



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

23 NOV 1983

Mr. C.H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of
New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000.

18 NOV 1983

Dear Mr. Pratten,

Reference is made to your letter dated 11th August, 1983, concerning the proposed Wallaby Creek Nature Reserve.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife has advised me that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has had a long term proposal to dedicate a nature reserve in the Wallaby Creek area.

The Service is certainly aware of the area's value as a research resource containing as it does highly interesting flora and highly significant wildlife.

However the considerable funds required to acquire the lands concerned are not currently available nor is it likely that the necessary funds will become available in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, whilst the area's nature conservation values are certainly recognised, early action cannot be taken to dedicate the Wallaby Creek area under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Yours sincerely,

ERIC BEDFORD
Minister for Planning
and Environment

11th August, 1983.

The Hon. E. L. Bedford, BA, MP
Minister for Planning and Environment
10th Floor
139 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

Re: Wallaby Creek

For the past five years the Council has been concerned at the management of an area of Northern New South Wales, west of Urbenville, known as Wallaby Creek.

This area, described by Dr. John Calaby of the C.S.I.R.O. as the richest macropod area in New South Wales, depends on an interesting combination of management of private grazing lands and neighbouring State Forests for the maintenance of habitat for wildlife.

The private lands are presently on the market for sale, and the Council urges you to authorise the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as a matter of urgency, to purchase these lands.

Wildlife management has been a neglected side of the Service's work since the National Parks and Wildlife Service was introduced - here is an opportunity for the Service to take action to secure and manage exceptional wildlife habitat. Because the macropod environment depends, in part, on the maintenance of cleared, yet sensitively managed, grazing habitat, it is envisaged by the Council that, after purchase, the lands would be leased to a grazier, and we understand that a sympathetic landholder already manages land in this way in the area.

The Council is aware that the University of New England has had discussions with the Service on this matter and that co-operation has been sought with the Forestry Commission of New South Wales.

As well as seeking your urgent action to acquire the necessary lands at Wallaby Creek, the Council seeks your support in discussing the management of adjacent forests with the Minister for Forests, and with Dr. Peter Jarman, of the University of New England Department of Ecosystem Management.

Cmbt/..2

The Council is concerned that the Commission is unable to meet Dr. Jarman's recent request that significant areas of State Forest adjoining the private property remain unlogged.

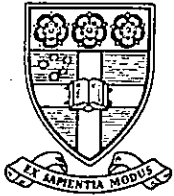
The Council does not contemplate that State Forest lands in the Wallaby Creek catchment should be transferred to National Parks and Wildlife Service Control p-merely that suitable management guidelines be drawn up between Forestry, the Service and the University of New England.

We believe that the recent closure of Munro and Lever's peeling mill at Grevillea has fortuitously given a good opportunity to implement this proposal, in that their annual quota of 8,500 m³ has now been relinquished. In accordance with Cabinet's Rainforest Policy we understand that this quota will not be re-allocated, thus relieving pressure on timber supplies from the Urbenville Management Area.

The significance of the diversity of wildlife at Wallaby Creek has been recognised by research scientists and conservationists for many years. The Council urges you to act now, in the manner suggested, to secure the preservation and maintenance of this diversity.

Yours sincerely,

C. H. Pratten,
CHAIRMAN.



DEPARTMENT OF ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
ARMIDALE, N.S.W. 2351, AUSTRALIA

07 JUL 1983

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

PJJ:ap

TELEPHONE (067) 73 3333

TELEX 66050

6 July, 1983

Mr. C.H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Chris,

Wallaby Creek

I feel it is time I brought you up-to-date on developments over the acquisition of Wallaby Creek.

Your indication (and that of some other organisations and individuals) that the rightful conservator of Wallaby Creek should be the National Parks and Wildlife Service, rather than a university, led us to approach the Service once again, (I had previously been assured that they would not consider the purchase of properties in the valley). After some negotiations, Ian Hume and I had a meeting in Sydney with the Director, supported by Dr. Keith Mulette, and Assistant Commissioner Mr. J. Stewart of the Forestry Commission. I attach an abstract of the Forestry Commission's précis of the meeting, and should add that they are more practically helpful than this guarded note would indicate. Later this month I am meeting them at Wallaby Creek to look at plans on the ground.

The Director of NPWS agreed at that meeting that the Service would make moves towards acquiring three properties in the valley, provided that: the university would agree to continue research there; the research meet with the Service's approval; and satisfactory arrangements could be made for management (i.e. continued light grazing) of the acquired properties. The Vice Chancellor is enthusiastic about the university's continued research, and Dr. Mulette has acknowledged by 'phone that the list of present and planned research which we have sent him contains much which would interest the Service. Management presents no problems.

This would appear to mean that the Director should now seek funds to acquire the properties. However, he first wishes to have them valued, and that could take a long time. The owners of two of the properties have given us until mid-August to come up with a positive offer. This might be an excellent moment for the N.C.C. to see if it can get government wheels turning faster.

Yours sincerely,

P.J. Jarman.

COPY

16th May, 1983.

U.N.E. Studies - Wallaby Creek

I refer to discussions of 12th May, 1983, in relation to the Wallaby Creek area, between National Parks and Wildlife Service (Director Mr. D. Johnson and Dr. K. Mullette), University of New England (Dr. P. Jarman and Prof. I.D. Hume), Forestry Commission (Assistant Commissioner Mr. J. Stewart).

Mr. Johnson stressed that any long term proposal would involve the Service, the University and the Commission as managers of the adjoining State Forest.

It is confirmed that:

1. In the short term the Forestry Commission will continue to co-operate with Dr. Jarman and other research workers by delaying logging in the adjoining State Forest for as long as possible. However, it is expected that it will be necessary to commence logging in the area within the next two years. Arrangements have been made for Forestry Commission officers to discuss with Dr. Jarman in some detail the timing of the commencement of logging and priority areas, so that the most satisfactory order of working can be determined.

2. In the longer term the Commission proposes to log these areas to the prescriptions detailed in the Urbenville Management Plan. Commitments to industry have been strengthened as a result of recent Government decisions in the adjoining Kyogle management area.

The Commission cannot meet Dr. Jarman's recent request to leave unlogged significant areas of State Forest adjoining the private property.

University representatives agreed that the area is of such high value to some degree because of and not in spite of Commission operations and that logging to current intensities would be compatible with the long term research objectives.

A copy of this note has been forwarded to Dr. Jarman.

G. S. Lugton

G. S. LUGTON,
Secretary.

P.O. Box 5748
Austin, Texas
78763 USA
22 June, 1983

Roger Lembit
Nature Conservation Council of NSW
399 Pitt St.
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

04 JUL 1983

Dear Sir,

Wallaby Creek

I have been contacted a total of 5 times from the one letter that was sent to Geoff Mosley. I am floored, but at the same time extremely impressed by the responsiveness of the Australian conservation community. Of the responses yours is the only one that has been able to directly answer the question I raised on the logging practices and possible consequences for wildlife. Thank you very much for the information.

I wish you every success and would like to aid in any way open to a United States citizen. Please contact me if there is any thing that I can do. (I am in contact with the University of New England.)

With Sincerest Thanks,


Steven A. Holt

15 JUN 1983

Steven Holt
P.O. Box 5748
Austin, Texas
78763 USA

Mr. C. H. Pratten
National Parks Association of NSW
399 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000, Australia

Dear Sir,

Wallaby Creek

I have retained an envelope not the letter that I recieved from your organization but your name rang a bell when mentioned in a letter from D. A. Johnstone. As a result I have addressed this reply to you. If I am mistaken see that this letter gets to the proper person.

Thanks so much for the heartening article on the Wallaby Creek preservation effort. I can see that the Wallaby Creek valley has very capable friends as allways. The planned action is all that I could have hoped for. The area could not, in my opinion, sustain heavy "park" use without significant degradation of the wildlife qualities present.

I was also contacted by Doctors Hume and Jarman. I have written them to offer any assistance that I can.

From a separate but similar letter I have recieved an impressively possitive reply from D. A. Johnstone of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I am extremely impressed by the responsiveness of the Australian conservation community. I wish you every success and would like to aid in any way open to a United States citizen. Please contact me if there is any thing that I can do.

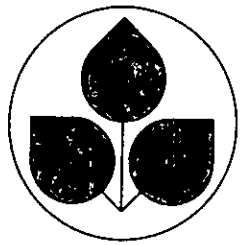
With Sincereat Thanks,



Steven A. Holt

26 APR 1983

Ans 2/6/83



ACF

Australian
Conservation
Foundation
672B Glenferrie Road
Hawthorn Victoria
Australia 3122

Telephone (03) 819 2888
International + 61 3 819 2888

22-4-83

Native Conservation Council/
National Parks Association

Could you please provide Steven Holt
in the USA with the necessary material
about Wallaby Creek as requested in the
attached letter

Thanks

Jan Penman

1P.
Steven Holt
P.O. Box 5748
Austin, Texas
78763 USA

Dr. Jeff Mosley
Dear Sir,

8 MAR 1983

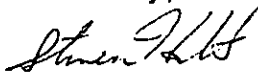
I am writing for information specifically on the Wallaby Creek / Beaury State Forest area. You may be aware that the area of Beaury State Forest near Wallaby Creek is going to be logged in three years.

* Is there any plan on the part of the park service or any other agency to protect this biologically rich area? Is there anything that can be done to aid in the protection of the Wallaby Creek Valley and adjacent parts of Beaury State Forest from the immediate logging, my short term aim. In the long term I advocate the permanent protection of the wildlife in this rich area.

* I will be attempting to contact people that have had direct personal contact with this area. The letters will inform them of the possible present threat in order to get their support in writing letters. I would greatly appreciate suggestions of where their letters should be sent for the best effect and any other organizations that I might want to contact or other avenues that I should pursue.

I hope to have contacted John Sommerlad of the N.S.W. State Park Service with a similar letter asking for information on the plans from the local officials involved.

Sincerely,



Steven Holt

15th February, 1983.

Peter Jarman,
Dept. of Ecosystem Management.
University of New England.
ARMIDALE. N.S.W. 2351.

Dear Peter,

The executives of the N.C.C. was delighted to receive your proposal for a reserve at Wallaby Creek. We agree that the sale of the two key properties provides an ideal opportunity to preserve this unique area, however we would prefer ~~that~~ ultimately come under the control of the N.P.W.S. as a Nature Reserve rather than vested in an institution - however ~~worth~~ (of course, if the funding comes from U.N.E., then that places a different complexion on the matter).

Not having surplus funds ourselves, we contacted the N.P.W.S. Foundation who advised that although they are fully committed until June, they may be in a position to help about September, provided of course, the project is approved by the Service.

In August 1980 we asked the Forestry Commission to consider the dedication of a Flora Reserve on their portion of the basin but they replied that it was their management objective for the area to provide suitable habitat for wildlife. We are not satisfied that the harvesting prescription for this portion of Beaury State Forest, involving as it does the logging of rainforest, is in the best interests of the wildlife - the view put to us in their response to our request. Their failure to consider a reasonably sized Flora Reserve in Wallaby Creek seemed to indicate that despite their constant reiteration of **MULTIPLE** use, timber production is their over-riding consideration. Protection of the whole valley under the Heritage Act is hardly consistent with merely not logging areas where ANU wildlife biologists are working.

Although we are unable to offer funds for your very commendable project we can offer to work for support within the Conservation movement and Government. However, before taking any action, we would appreciate advise on progress to date and your views on ultimate land tenure and the management of the adjoining State Forest within the basin.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. PRATTEN.
Chairman.

Who owns Wallaby Creek ?

Half the valley is State Forest. The other half is owned by four farmers who tolerate the wildlife and our research. Two of them are brothers who settled and cleared much of the valley fifty years ago, and who take a protective interest in the wildlife, assisting Dr Calaby and all subsequent researchers. Their opposition to shooting has kept the kangaroos and wallabies so approachable. These brothers had hoped that the National Parks and Wildlife Service would acquire the valley as a park to conserve the unique community. The Service can not do so, because their limited funds must be spent on more "endangered" areas (such as coastal areas threatened by development). The valley has been declared as an area worthy of preservation under the Heritage act. The Forestry Commission, as well as preserving the Tooloom Scrub Flora Reserve, has co-operated to protect areas where wildlife biologists are working.

The time has come when the two brothers, now old and unable to work their land, must sell their properties. They would like to see the wildlife which they have protected continue to be conserved; yet, in the absence of any sympathetic institutional buyer, they will cut the remaining timber so as to sell their properties as "improved" beef-cattle country. That would almost certainly intensify grazing on those, and the other two, properties, where low-intensity grazing has hitherto maintained habitats ideal for several uncommon species of wildlife. These changes would irreparably diminish the wildlife community of the whole valley, no matter how sympathetic to wildlife the new owner might be.

THE WALLABY CREEK WILDLIFE RESEARCH RESERVE

The imminent sale of the two key properties creates an opportunity for secure preservation of this unique Australian wildlife community, and assurance of its continuing study, by the establishment of a Wildlife Research Reserve. The wildlife community at Wallaby Creek appears very stable under the present land-uses, having changed little since the valley was first cleared. If these properties were purchased and kept under this present management (i.e. low-intensity grazing, with occasional burning), there is no reason why the community should not be preserved indefinitely.

We are seeking support for purchase of the two properties (457 ha) for which the asking price is currently \$350,000. If we succeed their ownership would be vested in an institution such as the University of New England. Agreement will be sought from the other landholders and the Forestry Commission to allow us to continue research on their land. The Reserve would provide a base for an expanded and continuing programme of research projects investigating the ecology and behaviour of species of the wildlife community, in which scientists from Australia and overseas would be invited to participate.

At this stage we are anxious to find individuals or institutions who will declare an interest in contributing to this project. *If there is more information we can give you, or if you are already sufficiently attracted to want to help, please contact us:*

P.J. Jarman	I.D. Hume
Department of Ecosystem Management	Department of Biochemistry & Nutrition
University of New England NSW 2351	

20 JAN 1985

PROPOSAL FOR A RESERVE AT WALLABY CREEK FOR WILDLIFE RESEARCH



Since 1788, Australia's wildlife communities have been greatly altered, some native animals being lost and many exotic ones being introduced. These continuing changes are depriving Australians of the opportunity to study communities of wildlife which were quite as remarkable as those of America, Africa or Asia. There are very few areas where species-rich communities of wildlife exist close to the facilities needed to support intensive research. One such area exists on the far northern tablelands of New South Wales, in a side valley of a tributary of the upper Clarence River. This valley is appropriately called WALLABY CREEK.

We have written this to try to explain why, and how, Wallaby Creek should be preserved as a Reserve for Wildlife Research.



WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT WALLABY CREEK ?

Wallaby Creek is the richest area of a district renowned for its wildlife. After a survey of the district in 1960 by CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research, Dr John Calaby, the team leader, reported:

"The mammal fauna is the richest in species so far reported from any area of comparable size in Australia."

As Calaby himself forecast, another mammal species has since been added to his list, and more may still be found. Most importantly, the majority of these mammal species can be found within a single valley, Wallaby Creek. Here, in a mere 10km², are represented the district's important wildlife habitats: rainforest; wet and dry sclerophyll forests; stands of apple box, brush box and Casuarinas; the creek and its associated vegetation; rough grazing; and tall tussock grassland. The rich array of mammals is supported by the meeting and mixing of so many vegetation types.

In addition, Wallaby Creek lies in an area where the fauna of sub-tropical Queensland mingles with that of temperate New South Wales. Several of its mammal species are considered rare, endangered, or severely restricted in range in New South Wales. Populations of some less rare species are particularly easy to study (a point we will expand later) at Wallaby Creek.

It is equally important that Wallaby Creek is remarkably free of rabbits and foxes; hares and feral cats are uncommon, although dingoes are common there. The absence of rabbit-supported foxes may account for the abundance of bandicoots, rufous rat-kangaroos and potoroos.

Well over two hundred species of birds have been recorded in the valley and in the adjacent Tooloom Scrub. The fauna of reptiles and amphibians is similarly rich. Large, carnivorous reptiles such as pythons and goannas are noticeably abundant.

The richness of Wallaby Creek, while partly natural, partly results from forest being cleared for rough pasture which favoured a few species. The resultant pasture has not been greatly "improved" by sowing or fertilising; the clearing left many trees and affected only one side of the valley; the other side remains as Beauty State Forest. Wallaby Creek freezes a time in Australia's pastoral history when land-clearing pushed into forested valleys, creating a diverse landscape, rich in wildlife.

We believe that this rich fauna — Australia's richest in some mammal groups — with its diverse array of habitats and the land-uses which produced them, must be preserved. The faunal community is a unique part of Australia's heritage, and presents unequalled opportunities for research. Because ownership of land in the valley may soon have to change, we see an urgent need for the system to be preserved.

Why wildlife research at Wallaby Creek ?

Three types of wildlife research have been conducted at Wallaby Creek: surveys, single-species studies, and multi-species, comparative studies. Surveys, like those of Calaby, have tried to discover what species exist in the area and what habitats they occupy. More surveys are needed on groups other than mammals and birds, and much detail should be added to the surveys of those two groups. The area's full richness has yet to be revealed.

Single-species studies of the ecology and behaviour of the satin bower-bird and four macropodid species have been undertaken at Wallaby Creek because each species was more numerous or more approachable there than anywhere else. These same characteristics apply to multi-species studies of the macropodids (the kangaroos, wallabies and rat-kangaroos) which have been our major research interest at Wallaby Creek.

Ten species of macropodids occur at Wallaby Creek (and an eleventh nearby) of which four are studied intensively. Two of these, black-striped wallaby and rufous rat-kangaroo, although rare in New South Wales, are more numerous and more easily observed at Wallaby Creek than anywhere else in the State. In contrast, the other two, eastern grey kangaroo and red-necked wallaby, are very common; yet nowhere else are wild populations of these species so approachable without being artificially fed. This approachability allows close observation of the undisturbed animal's behaviour, and recognition by small, natural markings. Such detailed field studies have recently made great contributions to behavioural ecology in Africa, America and Britain, but have been rare in Australia.

The macropodids of Wallaby Creek cover a wide range of adaptations, to forest or open country, to grazing or browsing, to being solitary or social, to being large or small. There we can compare representative species across the spectrum of macropodids living together. The same approach could be taken with other groups; there are for example nine species of possums and gliders in the area.

The wildlife at Wallaby Creek deserves to be studied because it is so diverse, because some of its species are rare, and because we need to understand how the valley's combination of land-uses has engendered this rich community. It is an excellent place for research because of the diversity of wildlife and the abundance and observability of some species. So much work has already been done there that future studies start with a substantial knowledge of the ecology of the community. There are technical benefits, too; half the valley is staked out on a 100 x 100 m grid system for recording the exact location of kangaroos and wallabies, for example, and all the red-necked wallabies and half the grey kangaroos in the study area are known individually.



Establishing Wallaby Creek as a wildlife research reserve would make possible long-term monitoring of individuals, populations and whole communities. Such studies, which have made famous research establishments like the Serengeti Research Institute in Africa, need secure tenure of their sites. Their results can be applied wherever the studied species or communities are being managed. Wallaby Creek as a Research Reserve would not only conserve the valley's unique community, but would also contribute to the conservation of wildlife throughout eastern Australia.



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND LANDS

22 NOV 1982

16 NOV 1982

Mr. C. H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of
New South Wales,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Pratten,

I refer again to your letter of 13th September, 1982, concerning Wallaby Creek, following my full reply of 6th December, 1979 to your letter of 11th October, 1979.

Selective logging in the Wallaby Creek area has been undertaken under the provisions of the Urbenville Management Plan in recent years and is planned to continue. These operations are entirely compatible with the maintenance of the wildlife values of the area and the findings of such scientists as Ratcliffe and Calaby and subsequent wildlife studies.

As previously advised, in continuing consultations between the Forestry Commission and the National Parks and Wildlife Service over a long period it has never been intended that any of the State Forest be included in the Nature Reserve which the Service is proposing to establish over private lands adjoining the State Forests. There has been agreement that the present management of the State Forests in sympathy with the maintenance of the particular wildlife values of this area, including maintenance of ecological diversity in forest habitat, be continued.

In this respect the position in 1982 is no different to that in 1979.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A.R.L. Gordon'.

(A.R.L. GORDON)
Minister for Local Government
and Lands.

Copy sent to Mr. Peter Jarman, University of New England.

13th September, 1982.

The Hon. A. R. L. Gordon, MP
Minister for Local Government and
Minister for Lands
Department of Lands
Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

Re: Wallaby Creek

In your letter of 6th December, 1979 to the Chairman of the Nature Conservation Council you conceded that Wallaby Creek in Beaurie State Forest was "one of the richest areas in Australia for the occurrence of species of native mammals generally and marsupials in particular". C.S.I.R.O. papers we cited in our earlier letters sought the protection of a nature reserve over at least some of the Crown land in the Basin but you have refused to adopt this approach proposing instead that the area be logged in accordance with the Management Plan beginning in 1977/8 which provides constraints designed to ensure the "maintenance of ecological diversity in forest habitat suitable to wildlife indigenous to the area".

Since that Plan was prepared the Forestry Commission has gained greater knowledge of the requirements of wildlife and has shown greater awareness of the non-wood values of rich and varied areas such as Wallaby Creek.

The Executive of this Council therefore requests your assurance that:

1. The 1981/2 Management Plan reflects this greater knowledge and awareness, specifically in regard to the requirements of over-mature trees for use by arboreal mammals and hole-nesting birds;
2. Tree-marking and the Timber Stand Improvement programme will recognise the particular value of this area by taking account of the studies conducted by Mr. Peter Jarman of the Department of Ecosystems Management, of the University of New England;
3. Further consideration will be given to the creation of a Flora Reserve in the valley of, in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, a Nature Reserve embracing some of the cleared privately owned land be recognised by all concerned as essential to the macropod habitat.

May we please be informed of your harvesting and roading plans for Wallaby Creek as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. Pratten,
CHAIRMAN.



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY SAWMILLERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

24th Floor, St. Martins Tower, Cnr. Market & York Streets, Sydney 14 APR 1980

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX Q145, QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDINGS, SYDNEY 2000

TELEPHONE: 02-290.1877

TELEX: 25036

TELEGRAMS: "ASCOSAWMIL," SYDNEY

cB/409/FR

April 10, 1980

Ms. E. Elenius,
Project Officer,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000

Dear Ms. Elenius,

Thank you for your letter of March 31, 1980 regarding Wallaby Creek and your advice regarding a letter to the Forestry Commission.

I have sought information from my informants, sawmillers in the Wallaby Creek area, who are unable to assist me in clarifying your interest in this particular area. Indeed, it was these members of ours who requested further information following reports that people representing themselves as members of affiliates of the Nature Conservation Council have been studying the area in question. In addition, reports have been circulating in the area that the Nature Conservation Council is to declare the area a National Park and that it has received Government support for such a move.

It is therefore of interest to us to know of the reasons for such statements being made.

The Forestry Commission has informed me that as the correspondence from you is not available to outside organisations at this stage. I will need your advice on just what your Council's intentions are in relation to the area. Is there truth in the reports that you require the Wallaby Creek area converted in land use status to National Park? How large an area is under consideration? What are the proposed boundaries of this area? Has there been any consultation with sawmillers regarding the likely effects of such an action on the provision of timber to the community? Is there any plan for discussions with industries which might be affected by such a move to determine the possible loss of employment? Is your Council considering the need to maintain multiple-use areas in the region for the enjoyment of the community?

As I mentioned in my letter of March 4, 1980, we are concerned to ensure that, adequate discussions are held with responsible conservation groups prior to the final development of any proposals for the removal of commercial timbered lands and to seek ways in which there could be co-operation in such a move.

...2

I must admit that our members were a little disturbed at the tone of your letter and comment was passed that your Council appears to be taking a deliberately provocative stance.

I do hope you will be able to advise us of the position prior to our next meeting on April 22, 1980.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'I. Nicholas', written in a cursive style.

IAN NICHOLAS
(Environmental Adviser)

D. J. G. Griffin, Director

HGC/PC

forestry - general 9 MAR 1980
**the australian museum
sydney**

21 MAR 1980

Mr. L. Willan,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000


Dear Mr. Willan,

Further to your letter of 8 February concerning proposals for the logging of Wallaby Creek in Beaurie State Forest, I have discussed the matter with various members of my staff and it appears that the Museum does not have sufficient information to take an unequivocal stand on the issue.

Dr. Recher advises me that some biologists have advised against reserving this area from logging on the basis that its present diversity of mammals is related to the diversity of habitats created by the mixture of farmland, logged and unlogged forests.

Whether this view is correct can only be ascertained by further research. Dr. Recher believes that the available data make a case for at least designating the area as a FAUNA PRIORITY AREA, in which logging continues but wildlife receives special attention.

Yours sincerely,


D.J.G. Griffin,
Director



ASSOCIATED COUNTRY SAWMILLERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Telephone: 02-27.9256 Telex: 25036 Telegrams: "Ascosawmil," Sydney

A.D.C. KENT, 189 KENT STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

IN/EH

4th March, 1980

The Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of NSW,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY 2000.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have recently been informed that your Council is concerned about some aspects of Wallaby Creek, involving harvesting operations.

It would appear that we have no record in this office of any concern being expressed to this Association about this matter, and I would appreciate your assistance in informing me of the situation which has given rise to your concern.

This Association is always anxious to work with responsible conservation groups in achieving reasonable improvements to harvesting operations or to considering reasonable requests for discussion of land use issues. We can see no reason to change this position.

Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your advice on the attitudes of your Council to the harvesting of Wallaby Creek.

Yours sincerely,

IAN NICHOLAS
(Environmental Adviser)



build in style with
TIMBER

31st March 1980

Mr. Ian Nicholas,
Environmental Adviser,
Associated Country Sawmillers
of New South Wales,
A.D.C. Building,
189 Kent Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Ian,

Wallaby Creek

I have received your letter of 4th March 1980 regarding our recent correspondence with the Forestry Commission on the matter of Wallaby Creek. Our concern is outlined in that correspondence so I suggest you go back to your informant, who, I am sure, will be happy to furnish you with a copy.

I would also suggest that you read the section entitled "The Wildlife of Wallaby Cree, Tooloom, NSW" in J.H. Calaby's "Mammals of the Upper Richard and Clarence Rivers, NSW, Division of Wildlife Research Technical Paper No. 10 CSIRO 1956. It will no doubt further enlighten you.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Elenius,
Project Officer



NEW SOUTH WALES
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

11 FEB 1980

Mr. C. H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of
N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000

5 FEB 1980

Dear Mr. Pratten,

Reference is made to your letter of 11th October, 1979 concerning the possible establishment of a nature reserve in the Wallaby Creek area.

The Director of National Parks and Wildlife has advised me that officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service have carried out preliminary investigations of this area and have discovered it to be of a very high value from a nature conservation viewpoint.

However, before the Service can give serious consideration to acquiring any of the subject land for reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, it will be necessary to carry out much more detailed investigation particularly in relation to the continued management of this unique area.

Unfortunately, the Service is currently being restricted in its investigation operations by a severe shortage of suitably qualified staff and in view of the large number of areas in the State that warrant investigation, must treat each case on its relative priority based on the threat of destruction of its natural assets. It is obvious that the past management of the Wallaby Creek area has been very sympathetic to the preservation of the area's nature conservation value and one can only see this continuing in the future. Accordingly the Service has allocated this area a relatively low priority and it is unlikely that the further investigation of the area will be undertaken for some time unless the current management situation alters.

In the meantime the Service intends to look more closely at the possibility of providing the freehold lands in the area the added protection afforded by proclamation as a wildlife refuge and also at increasing the area of flora reserve in the adjoining State Forest.

The work of Mr. Calaby and the late Mr. Ratcliffe is recognised as being highly valuable and will, of course, be considered by the Service in its further investigations of the area. No doubt the current views of Mr. Calaby will also be sought at this time.

Your suggestion that any reservation of land in the area be named after Mr. Ratcliffe has been noted and will be borne in mind when a decision in this regard is made.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL LANDA
Minister for Planning
and Environment

8th February, 1980

Letters Editor,
Sydney Morning Herald,
235 Jones Street,
BROADWAY. NSW. 2007

Dear Sir,

WALLABY CREEK

On the headwaters of the Clarence ~~R~~ear Urbenville is a small valley appropriately named Wallaby Creek which, according to C.S.I.R.O., has the richest variety of marsupial animals in Australia. It contains a mixture of cleared grazing land, eucalypt woodland and rainforest and is thus ideal for a macropod reserve. Ever since 1958 senior officers of C.S.I.R.O. concerned with these matters together with wildlife and conservation organisations have been pressing for the valley to be preserved but the Minister for Conservation has recently advised the Nature Conservation Council of NSW that although this area is "renowned for the richness of its macropod fauna" he has asked the Forestry Commission to log it rather than create a flora Reserve.

We believe that this is a mistake which again illustrates the insensitivity of the Forestry Commission and the Minister to the other values of our forests. Terania Creek is only the top of the iceberg and we therefore urge the Premier to extend the terms of reference of Mr. Justice Isaac's inquiry to cover other rainforest areas such as Wallaby Creek and Grady's Creek. Failure to do so will inevitably lead to further confrontations.

We urge those who feel as we do to write to the Premier (rather than to the Minister for Conservation who appears to misunderstand his role) asking for a wider inquiry under Mr. Justice Isaacs to cover all remaining rainforests.

Yours faithfully,

B. Willan,
Chairman

Letter
to Editor

Sydney Morning Herald
Broadway

Dear Sir,

WALLABY CREEK

On the headwaters of the Clarence near Melbournville is a small valley ^{affectionately named} ~~known as~~ Wallaby Creek which, according to CSIRO, has the richest variety of mammal animals in Australia. It ~~contains~~ ^{contains} a mixture of cleared grazing land, eucalypt woodland and rainforest and is thus ideal for a mammal reserve. Ever since 1958 ~~CSIRO~~ senior officers of CSIRO ^{concerned with these matters} ~~together with wildlife and conservation organisations~~ have been pressing for the ^{valley} ~~area~~ to be preserved but the Minister for Conservation has recently advised the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W. that ~~he does~~ although this area is "renowned for the richness of its mammal fauna" he ^{has asked the Forestry Commission} ~~prefers~~ to log it rather than create a Flora Reserve.

We believe that this is a mistake which again illustrates the insensitivity of the Forestry Commission and ~~the~~ ^{the} Minister to the other values of our forests. Terania Creek is only the tip of the iceberg and ^{therefore} we urge the Premier to extend the terms of reference of Mr Justice Isaac's inquiry to cover other rainforest areas such as Wallaby Creek and Grading Creek.

Failure to do so will inevitably ^{lead} ~~lead~~ to further confrontations.

We urge those who feel as we do to write to the Premier (rather than the Minister for Conservation who appears to misunderstand his role) asking for ^{a further} ~~the~~ inquiry ^{into} ~~about~~ Mr Justice Isaac's ~~inquiry~~ ^{to be extended to} to cover all remaining rainforest.

Yours faithfully

W. Williams C. Thompson



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES

17 DEC 1979

SYDNEY

-6 DEC 1979

Mr. C. H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, 2000.

Dear Mr. Pratten,

I refer again to your letter of 11th October proposing the creation of a nature reserve at Wallaby Creek which would affect portion of Beaury State Forest.

The Forestry Commission has always recognised that the Wallaby Creek area, which consists of both cleared pastoral land and adjacent sections of Beaury State Forest, is recognised as one of the richest areas in Australia for the occurrence of species of native mammals generally and of macropods in particular. You will be aware that Calaby, in his paper you cite, attributed this richness to the considerable diversity of habitat in the region. The diversity includes not only a range of natural vegetation types and topographic situations; but also the juxtaposition of cleared land used for grazing and occasional cropping, and State Forest which has been used for extensive forms of timber harvesting for most of this century.

Recent contact by Forestry Commission staff with Dr. Calaby confirms that he still supports these conclusions which are in fact now confirmed by other wildlife studies in the area undertaken by universities, Forestry Commission and National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

The Commission recognises that in this area the State Forests comprise the majority of the forest habitat, are the only large areas of timbered land legally secure from agricultural clearing, and that the future of forest wildlife species in the area lies in the multiple-use management of these State Forests to provide, among other things, suitable habitat. Consequently one of the Commission's management objectives for the Urbenville Management Area (which includes Beaury State Forest) is to maintain ecological diversity in forest habitat suitable to wildlife indigenous to the area. The Urbenville Management Plan incorporates constraints designed to ensure the achievement of this objective, and the Commission will vary those constraints as and if necessary to meet the objective.

The Commission has been in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service about the Wallaby Creek area over a long period. I understand that the Service proposes to establish a Nature Reserve over some 1300 ha of private lands adjoining the State Forest, and that it is expected that consultation between the Commission and the Service will continue.

It would therefore seem that the present and proposed land management in the area recognises the importance of the indigenous wildlife and is providing successfully for its conservation.



17 DEC 1979

- 2 -

As requested, I attach the appropriate section of the Management Plan for your information.

Yours faithfully,

(A.R.L. GORDON)
Minister for Conservation
and Water Resources.

8th February, 1980

Dr. Des Griffin,
Director,
Australian Museum,
College Street,
SYDNEY. NSW. 2000

Dear Des,

The Executive of the NCC is disturbed to learn that the Forestry Commission Urbenville District Management Plan calls for the logging of Wallaby Creek in Beaurie State Forest and that this action is supported by the Minister for Conservation despite the many proposals to preserve the area.

I am sure you are aware of the proposals for a Nature Reserve made by the late Francis Ratcliffe and John Calaby of C.S.I.R.O. in 1971 and other appeals made by a number of organisations going back to 1958. Although the Minister is impressed by the richness of its macropod fauna he refuses to contemplate a Flora Reserve preferring to continue logging both the eucalypt and rainforest.

We propose to persuade the Government that this is not the right course to adopt and urge the Museum, which is displaying commendable concern for areas under threat, to do the same. One possibility would be an extension of the terms of reference of Mr. Justice Isaac's inquiry into Terania Creek logging.

Yours faithfully,

L. Willan,
Chairman

Dr. D. Griffin
Director, Midland Museum
College St.
Sydney

Dear Des

The Execution of the N.C.C. is disturbed to learn
that the Forestry Commission ^{WARRENVILLE DISTRICT} Management Plan ~~now~~ calls
for the logging of Wallaby Creek ^{in BEAURY STATE FOREST} and that this
action is supported by the Minister for Conservation despite
the many proposals to ~~preserve~~ ^{preserve} the area.

I am sure you are aware of the proposals for a
National Reserve made by Francis Ratchford and John Colahy
of C.S.I.R.O. in 1971 and other appeals made by a number
of organisations going back to 1958. ^{Although the} ~~Even the~~
Forestry ^{MINISTER} ~~Commission~~ is impressed by the ~~richness of its~~
~~manipulated fauna~~ ^{richness of its}

manipulated fauna he refuses to contemplate a Flora Reserve
preferring to continue logging both the catchment and riparian.

We propose to ^{persuade} ~~urge~~ the Government that this is not
the right course to adopt and urge the Museum,
which is displaying ^{commendable} ~~increasing~~ concern for areas under
threat, to do ~~endeavour~~ ^{the same}. One possibility
possibility would be the ^{your} extension of the terms of
reference of Mr Justice Gair's enquiry into Thompson Creek
logging.

Yours faithfully

CHRISTOPHER

19 OCT 1979



NEW SOUTH WALES

MINISTER FOR CONSERVATION
AND
MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES

SYDNEY

18 OCT 1979

Mr. C. H. Pratten,
Chairman,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. 2000

Dear Mr. Pratten,

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 11th October, 1979 proposing the creation of a nature reserve at Wallaby Creek which would affect portion of Beaurty State Forest.

I have referred the question to the Forestry Commission for investigation and when I have more information I shall contact you again.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. R. L. Gordon'.

(A. R. L. GORDON),
Minister for Conservation
and Water Resources.

Nat Parks

399 Pitt Street, SYDNEY, 2000.

Telephone: 233-5388

12th July, 1977.

Miss. J. Cameron,
Secretary,
The Gould League of N.S.W.
Public School,
Burton Street,
MILSON'S POINT, 2061.

Dear Miss. Cameron,

I have taken the matter of the proposed nature reserve at Wallaby Creek, Tooloom with the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and I have enclosed for your information a copy of his reply to me.

Please let me know if there is any further action that you wish the Council to take in respect of the reservation of this important area.

Yours sincerely,

John K. Hibberd,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

999 Pitt Street, SYDNEY,, 2000.

Telephone: 233-5388

12th July, 1977.

Mr. Milton Trudgeon,
48 Bruxner Crescent,
GOONELLABAH, N.S.W. 2480.

Dear Mr. Trudgeon,

I have taken the matter of the proposed Nature Reserve at Wallaby Creek, Tooloom with the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and I have enclosed for your information a copy of his reply to me.

Please let me know if there is any further action that you wish the Council to take in respect of the reservation of this important area.

Yours sincerely,

John K. Hibberd,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.



National Parks and Wildlife Service



Mr. J. K. Hibberd,
Executive Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

189-193 Kent Street,
Sydney

P.O. Box N189, Grosvenor
Street Sydney, N.S.W. 2000
Telegrams: Napawi

Our reference: M983 BS:JD

Your reference:

5 MAY 1977

Telephone: 27 9711
Extension:

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to your letter of 24th March, 1977 on behalf of the Gould League of N.S.W. concerning the proposed Wallaby Creek Nature Reserve.

It is proposed that the Wallaby Creek Nature Reserve proposal will be included by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the next programme submitted to the Australian Government for funding during 1977/78, under the State Grants (Nature Conservation) Act.

The Service is certainly aware of the importance of the area especially in relation to the population of rare macropods and the large variety of birds reported in the area. Every effort will be made to secure these lands for inclusion in the Wallaby Creek Nature Reserve proposal. However the Service has only completed preliminary investigations at this stage and a definite boundary for the Reserve will not be established until more detailed investigations have been completed.



Yours faithfully,

D. A. JOHNSTONE,
DIRECTOR

Nat Pks.

399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, NSW 2000.

Telephone: 233-5388

24th March, 1977.

Mr. Johnson,
Director,
National Parks and Wildlife Service,
P.O. Box N189,
Grosvenor Post Office,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing to you in relation to a request from one of our member bodies, the Gould League of N.S.W., who have requested us to make representations on the matter of the proposed Nature Reserve at Wallaby Creek, Tooloom. I have enclosed for your information a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Trudgeon to the Minister for Lands. At this stage we have recommended that Mr. Trudgeon should apply for registration of the area on the Interim Register of the National Estate on the basis of the research work already carried out in the area.

The Council would be most appreciative if the Service could indicate their views on the value and feasibility of acquiring the freehold properties mentioned in Mr. Trudgeon's letter. We would also be most interested to hear your views in relation to Mr. Newman's statement, contained in the enclosed letter, stating that the Federal Government would be prepared to give the matter consideration in the context of future programs under the States Grants. (Nature Conservation) Act if N.S.W. gives priority to the area.

I am quite prepared to visit the Service and discuss this matter further with your officers if you feel that this is necessary and I look forward to developing relationships between the Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service over matters of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

John K. Hibberd,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.



399 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000.
Telephone: 233-5388

24th March, 1977.

Mr. Milton Trudgeon,
48 Bruxner Crescent,
GOONELLABAH, N.S.W. 2480.

Dear Mr. Trudgeon,

The Gould League of N.S.W. have recently written to us requesting the Council to make representations in relation to a proposed Nature Reserve at Wallaby Creek, Tooloom. The Gould League also enclosed a copy of your letter to Mr. Crabtree.

The Council are prepared to assist you in this matter and will be making representations to the relevant authorities. However, it does appear that the National Parks and Wildlife Service cannot afford to purchase the freehold properties that you suggest and they believe the best solution, at present, will be to retain the area under its existing management. I shall, in any case, be writing further to the N.P. & W.S. on this matter.

I would also suggest that your case could be assisted considerably were you to apply for registration of the area on the Interim Register of the National Estate. I have therefore enclosed a nomination form for you to complete - this should then be returned to me at the above address since the Nature Conservation Council is acting as the co-ordinating body for all submissions on natural areas in N.S.W. If you have any difficulties please do not hesitate to write or telephone.

I shall be contacting you further when additional information becomes available to me.

Yours sincerely,

John K. Hibberd,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

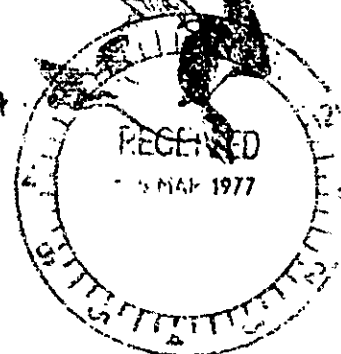
Enc.



THE GOULD LEAGUE

OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Public School.
Burton Street
MILSON'S POINT
N.S.W. 2061
Telephone: 92-7934



28th February, 1977

The Secretary,
Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.,
263B Broadway,
BROADWAY.

Dear Sir,

Proposed Nature Reserve - Wallaby Creek, Tooloom

We enclose copy of a letter from Mr Milton Trudgeon, a Country Member of our Council, in which he sets out the history of his campaign for the acquisition of the wallaby Creek area as a Nature Reserve.

The Gould League has given its approval to the project, and now requests that your organisation again make representations on this matter.

It further asks to be given an indication of the progress of such representation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Cameron".

(Miss) J. Cameron
Secretary

C O P Y

Mr. Milton Trudgeon,
48 Bruxner Crescent,
COONELLABAH. 2480. N.S.W.

The Hon. W.F. Crabtree,
Minister for Lands,
Parliament House,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

Ref: Yours of 17-12-1976 in reply to mine of 26-10-1976.

I hereby request that the proposed Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, Nature Reserve be given sufficient priority to ensure that the freehold lands be acquired in the next financial year.

In response to a recent letter the Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony said he could understand how anxious I am to see the Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, area protected and forwarded me a letter from the Hon. K. Newman, which reads in part - "The Wallaby Creek land has not been put forward by the New South Wales Government as a top priority acquisition proposal and consequently has not been included in a program to date. If New South Wales, as a result of Mr. Trudgeon's approach does decide to give priority to this area, I will be pleased to give it the utmost consideration in the context of future programs under the States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act."

I have just spent some days in the company of a young man on a several years Monash University grant to study aspects of bird life at Wallaby Creek, Tooloom. We discussed the abundance of species as indicated for the area in "Birds and Where to Find Them New South Wales" by Roy W. Wheeler in which individuals and organizations have added nine species since publication. With his assistance I confirmed a tenth addition, and, with visitors from Brisbane an eleventh addition.

It is noticeable that tourists, naturalists, official and semi-official visitors know little of the flora, avifauna, science and other attractions of Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, except what has been indicated about mammals by John H. Calaby.

It should be noted that the remarkable bird list is from a catchment area of 10,000 - 12,000 acres only. Experts such as Mr. Alex G. Floyd, to whom you refer in your letter would, remarkably expand my meagre layman's flora list indicated in my correspondence about Wallaby Creek

2.

Similarly, other experts would greatly expand my incomplete listing of other attractions.

While purchase money is a problem, I feel that the freehold land-owners should receive a proper price. Each property seems to have differing factors and circumstances and, therefore, a different value.

In order of priority relative to the viability of the proposal, such freehold properties seem to me to be (1) J.K. Mulcahy's (2) J.M. Hayes' (3) E.J. Hayes' and (4) perhaps E.D. Bell's. Parts of other properties have been suggested, but seem unnecessary.

There is land to the North, East and West of the J.K. Mulcahy property (ideally, all of it within the catchment area) whether it

be called Crown, Forestry in Lease Land, which is an essential addition to the freehold lands.

Therefore, I respectfully request information as to the areas other than the freehold lands that are planned for inclusion in the Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, Nature Reserve.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) Milton Trudgeon

Carbon copies to Mr. R.B. Duncan, M.L.A., the Gould League Council of
N.S.W.

C O P Y

Mr. Milton Trudgeon,
48 Bruxner Crescent,
GOONELLABAH. 2480. N.S.W.

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Parliament House,
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(Sgd.) Milton Trudgeon

Carbon copies to Mr. R.B. Duncan, M.L.A., the Gould League Council of
N.S.W.

be called "free" or "free" in lease land, which is an essential addition to the free land.

Therefore, I respectfully request information as to the cross other than the first of land that are claimed for inclusion in the will of the land, to be received.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd/-) J. J. J. J. J.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the land is not included in the will of the land.

Vn Seventy plan

The Gould League of New South Wales

The Wildlife of Wallaby Creek, Tooloom N.S.W.

From J.H. Calaby's "Mammals of the Upper Richmond and Clarence Rivers, N.S.W."
Division of Wildlife Research Technical Paper No. 10. C.S.I.R.O. 1966.

"The richness of the mammal fauna in both species and numbers in the area surveyed is remarkable; it is the richest in species ever reported from any area of comparable size in Australia. Forty-five species of native mammals and seven wild introduced mammals (including the dingo) were found. The list will probably be extended in the future, at least for the bat species. The occurrence of eleven members of the Kangaroo family in such a small area is especially noteworthy. In at least two areas of 2,000 acres or less, ten of them could be seen."

Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, is one of the above-mentioned areas.

John Calaby, scientist, ecologist and conservationist, has subtly camouflaged the pin-pointing of his rarest mammal finds and their exact habitat. Also, curious naming of the downstream Tooloom River as "Upper Tooloom" and "Tooloom Scrub" road-signs on separate rain-forests ten to twenty miles apart, have paid dividends in saving mammals from potential despoilers.

Now that the veil has been lifted in the drive to establish a National Park, it is essential that the general public, local and government and the government ensure absolute protection from despoilers not only to the mammals, but to the equally remarkable bird population and the other creatures, flowers, plants and trees. Moreover, over these animals, of whom many more are flesh-eating and omnivorous than is generally known, hovers the dreadful threat of poison, especially 1080. With these scientifically proven strongholds of rich fauna at stake, dare we use poisons such as 1080 until complete investigation of all their effects such as press reports of "chain-death" claims of fauna expert David Fleay, West Birleigh, and reports of many other people including R.W. Tomkins, Billaria, via Tenterfield, and L. Lionel Bigg, Swallowfield, near Armidale.

Through a roughly seven miles long by three miles wide catchment area, Wallaby Creek, seven miles from Urbenville in northern N.S.W., empties into Tooloom Creek a tributary of the Clarence River. Wallaby Creek heads in a horseshoe formation running south from the 3,500 foot high Beary Range, which runs north-east to south-west, from the McPherson Range. About half of Wallaby Creek is part of the Land and Beary State Forest No. 2. The catchment area is bounded by tall eucalypts, woodland or "forest", except for several miles of rain-forest or "scrub" to the west and north where Tooloom scrub dips in and out of the head of Wallaby Creek. Similar rain-forest runs back and forth on the eastern rim of the horseshoe formation ending in a ten-acre patch on the eastern top and side of Wallaby Knob. The rain-forest edges are usually thick masses of shrubs and vines. The Green Knob was isolated grassland before white occupation of about 120 years ago. In Wallaby Creek valley a patch of about 100 acres of rain-forest and another of about 40 acres and numerous acre to half-acre patches are set in the eucalypt dominated tall woodland of State Forest. State Forest leases and private properties. The patches of "scrub" vary from each other in trees, plants and fauna. Beside one large patch of rain-forest is a patch of Blue Gum dominated wet sclerophyll tall woodland. There are some patches of tall woodland which resembles the contact line of "scrub" and "forest". Such a contact line of about three acres has been used by Bell Liner colony for at least twenty years. Recently, a second Bell Liner colony was formed several miles south of the first. Some of the trees, underbrush, vines and grasses found in the original Bell Liner colony have been asterisked later. The rain-forest grows mostly on red and chocolate basaltic soils. The "scrub" is a dense stand of trees, generally with a strata of underbrush. A middle and top strata of treetops join in an interlacing canopy rather like an alternating series of upper and lower open umbrellas.

Hillside and valley-floor sedimentary and light basaltic soils produce, where Timber Stand Improvement has not taken place, the tall woodland or "forest" dominated by eucalypts whose tops meet or almost meet over a lower stand of the same or other trees. No map has come to hand of the upper stream and tributaries of Wallaby Creek. These details I have platted into the blank spaces of parish maps. These like the Wild Cattle Creek tributary, which is shown on the parish maps, have abundant basalt boulders and contain sandstone, shale, ironstone, conglomerate, coal, petrified wood, crystal, jasper and langanese. There are some small deposits of limestone. A waterfall on a N.W. tributary features pressures and flows in its basalt walls which have enthralled perhaps the only geologist to see them. These effects are repeated on a grander scale in the Rock Hill Falls just over the N.W. side of Wallaby Creek catchment area. Northern benenlands hold swamps of up to seventy-five yards diameter which attract water-birds. Benchland lank growth such as Native Sorghum is a habitat for Liza Wrens.

Beef cattle grazing properties in the middle reaches and Forestry leases show intelligent Timber Stand Improvement, while the dairy farms of lower reaches have led to crops, pastures and savannah woodland appearance from a not overdone reduction of trees. Bushfires and burning-off have been infrequent, with the bottom valley straddled by these conservationist farmers and graziers and the northern track and tracts under the enlightened control of The Forestry Commission and its leaseholders. Freedom from bushfires, controlled burning off and thick belts of many miles of State Forest to the north-east and south-west have preserved abundant wildlife. Moreover, intruders and destroyers are dissuaded by the Rough Scaled Snake, known locally as the "Clarence River Rough", Golden-crowned, Small-eyed, Red-bellied Black, White-crowned, Broad-headed, Black-headed, Two-collared snakes and Yellow-faced Whip Snakes identified for Ned Hayes and me by Allen Keast and Harold Cogger at the Australian Museum. Among other snakes presented are King Brown, Bandy Bandy, Brown Tree, Black-bellied Marsh, Pythons and Stephen's Banded snakes. Leeches, mites and ticks add their measure of discomfort.

From the foregoing it may be seen that the varied habitats and creatures of Wallaby Creek are in the understanding hands of Master Farmer and the people who farm, graze and husband the valley. My knowledge of the mammals of Wallaby Creek comes from seeing them in their wild state, injured and being tormented by man, or after being killed by machines, cats and dogs. My list includes:- Swamp, Scrub, Whip-tail and Red-necked Wallabies, Wallaroo, Grey Kangaroo, Red-necked and Red-logged Pademelons, Sugar, Dusky, Squirrel, Pigmy and Greater Glider, Ring-tail, Brush-tailed and Short-eared possums, Long-nosed and Short-nosed Bandicoots, Koala, Yellow-footed Marsupial Mouse, Potoroo, Rufous Rat Kangaroo, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Tiger Cat, Echidna, Platypus, Bush Rat, Swamp Rat, Black Rat, House Mouse, Rabbit, Hare, Feral Cat, Fox and Dingo. Knowledge of other marsupials, flying foxes, bats and rodents may be found in Technical Paper No. 10, or better still by personal contact with the author John Calaby. To many people a list of trees reveals the rocks, minerals, water, soil, insects, fungi, orchids, lilies, animals and birds on ground about it and on, or in, the trunks and branches. They see the tree as opening its heart figuratively, mystically and literally to house, protect and feed a host of interesting and often precious living things. Perhaps they shelter the carnivorous, arboreal Eastern Native Cat which I last saw in 1950 on Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, similar to the species recently shot on Mount Warning and trapped at Nullamanna. Wonders in themselves and often giants, trees of the Tall Woodland or "Forest" includes:- Grey Ironbark, *Grey Gum, Floodwood, Tallow-wood, *Forest Red Gum, White Gum, Grey Box, *New England Ash, *Brush Box, *Rough-barked Apple, *Ribbon Gum, Yellow Box, Red Oak, *Sheoak, Black Wattle, White Mahogany, *Bat Wing Coral, *Sally Wattle, *Hickory, Kurrajong, Banksia.

Trees of the rain-forest or "Scrub" include:- Hoop Pine, Rose Mahogany (Rosewood), White Beech, Crow's Ash (Teak), Rose Maple (Pigeonberry Ash), Red Cedar, Yellow Caraboon, Sassafras, White Birch (Crab Apple), Brown Alder (Corkwood), Blush Tulip Oak, (Black Jack), Brown Tulip Oak (Booyong), Rose Satin Ash (Sour Cherry) *Southern Silky Oak, Tamarind, Silky Beech (N.S.W. Maple), Yellow-wood, Silver Ash (Cudgerie), Bangalow Palm, Big-fruited Morton Bay Fig, *Lilly Pilly, *Sandpaper Fig, Small-fruited Morton Bay Fig, *Giant Stinging Tree, Flame Tree, Pittosporum, Black Myrtle, Black Plum, or Black Apple, Black Teak, *Macquarie Beech, *White Cedar, Dog Onion and Ironwood. Bordering the catchment area is a 28 feet girth magnificent White Beech estimated to yield over 20,000 superficial feet of timber. Under-brush includes:- Bleeding Heart, Kangaroo Apple, Tree Tomato, Lemon, Croton, Midginbil, *Scrub Peach, Wild Lime, Scrub Willow, Tree Fern, *Native Hibiscus and Native Daphne. Vines include:- Lantana, Passionfruit, *Cockspur, Wild Passionfruit, Wild Grape, Yam, *Water Vine, *Native Wisteria, *Clematis, *Wild Strawberry, *Wild Loganberry, Small-flowered Wonga, Large-flowered Wonga. Ground Plants include:- *Cunjevoi, *Butterfly Orchid, *Maiden Hair, *Bracken Fern, *Wild Raspberry, *Hyacinth Orchid and *Wild Violet. Introduced Grasses include:- *Paspalum, Kikuyu, Rhodes Grass and Clovers. All listings are prefaced by the word "includes" as none are complete. Much could be made of Entomology, for example. A Professor Dumigan from Queensland University made many a find of moths and insects along the northern and western tops of the Wallaby Creek catchment area. My wallaby Creek catchment area bird list contains many birds confirmed by Ned, Jack, Margaret, Iris, Lorraine and Ann Hayes and Gwen, Edward and John Trudgeon. Messrs Hayes have been residents since 1920, we resided there for five years, 1946-50 and have holidayed there since at least yearly. Systematic recordings began in 1955 and has continued to date. Ned Hayes has added much to my Natural Science knowledge and has strengthened my convictions about conservation. The size of this list is in keeping with the fact that the Bonalbo-based Gould League campers recorded over 150 species of birds in a week, an all-time record for annual campers beginning in 1938 and covering most parts of N.S.W. My Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, bird list covers only about 20 square miles but total 202. It follows the order of "A Pocket List of Australian Birds" prepared by P.J. Fullagar, although some names vary from the list and follow the Arnold McGill Handlist

for N.S.W. Birds.

It includes:-

Grebes.1.

Little Grebe.

Darters.1.

Darter.

Ibises & Spoonbills. 4.

White Ibis

Straw-necked Ibis

Royal Spoonbill

Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Hawks & Eagles. 9.

Crested Hawk

Black-shouldered Kite

Whistling Kite

Grey Goshawk

Brown Goshawk

Collared Sparrowhawk

Little Eagle

Wedge-tailed Eagle

Swamp Harrier.

Plovers. 3.

Spur-winged Plover

Banded Plover

Black-fronted Dotterel.

Pigeons & Doves. 11.

Red-crowned Pigeon

Purple-crowned Pigeon

Wompoo Pigeon

Top-knot Pigeon

White-headed Pigeon

Brown Pigeon

Bar-shouldered Dove

Peaceful Dove

Green-winged Pigeon

Crested Pigeon

Wonga Pigeon.

Swifts.1.

Spine-tailed Swift

Beccaters.1.

Rainbow-bird.

Rollers.1.

Dollar-bird.

Pittas.1.

Noisy Pitta.

Cuckoo-shrikes.5.

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Little Cuckoo-shrike

Cicada-bird

White-winged Triller

Varied Triller.

Thrushes.1.

Ground (Mountain) Thrush.

Babblers. 4.

Spine-tailed Logrunner

Spotted Quail-thrush

Grey-crowned Babbler

Eastern Whipbird.

Policans.1.

Pelican.

Hérons. 7.

White-necked Heron

White-faced Heron

White Egret

Plumed Egret

Little Egret

Nankeen Night Heron

Black Bittern

Falcons. 5.

Peregrine Falcon

Grey Falcon

Little Falcon

Nankeen Kestrel

Brown Hawk.

Rails, Crakes & Water-hens.4.

Banded Landrail

Dusky Moorhen

Eastern Swamphen

Coot.

Turnstones, Sandpipers & Snipe.

Japanese (Australian) Snipe.

Cuckoos. 8.

Pallid Cuckoo

Brush Cuckoo

Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Golden Bronze-cuckoo

Horsfield(narrow-billed)Bronze-cuckoo.

Kool

Channel-billed Cuckoo

Phosah Coucal.

Owlet Nightjars.1.

Owlet Nightjar.

Nightjars.1.

White-throated Nightjar.

Kingfishers.4.

Azure Kingfisher

Laughing Kookaburra

Forest Kingfisher

Sacred Kingfisher.

Swallows.4.

White-backed Swallow

Welcome Swallow

Tree Martin

Fairy Martin

Warblers.20.

Tailor-bird

Reed Warbler

Rufous Songlark

Blue Wren

Variegated Wren

Red-backed Wren

Southern Emu Wren

White-throated Warbler

Brown Warbler

Striated Thornbill

Little thornbill

Brown Thornbill

Buff-tailed Thornbill

Yellow-tailed Thornbill

White-browed Scrub-wren

Buff-breasted Scrub-wren

Yellow-throated Scrub-wren

Cormorants.4.

Black Cormorant

Little Black Cormorant

Pied Cormorant.

Little Pied Cormorant.

Swans Geese & Ducks

Plumed Tree Duck

Black Swan

Black Duck

Grey Teal

White-eyed Duck

Maned Goose.

Mound-nesting Birds. 1.

Brush Turkey.

Pheasants & Quails. 1.

Brown Quail.

Button Quails. 2.

Black-breasted Quail.

Painted Quail.

Owls.3.

Powerful Owl

Boobook Owl

Barn Owl.

Frogmouths.1.

Tawny Frogmouth.

Lorikeets, Cockatoos &

Parrots. 13.

Rainbow Lorikeet

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet

Musk Lorikeet

Little Lorikeet

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Glossy Black Cockatoo

White Cockatoo

Galah

King Parrot

Crimson Rosella

Eastern Rosella

Budgerygah.

Pipits & Wagtails.1.

Pipit (Ground-lark)

Flycatchers.14.

Jacky Winter

Scarlet Robin

Rose Robin

Hooded Robin

Northern Yellow Robin

Pale Yellow Robin

Grey Fantail

Rufous Fantail

Willie-Wagtail

Leaden Flycatcher

Satin Flycatcher

Restless Flycatcher

Black-faced Flycatcher

Spectacled Flycatcher

Large-billed Scrub-wren,
Brown Weebill,
Speckled Warbler,

(4)

Whistlers. 4.

Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-Thrush
Eastern Shrike-Tit.

Buthatches & Sittellas. 1.

Orange-winged Sittella

Tree-Creepers. 3.

Brown Tree-creepers
Red-browed Tree-creeper
White-throated Tree-creeper

Flower-peckers. 5.

Mistletoe-bird
Eastern Striated Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Black-headed Pardalote
Spotted Pardalote.

Silvereyes. 1.

Grey-backed Silvereye.

Honeyeaters. 17.

Scarlet Honeyeater
Black Honeyeater (after fires of 1957)
Lewin Honeyeater
Fuscous Honeyeater
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater
Black-chinned Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill
Bell Miner
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Noisy Friar-bird
Little Friar-bird.

Weaver-Finches. 6.

Diamond Firetail (diamond sparrow)
Zebra Finch
Banded Finch
Chestnut-breasted Finch
Red-browed Finch
House Sparrow.

Finches. 1.

Goldfinch.

Oriolos & Figbirds. 2.

Olive-backed Oriole
Southern Figbird.

Drongos. 1.

Spangled Drongo.

Magpie-Larks. 1.

Pecwee (Mudlark)

Australian Choughs & Apostle-birds. 1.

White-winged Chough.

Woodswallows. 3.

White-breasted Wood-Swallow
White-browed Wood-swallow
Dusky Wood-Swallow.

Australian Magpies & Butcher-birds. 4.

Pied Currawong
Pied Butcher-bird
Grey Butcher-bird
Black-backed Magpie.

Bower-birds. 3.

Green Catbird
Regent Bower-bird
Satin Bower-bird

Birds-of-Paradise. 1.

Paradise Rifle-bird.

Crows. 2.

Raven

Crow.

Eager, competent 1967 Bonalbo-based Gould League campers helped confirm several birds in the above list. There are other unlisted birds whose absolute identification would need the confirming observations of an expert or experts. We are opposed to shooting or trapping for identification, preferring these birds to remain intriguing question marks, until in fullness of time their identification is made by other means. No Lyrebird graces Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, but Norris in "The Emu", June 1964, claims a sighting just outside the catchment area. A short distance as the crow flies, across the Koorcelah Valley you could see and hear that brilliant dancer, mimic and singer, the Albert Lyrebird, which I am now currently studying. Wallaby Creek, Tooloom, is a wildlife paradise for natural science lovers and ecologists. Let us guard it from the dangers that beset it. It is set in an almost embarrassing wealth of other scenic beauty and other natural science wonders. We may best guard and preserve its unique wealth by making it a National Park or the nucleus of a National Park.