

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"



Your Society Needs You!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 31 March. As is usual at our general meetings, we'll discuss environmental matters and listen to a guest speaker. But this meeting will have one important difference — we will elect nineteen of our members to guide the society for the next twelve months.

Serving on the Management Committee can be immensely rewarding. No prior experience is needed — just a commitment to serve the environment, and a determination to "make a difference".

Our Society is probably the largest regional environmental group in the State, possibly the largest in the country. It enjoys respect from the community and from the agencies with which it deals. We have over 700 members and nearly 40 years of unbroken service to the Blue Mountains environment.

There is a leaflet in this issue of Hut News with details of all Management Committee positions. You can obtain more information from members of this year's committee (see the panel on the front page), or you can come along as an observer to one or both of the remaining committee meetings (on 19 February and 25 March at 9 a.m. at Mid-Mountains Community

Centre, Lawson).

The enclosed leaflet also contains details of the key objectives that are being pursued by the current committee. You will see that the objectives are very much conservation focussed. Their achievement will directly help the Blue Mountains environment. The committee tries to spend minimal time on administrative matters. Meeting agendas are structured so that highest priority is given to conservation issues. Thanks to our older members who raised funds in earlier times and current members who work in our Native Plant Nursery, we have substantial funds at our disposal, so the committee does not have to be involved in fund-raising. Your time on the committee will be very focussed — on helping the environment.

Please give consideration to nominating for a position. Whilst our constitution allows for nominations to be received on the night of the AGM, we really need to be organised beforehand to ensure that there will be at least one nomination for each position. To be nominated, all you need to do is ring 4759-1247 during office hours, or 4757-3327 after hours, or nominate on the night.

bulldozed and built on. One way to prevent further destruction of these precious swamps is by having them listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

The December newsletter reported that the Society had nominated Blue Mountains Swamps as an "endangered ecological community" under this Act.

Members are being asked to assist further in gathering more information to support our case.

Can you help by telling us how large each of the following swamps was?

- Radiance Ave, Blackheath
- North Katoomba Sewage

Lithgow Silicon Smelter:

EIS is incomplete and misleading

A proposal to build a Silicon Smelter at Lithgow brings with it bad news for people in the Blue Mountains and conservationists throughout the State.

The development includes a quartz mine at Cowra, a charcoal industry, and intensified logging of western NSW and local State Forests (including woodchips from Newnes Plateau). Environmental assessments of these industries have not been done.

Some of our concerns are unsustainable logging of western NSW forests, species extinctions, B-double trucks across the Mountains, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

We are asking members to write urgently to the Premier Bob Carr. The full story is on page 2.

February General Meeting

Come to the February meeting and hear at first hand about feral species control in the Blue Mountains National Parks from our guest speakers, Eric Mahoney and Chris Banffy from NPWS Blackheath.

The Earth Sanctuaries controversy highlighted the importance of feral species control in National Parks. At the time, there

were many claims made about the condition of the National Parks, and the effort that NPWS was making to control feral species.

Eric and Chris will give an overview of pest management in NPWS' Blue Mountains District, including an assessment of the priorities for their various programmes. They will cover specific programmes, including blackberries, bush regeneration, pigs, cattle, dogs and foxes. There will be time for your questions.

The meeting will be held on Friday 25 February, commencing at 7.30 pm, at the Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls. Visitors are welcome.

Where Are the Lost Swamps?

Do you know of any hanging swamps in the Blue Mountains that don't exist anymore? Many swamps have been

Treatment Plant

- Lyne Street area of South Katoomba
- South Katoomba industrial area, north of Megalong St. and in the vicinity of Govett and Wilson Streets
- Falls Road, Wentworth Falls, opposite fire station. Area bulldozed for residential development.
- North Wentworth Falls, residential area to west of Taylor Avenue (at least lots 21-31). Cleared for houses.
- Hazelbrook, western side of Alexander Avenue, being the upper catchment of Hazelbrook Creek. Swamp destroyed for house construction.
- Woodford, Sutton Road area. Swamp destroyed for housing development.

Are there other swamps you knew of? Where were they and how large? You don't need to be an expert to help, just ring Lyndal Sullivan on 4782.1635

"Hut News", the newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782. Phone 4757 1872. Fax 4757 1753

Email bmcs@pnc.com.au Web page: <http://www.pnc.com.au/~bmcs>

President: Imre Gahl, Ph:4784-3286 Second Vice President: Meredith Brownhill, Ph:4782.4823

First Vice President: Heather Coster, {Ph:Work 4759-1247, Home 4759.1837

Membership Secretary: Ross Coster {Fax 4759-1095, Email: haytech@pnc.com.au

Correspondence Secretary: Heather Coster (contact details above)

Meetings Secretary: Heather Hull, Ph.4739.1493 Email heatherhull40@hotmail.com

Land Use: Robin Mosman, Ph. 4757.1354;

Treasurer: Les Coyne, Ph:4757.3327, Fax:4757.2820, Email: coyne@pnc.com.au

Bushwalks: Jim Wallace, Ph:4784-3305 Plant Nursery Manager: David Coleby, Ph/Fax:4784-1395

Projects: Marion Hawley, Ph:4784-1933; Kathy Gott, Ph:4739-8124;

Helga Esamie, Ph:4787.7690, Email: platypus@pnc.com.au

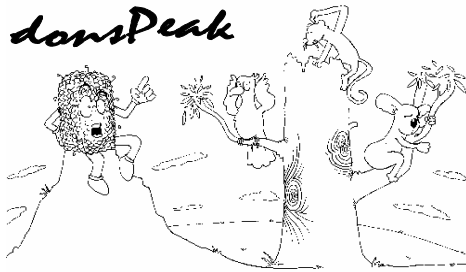
Publicity: Position Vacant Bushcare: Laura Hays Ph:4782.7692, Email: casahays@pnc.com.au

Education: Catriona Gillies Ph:4782-1235, Email: echoecho@hermes.net.au

Bushfire Rep: Hugh Paterson, Ph:4751-2303, Email: goodbush@pnc.com.au

Newsletter: Christine Davies, Phone 4787-7246 Fax 4787-7777 Email: hutnews@pnc.com.au

THE DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS
FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2000



Welcome Federal Policy Shift

Federal Minister Senator Robert Hill announced late last year that a new renewable energy contribution requirement for Australia's electricity industry would be phased in from January 2001. This means that by 2010, an additional 2% of Australia's electricity will come from sources such as Solar Photovoltaic, Solar Thermal, Wind, Oceans and Rivers, Biomass or Energy Storage Technologies.

The change represents one positive outcome from the otherwise disappointing Kyoto Climate Conference. The excessive share of coal and the continuing advocacy of nuclear energy have major global and local impacts.

BMCS has been campaigning since the 1960s against the expansion of coal mining across and beneath sensitive natural areas. Any Australian nuclear energy industry would increase pressure for transport of nuclear materials and waste across the Blue Mountains between the port of Sydney and inland Australia.

The initiative announced by Senator Hill is much smaller and slower than most environmentalists would wish but it is a welcome first step.

The White and the Green of It

During years of protecting the catchment of the world-renowned Katoomba Falls, the Friends of Katoomba Falls Creek Valley have been vilified by various pro-development Council members. A recent attack by Labor Councillor Mark Greenhill was similarly worded to a September 1991 diatribe by conservative Alderman Scott Whitehair. After criticising the 'Friends', Alderman Whitehair faded into antiquity.

Perhaps the 'Friends' have now lost their campaign to halt the Katoomba Golf Course resort. But then again (to phrase it in non-sexist terms) it's not over till the fat councillor sings.

Another Useful Metaphor

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tasmanian Senator Brian Harradine. Senator Harradine was lopping branches off a tree when the branch he was sitting on broke! Premier Carr, who has made recent speeches about how **other** people should make more environmentally responsible decisions, needs to take careful note of his fellow politician's

misfortune. *Don Morison.*

Lithgow Silicon Smelter:

In our Submission on the EIS to Dept. of Planning, our first objection was that the proposal is incomplete and misleading. The whole development includes a quartz mine at Cowra, a charcoal industry, intensified logging of western NSW and local State Forests. Environmental assessments of these four associated industries have NOT been done. The smelter EIS can only be properly considered in conjunction with the environmental assessment of these four industries.

NSW forests are to be logged for charcoal and fluxwood (woodchips). The proposal's assurances about the sustainability of current forestry practices in western and local forests are not supported with any evidence.

The amount of logging involved is estimated to be 150,000 tons per year, which is more than is currently logged from the whole southern forestry area — from Nowra to Narooma, where timber regrowth is faster. Increased logging of western NSW will be unsustainable at this rate and will cause species extinction. Bird populations in this area include 33 threatened endangered species and 16 rare bird species.

In addition, the proponent wants another 30,000 tons per year from local forests, so Newnes State Forest with old growth forest will be logged. Fluxwood, or woodchips, are added to charcoal to add oxygen in the smelting process. Newnes State Forest has been part of the proposed Greater Blue Mountains National Park since 1932. The Society advocates the inclusion of Newnes State Forest into the Gardens of Stone National Park.

There will be an adverse impact on Cox's River Catchment. The proposal is vague about groundwater runoff which will flow into the Cox's River. Cooling water with biocides are to be discharged into the Wallerawang sewerage plant, adversely affecting the decomposition process and reducing water quality in the Cox's River.

Rail transport has been rejected.

Road transport is to be used to transport chemicals such as LPG and liquid oxygen from Sydney along the Great Western Highway.

The proponent opts for the largest allowable vehicles to transport material such as silicon to Port Botany. B-doubles will be used to transport quartz, timber and charcoal on all roads west, south and north of the smelter. Whilst B-doubles are not allowed on the Great Western Highway at present, it is clear that they are the preferred choice of transport. B-doubles are 25m in length, with a capacity of 38 tonnes per vehicle. Do we want these travelling through the Blue Mountains World Heritage area? — NO!

Greenhouse gas emissions are not adequately minimized. The proposal involves very high usage of electricity from Delta, with resultant CO2 emissions not calculated. The burning of

timber for charcoal plus the burning of the charcoal will add to emissions and is very old and inappropriate technology. The reduction in timber supplies and loss of carbon credits also need to be considered. The proponent rejects the alternative of low ash coal which is considered suitable for use in other silicon smelter technology.

Please write urgently to the Premier, The Hon R Carr (Parliament House, Sydney) to express your objections, and ask for:

- A deferred decision
- A comprehensive regional assessment of western forests
- Full and proper environmental assessments of the four associated industries
- A commission of inquiry to fully consider all aspects of the proposal

Katoomba Airfield

Residents of Medlow Bath and North Katoomba do not consider the Katoomba Airfield with much joy because of the "Joy Flights" which have originated from it in the past. It is located at the end of Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath, inside the National Park. The airfield is currently Crown Land and leased out to a private concern.

The Department of Land and Water Conservation is currently undertaking an assessment of the Crown land for its suitability for either sale or further long term lease.

Our preferred option is to see this "inholding" incorporated into the National Park. This position has also been taken by Council with the only continued use being for emergencies (i.e. firefighting).

The site contains two hanging swamps which are currently being threatened by the sediment flowing off the eroding airstrip. Sediment is also flowing into Katoomba Creek and Greaves Creek catchments and hence the Blue Mountains National Park.

Society members who know about the history of this site or any environmental aspects are asked to help by phoning Lyndal Sullivan on 4782.1635 (evenings). There will be a public exhibition soon that members may wish to comment on; so watch the 'Public Notices' in the Gazette or ring us.

Nursery Notes

Tuesday, 8 February 2000 is **SALE DAY** at our Blackheath Nursery.

\$2 Tubestock of *Allocasuarina nana*, *A. littoralis*, *Banksia cunninghamii* and *Leptospermum polygalifolium* will all be marked down to \$1.50. Also our \$4 pots of *Correa alba*, *Goodenia decurrens*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Westringia brevifolia*, *Plectranthus parviflora*, *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, *Grevilleas* royal mantle and *barklyana* will all come down to \$3. An opportunity for some inexpensive summer planting, so be there between 9 am and 12 noon.

We are in the NPWS Workshop Compound at the end of Lyndsay Lane, behind the Heritage Centre on Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, about 3 kms

Membership Enquiries

Contact Ross Coster

(Phone - Work) 02 4759.1247

(Phone - Home) 02 4759.1837

(Fax) 02 4759.1095

(Email) haytech@pnc.com.au

(Post) PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

Weekend at Dunn's Swamp 11-12 March, 2000.

Members and friends of the Society are invited to the Second Annual Blue Mountains Conservation Society Camp at Dunn's Swamp, on 11-12 March, 2000

Dunn's Swamp, dammed to supply water for the Kandos cement works, is a lake in the Cudgegong River, on the north-western side of the Wollemi National Park. It is a beautiful area, with wonderful pagodas and rock faces. Reeds along the sides of the lake give refuge to a great variety of water birds and platypus.

We plan to arrive at Dunn's Swamp for lunch on Saturday. If you want to know how to get there .. need a lift .. can give a lift .. want to borrow a tent .. could loan a tent .. phone Mary 4757.4133 or Christine 4787.7246.

Reminders:

13 Feb. One-Day Bushcare Course

An introduction to bushcare, Sunday 13 February, a one-day hands-on course. Phone Meredith 82.4823, after 5 pm.

Wentworth Falls Lake Bushcare

The Lake Bushcare Group has been operating energetically for almost two years now. Rae Druitt has been the strong centre-pin on the community front, but many other residents of the area have been keen to lend a hand. The days are always productive and fun, with afternoon teas and lots of good humour a must.

The beautiful bushland surrounding the lake is a classic island of nature amongst a sea of houses. Also it is the upper most part of the catchment for Jamieson Creek. These are two strong reasons to properly care for and manage this area. So far the group has achieved bush regeneration progress on four sites around the lake. This work has followed the strategy of working from good to bad bush on each site.

The group enlisted the help of Wentworth Falls TAFE students to build a lovely bush track with sandstone steps, a formally highly degraded access path to the lake. BMCC Environmental Weeds Team has supported the group by targeting Broom and Portuguese Heath a couple of times a year.

To the residents of the Wentworth Falls Lake surrounds: The bush still needs so much more help. Come down on the 3rd Saturday afternoon of each month (give Rae a call on 4757 4020 for more info.) The day will be full of interest and fun, and we will do some great work in a very special part of the mountains.

Looking Back

(From: Issue No 4, March 1971)

Walkabout with Graham: A Lesson from Birds

The breeding season being over for most birds, they have left their breeding territories and are foraging around in flocks — mixed — old and young birds and very often mixed species.

For instance in a grove of casuarinas near Leura Kiosk on Feb 26, the writer saw: Striated Thornbills (several),

Spinebills (several), Silvereyes (several), White browed Scrub Wrens (2), Grey Shrike Thrush (1), Yellow Robin (1), Rufous Fantail, adult feeding young — seven species, very active, chirping and feeding.

It was most interesting to watch their feeding habits, the Thornbills and Silvereyes picking minute insects from the small branches of trees and shrubs. Spinebills, with brush tongues and long curved beaks getting nectar from Banksia serrata and Mountain Devil flowers. Scrub Wrens turning over leaves on the ground for insects. Yellow Robins perching sideways on tree boles watching to pounce on any insect that moves on the forest floor. Rufous fantail catching insects in the air and Shrike Thrush eating insects too large for other birds.

Why do they feed together? Perhaps they like company — perhaps one species disturbs insects for another and vice-versa.

But only the Thornbills and Silvereyes appear to compete for food and it would probably be found that they eat different sorts of insects. Each species has its niche and lives harmoniously together with other species in the one environment.

Only modern Man, "lord of Creation" is unable to do this and is likely to come along and wreck the whole set-up with a bulldozer! *Graham Alcorn.*

Welcome to New Members

Mari Rosney, David Kelly, Blackheath
Mary Gleeson, Colin Stanley, Warrimoo
Jane Foreman Philip Cannon, Went.Falls
Heather Flanagan, Hazelbrook
Margaret Allen, Springwood
Garth, Helen Blake and Family, Strathfield
Valerie Noonan, Hazelbrook
Herman Kozelj, Katoomba
Di Johnson, George Zdenkowski, Leura
D Lynch, Lane Cove
David and Janet Llewelyn, Gordon
Lynton Auld, Mt Victoria
Shirley, John and Timothy Elliott, Leura
Kate Hamilton, Katoomba

Books on the Environment

The following four books are inexpensive (\$20 or less, being paperbacks). The first two are from overseas, the second two are by Australians.

Ponting, Carl, *A Green History of the World*. Penguin Books 1993. This book traces the history of human exploitation of the environment. An absolute must-read for anyone interested in the subject.

Diamond, Jared, *Guns, Germs and Steel*. Vintage 1998 (Pulitzer Prize 1998). Diamond illustrates how the environment has shaped human society and history. Five hundred pages but very readable.

O'Connor, Mark, *This Tired Brown Land*. Duffy and Snellgrove, Sydney 1998. The title, referring to Australia, says it all.

Tod, Peter, *Stop Thieving from our Children*. Available from the author, 536 Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket, Brisbane 4069. Again the title is self-explanatory.

The fifth book is more expensive, but beautifully produced and illustrated. All libraries should have a copy.

White, Mary, *Listen...our land is crying: Australia's environment: problems and solutions*. Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst

Greenhouse Corner

Lighting

Each year, electricity for lighting an average Australian home generates almost three-quarters of a tonne of greenhouse gas and costs about \$80.

Install energy-efficient lighting. Fit lower wattage globes in bright lights, especially down lights and spot lights: save up to 40% of greenhouse gas. Reflector-back lamps of lower wattage provide more useful light in downlights or spotlights while generating less greenhouse gas. Low voltage lamps are not low energy lamps: each one generates a kilogram every 15 hours — about the same as an ordinary 60 watt globe — although they do produce more light. Use light fittings which allow most light to pass through - coloured glass often cuts light output by half, creating a need for higher wattage lamps.

Use lights efficiently. Turn off unnecessary lights, including fluorescent lamps. Timer controls and daylight or movement sensors are now available to switch off lights automatically. Paint rooms light colours. Dark wall colours absorb light, increasing the amount of lighting needed. Modern dimmer controls reduce greenhouse gas emissions as they reduce light output. They also extend lamp life. Use desk lamps or standard lamps where most light is needed, so less lighting is required in the rest of the room. Clean lamps and fittings: over time, dirt build-up reduces light output. Use daylight instead of artificial lights — but do not overdo it — large windows and skylights add to summer heat and winter cold.

What About Me? Some of you might be wondering if I practice what I preach.

I drive a four cylinder car that runs on unleaded petrol (but I wish I could buy a vehicle that used a renewable, greenhouse-neutral fuel). I walk or cycle to work most days (although this is part of a fitness program rather than an effort to reduce greenhouse emissions). I recycle paper, cardboard, aluminium, glass, milk cartons and PET plastic bottles, both at home and at work. My home includes three skylights in the house, and two on the back porch.

The front entry light at my home has an infra-red sensor, and turns itself off after one minute. Every light in my home is a compact fluorescent. Every light at my office is a fluorescent tube. I am a fanatic about turning off lights, much to the annoyance of my family and staff. During a kitchen renovation last year, we changed over to natural gas for cooking.

So while I might not be perfect, I am having a go! **What about you?**

Ross Caster, Membership Secretary

NSW 1997.

— *Jill Curnow, Hampton.*

The Grandeur

We stand transfixed
Rock formations of humanity
On the edge
Sweeps of grey,
Green valleys lie at our feet.
Proud golden sandstone faces
Challenge our right, to be one,
With this mighty show of Nature's defiance.

Pauline Smith 1998.



Clean-Up Australia Day

Sunday, 5 March 2000

Come along on Clean-Up Australia Day and help at Blue Mountains Conservation Society's clean-up sites:

Upper Mountains -- Katoomba Falls Reserve.

9 am to 12 noon, meet near Katoomba Falls Reserve kiosk. Contact Kate Hamilton 4782.1440.

Lower Mountains -- Mitchell's Pass, Glenbrook.

9 am to 12 noon. Meet near the bridge, Mitchell's Pass. Contact Heather Hull 4739.1493.

Bring gardening gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and a hat.

Phone the co-ordinator (details above) for more information, and watch the Blue Mountains Gazette for details of other clean-up sites in your area.

Always Something

New to See

(Bonnie Doon, 18 January 1990)

On this day the Conservation Society planned to walk the new Bonnie Doon track, which is part of a plan to extend the cliff walks from Wentworth Falls to the Marked Tree ... All the walkers were keen to sample this path through an area which was popular in the past. ...

Along the path the main flowers today were the trigger flowers. The children tried to make the triggers work. Two magnificent heads of Christmas Bells by the track took everyone by surprise. A tiny orchid grew in a dangerous position in the middle of the path. The really fervent naturalists knelt down, bottoms up, inspecting it through magnifying glasses and arguing about its name.

Plenty of little lizards froze in their tracks until we moved too close, then they flicked away. There were butterflies too.

We ... took a side track to another lookout, very windy but looking on to an orange rock above fold upon fold of valleys and mountains ...

Fred and I dropped back on the climb back up the road from the first lookout, as it was hot by then. Once back at the cars we found the group clustered under a tree where a large nest was anchored. Our animal expert tapped very gently on the trunk and a tiny possum looked over. Dai said that anything more than the gentlest tap would cause the mother to move the baby to another nest ... (Grace Bayley, from her book "Taking it Slowly")

Grose Walk 2000

11-19 March, 2000.

Come summer/autumn weed killing for the millenium! Put these dates in your diary. Details: Cath Ireland, NPWS 4787.8877.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
FEBRUARY					5 Bushwalk	
7 LeisWalk	8 Bushcare		10 Summer		12 Bushwalk	13 Course
14 LeisWalk		16 Bushcare	Bushwalks		19 MCM Meet	20 Bushwalk
21 LeisWalk			Commence	25 Gen Meet	26 Bushwalk	
28 LeisWalk			(8 weeks)			
MARCH					4 Bushwalk	
6 LeisWalk					11-12 Dunns Swamp Camp	
13 LeisWalk	14 Bushcare	15 Bushcare				19 Bushwalk
20 LeisWalk					25 MCM Meet	26 Bushwalk
27 LeisWalk				31 AGM		

FEBRUARY

- 13 (Sun) **A One-Day Bushcare Course.** (See Page 3)
 19 (Sat) **Management Committee, 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre.**
 25 (Fri) **General Meeting, 7.30 pm, at the Hut. Eric Mahoney and Chris Banffy — Feral Species Control in our National Park** (see page 1)

MARCH

- 05 (Sun) **Clean-Up Australia Day.** Details on this page.
 11-12 (Sat/Sun) **Weekend Camp at Dunns Swamp.** (See page 3)
 25 (Sat) **Management Committee, 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre.**
 31 (Fri) **Annual General Meeting, 7.30 pm, at the Hut. Guest: Tom Widdup from the Colong Foundation — Wilderness 2000 Campaign.**

KIDS' CLUB

Activities for Under 16s are in the Kids' Club Newsletter. Phone Ross Coster 4759.1247 for a copy of the newsletter. Contact Jessica 4757.2783 for more info.

BUSHCARE (Tools provided — bring morning tea and gloves.)

FEBRUARY

- 14 (Tues) **Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group.** Contact Jessica 4757.2783 for the meeting place. (following Tuesday if wet).
 15 (Wed) **Digger Cooper Reserve Bushcare Group.** Meet 9 am at the Reserve (GWH, West of Sorenson Bridge). Contact Ross Coster 4759.1247.

BUSHWALKS (Usually day walks — bring lunch and **minimum 1 litre water.**)

FEBRUARY

- 05 (Sat) **Horseshoe Falls.** Meet Hazelbrook railway carpark (southern side) 9.30 am. Contact Kate McManus 4758.7936. **Medium.**
 12 (Sat) **Junction Rock via Govett's Leap.** Meet Blackheath railway carpark. 10.15 am. Contact Meredith Brownhill 4782.4823. **Hard, steep ascent.**
 20 (Sun) **Diamond Falls.** Meet Katoomba Railway (Gearin's Hotel), 9.30 am. Contact Jim Wallace 4784.3305. **Medium/Hard.**
 26 (Sat) **Glow Worm Tunnel, Newnes Plateau.** Meet Mount Victoria Station 10.15 a.m. Contact Meredith Brownhill 4782.4823. **Easy. Long drive.**

MARCH

- 04 (Sat) **Empire Pass.** Meet Lawson Bowling Club carpark 9.30 a.m. Contact Bill Tocher 4758.8545. **Medium. Many steps.**
 11-12 **Dunn's Swamp Weekend** (see page 3).
 19 (Sun) **Jungle Circuit.** Meet Blackheath railway carpark 10.15 a.m. Contact Denis Golding 4787.5412. **Medium. Slow steep ascent in shade.**
 26 (Sun) **Ten Trees Walk.** Meet outside school, Grose Road, Faulconbridge, at 10 am. Contact Frank Winternitz 4751.2957. **Easy. Learn how to identify trees!**

LEISURE WALKS (Usually morning walks — bring a drink and morning tea.)

****Slippery and uneven surfaces. Please wear shoes with a good tread.**

If this is your first Leisure walk with the Society please contact the leader.

FEBRUARY

- 07 (Mon) **Clifftop Walk, Gordon Falls to Leura Cascades.** Meet Leura Station carpark 8.30 a.m. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958.
 14 (Mon) **Dante's Glen and Empire Pass.** Meet Lawson Bowling Club carpark, 8.30 am. Contact Anna Marie 4759.2353.
 21 (Mon) **Govett's Leap area, Mystery Walk.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre, 8.30 a.m. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079. BBQ afterwards.
 28 (Mon) **The Nature Trail.** Meet at The Hut 8.30 a.m. Contact Corrie Brook 4757.4574

MARCH (Meeting time now 9 a.m.)

- 06 (Mon) **Minna Ha Ha Falls.** Meet Gearins Hotel, 9 am. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958. BBQ afterwards.
 13 (Mon) **Inspiration Point.** Meet Fairmont Resort, lower carpark, 9 am. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079.
 20 (Mon) **The Walls Lookout.** Meet Mount Victoria Station, 9 a.m. Contact Bill Graham 4759.1692.
 27 (Mon) **The Tessolated Pavement** Meet Mount Victoria Station 9 a.m. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079. Longer walk — take lunch.

Bushwalks have been graded: **Easy** — Relatively easy grades and good surfaces. Suited to most people. **Medium** — Mostly good surfaces, but some rough or steep sections. Suited to people of average fitness. **Medium/Hard** — includes rough or steep sections some of which may require clambering over natural obstacles. **Hard** — Strenuous walks involving steep ascents or descents over rougher terrain. Suited to fit and experienced walkers. **If this is your first walk, or you are in any doubt, contact the leader or Bushwalks Convener Jim Wallace 4784.3305.**