

# HUT NEWS

*"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"*



## Annual General Meeting: a perspective! Brian Marshall

This is the last Hut News before the AGM on March 30. One purpose of the AGM is to elect a Management Committee for 2007-8. An important role of the Committee is to run the affairs of the Society on behalf of its members. With around 850 members there will inevitably be some who feel aspects of their views are being disregarded. Those who write to Management Committee seeking changes should realise that matters before the Committee are discussed, put to the vote, and the majority view prevails. This is simple democracy at work, so no matter how strongly a member or small group of members may feel about an issue, if a majority on Management Committee decides on a course of action, that is what usually prevails.

Of course, provision exists to obtain members' views through 'workshops', surveys, feedback through the monthly meetings, letters to the Committee and Hut News, and various forms of lobbying. Such provisions are not ignored, but some of them are intensely time-consuming and resource-intensive. Furthermore, the views obtained may be far from representative; persons with strong beliefs tend to shout louder than those who are broadly satisfied.

### Why am I raising this now?

Firstly, all members have the opportunity to attend the AGM and vote for/against a nominee for any position – it is your right and we hope that YOU will exercise it.

Secondly, any member may nominate for a position of his/her choosing on the Committee (using the form on page 7). Yes, the outgoing Committee attempts to have at least one nominee for each of the positions, but this in no way precludes others from nominating, even on the night.

Thirdly, several Committee positions were unfilled for much of the 2006-7 year. This was unfortunate because others had to cover these vacancies and/or make ad hoc arrangements. Inevitably, the efficiency and effectiveness of the Society's administrative and environmental functions suffered, despite the efforts of some much appreciated (and too commonly unacknowledged) temporary helpers.

Lastly, the Committee needs new blood to share the tasks and responsibilities, to engender fresh thinking, and to overlap and extend the corporate memory of 'old retainers'.

### The Bottom Line?

Irrespective of whether you are an 'old retainer', new to the mountains, have been awakened by the environmental debates over the past year (e.g. the Grose fires, climate change, over-population and diminishing water resources), have particular skills that are under-used, or just feel that YOU can make a difference, please act now. Contact any member of the existing Management Committee for more information and advice, and NOMINATE.

**Other business at the AGM will be to receive reports from office bearers, receive the annual accounts, and appoint an auditor.**

The AGM starts at 7.30pm on Friday 30 March at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, and will be followed by our regular meeting at 8pm.

This month, Brian Marshall will tell us about his recent trip to Greenland, a country where global warming has wrought dramatic changes since his first visit nearly 20 years ago.....

## A 'GeoEnvironmental' Snapshot of Greenland and Iceland

Brian went to west Greenland in 1988 to support the Greenland Geological Survey's search for base metals, gold, nickel and platinum in rocks 'identical' to those in the Kalgoorlie region of Western Australia. He returned last year to see the diminishing icecaps of Greenland and Iceland before it is too late.

Greenland and Iceland are islands at the interface of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Greenland has some of the world's oldest rocks (>3.8 billion years; the Earth is ~4.6 billion years), whereas Iceland is a geological baby at ~20 million years (the sandstones of the Blue Mountains are ~225 million years). This age difference is reflected in their different exploration potentials for metals, oil, coal and other natural resources.

With the onset of the ice age over the past 2 million years, their surface geology converged beneath the massive ice sheets that covered much of North America and Eurasia. As the ice sheets retreated and the world entered the current interglacial period about 10,000 years ago, remnants of the ice sheets were preserved as continental glaciers or icecaps. The Greenland icecap is the world's second largest after Antarctica; Iceland's is the largest in a European country.

The ongoing retreat is accompanied by alpine glaciation superseding and overprinting the landforms of continental glaciation. This contributes to the scenic splendour that characterises the coastal strips and fjords of Greenland and Iceland. But as this process continues and exposes scoured u-shaped valleys, moraine and outwash fluvioglacial fans, we are also seeing bedrock and subglacial soils that have been buried beneath ice for 1.5-2 million years. Winter replenishment of the icecaps is totally failing to compensate for accelerating depletion through melting.

The icecaps' tears of melt water have become a cascading flood. This is climate change; this is the penalty for overpopulation and coal-fuelled industrialisation.



U-shaped valleys and moraine-dammed lakes as the icecap releases its grip on the barren landscape.

## HUT NEWS

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## WHAT'S ON....

### BMCS Bushwalkers' BBQ

A BYO BBQ for bushwalking leaders (and interested others) to discuss BMCS bushwalking - and to launch the new issue of the *BMCS Bushwalkers' Guide*.

**Sunday 11 March**, 12 noon, at the picnic tables outside the Conservation Hut.

### In the Hot Seat Climate Change Forum – Who will take the lead on climate change?

To keep us below a 2°C global temperature rise we must reduce greenhouse pollution by at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020. Anything less risks the human, economic and environmental future of NSW.

Join the NCC for a not-to-be-missed evening as key party spokespeople face a panel of journalists and experts - and their party's policies on climate change are put under the spotlight.

## A WIN IN COURT - FOR COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY

The media regularly decries the amount of money all councils, including the Blue Mountains, spends on legal fees. Unfortunately the media doesn't seem to believe there may be important issues at stake! Fortunately this council wisely decided to defend its own decision in court – and protect land at Wentworth Falls from a significant subdivision.

The land in question is located between Wentworth Falls and Bullaburra on the north side off Railway Parade. It is the area shown in street directories as King, Mary and George Streets. This area was registered as an 84-lot subdivision in 1914. The first planning system for the Blue Mountains (Interim Development Order 1973) established a minimum lot size which prevented the building of each of the 84 lots. Then the 1982 Local Environment Plan 4, and the subsequent 1991 Local Environment Plan, both required the 84 lots to be consolidated into one lot.

In October 2003, a development application was lodged to consolidate most of the lots and erect dwelling houses on each of 14 newly-created residential lots.

Four objections came from community to this proposal. The Society's objections centred around the loss of an adequate buffer area to the hanging swamp and also to the watercourse, which would lead to their degradation.

The Council refused to approve the development application in July 2005, on a number of grounds including that it did not comply with the consolidation requirement.

The owner appealed to the Land and Environment Court and won. The Land and Environment Court determined that the consolidation requirement was a development standard, which means that it doesn't need to be applied strictly (if an application is made to vary the standard – called a SEPP 1 application). This meant that the subdivision could be permitted.

The Council lodged an appeal against this decision and the Court of Appeal subsequently found that the consolidation requirement must be strictly adhered to [clause 29.2 of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 1991]. The subdivision could therefore not proceed. It also ordered the opponent, Laurence Browning Pty Ltd, to pay the Council's costs of the proceedings in that Court.

As it stands now, this land will be permitted to have one development, which gives a better chance of limiting the amount of clearing and protecting the valuable creeks and swamps on and adjacent to the land.

Thank-you Council, concerned residents and members of the neighbouring Water Nymphs Dell Bushcare Group for your efforts.

*Anyone interested in more details on this issue is welcome to contact Lyndal Sullivan on 4782 1635 or [lsullivan@efel.net.au](mailto:lsullivan@efel.net.au).*

**Lyndal Sullivan**

The speakers are Hon. Bob Debus MP (Environment Minister), Mr Michael Richardson MP (Shadow Environment Minister) and Ms Lee Rhiannon MLC (Greens Member).

**Tuesday 13th March, 2007**, 6:30pm  
Free admission, no RSVP necessary.

For further information please contact Marnie Kikken on 9279 2466 or visit [www.environmentelection.org.au](http://www.environmentelection.org.au).

### BRAID "Bigger than Blackheath" Trivia Challenge and Auction

BRAID is organising a big bold fundraising event to pay its court costs: This will be the fun night of the year with great prizes.

Donations of valuable items needed: Do you have a quality item to donate to BRAID's auction? Anything in good condition and portable valued at \$25 or more: decorative objects, kitchenware, tools, electrical goods, collectables etc. Please phone John for a pickup: 4787 5753.

For your diary: The "Bigger than Blackheath" Trivia Challenge and Auction, **Saturday 12 May** at the Blackheath Community Hall.

Full details in the April Hut News, but register your interest now at: [braid2785@yahoo.com.au](mailto:braid2785@yahoo.com.au).

### Capertee Valley tree planting

Volunteers are needed for the next Capertee Valley tree planting weekend on **5-6 May 2007**. This is part of an ongoing project to restore habitat for the endangered Regent Honeyeater.

In May we have 3000 trees and shrubs to be planted on a property in the central part of the valley. Help is also needed on **Friday 4 May** to lay out the plants.

Accommodation is available in various cottages throughout the valley or camping at Glen Davis.

Please register early to assist us in planning. For more information or registration forms, contact Tiffany Mason on 6350 3115 or [Tiffany.Mason@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Tiffany.Mason@cma.nsw.gov.au).

Visit the BMCS website at: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)



## What future do you want for the Newnes Plateau region?

Come along to a public meeting to discuss the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal, which seeks to expand the Gardens of Stone and Blue Mountains National Parks and establish a new State Conservation Area, centred around the Newnes Plateau in the western Blue Mountains.

The proposed area has incredible bio-diversity, contains many rare and endangered plants and plant communities and includes the most spectacular pagoda rock formations in Australia. Yet this sensitive area is under threat from sand mining schemes and irresponsible trail bike riding.

In the lead-up to the State Election, the Colong Foundation and Blue Mountains Conservation Society are now bringing the campaign to the people of the lower Blue Mountains with a public forum focusing on the significance of the proposed area. Candidates have been invited to attend and state their position on this significant issue.

The evening will include an updated slide show and DVD presentation with stunning images from the area, and an opportunity for everyone to express their views.

### PUBLIC MEETING, SLIDE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**Venue:** Glenbrook Uniting Church Hall, cnr Green St & Lucasville Rd, Glenbrook

**Speakers:** David Brazil and guest TBA

**Date/Time:** 7-9pm, Fri 2 March 2007

**Free Entry - All Welcome - Refreshments served**

For more information: [david@dbrazil.com](mailto:david@dbrazil.com), 4784 3496, or visit [www.gardensofstone.info](http://www.gardensofstone.info).

## Letter of the Month—March 2007

### Coal – Dirty AND Thirsty

The NSW government has fallen over backwards to accommodate the coal mining boom. The mining industry is considered to have 'special' circumstances that put it outside of even the National Water Initiative Agreement.

However, communities in all the coal-field regions of NSW are concerned about the long-term damage to water sources, aquifers, creek and river beds, and to water quality, caused by mining activities.

Rivers SOS, a coalition of 13 major community and environmental groups, reports that 8 major river systems and numerous creeks in NSW have been permanently damaged by mining operations, and a further 14 rivers are under threat if government approval is given to new mining proposals under consideration. Many of these rivers are part of Sydney and regional catchments.

Coal is marketed as a cheap resource, yet the long-term impacts on scarce water resources are not costed into the production. For instance, the proposed Anvil Hill mine would disturb four stream beds and use between one and four million litres of water per day to wash coal. The proposed Moolarben mine, also in the Upper Hunter on the Goulburn River catchment, would intercept the flow of five streams, drop the groundwater level by 70 metres and use up to 6.9 million litres of water per day.

Australia is the driest continent on Earth, yet in approving and subsidising coal mining as they are, our politicians are allowing foreign-owned mining companies to squander our most precious resource – water – while at the same time producing greenhouse gases which will increase the likelihood of further extreme droughts.

**Send a short message to your State Member of Parliament using some or all of the following points:**

- The NSW Greenhouse Plan states that “in NSW and across the planet a concerted effort is required to slow and reverse the projected growth in emissions and to avoid dangerous climate change”. How can this be achieved if the coal mining export industry is allowed to continue to expand?
- How does the NSW government plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NSW to 2000 levels by 2025 if coal mining is allowed to expand?
- I call on the NSW government to call a moratorium on all 21 new mining proposals, extensions or variations of existing operations currently under consideration, including Anvil Hill and a third coal export terminal at Newcastle.
- call on the NSW government to mandate an exclusion zone of at least 1km around rivers in NSW, to protect them from damage caused by mining operations.
- I call on the Premier to plan for an energy future for NSW with diminishing reliance on coal power and investment in renewable energy.

**Contact Details:** For details of your local State Member of Parliament go to <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/members.nsf/V3Home>.

Send a copy to the Premier [thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au) and Leader of the Opposition [peter.debnam@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:peter.debnam@parliament.nsw.gov.au) as well.

**Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman**

## ***STATE ELECTION 2007 Questions on Water, Global Warming, and the local environment for the candidates***

During February the Society prepared the following list of questions on specific environmental issues and requested all NSW Legislative Assembly candidates standing in the Blue Mountains to provide their responses within 10 days. The questionnaire was mainly multiple choice in format, and sought to elicit who had clear positions on specific issues. We trust that the responses of candidates as set out below will assist you in assessing the environmental positions of the candidates. Where candidates were asked if they supported or opposed a particular action it was made clear in the questionnaire that this meant they would actively argue and champion their position in public meetings, their party room, and on the floor of parliament.

| <b><i>Questions</i></b>  | <b>Robert Stock (Ind)</b><br>@14/2/07 | <b>Pippa McInnes (Greens)</b><br>@21/2/07 | <b>Michael Paag (Liberal)</b><br>@22/2/07 | <b>Ann-Elise Cole (CDP)</b><br>@23/2/07 | <b>Phil Koperberg (Labor)</b><br>@25/2/07   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1) The Queensland government has decided to supplement their drinking (potable) water supplies by recycling water from their Sewerage Treatment Plants using advanced Membrane Reverse Osmosis technology. Do you support or oppose such potable water recycling as an immediate step to supplement Sydney's reticulated water supply?   | Support                               | Support                                   | Support                                   | Undecided                               |   |
| 2) The majority of independent water experts agree that building a desalination plant in Sydney should be a last resort, only occurring after the full implementation of all other options such as stronger water use restrictions, much larger water tank subsidies, increased grey and storm water re-use, and very importantly potable water recycling (as noted above). Considering the above measures do you support desalination plant construction as a first priority, a parallel project, or a last resort?   | Last Resort                           | Last Resort                               | Last Resort                               | Last Resort                             | Phil Koperberg chose not to answer the questions in the format requested.<br><br>He said in an email received 25/2/2007:<br><i>"I will send the Society a response which sets out the NSW Government's, and my own, position on the matters raised and indeed post the letter on my own website."</i> |
| 3) The Rivers SOS Alliance of environmental organisations is seeking a 1000 metre mining exclusion zone around rivers to prevent riverbed subsidence and cracking with consequent water loss and water pollution. Do you support or oppose this precautionary measure to protect our rivers' health and our water supply integrity?  | Support                               | Support                                   | Oppose                                    | Undecided                               |   |
| <b><i>The world scientific community (via the IPCC report) is unanimous that major and rapid action to reduce global warming is required NOW if extremely severe consequences to the environment and humanity are to be avoided.</i></b>   |                                       |   |   |   |   |
| 4) Coal fired power generation is the largest single contributor to global warming in NSW, responsible for approximately one third of greenhouse gas emissions in the state, with this level trending upwards. Do you support or oppose the expansion of coal fired power generation in NSW?   | Oppose                                | Oppose                                    | Not clearly answered                      | Support                                 |   |
| 5) Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal (approximately 30% of the world market), and hence a major world figure in greenhouse gas emissions. Last financial year Newcastle alone exported a record 80 million tonnes, which gives rise to more than 200 million tonnes of global warming emissions around the world. Of the following which do you support: the staged winding back of coal mining in NSW (that is no new coal mines) with a comprehensive retraining program for effected workers; the capping of coal mining in NSW at existing levels; or the further expansion of coal mining in NSW? | Winding Back                          | Winding Back                              | Not clearly answered                      | Winding Back                            |   |

|  |                                |  |   |                                     |                  |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 6) California, the seventh largest economy in the world, has legislated to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2010 and to 1990 levels by 2020. What legislated target years do you support for NSW returning to 2000 and 1990 levels respectively?   | 2000 by 2011<br>1990 by 2015   | 2000 by 2009<br>1990 by ???<br>(Commits to 80% less than 1990 by 2050)               | 2000 by ???<br>1990 by ???<br>(Notes <i>need</i> for 60% less than 1990 by 2050 ) | No Answer                           |                  |
| 7) Do you support or oppose the expansion of uranium mining in Australia?  | Oppose                         | Oppose   | Support   | Support                             |                  |
| 8) Do you support or oppose the use of nuclear power for electricity generation in Australia?  | Oppose                         | Oppose   | Oppose  | Support                             |                  |
| 9) If you indicated support for nuclear power in the question above, specify two locations you think are appropriate for a nuclear power station to supply electricity to Sydney?  | N/A                            | N/A  | N/A   | South Aust<br>and Nthn<br>Territory |                  |
| 10) California recognises the urgent need for action to mitigate global warming and has legislated that renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and low impact hydro) should provide 20% of its energy requirements by 2010, with a further recommended goal of 33% by 2020. Similarly the state of New York has legislated a target of 24% by 2013. What Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) will you champion for NSW for 2010 and 2020 respectively?  | 2010: 20%<br><br>2020: 35%     | 2010: 18%<br><br>2020: 50%   | Yet to announce policy on specific targets  | 2010: 10%<br><br>2020: 15%          |                  |
| 11) Name two specific and substantial renewable energy projects (not pilot or feasibility studies) you will champion for construction in NSW over the next four years.   | Wind Turbines,<br>& Geothermal | Wind farms in co-op with communities, & dramatic increase in solar hot water heaters | Solar Schools Policy,<br>& Solar Homes Policy with extra rebates                  | Greenpower,<br>& Energy Saving Fund |                  |
| 12) There are plans for large scale sand/kaolin open-pit mining in the Newnes Junction area of the western Blue Mountains. Do you support or oppose such sand mining operations at a site that abuts the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Blue Mountains National Park, and is within the catchment of the Wollangambe River?  | Oppose                         | Oppose   | Oppose  | Support                             |                  |
| 13) The Colong Foundation for Wilderness, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, and the Colo Committee have proposed the protection of 40,000 hectares of high conservation value land covering the Newnes Plateau, the Airly-Genowlan Mesa, the Blue Mountains Western Escarpment, and related Crown lands. This <i>Gardens of Stone Stage Two</i> proposal will involve State Conservation Areas and National Park Extensions. Do you support or oppose the proposal? | Support                        | Support  | Support   | Undecided                           |                  |
| 14) Do you support or oppose the upgrading of the current Bells Line of Road to what is colloquially called the <i>Bells Line Super Highway</i> ?  | Oppose                         | Oppose   | Undecided   | Undecided                           |                  |
| 15) Finally, personal commitment is as important as public commitment. What percentage of your own home's electricity is from Greenpower accredited sources?   | 100%                           | 100%   | Currently Nil, changing to max% avail   | Not living in her house             |                  |
|  | <b>Stock</b>                   | <b>McInnes</b>   | <b>Paag</b>   | <b>Cole</b>                         | <b>Koperberg</b> |



# Water Matters

We continue our examination of water issues with two pieces by **Brian Marshall** of the **Groundwater Subcommittee**.

## Desalinated mouthwash!

*“What is wrong with desalination? After all, it doesn’t rely on rainfall, is used by many places overseas, and is sustainable”.*

I have been asked this, or something similar, by a variety of people who see merit in providing a ‘permanent solution to Sydney’s water crisis’.

The Society’s position on desalination versus recycling, stormwater harvesting and rainwater tanks is presented on its website in a critical review of the Metropolitan Water Plan. It is comprehensive and well worth downloading. But the following specifically deals with the above question and beliefs.

We start with sustainability and rainfall dependency. The oceans provide a sustainable source of seawater because, being the world’s principal reservoir within the hydrologic cycle, there is negligible rainfall dependency. So surely this says we should use desalination? Well, I am afraid not, but to explain this, sustainability needs to consider the environmental cost.

For plants of equivalent capacity, the power costs for desalination vary from 3 to more than 6 times those of potable recycling. So, if this is translated into equivalent greenhouse gas emissions, desalination is a vastly bigger atmospheric polluter. The State Government says that it will offset the pollution by planting trees or perhaps through carbon trading. Fine, but the pollution will enter the atmosphere and hasten the build-up of greenhouse gases long before any tree-effect kicks in. And if carbon trading is employed, the cost of water from this power-hungry option will rise disproportionately. The conclusion must be that the power demands of desalination are neither environmentally nor economically sustainable.

A similar type of argument relates to the high capital costs of desalination plants compared with recycling plants of equivalent capacity. Because seawater is corrosive, more robust material-specifications are needed to achieve an equivalent plant life. This again translates into both higher greenhouse gas emissions and water prices thereby detracting from desalination’s environmental and economic sustainability.

OK, if desalination produces high-price water (compared with recycling and stormwater harvesting) and is environmentally unsustainable, why do many places use it? There is a range of answers. Some say their systems were in place before climate change impacts were fully appreciated (the ‘hindsight’ excuse). Others have cheap and non-polluting hydroelectric power or geothermal power (e.g. Iceland or New Zealand), or have negligible rainfall to compensate for recycling losses and are blessed with cheap oil-based power (e.g. certain middle eastern countries), or have subsidised fuel-oil costs (e.g. small communities in Greenland); and many disregard the unsustainable environmental consequences and are effectively in denial. For those still ‘planning’ (e.g. Perth and Sydney), there is no justification for desalination, despite it supposedly being an insurance policy ‘should normal rainfall fail’, because their choice will hasten the climate change that links with declining rainfall. Desalination is an environmentally and economically unsustainable way of producing high-price water.

Allowing all this, what else is wrong with desalination? Well, for completeness, it is far less amenable than potable recycling to stormwater harvesting, and it reinforces the wasteful ‘single pass’ (use it once and throw it away) approach to water resources. Even if not/little used, as the State Government would have us believe, maintenance costs still accrue and a \$1.3 to 1.9 billion capital cost is a very expensive insurance policy!

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## WATER VIEWS

In the previous Hut News, Ian Ernst asked whether paying more than \$1000 per kilolitre for commercially bottled water, versus ‘tapolene’ at less than \$1.85 per kilolitre, triggered the hip-pocket nerve. He also emphasized the damage to *“creeks, swamps and their dependent ecosystems due to commercial bottling of spring/bore water”*.

To extend this thinking, the selection of commercially bottled water over ‘tapolene’ carries a 540% premium (at least). Not what you might call a smart investment decision. So, by choosing a kilolitre of ‘tapolene’, you can save the ‘lifeblood of the environment’ and concurrently release at least \$998.15 for other environmentally beneficial forms of investment (e.g. green power and low energy light bulbs).

The deficiencies of drinking commercially bottled water are easily demonstrated, but those using domestic bores for gardens, nature strips, and hosing hard surfaces also deplete the environment’s lifeblood. The Society has long campaigned for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Council who are sympathetic to the view, to meter domestic bores and charge for the amount of water used at Sydney Water rates less a treatment component. Despite this, despite the acknowledged drought, and despite the broadly accepted effects of climate change, DNR and Minister Macdonald show little interest in pursuing such an approach. So, despite some of the other States taking action along these lines, there is little enthusiasm for it in *‘can’t do’* NSW.

As an alternative to metering and charging, the Society is in discussions with Council and indirectly with DNR, about applying the same restrictions to bore water use, as are applied to the use of piped drinking water, provided the latter is available. This would overcome DNR’s hesitancy about the costs associated with installing meters, reading them and charging for bore water. It would concurrently ensure that bore water is not appallingly wasted by watering in the heat of the day, or even when it is raining, as commonly happens with time-controlled automatic sprinkling systems and absentee owners.

Although either option involves amending the legislation on ‘basic water rights’, this should surely not be beyond the capacity of any government concerned with the inappropriate use of water and its environmental consequences.

What do your local candidates think?

In case they don’t tell you, or even have a view, contact Phil Koperberg (Philip.koperberg@alp.com.au), Michael Paag (paag@optusnet.com.au), Pippa McInnes (bmgreens@hermes.net.au) and Robert Stock (4782 7070) and tell them what you want.

## Nursery News Kevin Bell

Autumn is the ideal planting time and to coincide with this we have set our big autumn sale for Saturday 31st March at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls from 9am to noon. We will have over a thousand plants of 70 species for sale from ground-covers to rockery plants, shrubs and trees. All tube-stock will be just \$2.50 with a free plant for every four purchased. Before then, we will be at the Lawson Magpie Markets on Sunday 18th March (and thereafter every third Sunday of the month) from 9am to 1.30pm with an extensive collection of plants at the above prices. So, bring a box and come early to either or both venues for the best selection. Our enthusiastic volunteers will be on hand for advice if needed.

### New Eucalypt Available

We have just added an outstanding new Eucalypt to our collection, *Eucalyptus baeuerlenii*, with thanks to David Coleby for a supply of seeds. This is a small tree to about 10m or a mallee with a beautiful smooth-barked trunk variously described as grey, brown, copper or green. The most interesting feature is that it occurs in only a few restricted sites and Wentworth Falls is one of those. An impressive specimen is growing just behind the toilet block near the Conservation Hut.

Named for William Baeuerlen, born Wilhelm Bäuerlen in Germany in 1840, who arrived in Australia in 1863 and was engaged to collect specimens for the famous botanist and explorer Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller and subsequently for J. H. Maiden.

Baeuerlen collected extensively, mostly in NSW, but also in south-eastern Queensland and in East Gippsland in Victoria. In 1886 he led a collecting expedition to Papua-New Guinea. His collections amount to many thousands of specimens which are still housed in museums, both in Australia and Germany.

He also co-authored a book 'Wildflowers of New South Wales' with Gertrude Lovegrove which was published in Sydney in 1891. He died in Sydney in 1917.



William Baeuerlen (1840-1917), an avid plant collector

Photo: Mitchell Library - NSW, Bonito Expedition, 1885  
(from ANBG website [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au))

His name is honoured in the specific names of plants in the genera *Correa*, *Pultenaea*, *Ziera*, *Gentiana* and *Acacia* and there is no doubt it would cause him some distress to learn that several of these are now listed as "endangered".

A list of all the Eucalypts we offer can be found on our web-site.

### New Contracts

The nursery has recently secured some important contracts with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to supply plants for re-vegetation works at Gordon Falls Reserve, Green Gully, Megalong Valley and on walking tracks to Wentworth Falls.

We are also supplying Blue Mountains City Council with plants for Summerhayes Park, Winmalee, Jamison Creek, Wentworth Falls and the North Katoomba Bushcare Group. Our most recent success was again with BMCC for propagation of plants for degraded Upper Blue Mountains Swamps through grants secured by Council from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

As well as providing much-needed revenue for the environmental work of the Society, the nursery is also filling a vital role as a reliable supplier of local plants for the local environment, both for Government organizations, landscapers and the general public. Our team of enthusiastic and skillful volunteers has made all this possible and it is my pleasure to be associated with them.

Check our website for nursery locations and opening times as well as a complete list of plants available.

## BMCS Bushcare

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare group works in the Blue Mountains National Park at Wentworth Falls on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tools are provided but bring morning tea, gloves and drinking water. Contact Karen on 4757 1929.

**MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES — Rod Quirk**  
Phone: 4784 1711, Email: [rod.quirk@exemail.com.au](mailto:rod.quirk@exemail.com.au)  
Or write to: PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

## Welcome to new members

Ian & Ann Spight, Leura ~ Vijay & Sudha Khandelwal, Winston Hills  
~ Helena Cooke-Yarborough, Lindfield ~ Michael Gerrerg &  
Veronica Paul, Katoomba ~ Greta & Tony Begg, Wentworth Falls ~  
Susan Girard, Katoomba ~ Philip Morrison, Wentworth Falls ~  
Stephen Smith, Katoomba ~ Warwick & Penelope Coombes, Leura ~  
Amy Plunkett-Cole, Waverton ~ Kathie Herbert, Katoomba ~  
Margaret Hynard, Faulconbridge ~ Mark Watson, Taren Point ~  
Clare Power, Wentworth Falls ~ Silvester Simon, Wentworth Falls ~  
Jan & John Mannix, Leura ~ David Watson, Avalon Beach



### Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. 2007/2008 Management Committee Nomination Form

We..... and .....

being members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society hereby nominate

..... for the position of .....

Signed .....Date: .....

I, ..... being a member of the above Society accept the nomination.

Signed .....Date: .....

This form should be lodged with the current Management Committee at least 24 hours before the AGM.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING GROUP

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. Cost of insurance and affiliation fees is \$15 per member.

For further information, contact the Walks Convenor, David Bowskill (4757 3416, [davidbow@tpg.com.au](mailto:davidbow@tpg.com.au)).

**BEFORE ATTENDING, PLEASE DISCUSS THE WALK WITH THE LEADER (listed below)**

**- THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST WALK OR YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION.**

### MONDAY LEISURE WALKS

Usually 'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Graded MEDIUM, these walks may include some short rock scrambles or sections off track. Bring morning tea and lunch. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

|        |  |                             |                                      |        |
|--------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Mar-12 | <b>Nature Trail, Wentworth Falls</b><br><i>Walk part of Grand Cliff-top Walk/Valley of the Waters.</i> | <b>Laurel</b> 4784 1554     | Went. Falls, Stockyard carpark       | 8.30am |
| Mar-19 | <b>Taronga to Balmoral</b><br><i>Walk in Sydney Harbour NP.</i>  | <b>Norm</b> 4784 1554       | Top of escalators at Central Station | 9.30am |
| Mar-26 | <b>Kings Link, Springwood</b><br><i>Another new walk for our group.</i>                                | <b>David</b> 4757 3416      | Springwood Stn multi-storey carpark  | 8.45am |
| Apr-2  | <b>Mt Piddington, Hornes Point, Pulpit Rock</b><br><i>New walk in open forest.</i>                     | <b>Mary/Terry</b> 4784 6918 | Mt Victoria Station                  | 9.00am |
| Apr-9  | <b>Manly Dam</b><br><i>Another new walk for our group.</i>   | <b>Norm</b> 4784 1554       | Top of escalators at Central Station | 9.30am |
| Apr-16 | <b>Luncheon Rock, Bell</b><br><i>Open forest walk.</i>   | <b>Ron</b> 4757 1526        | Mt Victoria Station                  | 9.00am |

### THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS

EASY to MEDIUM grade walks conducted to suit walkers on the day. Slower walkers are catered for; on longer walks there may be an option for a slower group to complete only a section of the walk. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

|        |   |                         |                                      |         |
|--------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Mar-15 | <b>Witch's leap, Furber Steps, Boardwalk</b><br><i>Descend into the rainforest for lunch, return via Scenic Railway.</i>  | <b>Joan</b> 4782 2218   | Gearins Hotel, Katoomba              | 9.30am  |
| Mar-22 | <b>BUS TRIP to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens</b><br><i>Cost: \$12 including entry. Bookings now being taken.</i>               | <b>Simone</b> 4757 3416 | Bus depot, South St, N. Katoomba     | 8.30am  |
| Mar-29 | <b>Dreaming story at Katoomba Falls</b><br><i>Walk in familiar area with Chris Tobin</i>                                  | <b>Simone</b> 4757 3416 | Gearins Hotel, Katoomba              | 10.00am |
| Apr-5  | <b>Cooks River Walk</b><br><i>Full day walk from Tempe to Canterbury Station.</i>   | <b>John</b> 4757 1558   | Top of escalators at Central Station | 10.35am |
| Apr-12 | <b>Nature walk, Wentworth Falls</b><br><i>Classic walk from Conservation Hut to West Street via Valley of the waters.</i> | <b>Simone</b> 4757 3416 | Went. Falls carpark (near clock)     | 10.00am |

### WEEKEND WALKS

Before attending, please discuss the walk with the leader or the Weekend Walks organiser, Jim Percy (4758 6009). Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days. **Grade 3 = MEDIUM, GRADE 4 = MEDIUM/HARD**

|        |   |                           |                             |        |
|--------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Mar-17 | <b>Wentworth Falls Circuit (Grade 3)</b><br><i>Valley of Waters, Vera Falls, Hippocrene Falls, Wentworth Falls Pass. 10km, all on track, some steep sections.</i>   | <b>Bill</b> 4758 8548     | Went. Falls Station carpark | 9.10am |
| Mar-24 | <b>Du Fours Ck—October Ck (3)</b><br><i>Mary's Mt Wilson Wander—a different view of the area. 7km on track &amp; firetrail, some rough &amp; overgrown sections.</i>  | <b>Mary</b> 4787 6918     | Mt Victoria Station         | 8.30am |
| Mar-31 | <b>Fortress Ridge &amp; Darks Cave (4)</b><br><i>Adventurous walk with a bit of local history. 9 km; 20% off track, steep descent/ascent. Fortress Ck descent optional.</i>   | <b>Meredith</b> 4782 4823 | Leura Public School         | 9.00am |
| Apr-7  | <b>Narrow Neck, Diamond Falls, to the Pass (4)</b><br><i>Descend to old tramway route with remnants of mining works and buildings, exit via the Devils Hole. 7km: 50% very rough or off track, steep descent/ascent, care required at Diamond Falls.</i>                              | <b>Jim</b> 4758 6009      | Cahill's Lookout carpark    | 8.30am |
| Apr-14 | <b>Mt Wilson to Wollangambe Canyon (3)</b><br><i>A different Wollangambe Walk—wonderful scenery with sandstone cliffs on each side of cool water, sandy beaches &amp; quiet pools. 8 km: all on track, medium grade descent &amp; ascent, but some steep sections requiring care.</i> | <b>Liz</b> 4754 4966      | Mt Victoria Station carpark | 9.00am |

➤➤ **BMCS Bushwalking discussion and BBQ for bushwalk leaders and participants - see "WHAT'S ON" (p.2) for details.** <<



## Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. 2007/2008 Management Committee Nomination Form