.F.F. NEWS

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Category B

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MAY, 1971.

THE POSTER COMPETITION.

Our thanks to those who handed in entries. We were disappointed that there were so few - perhaps it was too near exams? We have extended the time to the next meeting, hoping that every junior will send in at least one poster. We need the posters for display in shops - YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE FOR CONSERVATION.

EDITORIAL:THE CLUTHA DEAL.

It is encouraging to note the growing concern about the Clutha Agreement.

The project manager for Clutha, Mr. Aldo Bagnulo, stated at a meeting on "ECOLOGY & THE CLUTHA PROJECT" at Sydney University on 28.4.71, that "Clutha has made a commitment to protect the environment - we only ask in return that we be permitted to demonstrate the good faith of our intentions". (Herald 29.4.71).

A group of scientists, set up by the "Social Responsibility in Science", investigated the ecological effects of the coal loader proposal and reported: "The Clutha Act does not specifically lay down any mechanism of monitoring or controlling the deleterious effects on the marine environment. Even if it did, controlling such changes in an ecological system as vast as a coastline, would even be beyond the capacities of Clutha".

The group reported such possible effects as pollution of land, air & sea, fire risk because of the depth of the coal stockpile, danger of landslides & beach erosion and most serious of all, the danger to marine ecology. But Clutha, we are rapidly learning, is a formidable opponent, & public concern must be aroused to stop the deal.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:THE GARDEN.

The Myra Wall Memorial Garden in Oatley Park has had a face-lift. Two large plants have been removed to restore proportion, & a number of blank spaces have been filled in with new plants. The watering roster will be suspended for a time until these new plants become established. During this time the Convenor will look after them personally.

Many thanks to those who have helped in the past. We look forward to continued support later.

Bill Haigh - Convenor.

.....

ENVIRONMENT.

This team is doing a colossal job and is urgently in need of assistance. They are at present inspecting & reporting on the various parklands in the district - there are at least 25 of these - and have already uncovered a "multitude of sins", including car dumping, commercial dumping of papers from Lakemba & the Western Suburbs, and the proposed reclamation of mangroves in the N.E. Arm of Oatley Bay.

ROSELANDS DISPLAY.

Our display during Conservation Week will be part of our Earth Day project for the Daily Telegraph Competition. We need photos illustrating the effects of urbanisation, industrialisation and population. If you have such photos (large one for display) or know where we could borrow some, would you please contact our Secretary, 53 - 7060.

.....

GET WELL CALLS to

Arnold Bryden our Treasurer, who underwent an operation at Concord Hospital. WE are pleased to report he rapidly recovering.

Beatrice Goldstein who is "enjoying" a sojourn at the Mater Hospital, North Sydney.

We hope to see both patients out and about soon.

PRESIDENT: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223 ..Phone 579-1703
 SECRETARY: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST, 2210 " 53-7060
 EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 " 57-5909

COMING EVENTS:SUNDAY, 16th MAY.

BIRD BANDING with HARRY BATTAM.

Details in April OFF NEWS or ring Val Boyan
 (533-1013 after 4 p.m.)

.....

MONDAY, 24th MAY at 7.45p.m.

FACTORS UNDERLYING THE DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT
 COMMUNITIES IN THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.

by PETER MARTIN M.Sc (AGRIC), University of Sydney.

Many of us remember the excellent talk & field days with Mr. Martin a few years ago, and will look forward to this meeting and the following field day in seeing him again. Both the talk and field day should appeal to High School students as well as adults. We hope you will come and bring friends.

.....

After this talk MR. NORM TONKIN will tell us about the Clutha proposals. Mr. Tonkin is well qualified to speak on the subject and we look forward to hearing what he has to say.

.....

SATURDAY, 30th MAY. at 10 a.m.

Field day in THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK.

with PETER MARTIN and MRS. LORRAINE MACKENZIE.

Visit various habitats to see the controlling factors. This will be a follow-up of the talk on the 24th May.

Meet at the VISITORS' CENTRE at AUDLEY (across the Causeway and to the right), at 10 a.m. Short walks only. Bring your lunch.

Val Boyan, 533 - 1013 after 4 p.m.

THE POSTER COMPETITION.The Judge's Comments:

Congratulations to all who entered the poster competition. The object was to produce posters suitable for display in shop windows to advertise our Society. Unfortunately, in their enthusiasm to produce an attractive poster featuring our flora & fauna, many entrants lost sight of this objective. The prizes were awarded to entries with impact and easily read wording. Because of artistic merit, the committee decided to award a consolation prize.

Cec. & Rita Sainty.

AWARDS: Senior .. Clare Dalziel
 Junior .. Sally Knight
 Consolation Prize .. Ruth Thorpe
 Special mention .. Colin & Jan Alsopp.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AT THE NEXT MEETING.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.The Mangroves of the N.E. Arm of OATLEY BAY.

This is one of the finest stands of mangroves in the metropolitan area. Last year they were threatened by a proposed road across the Arm connecting Kyle Parade and Moorshead Drive, but we hoped this plan had been abandoned. Recently we learned that the road was actually under construction. After consulting an engineer and the Dept. of Fisheries (mangroves are protected under the Fisheries & Oyster Farms Act 1935-60), a letter was sent to the Kogarah Council asking for consideration of a pipe under the road to allow the tides to reach the mangroves. No reply has yet been received from the Council but it is hoped the matter will be brought up at the meeting 7.6.71. We have supplied each alderman with a statement on the value of mangroves.

.....
 EARTH DAY IS IN SEPTEMBER AND WE WOULD LIKE EVERY MEMBER TO TAKE
 SOME PART

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Malcolm Stokes & Chris Lloyd.



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Price 5 cents.

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JUNE, 1971.

THE CLUTHA DEAL.

.....
 Opposition to the Clutha Development Act continues to gain momentum. The Ecology Action Committee is arranging a public meeting at the Sydney Town Hall on 28th June, to protest.

The agenda has not yet been finalised, but T.V. and Radio support has already been promised. Bruce Webster, Channel 7 has offered wholehearted support.

We feel that the Town Hall meeting should receive all the support we can give, but unfortunately it is the same night as our meeting. We can only hope that both are well attended.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE LOOK-OUT AT BURRAGORANG YET ?

"A superb panorama of the water stored by Warragamba Dam is available from Lake Burragorang Lookout where the Board has provided picnic areas & playgrounds." (Water Board)

57 miles from Sydney, along a bitumen road through Camden and the Oaks, this is an ideal place for a family picnic & you have an opportunity to gain some first hand knowledge of "CLUTHA COUNTRY".

On the left hand side, across the Nattai River, you can see the Valley Mine. On the opposite side of the main lake can be seen the Tonalli Tableland where test drilling for future mining operations is in progress. To the north, are the landslides that have occurred as a result of previous mining.

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 EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 57-5909

THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

(hereafter known as the EPC's) reports:

Oatley Park was inspected and found to be surprisingly free of litter. The Ranger is to be congratulated. The Committee feel that people are becoming more litter-conscious & that cleaned-up areas might remain clean for longer periods. However there are many other parts of the district that need a great deal of attention & the EPC's need more volunteers. The next meeting will start from Oatley Station, Saturday June 19th. Come for an hour or so to show your support.

Phone Ray Knight ..579-4982.

EARTH DAY IS IN SEPTEMBER AND WE WOULD LIKE EVERY MEMBER TO TAKE SOME PART.

CONSERVATION DISPLAYS.

The WLPSA is organising a "Wildlife Show", at the Sydney Town Hall, August 16 to 22nd. Their theme is "CONSERVATION IS WILDLIFE PRESERVATION". Our display, "Operation Earth Day", will be held from 23rd. to 31st. July at Roselands - because we are fortunate enough to have the required space free of charge & we feel that here we reach a greater cross section of the public. We offered our material to the Wildlife Show, it is not suitable for their display but it is possible it may be used in the Foyer. We need volunteers for the Roselands and possibly the Town Hall displays. If you could spare a few hours, please phone 53-7060 or 57-5909.

THE MYRA WALL MEMORIAL GARDEN.

Convenor, Bill Haigh, reports that Leptispermum persiciflora, Crocea saligna and Correa pulchella are flowering. Self-sown everlasting daisies are being cultivated for a spring show.

MYALL LAKES.

Our Committee decided to defer "investment" in the purchase of land at Violet Hill because the company already has the required amount. (January OFF NEWS). Further reports later.

KOGARAH COUNCIL ANTI-POLLUTION COMMITTEE.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 29th June at 8 p.m. at Kogarah Council Chambers. A film will be shown on some aspects of pollution. Visitors are welcome. It would be a good idea to show our interest by attending at least once.

SATURDAY and/or SUNDAY - JUNE, 26th & 27th.Visit BARREN GROUNDS FAUNAL RESERVEwith ARNOLD & PHYLLIS BRYDEN.

Barren Grounds has a good camping area and water is available. Camp for the weekend or come for the day. Entrance to the camping area is alongside the MAP.

A new nature trail, with 6 different ecological communities has been completed behind the camping area. WE are to be taken along this trail on SUNDAY morning commencing at 10 a.m., and arriving back at the camp site in time for lunch.

Access to Barren Grounds is from a spur road at the top of the Jamberoo Pass, which may be reached from either Jamberoo or Brobertson. Members who intend to camp are requested to contact the Ranger upon arrival.

.....

MONDAY, JUNE 28th at 7.45 p.m."PUTTING THE SOIL TO WORK."a talk by DR. W. GENTLE.

Dr. Gentle is a specialist of fertilisers at the Forestry Commission. At present, he has been seconded to the Department of Environment where is Acting Director and is engaged in setting up the newly formed State Pollution Control Committee.

This should be an extremely interesting meeting.

Val Boyan

(533-1013 after 4 p.m.)

.....

AN ADDRESS FOR YOUR BOOK.

We have received a letter from Eric Wheeler, who has already met up with the local "Clarence River Field Naturalists' Club". Part of the letter says, "As we would be very pleased to offer our hospitality to any members who are passing through Grafton, perhaps you could arrange to have our new address printed in OFF NEWS". Hereit is :

397 Dobie Street, GRAFTON .. 2460.

Thank you Margaret & Eric - we'll look forward to saying "Hello" some time.

THOSE MANGROVES AGAIN !

The struggle for the mangroves (N.E. Arm of Oatley Bay) continues and their fate is still in the balance. Some aldermen are in favour of retaining them but the local residents want the Arm dredged, and the obvious tipping place for the mud is in the mangroves.

The whole problem seems to be the lack of understanding of the very important role of the mangroves both as a unit of the ecology and as an eminently suitable site for school studies.

An engineer of our Society has drawn up an alternative plan to the dredging, which should not only prove more effective but will cost much less (the cost of dredging & removal of the mud has been estimated at \$2,000,000 and will result in the preservation of the natural area which includes the mangroves.

.....

MUSEUM WALKABOUTS FOR JUNIORS.

This is a very interesting plan devised by the Museum Educational Staff for young people from about 8 years, to University students. It is a series of question papers based on museum visits intended as an easy, interesting and enjoyable way of spending part of holidays. As each paper is completed the student scores points and certificates are awarded at stages. Eventually the Walkabout graduate is able to pursue his interest in Natural History with help from the Museum Staff, e.g. some graduates are at present working with Dr. Recher's team during mangrove research. If you are interested, see Mrs. Carder who has a set of the question sheets.

.....

ROSELANDS DISPLAY.

Our thanks to all who have offered assistance. A roster will be prepared soon. The display is gradually taking shape with all committee members working overtime. Titled "OPERATION EARTH DAY" the display will be seen at Roselands from 23rd. to 31st. July. We hope you will pay it a visit.

.....

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Mrs. F. Schmid of Riverwood.



O.F.F. NEWS

Published by
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JULY, 1971.

... OPERATION EARTH DAY ...

Although EARTH DAY is Friday, 24th September, we are holding our working bee on the week-end of the 18th & 19th September,

WE HOPE THAT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY WILL BE PRESENT.

Come for just ½ hour or for the two days. Find a job or just give moral support by being present. Bring your children and all your friends !!!!!

PUT THESE DATES 18TH & 19TH SEPTEMBER ON YOUR CALENDAR

N O W .

EARTH DAY IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

.....

EDITORIAL.

I am sure you will be pleased to hear from Mrs. Goldstein again, and to know she is back in top form. (For new members, Mrs. Goldstein was the founder of "OFF NEWS"). Turn to page 2 for her "GUEST EDITORIAL" for this month.

PRESIDENT: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223 - 579-1703
SECRETARY: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST 53-7060
EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 57-5909

EDITORIAL."SHOOT" for FOOTBALL FUNDS.

In Tasmania, each year a wallaby shoot is organised by a local football team and causes an annual outcry about its brutality. Two years ago when in Tasmania I discussed the matter with an animal biologist who is a keen conservationist, according to him the wallabies reach pest proportions and if the shoot was not held the local landowners would apply for and get permits to lay poison. In my friend's opinion, this laying of poison would be much worse than the shoot which only crops wallabies with perhaps one or two of the rarer local kangaroos. Poison would probably take fewer wallabies and would certainly account for more kangaroos, as well as many other forms of wildlife including birds. It seems that the shoot is by far the lesser evil.

Now however, there is a suggestion by another football club for a shoot of 'native hens'. These large birds which occur only in Tasmania, apparently do occur in large numbers although during my three weeks' stay in the Island I did not observe very large flocks. According to the press the application is being referred to the Tasmanian wildlife authorities for a decision.

It is to be hoped that the idea of raising funds for football clubs by annual shoots will not spread, and that the strictest examination of the status of the suggested quarry will be made when consideration of an application for a shoot is made. A shoot may be the lesser of the two evils as a means of cropping surplus animals, but as a basis for raising funds it seems somewhat barbarous.

Beatrice Goldstein.

.....

CLUTHA COUNTRY ?

One of our members reported the purchase of land in the Wentworth Falls area, as she said - "just to have a quiet bit of bushland to retreat to".

On a recent visit she found that CLUTHA had called and left a visiting card - piles of mud, sludge and other drilling debris. !!!!!

"The Blue Mountains City Council has sought an assurance from the Minister for Mines that large scale coalmining of the Blue Mts. will not take place. I understand that the Minister cannot give such an assurance". (Ex. letter to S.M.E. 2/7/71 by Mr. Foster, Council of the City of Blue Mountains).

COMING EVENTS.

MONDAY, 26TH JULY, at 7.45 P.M.

Three films will be shown:

THE KINGFISHER

BIRDS OF THE SHORE (by Harold Pollack)

THE WOODPECKER.

Our thanks to Mr. Harry Battam for providing the Movie Projector and the films.

Mr. Battam will be unable to attend our meeting but the projector will be operated by Mr. Cec. Sainty.

It is possible that a short film on some aspect of pollution will also be shown.

The films should be of interest to all age groups, so we hope for a good roll-up of juniors.

SATURDAY, 31ST. JULY & SUNDAY, 1ST AUGUST.

"WORK & LOOK" AT WIRIMBIRRA.

Come for the day or week-end. Sleeping accommodation is available. Mrs. Stead has a remarkable capacity for finding jobs for everyone. Children welcome. See for yourself this /Environmental Study Area. Our previous visits to Wirrimbirra have always been most successful. You will enjoy the day in the country.

Wirrimbirra is on the Hume Highway, just past Bargo, on the left hand side - you cannot miss the sign board. It is about 1½ hours drive from Sydney.

Further information from

VAL BOYAN - 533 1013 after 4 pm.

COMING EVENTS:HEATHCOTE STATE PARK with MARGE BARNES.SUNDAY, 15th AUGUST, meet at WATERFALL station at 10 a.m.

A delightful walk of about 4-5 miles through the 'bush'. Carry your lunch. Mrs. Barnes is very familiar with this area and the field day should be of interest to all - birds, views, flowers, pools etc. A train leaves Oatley at 9.19 a.m., change at Sutherland and arrive at Waterfall at 9.52.

MONDAY, 23RD. AUGUST. at 7.45 P.M."CONTROLLED HARVESTING OF WILDLIFE". An illustrated talk by

GEOFF RABBIDGE. Mr. Rabbidge is secretary of the Field Game Association and as this is a controversial subject, his talk should be very interesting to those conservationists who are realising that control of wildlife is sometimes necessary, but indiscriminate shooting should be prevented. Questions will be welcome.

.... Val Boyan, 533-1013
(after 4 p.m.)

MONDAY, 16TH to SUNDAY, 22ND, AUGUST." 1971 WILDLIFE SHOW" at the LOWER TOWN HALL, SYDNEY.

This display has been organised by the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, and consists of displays by various conservation bodies, live animals, live models, tape recordings and an hourly screening of nature films.

ADMISSION; Adults 40 cents .. Child 20cents
Tickets are available from Hon. Secretary .. 53-7060.

.....

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Miss L. Barnicoat, Mr. D. Small, Mrs. Buchanan, and
Gary Mallard.

**O.F.F. NEWS**

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/90051, 1971.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR E.P.C.STOP, THINK, ACT NOW, .. EARTH DAY, 1971.

STOP! It's time to stop and take a good look at our environment. Let's stop kidding ourselves about the future, our livelihood, and our very existence.

THINK! We must prepare now for a halt. Prepare for a no-growth economy, no-growth population, and no-growth cities until pollution is solved. Beginning now, we must seriously question the rapid depletion of our resources and any ideas to rip up green acres for so-called development. A completely new attitude to our present system of living must be found. "We cannot postpone decisions any longer. The burden of responsibility rests squarely on us and our generation". - Prince Phillip, European Conservation Year, 1970.

ACT NOW! Action is needed from an aroused public and from local, State and Federal governments. We can all show a much improved interest in local government by attending council meetings and questioning aldermen. We can show concern for our environment by asking all our friends and making ourselves available for the EARTH DAY CLEANATHON by our Society on Saturday & Sunday, 18th & 19th September.

Full details in next month's OFF NEWS.

- Ray Knight, EPC Convenor
579-4982.

President: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223 .. Ph. 579-1703
Secretary: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST, 2210 .. 53-7060
Editor: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 .. 57-5909

EDITORIAL:

"THOSE DISEASE RIDDEN, MOSQUITO INFESTED MANGROVES!!!"

This is how the Editorial of the "Leader" (21.7.71) described the mangroves of the N.E. Arm of Oatley Bay. The article also suggested that residents could play their part in reviving the ecology by "planting trees, including mangroves".

The furor we aroused seems to have subsided - but not before it reached the ears of the Chief Secretary. As a result of this this, permission to destroy the mangroves was withdrawn. This had been granted about the year 1935, and since then, as the Chief Secretary's Department explained, a great deal more has been learned about the importance of mangroves in the ecology of the river.

A committee has now been formed to devise other ways of disposing of the dredged "mud". Phil Hall is our representative on this and Professor Dextor Dunphy represents "INSPECT".

Out of all the publicity, criticisms and suggestions resulting from the dispute, two disturbing thoughts seem to have emerged:

1. the disquietening attitude of some aldermen who are not prepared to become informed on this environmental issue, and who simply will not listen to reasons for wishing to retain Poulton Park as a natural area, and
2. one wonders how many of the remaining mangrove stands in the metropolitan region are destined to become dumping grounds because permission to destroy them was granted about 35 years ago - or will such permission now be withdrawn?

.....

ATTENTION SUTHERLAND CONSERVATIONISTS !

An alderman at Kogarah Council remarked that mangroves of the Woronora River were being removed and he had heard no objections from conservationists.

.....

THE CONCORDE SUPERSONIC.

"Though little has yet appeared in the press, it seems that QUANTAS is coming under considerable pressure to take up its option on four Concorde Supersonic Transports".

-Wildlife Pres. Society, Q'ld.

This report is disturbing in view of the fact that the U.S. decided to close down its Concorde works at Seattle because of the danger of the sonic Boom and of the pollution of the stratosphere.

In spite of these warnings, the Anglo-French Concorde project has continued for economic reasons.

.....

OPERATION EARTH DAY AT ROSELANDS.

The display at Roselands was a united effort of all members of the sub-committee. As convenor of this committee, I would like to say a very sincere 'thank you' to all for their co-operation & very hard work. Our thanks also to the volunteers who came along to 'man' the show and worked so enthusiastically while there.

Finally, a word of appreciation to Roselands who supplied the site, publicity, stands, electrical connections, the projector, a storage room etc., and even helped with the erection of the display.

Ida Carder.

?......

Our display is now to be part of the Wildlife Show at the Lower Town Hall (see page 3). Volunteers are needed to assist. if you can spare a day or few hours during the week of the Show would you please 'phone our Secretary .. 53-7060.

.....

RANGER WANTED AT WIRRIWIRRA.

The David G. Stead Wildlife Research Foundation of Australia is offering the use of a new very attractive one-bedroom cottage (furnished or unfurnished) with services - hot water, light, heating - for a RANGER. Duties would include help in the conduct of school visits, and educational programmes, attention to visitors, sale of plants and literature, and light work in the nursery (a nursery man is employed). Duties can be varied according to the experience, knowledge and interests of the successful applicant.

This is an opportunity for a retired business or professional man to make a real contribution to conservation education.

For further information write to the Foundation at Box 4840 G.P.O. Sydney, 2001 or telephone 337 - 1838.

.....

CLUTHA !!

Norm Tonkin reports that the Clutha Committee is now investigating alternative engineering schemes for exporting the coal via Pt. Kembla by conveyor belts. This would avoid the necessity for a railway and port at Coalcliff/

COMING EVENTS:MONDAY, September 27th., 7.45 p.m.EDUCATIONAL TALK ON REPTILES. by TOM BURNS.

Herpetologist, Mr. Thomas Burns, is well-known throughout Australia for his work with reptiles and the anti-venene treatment of snake-bite. He is a consultant on snake bites and venom at St. George Hospital and works with Eric Worrell extracting venom for "anti-venene". A very interesting lecturer Mr. Burns is in demand as a guest speaker. He will bring along some live specimens (snakes and lizards). All adults & children should have some accurate knowledge of reptiles, and this an opportunity to gain it.

SATURDAY, September 25th at 12.30 p.m.ALONG THE CURRA MOORS TRACKwith LORRAINE MACKENZIE, B.Sc.

Travel along the Bertram Stephens Drive. About a mile before the turn-off to Garie, is a sign-post indicating the entrance to the Curra Moors Track. We meet here at the car-park. There is a fire place - lunch early and be ready to move off at 12.30. An easy and enjoyable walk for as far as you wish. Bring the children.

Val Boyan .. 533-1013
(after 4 p.m.)

ECOLOGY FOR CONSERVATIONISTS.

The series of lectures given at the Australian Museum recently proved so popular that there will be a repeat. 6 lectures Tuesdays 7.30p.m. from 21st. September to 26th October. 'Phone the Museum 26-6954 for further information.

ATTENTION SCOUTS & GUIDES.

As a step towards conservation of resources, B.H.P. has announced that empty tin cans will be recycled at Pt. Kembla. In the Illawarra district \$8.00 per ton will be paid for the cans - about 15,000 make a ton. S.M.H. 25.8.71.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. & Mrs. Menere from Lugarno,
Welcome back Lil Savage and Mrs. Johnston.

DONT FORGET THE CLEANATHON SAT. & SUN. 18, 19 SEPTEMBER.



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SEPTEMBER, 1971.

WEEK - END CLEANATHON PROGRAMME.OATLEY PARK

.....

SATURDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER.

Meet at the Oatley Park AVENUE entrance to the Park at 10 a.m. and/or 2 p.m. The organiser for the day will be Mr. Bill Haigh who knows the area well and will direct operations.

POULTON PARK

.....

SUNDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER.

Meet at the top end of the park by the basket ball field - cnr. Morshead Drive & Rickard Street, South Hurstville at 10 a.m. and/or 2 p.m. Organiser Mr. Ray Knight.

Kogarah Council has promised 200 plastic garbage bags. Disposal will be at the local tip. Members with station waggons or utilities will be assured of a special welcome. Bring GLOVES and perhaps a rake.

Our EPC's have already spent much time surveying the parks and reserves in the district in preparation for this weekend. Other organisations such as scouts and guides will be helping.

Come for as long as you like - ½ hour or two days. Come and have a look at your parks and help to remove ugliness from our natural areas.

WE HOPE FOR FULL ATTENDANCE FROM MEMBERS.

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Editor: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 .. 57-5909

COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

We should all be aware by now of our responsibility to make a decision for the environment at the election on 18th September. Voting is not compulsory but every good conservationist will register a vote in favour of the candidate who is most likely to be interested in a beautiful suburb with clean air and clean water - as opposed to "development" into a concrete jungle.

To help us decide on our aldermen, meetings will be held in the Hurstville Municipality on Monday 13th September at 7.45 p.m. Candidates will be invited.

Hurstville Ward .. St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Hurstville.

Penshurst Ward .. St. Peters C. of E., Morraine

Peakhurst Ward .. Methodist Church, Peakhurst

Our Vice-President, Ray Knight, is a candidate for election to Kogarah Council. In his own words "I believe that Kogarah Council has a need for a person genuinely interested in the local environment, to voice his opinion against possible over-development." We could not agree more - about all Council's! Ray has the experience and dedication that are needed for the task. He is an active conservationist: cur rep. on the Kogarah Council Anti-Pollution Committee, a member of the Kurnell Committee, Convenor of the EPC's, and is actively interested in Australian plants at his home and in the community.

Mrs. Daphne Johnston has announced that she is a candidate for the Hurstville Council. Mrs. Johnston was a foundation member of our Society and has been a member ever since.

It is gratifying to find conservationists offering for these positions.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE OUTBACK.

'Dung Flies' have been introduced into Australia by the C.S.I.R.O. to remove cattle and sheep dung in which the bush fly breeds. It is hoped that in 5 years the bush fly menace is gone.

(A lecturer at "ECOLOGY FOR CONSERVATIONISTS").

DON'T FORGET THE CLEANATHON SAT. & SUN. 18, 19, SEPTEMBER.

BEWARE ALL GOOD-INTENTIONED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO CLEAR WEEDS FROM NATIVE BUSHLAND. ... YOU MAY BE DOING THE WRONG THING !!!!

This warning comes from Mrs. Goldstein who recently attended a lecture on "Cleaning up the Bush - the wrong way to go about it". The speaker Miss Joan Bradley, who is an expert on bushland regeneration, says: "it is quite the wrong technique to pick the worst patch of weeds on the edge of the bush and wade into it with mattock and hoe. This will only cause a surge of wrong weeds. Begin where the bush could regenerate easily and grow towards the weeds."

What about bringing Miss Bradley along to one of our meetings Mrs. Goldstein.

NO MORE "HARD" DETERGENTS !

All Lever & Mitchens products - Rinso, Drive, QMO, Torrent, Surf, Softly, Bio-Jubil, Lux liquid, Velvet Liquid, Sunlight Liquid, Mir, and all soaps are now bio-degradable. The change over, voluntarily agreed upon, has been made ahead of time.

Better avoid those with enzymes however.

Professor David Phillips, Molecular Bio-physics, Oxford, says that enzymes used in washing powders are similar to those in the stomach to aid digestion. Enzymes 'eat up' proteins. We are all made of proteins. If you breathe in enzymes from the washing powder, they may start digesting you."

"CHOICE" warns that the pollution problems are not completely removed in the new detergents, but they will be drastically reduced. Old fashioned soaps have none of the pollution problems of the synthetic detergents, but there is not enough tallow in the world to meet the requirements.

MYALL LAKES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING.

To discuss the failure of the N.S.W. to provide an adequate National Park. ... ANZAC HALL AUDITORIUM 11, THURSDAY 7th October, 1971 at 7.30 pm. Speakers include Dr. Gavin Butler Milo Dunphy, Dr. Mosely, Mrs. N. Walker (Nat. Trust) 2215. MORE INFORMATION AT OUR NEXT MEETING ... BE THERE.

DON'T FORGET THE CLEANATHON SAT & SUN. 18, 19, SEPTEMBER.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Sir Garfield Barwick warned recently "There is a real risk that the conservation movement generally might be placing too much emphasis on things that were wrong & too little on what should be done to put them right".

I am sure that Sir Garfield would have approved of our efforts on 27th & 28th September when we attacked the rubbish in Oatley Park & Poulton Park. The effort was most successful if the amount of rubbish collected is a criterion.

The EPC's extend their grateful thanks to all those who came along & a special thank you to Bill Haigh who organised and worked very hard at the Oatley Park clean-up.

Malcolm Stokes & Chris Lloyd who did a colossal job on both days are thanked by Mr. Neil Park Ranger who reported that at one stage he accosted Malcolm & Chris suspecting that they were dumping car bodies, he was astonished to learn that they were taking them out of the Park - quite an incredible event !!!

.. ..

There is still much to be done in the community. The Poulton Park issue has still not been solved. The EPC's are organising an other working day! This time a survey of flora & fauna is being made to submit to Kogarah Council, and a committee is working on the problem of dredging Oatley Bay. Individual members have been involved in the bush area below Machen Street. It was in danger of demolition and now the people living in the area have been organised into clearing our exotics. (Well done Dalziels !)

.....

MEMBERS NIGHT - Monday 22nd. November.

If you have any suggestions, or interesting slides to show, would you please contact any member of the committee. It will be necessary to arrange the programme before the end of October. Also, please think about nominations for committee members for 1972. More about this in November.

.....

WELCOME - to all visitors who came along to our last meeting and an invitation to come along to our remaining meetings & field days. Our financial year begins next February & we look forward to having you join us then.



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EDITORIAL.CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

Do the recent Council elections reflect growth of public concern for the environment?

The majority of people are concerned about their immediate vicinity, hence the beautiful gardens and the desire to escape from the "concrete jungle". But too often this concern does not carry over to beyond the confines of the home and surrounds. How often have we seen rubbish from an immaculate home deposited in bushland?

However, the election results indicate that there is a carry over of this concern into local government and several victories resulted. Perhaps the most notable are:

- WOLLONGONG .. the Mayor was defeated by anti-Clutha opponents,
- LANE COVE .. two members of the Bushland Protection Society were elected.
- MOSMAN .. the Mayor was defeated by a member of the Clutha Committee on a conservation ticket.

With next council elections in three years time, there will surely be a clambering of many candidates to join the conservation bandwagon. It is up to all of us to see that this is so and that we give full support to genuine conservation candidates.

PRESIDENT: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223 .. Ph. 579-1703
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 EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 .. 57-5909

NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

The NCC Conference, followed by the Annual Dinner, will be held on October, 16th at North Sydney Council Hall, Blue's Pt. R., McMahons Point. Member bodies (such as our Society) send delegates to the Conference where an executive for the following year will be elected & motions submitted by members will be discussed. Our Society submitted one resolution: "As areas of estuarine conditions are diminishing, and in view of their changing value due to increased knowledge of ecology, the NCC request the NSW State Fisheries to reconsider any long standing approvals given for development of these areas, such as reclamation & dredging which may affect intertidal zones."

Our delegates to the conference are Ida Carder & Ray Knight.

All conservationists are welcome to the Dinner - 5.30p.m. Tickets: \$3.00 Guest Speaker: Olegas Truchanas on S.W. Tasmania. Phone our Secretary for booking.

The Annual Report of the NCC is too long for this medium but a copy is available if you 'phone 57 5909. One item of particular interest concerns the State Pollution Control Commission. On request from the Premier, the NCC submitted four names of "persons suitable to represent conservation interests". (I. Wyatt, I. Sim, A. Strom & V. Serventy). None was appointed. A subsequent enquiry resulted in this reply: "Mr. F.S. Buckley, President of the National Parks & Wildlife Foundation, represents conservation as it is understood by the majority of N.S.W. citizens". The N.P. & W.F. is not a conservation body - it is a Govt. inspired fund-raising group. The NCC has protested and asked that the matter be remedied without delay.

ATTENTION JUNIORS.

We have been asked to remind you that it is an offence to remove any plants or animals (that includes reptiles) from the Royal National or other Parks. Keeping reptiles in captivity is not usually successful - much better to leave them in the bush where they belong. Would parents please bring this to the attention of children?

BY ONLY WHITE PAPER TOWELS.

You pay about 1/3 more for the printed ones. They all cost 27c. a roll. Scott brand has 135 plain or 100 printed to the roll & Wm has 132 plain or 99 printed to the roll. S.M.H.

COMING EVENTS.

MONDAY, 25th October, at 7.45 p.m.

NATIVE ORCHIDS, by DON BALXELL, a talk illustrated with slides.

Mr. D.F. Balxell, D.D.A., B.Sc., is a Botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens & National Herbarium, Sydney. He gave a series of lectures on FORESTS at the "Spring School" at Murwillumbah last month, those of our society who attended will agree that he is a very interesting speaker.

At the conclusion of the talk, Norma Tonkin will show us about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen exclusive pictures of the CLUTHA COUNTRY.

SUNDAY, 14th November at 9 a.m.

BIRD FIELD DAY with ERNIE HOSKIN, R.A.O.U.

NOTE: In the programme the date for this event is 31st. October, unfortunately it is necessary for Mr. Hoskin to change it to 14th NOVEMBER.

Meet at Wilberforce township - (cross the river at Windsor & continue along this road about 7 miles) To most of us Mr. Hoskin needs no introduction. He is one of the best bird field day leaders. Bring your lunch & field glasses. Mr. Hoskin says that this is a good year for birds & that by 14th November the migrants should have arrived.

ORCHIDS:

Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange a field day on orchids, & it will be too late after the lecture to see them. If you are interested, turn left off the Highway at the cross roads before BEATHCOTE. Cross the line and turn right. Leave the car east of the station, walk south across playing fields & bulldozed area, Lunch at the old dam - about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. You should see Dovetails, Rock, Bearded & other orchids on the way.

Enquiries: VAL BOYAN
533-1013 after 4p.m.

FERRY CRUISE OF SYDNEY HARBOUR & PARRAMATTA RIVER - 17th OCTOBER.

Organised by the Conservation Society of NSW to study pollution. Ring 53 - 7066 or 57 - 5909 for information.

COMING EVENTS:

BIRD FIELD DAY with ERNIE HOSKIN. Meet at Wilberforce at 9.30 a.m.
SUNDAY, 14th NOVEMBER. (see October OFF NEWS).

MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

MEMBERS' NIGHT.

Harry Whaite will give a short talk on the 1971 Murwillumbah Spring School, and show slides of the various activities. You will find this very interesting and probably decide to attend the School next year. Our Society is always well represented and several members have attended more than once.

We need more slides for the night. Would members please 'phone Val Boyan so that she can arrange the programme. We would welcome slides from new members. Perhaps you have something of interest to display?

Please bring a "plate" for the supper which follows. This is an informal evening & provides an opportunity to talk to other members.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 28TH at 10 a.m.

Visit to KELLY FALLS .. Unfortunately Cec. & Rita will be away from Sydney, but we hope to find a new leader by this date. Meet at the turn-off to Stanwell Tops on the Princes Highway at 10 am. This is just after Helensburg turn-off and not at the garage as stated on the programme. The garage is at the Helensburg turn-off. This is a delightful area and a must for those who have not previously seen it. Scenery, flowers, birds and short walks. A picnic lunch and a pleasant final outing for 1971. ...VAL BOYAN 533-1013 after 4 p.m.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21st. LOWER SYDNEY TOWN HALL at 6.30P.M.

All Conservation issues will be discussed at a Public Meeting, speakers from National Trust, Ecology Action, S.R.S. CLUNIA, Myall Lakes Cmte., and COLONG committee. BE THERE !!!!!!

AS THIS WILL BE THE LAST EDITION OF OFF NEWS FOR 1971 -
COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ALL MEMBERS.

THE SAME FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN .. BUT PLEASE RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS.



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NOVEMBER, 1971

THE POULTON PARK STORY.

Two or three years ago, we first learned that Kogarah Council was considering the reclamation of the N.E. Arm of Oatley Bay. The mangroves were endangered and we could not allow them to disappear without a protest. However, after discussions with the Town Planner (Kogarah Council), State Fisheries Department and the Department of Environmental Studies at the Australian Museum, we were convinced that the mangroves were reprieved.

Early this year, our Environmental Protection Committee discovered that a road was under construction across the Arm of the Bay and this, if completed, would cut off the tidal flow to the mangroves. Also, a dredge was in position to commence moving the silt from the Bay and pumping it into the mangroves and the area beyond - Poulton Park.

The matter was urgent and the struggle began in earnest.

Representatives from our Society, INSECT, local residents and others concerned, formed the "SAVE POULTON PARK CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE". A wave of publicity through the press, radio, television, placards, leaflets and petitions resulted in a temporary stay of proceedings.

An opposing group formed and began a campaign for the dredging to continue. They wanted access for their boats and felt that the only way to achieve this was to pump the silt into Poulton Park. They thought that the conservationists were opposed to the dredging and this was well publicised.

WE DID NOT AT ANY TIME OPPOSE THE DREDGING. WE FELT THAT THE MANGROVES WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED TIDAL FLOW THAT WOULD RESULT - BUT WE DID OPPOSE THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION OF PUMPING THE SILT INTO POULTON PARK WHERE IT WOULD DESTROY A VALUABLE NATURAL AREA.

The silt was the problem. To pump it out to sea was too costly. The Health Department would not allow its deposition on the tip. In any case it was unsuitable for filling.

At this stage the Chief Secretary's Department intervened. In a letter to the Council, the Under Secretary stated that the Dept. was no longer bound by its decision made 35 years ago, to permit the reclamation of this estuarine area.

In part the letter stated: "the Department is also concerned that the proposed reclamation will destroy an extensive area of pristine mangrove swamp and adversely affect the productivity of the Bay. In the long run the siltation problem could be worsened."

The dredging is now suspended, awaiting a solution to the problem of where to dispose of the silt.

The SAVE POULTON PARK CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE has been working overtime and has come up with two suggestions:-

1. To pump the dredged material into the sewer main.
2. To allow it to dry in an area other than Poulton Park.

Many hours of work have gone into the detailed plans that were drawn up and the estimated costs that were worked out. The plans have been submitted to Council for consideration.

The whole issue is to be reviewed by Kogarah Council on November 8, and conservationists will await results with great interest.

THE BATTLE FOR THIS NATURAL AREA MUST BE WON !!

.....
"FIGHT TO KEEP BUSHLAND PARK".

Under this title the "LEADER" published a very good description of the Poulton Park issue on 20.10.71. Unfortunately, the authorship of the plans for dredging the Bay was mistakenly credited to the Connells Point Progress Association. The preparation and submission of the plans was in fact entirely the work of the SAVE POULTON PARK CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

.....
APOLOGIES to residents of Macken Street and to botanists for typographical errors in the October OFF NEWS. A new specie of orchid was not intended - "Dovetail" should have been "Doubletail". Typewriters do funny things sometimes (that goes for typists too !!).

PRESIDENT: Phil Hall, 33 Yarran Rd., OATLEY, 2223 .. Ph.579-1703
 SECRETARY: Ali Lloyd, 21 Belmore Rd., PEAKHURST, 2210 53-7060
 EDITOR: Ida Carder, 84 Waratah St., OATLEY, 2223 57-5909

THE 1972 COMMITTEE.

Nominations are invited for the Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 2nd, February, 1972. There is much work to be done and volunteers are welcomed. If you do not feel confident to take on a senior position then it is a good idea to become an "additional officer" until you become familiar with proceedings. What about the younger generation? Please think about this and 'phone or send nominations to our Secretary or any member of the Committee before the end of this year.

.....
MISCELLANEOUS.

A letter has been received from John & Kath Stait whose new address is YALDERIE SERVICE STATION, CUMBORAH, N.S.W. 2385. They hope to see any members passing through. We are sorry to lose Mr. & Mrs. Stait and our best wishes to them in their new environment.

.....
 Mr. Mel. Fackender has written expressing thanks to our members for the work we did at WIRREMBIRRA on our "work & look" week-end.

.....
 The Cruise of Sydney Harbour & Parramatta River organised by the Conservation Society of N.S.W. on 17th October achieved its objective. Those who attended really understand what water pollution means. They suggest a trip along Parramatta River starting from the Silver-water Bridge & travelling west. Better wear a gas mask!

.....
 A number of our members were in the gallery of the Legislative Council when Mr. N. Wran QC., Deputy Leader of the Opposition, introduced a bill to reconsider the CLUTHA ACT. The bill was defeated.

.....
 Our Motion to the effect that the State Fisheries Dept. be requested to reconsider any long standing approvals given for development of estuarine areas, was carried by the Annual Conference of the N.C.C.

.....
 Those who were unable to hear Dr. Paul Ehrlich during his recent visit to Australia, may be interested to know that the text is in the October edition of the National Parks Journal. See our Librarian.

.....
 THE A.C.F. reports that a new soap powder "SNO" is bio-degradable and contains neither phosphates or enzymes.