

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



Lessons learned from the Paroo River

Mateusz Wolnicki



"Great Scott!" I cried, "is that it? Why, that is some old bridle-track!"
He chuckled, "Well, I never, It's nearly time you came out-back – This is the Paroo River."
- Henry Lawson

It is our experiences with nature and our interpretations of nature that help us develop our love and passion for the environment. The Australian landscape has enchanted and inspired us endlessly. What started as a fear of the unknown, the heart of darkness, when the first

settlers came, grew to become a fascination and passion for the land. The Australian landscape has grown to become a legend. "I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains..."

The natural environment has many values for us, both intrinsic and non intrinsic. We love them and share a passion for them. It may be standing on the edge of the Grose Valley, walking the Blue Gum Forest, or it may be our national icons, Kakadu and Uluru. Here and overseas, Yosemite, Antarctica, whatever wilderness or microbe we encounter, it is special. For me, it is our wild Rivers, specifically the Paroo.

But how can we 'infect' others with an appreciation for the environment? How can we show that its conservation and long term good management are needed? In a world of increasingly competitive resources and the value of the dollar, how can we justify the resources and money needed to protect our natural and cultural heritage?

I would like to propose that if we are to remain resilient in our commitment to protect the environment that we are passionate about, we need to begin

MONTHLY MEETING
FRIDAY, 26 October 2007, 7.30 pm
Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls
Speaker: Mateusz Wolnicki

thinking about new strategies for conservation.

The story of the Paroo River shows that there is a way forward. Despite conflict and complex social, economic and environmental issues, the love and passion for a River can create change. Most importantly, it provides insight into how to develop better conservation strategies for both communities and government policy.

The Paroo River story shows that we need to understand local community values, in all their complexity, so that we can create management policies that embrace these values. This way, we can conserve our natural and cultural heritage according not only to how we as outsiders feel, but also in attempting to understand the love that the local community feels.

Mateusz Wolnicki will be the guest speaker at our monthly meeting on Friday 26 October, 7.30 pm, at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls (western end of Fletcher Street).

Visitors are welcome.

(Photo: Mat with yabbie)

Join the Walk Against Warming

On the Sunday two weeks before the 2007 federal election, a coalition of environment groups across Australia is organising Walk Against Warming. Walks will be held in all states, in major cities and many regional centres (check out www.walkagainstawarming.org.au for a Walk near you).

The Federal election is only weeks away now, and *we still do not have policies which will sufficiently and urgently address climate change from either the Government or the Opposition.*

If the government has no vision, then the people must give them one.

Walk Against Warming offers the Australian people the best window of opportunity in the next three years to influence the policies which will shape the kind of future we will face. Governments will pursue a course of inaction until citizens make it politically expensive to do so. If Australians turn out in massive numbers across the country, climate change will be demonstrably the hottest election issue. Politicians will know they have voter support for the hard decisions that need to be made.

Eminent scientists world-wide are warning that we have less than ten years to make an impact on greenhouse gas levels to prevent climate change spiralling out of control.

We do not have three years to the next election to waste on inadequate action.

So let's make sure we get the message across this time. If you never do anything else to show your concern about global warming, join your fellow Australians on the Walk. It's that important.

Let's walk our talk, folks! As English writer George Monbiot says:

"We cannot change the world without leaving our chairs".

HUT NEWS

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

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REST A WHILE by Reg Reid

It's looking greener
There's something about the green.
Makes you want to rest a while
and just enjoy the scene.

Relax there
breath in the fresher air
put all your doubts away
and discard every care.

Lay down
put your head against the ground
close your eyes
and take in all the sounds

And dream.

"Birds of the Blue Mountains" poster.

Just released! A2 size.

109 species in habitat by
local wildlife artist
Fiona Lumsden.

Unlaminated \$25
Laminated \$35.

Available direct
from the artist.

Phone 02 47826577 or
email lumfio@yahoo.com



Green Ambassador

17 year old Katoomba High student Shane Cameron is one of 20 young Australians who have been chosen as a Conservation Volunteers "Green Ambassador" 2007.

Shane was nominated by his school for his environmental work and leadership at school and within the community.

The award is sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank. Shane received a digital camera to record any future activities and an invitation to a five day expedition with Conservation Volunteers.

New environmental magazine STROBOS

Environmental activities in schools ... environmental issues ... dwarf mountain pine renamed ... decline of frogs ... keeping frogs in your garden—how to build a pond ... Diprotodon found at Jenolan ... and more.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society has launched the first edition of *Stobos*, a magazine about environmental issues, written by high school students for high school students. The magazine is edited by Fiona Yates, Shane Cameron and Stacey Reynolds.

If you would like a copy of this monthly magazine to be delivered with your copy of Hut News, please contact the Society. Email membership@bluemountains.org.au or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

Plant study group

There are vacancies in our Plant Study Group. We work as a group in the field sharing our knowledge about flora. We learn the botanical structures of flowers, leaves and fruits, and use botanical terminology – it is a good learning experience, as well as a challenge.

On a warm sunny spring morning in September, we had a busy time in Faulconbridge identifying a diversity of *Acacias* and *Fabaceae* in flower. We were all enchanted by *Drosera auriculata*, a Sundew, shining in the

sunshine as its sticky glandular leaves attracted tiny insects. A *Lobelia* looked a superb blue, against the burnt ground of last year's hazard reduction, whilst the fruits of *Persoonia pinifolia*, hanging like a bunch of grapes were the biggest *Persoonia* fruits we had ever seen.

If you are interested in joining us, it is advisable to have a familiarity with local plants in *Native Plants of the Blue Mountains*, by M. Baker & R. Corringham.

The first Sunday of each month is when we have our short bush rambles.. Inquiries Meredith 4782 4823 after 5pm.

Colong Foundation for Wilderness Bushfire Seminar

Wilderness - a Priceless Asset or Fire Hazard?

Speaker will be Historian Paul Collins, author of 'Burn: The Epic Story of Bushfire in Australia'. Discussion panel will include John Bensen (Senior Ecologist, RBG) Ian Brown (Colong's Hon Fire Officer) - others to be confirmed.

The seminar will be held at History House, Royal Australian Historical Society, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney on
Wednesday 7 November

6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Refreshments will be provided.
Admission is free and numbers limited.

To register contact Colong Foundation
(02) 9261 2400, email
hilda@colongwilderness.org.au

Welcome to new members

Margot Edwards & Paul Griffith, Leura
Jenny and Andrew Szemenyei, Linden
Graeme and Suzanne Roth, Blackheath
Mavis and Iorwerth Roberts, Leura
Sandra Stevens & Paul Vale,
Blackheath
Russell Jean Aroney, Katoomba
Carol Lubbers, Woodford
Shane Cameron, Blackheath

*This issue of Hut News has been
edited by Christine Davies.
Juli will return next month.*

Visit the BMCS website at: www.bluemountains.org.au

Outwest 07 Part 1 by Meredith Brownhill

The Outwest travellers – six Blue Mountains Conservation Society bush walkers— journeyed through a wide and contrasting landscape across western NSW at the end of July 2007.

Our first stopover was in the Warrumbungles Ranges. Friendly dogs greeted us as the sun was setting over the angular mountains in the western sky. The mudbrick cabins, solar eco-designed, were warm and cosy during the frosty nights – a glass of Bob's red wine with Vera's cooking warmed us too! We occupied two cabins. At bedtime, Lesley and I walked in the frosty moon light up the gully to our small cabin nestled in the bush, where we had the pleasure of NO electricity! Possums and owls called through the night in the country quietness and Ros, who was up early listening for birds, was able to watch the sunrise from the ridge top over the Pilliga.

As always, the Grand High-tops rewarded us in the cool air, with views cross the volcanic landscape. The walking track reconstruction with new metal steps and boardwalks is almost complete. It was an easy start to the holiday, to be bushwalking in a National Park. A Gamilaroi guide took us for an interesting walk to see bush-tucker plants. Sticky Mistletoe fruits are edible and are called Snottygobbles! Lesley and Gwen walked around all day with *Olearia viscidula* leaves stuck on the back of their hands – this is the 'band aid' plant and the sticky leaves do stick on!

Still exploring Indigenous culture, we

headed into Pilliga country to the Sandstone Caves which are well worth a visit. The caves are in a remnant ridge of sandstone with lovely colours and superb shapes as the wind sweeps over and through them. Here, we sat amid the red earth and White Cypress, and soaked up the warm sun.

Koalas suffered in the last bushfires and numbers have been reduced from the 15,000 estimated to be in the area in 1997, so we gave up the idea of driving through burnt country and looking for koalas. Sadly, only 8% of the Woodland belt in NSW is still covered by native vegetation and much public land remains unprotected in the Pilliga and Goonoo – see the NPA website for details. As we were leaving the Warrumbungles, and the cosy Tibuc Cabins, the owner asked if the Society is interested in supporting local conservationists who are forming a land trust to purchase bushland bordering the National Park.

Then we left the bushwalking country familiar to us and sped through the great open spaces, and through an awesome river network of dry, and farming flood plains. We stopped to explore the old bridge over the River Barwon, which was raised for the paddlewheelers shipping wool down the Murray and marvelled at the fish traps built by the Ngemba in the river many years ago at Brewarrina.

Onwards to Louth via Bourke, we drove along a road of red bull dustto be continued next month.

Sustainable Development Policy Review

The Land Use Subcommittee is currently reviewing Blue Mountains City Council's Sustainable Development Policy.

Any member interested in having input into the policy review is invited to attend a workshop to discuss the draft policy and express your views.

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday afternoon 24 November, to be confirmed.

If you are interested in attending please register your name and contact details with the Land Use Officer Phillip Morrison and you will be forwarded the details of the workshop and a copy of the draft policy for review.

Email: pmorrison26@yahoo.com.au

Mail: PO Box 29,
Wentworth Falls 2782

Phone: (02) 4757 1393

Capertee helicopter joy flights have been approved, with stringent conditions. See story below by Brian Marshall. Capertee Valley Conservation Group has done a tremendous job of assembling support to counteract the two DAs over the past three years. The proceedings have ensured that the resulting operation is subject to far more stringent conditions than would otherwise have been the case.

Capertee Helicopter Joy Flights: a misguided compromise

Brian Marshall

Lithgow City Council (LCC) rejected two development applications (DA) for a 'heliport' adjacent to the Castlereagh Highway 3 km north of Capertee. The rejection reflected concerns over the amenity of 'local' residents and the broader impact on the World Heritage Area (WHA), national parks and wilderness, and the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 park proposals.

The applicant appealed to the Land and Environment Court (L&ECt). LCC was the respondent and Capertee Valley Environmental Group was a party to the proceedings. Following submissions and a two-day hearing, the Senior Commissioner (SC) upheld the appeal (25 September 2007).

Consent was granted under the Fly Neighbourly Policy, amended to include stringent conditions. The latter restrict the flight paths, numbers of flights per day, week and year, number of daily flights on particular flight paths, number of helicopters (1) that can be operated at any one time, and the acoustic signature of the helicopter used. Hovering and circling manoeuvres were limited, a detailed complaints mechanism was specified, and the consent was restricted to five years.

LCC's rejections should have been upheld. Nevertheless, the Society welcomes the operational constraints because they reduce the impacts on residents' amenity, on the 'experience' anticipated by ground-users in the WHA and parks, and on fauna and flora in those same regions. It also welcomes the comprehensive complaints mechanism.

Several aspects of the judgement cause concern:

(a) In considering public comment, the SC said that it comprised local economic benefit versus a quiet lifestyle. He concluded that the appeal was not the forum to debate this, and in any case that support for and against cancelled each other out. The Society believes there is a strong case for favouring residents' amenity in a region where the lifestyle is paramount and the concept of low-impact (but not high-impact) ecotourism is embraced.

(b) In referring to noise over wilderness, the WHA and parks, the SC opined that the operational constraints make it acceptable. The Society disagrees. The adopted acoustic criterion is inappropriate and impacts from other essential over-flights (e.g. fire and medical emergencies) are disregarded.

Impacts are cumulative; the applicant's impact may satisfy an acoustic criterion but the cumulative impact may not.

(c) The SC addressed the 'cumulative' impact of the sum of all flights, but indicated he had "no evidence on the number of existing flights on which to base an opinion". CVEG's acoustic expert seemed to have such data in Table 1 of his report.

(d) The SC noted that LCC brought no expert evidence of the impact of noise on fauna and flora. He concluded that such noise, if harmful, should be prohibited by means other than refusal of the application. Noise impacts on fauna and indirectly on flora are well documented. Had CVEG benefited from full legal representation, this deficiency might have been addressed.

And now! LCC agreed to the negotiated constraints and will not appeal. CVEG will monitor the applicant's performance and register complaints where appropriate. The Society should recognise that the L&ECt acts as a facilitator. Submissions must be supported by published data (commonsense is inadequate), and full legal representation is essential.

Over the past few months, many will have seen Andrew Farquharson's letters in the Blue Mountains Gazette opposing the human contribution to climate change. Many will also have seen other letters (including some from this Society) refuting his position. Although the letter-stream has dried up (perhaps an editorial decision?), it is conceivable that the crusade against the accuracy of climate modelling and the concept of climate change has induced doubt about the need for global action.

Andrew emphasised the existence of historical and geological climatic variations and argued that current changes are 'natural' (i.e. owe nothing to human actions). He supported this view by citing papers containing data that were seemingly inconsistent with human-induced climate change. He concurrently disregarded or denigrated numerous papers and the bulk of data that supported an exponential human contribution to climate change over the past 150 years.

To better appreciate the problems with selective citation, particularly in a local newspaper where the majority of readers will neither check the reference nor critically evaluate all pertinent literature, it is important to appreciate how research works.

The human contribution to climate change must be evaluated in the context of a broader research programme. This broad programme must demonstrate the extent of 'normal' variability, and then show that systematic changes beyond 'normal' variability are taking place. Unfortunately, the extent and causes of 'normal' variability are subject to ongoing investigation, so only after evaluation of large bodies of research (including statistical trends at numerous locations on all continents) has a consensus developed about the existence of systematic global climate change. The cause or causes of the change, including the much-debated human contribution, are 'goals' for ongoing research.

Individual researchers or research teams contribute to the goals by developing a 'local' set of data and interpreting it relative to a particular hypothesis. Faced with inconsistencies, they may elect to refine or oppose the hypothesis. The chosen approach may

have more to do with self-esteem and winning more research funds than with absolute truth. For example, 'the data negate views on climate change' makes the paper essential reading, whereas the data may be from a small area that is statistically insignificant at the global scale of consideration. Understanding the data may establish the 'local' scale response within continent-scale trends. But irrespective of this, the data are facts that require interpretation and lead to assertions.

The world cannot wait for incontrovertible resolution of the human role in climate-change. It would be akin to proving a comet will hit the earth a second after impact! To avoid such catastrophe, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) used the internationally available data and the best available interpretations to conclude (with a greater than 90% confidence level) that more than 50% of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is attributable to increasing human-induced greenhouse gas concentrations.

This does not mean that every piece of research is definitive, or that there is no room for scepticism or outright rejection by individual researchers. Indeed, such persons serve a useful purpose by challenging the 'conventional wisdom' and flagging uncertainty. Their disbelief is an important component of the research system because others will redouble their efforts to obtain definitive proof. For example, minority views that say the earth is 6000 years old, the distribution of continents reflects an expanding earth, and the theory of evolution is flawed, cause other researchers to investigate the evidence on which the views are based, while still others expand and clarify the body of evidence demonstrating the improbability of the minority position.

Because selective citation will never resolve debate about the human-induced component of climate change, it is essential to recognise that humans invariably strive to counteract impacts on their well-being. This should be applied to climate change. Continental glaciers are retreating and thinning whilst their flow-rates increase, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are abating, the

Arctic and Antarctic sea-ice is really decreasing, sea levels are rising, climatic bands are changing, and global average temperatures are increasing. Whatever the name and whatever the cause, these are factual observations. Whether one is concerned about polar bears drowning, a diminishing Antarctic krill population and its impact on the marine food chain, inundation of the world's major deltas and food basins, an increase in number and intensity of wildfires, growth in smog-related illness, or the wider dispersion of tropical diseases, it would be criminal to avoid mitigating action.

Nero fiddled while Rome burned! The Nero complex thrives in Australia's Federal and State Governments, and has been convincingly demonstrated at the APEC meeting by the range of governments' 'aspirational', but non-binding approach to climate change. Large sections of 'big business' and a majority of the people see that NOW is the time for action, yet governments continue to lead from behind for fear of economic and electoral consequences. Some may 'talk the talk', but very few 'walk the walk'.

The facts are: irrespective of cause, action to combat climate change is essential; the costs of inaction greatly exceed those of acting now ('big business' has recognised this); and even if the increase in globally averaged temperatures involves less human-induced impact than the IPCC conservatively estimated, the world will still be a better place for our children, grandchildren and their children. So do not waiver! Hold the politicians accountable. Tell Malcolm Turnbull (Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au), Maurice Iemma (thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au), Phil Koperberg (office@koperberg.minister.nsw.gov.au) and Peter Garrett (Peter.Garrett.MP@aph.gov.au) to force the pace of response. Mealy-mouthed words and prevarication will not combat climate change.

As for the human-induced component of climate change:
'fact' – a strong probability;
'fiction' – a remote probability;
'immaterial' – not to science,
but most definitely to our need for urgent action and unselfish leadership.

Interpretive Bushwalks — Christine Davies

Our last walk in September was in the "Hanging Gardens" on Kings Tableland. The rock platform near the beginning of the walk is one of the few places where you can see Vera Falls, deep in the Valley of the Waters. Wildflowers were plentiful and we admired a mistletoe, growing on small mallee gum, with red leaves glowing in the sunshine and in full flower. There was bird song along the walk and we watched a bird of prey soar across the waterfall and we made friends with a small skink.

The next interpretive walk will be on Thursday 1 November—to Rigby Hill, my favourite wildflower walk. From mid October till early November the heathland on Rigby Hill has the most magnificent display of wildflowers. At the end of the track, the view overlooking the Grose River is just as breathtaking.

There are limited numbers. If you are interested in interpretive bushwalks and wish to walk regularly on Thursdays during the school term contact Christine Davies 4787 7246 email bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au

PROTECTION OF BLUE MOUNTAINS SWAMPS A CAMPAIGN IS WON ... THE BATTLE CONTINUES ...

Listing of Blue Mountains Swamps under state threatened species legislation, announced in September Hut News, is the culmination of an eight-year campaign by Blue Mountains Conservation Society and many others.

The story of how it happened and the key role of BMCS may be useful to encourage future conservation efforts.

For years members had discussed the need for protection for our 'hanging swamps'. **In February 1999 BMCS decided to investigate the feasibility of getting hanging swamps listed as a threatened community under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995.**

Haydn Washington was appointed as a consultant to prepare a nomination. Tracey Austin offered her 1984 mapping work of hanging swamps in the Blue Mountains outside of the Park. Peter and Judy Smith also contributed to developing a case in the extensive mapping they had done for Council, and their work to identify distinguishing species.

It was decided to pursue the broader category of Blue Mountains Swamps which would include both sedge and shrub swamps, on valley floors as well as hillsides. While making it more difficult to prove uniqueness, this would include the swamps most in need of protection.

The nomination document prepared by Haydn argued the following points to satisfy the criteria of the Act:

- That BM swamps have distinguishing species,
- That these swamps are unique (i.e. only occur in a defined area),
- That swamps are not adequately conserved even though a high proportion are located in a National Park (threats exist for swamps inside the Park)

In addition to expert information, the observations of members were also valuable. 29 locations of swamps completely destroyed or degraded were listed. Older members, like Bessie Bramsen and Eugene Stockton, gave first-hand accounts of where the lost swamps had been.

The nomination was submitted in October 1999, with maps produced with the assistance of NPWS and Blue Mountains City Council staff.

In July 2000 the NSW Scientific Committee advised that there was not adequate evidence that Blue Mountains swamps were endangered and that there was currently no provision in the NSW Act for the recognition of vulnerable communities. It suggested that we pursue the new Federal legislation which had such a provision – *The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999*.

The Society then decided to follow two courses of action: firstly to nominate the swamps under the new EPBC Act, and secondly to start a campaign to change the NSW Act to make provision for vulnerable ecological communities.



A submission was lodged in October 2000 to nominate Blue Mountains swamps for listing as a 'vulnerable ecological community' under the federal EPBC Act. Haydn revamped the submission to fit the federal requirements by contributing much time and skills voluntarily. In April 2005 Blue Mountains swamps were listed not as 'vulnerable' but as 'endangered' under the federal EPBC Act as one of a group of swamp communities.

At the same time (July 2000) the Society contacted Bob Debus asking for changes to the NSW Act to make provision for vulnerable ecological communities. As both the Minister for the Environment and the local member, Bob gave his support to protecting the swamps by NSW legislation. The support of other conservation groups was gained at the Nature Conservation Council State Conference in October 2000 and NCC subsequently made representation to the NSW Government.

During 2001 community concern about the damage being wreaked on swamps heightened around the damage to swamps in Lawson by trail bikes.

In June 2002 a Bill amending the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act was presented to parliament creating a new category of 'vulnerable ecological communities'. During a meeting mid 2002 between BMCS members and Bob Debus to discuss these proposed amendments to the TSCA, Bob agreed to nominate Blue Mountains Swamps once the new 'vulnerable' category for ecological communities was established.

This amendment to the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 was passed in October 2002 creating a new category of 'vulnerable ecological community'. However there were no mechanisms in place to deal with nominations. Further correspondence continued between the Society and Bob Debus over the intervening years seeking an implementation of the promise to list Blue Mountain swamps.

Blue Mountains Swamps were the very first 'vulnerable ecological community' listed under state legislation. It has been a long sustained effort, and still the responsible department, Conservation and Climate Change, has no funding for conservation works to protect threatened species or communities.

Now that our swamps have official recognition of their importance and vulnerable status we can move onto the next battle which will be to get resources and regulations to provide real protection.

After eight years, the Society's 1999 objective, which was to have Blue Mountains Swamps listed under the NSW legislation, has been achieved;. Along the way we achieved two other objectives:

- To gain federal recognition under the EPBC Act, and
- To change the NSW Act to make provision for vulnerable ecological communities

Whilst the impetus of these campaigns was a voluntary effort, valuable contributions were also made by Blue Mountains City Council (staff and councillors) and by Blue Mountains NPWS staff. *Lyndal Sullivan.*

Photo: Grevillea acanthifolia, with spiky leaves and pink "toothbrush" flowers, is a common plant in our Blue Mountains swamps and along swampy creeklines. It is endemic to the Blue Mountains—it grows nowhere else in the world!

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING GROUP

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The spring program and the BMCS Bushwalkers' Guide can be found on the Society's website www.bluemountains.org.au or will be posted on request to the Walks Convener. Grades (G) are explained in the Guide. **Before attending, please discuss the walk with the leader or group co-ordinator (listed below). This is essential if this is your first walk or you are unsure of the classification.** For further information contact Walks Convener, Christine Davies: phone 4787 7246, email bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au Mail: PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS: 'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, for those of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Co-ordinator Norm Harris 4784 1554.

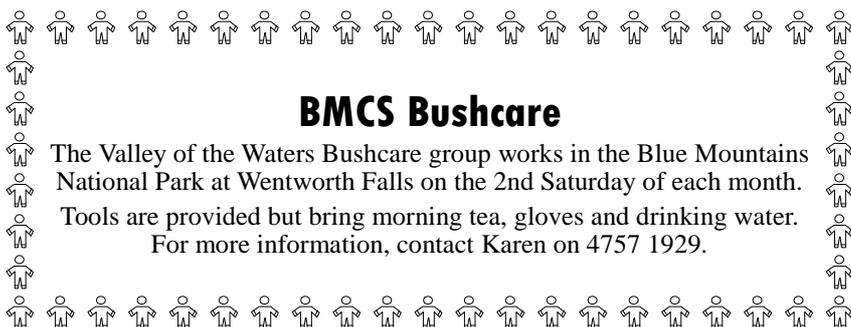
- Oct 15 **South Lawson Waterfalls.** A delightful walk alongside two creeks, with five lovely waterfalls, rainforest, ferns, lovely red-trunked Angophoras. G2. Mary 4787 6584.
- Oct 22 **Woolwich Dock and environs.** Explore historic Sydney. G1. Norm 4784 1554. Early start and a full day.
- Oct 29 **Dark's Cave, Blue Mountains National Park, Leura.** A steep descent and walk a creek to a sandstone overhang used as a holiday cave, waterfall, beautiful views. G3. **Ros 4733 3880.**
- Nov 05 **Wilkinson's Hill, Bell.** A wildflower walk. Upper mountain spring wildflowers are at their most fantastic at this time of year. G3. **Ron 4757 1526.**
- Nov 12 **Erskine Creek.** Lower mountains wilderness, in Blue Mountains National Park near Glenbrook. Wildflowers and beautiful forest of grey gums, angophoros and blue gums. Sandy beach at Erskine Creek. Swimming opportunity. **G2. Heather 4739 1493**

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Group Co-ordinator: Simone Bowskill 4757 4316, email: simbow@tpg.com.au Walks conducted to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, lunch if noted & adequate water.

- Oct 11 **Red Hands Cave, Glenbrook.** Ancient Aboriginal art site in Blue Mountains National Park. Walk from the Glenbrook National Park information centre to Glenbrook creek and then along a creek from the causeway. Return walk. **G2. Heather 4739 1493.**
- Oct 18 **Prince Henry Cliff Walk. Echo Point to Katoomba Cascades.** Easy cliff top walk on historic walking track. **G1. Joan c/o 4757 3416**
- Oct 25 **Florabella Pass.** "Florabella" means "beautiful flowers". A classic wildflower walk. Some steps, rough and steep in places. **G2. Maurice 4739 4942**
- Nov 1 **Rocket Point and German Cave.** Walk to spectacular view over Wentworth falls and to unusual cave off Tablelands Road. **G2. John Haydon 4757 1558.**
- Nov 8 **Prince Henry Cliff Walk. Solitary Restaurant to Silver Mist.** Beautiful views from the lookouts along this historic walking track. **G1. Tel Joan c/o 4757 3416.**
- Nov 15 **Prince Henry Cliff Walk. Leura Cascades Round walks.** Easy cliff top walk via lookouts. Some steps, great views. **G2. Joan c/o 4757 3416**

WEEKEND WALKS: Group co-ordinator Jim Percy 4758 6009 email jp34@tpg.com.au Usually full day, longer walks at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Contact the leader or co-ordinator before attending.

- Oct 13 **Faulconbridge Point, Blue Mountains NP.** 12Km. Undulating Firetrail to Faulconbridge Point LO with magnificent views into the Grose Valley. **G2. Bob 4757 2694**
- Oct 20 **Bob Turners Track, Blue Mountains NP, near Colo Heights.** Steep down to the Colo River with Swimming opportunities. Approx 8 Km all on track steep climb back out. **G3. Andy 0401582629**
- *Oct 27 Please Note - Change of walks description. Newnes Plateau (Gardens of Stone 2 Proposal area)**
See the wonderful pagoda country with spectacular views, and hopefully wildflowers around the endangered shrub swamps on the Plateau. Approx 8km (3 different lookouts) all on track. Mostly Grade 2 with a section to Grade 3 - 4WD's needed. **Meredith 4782 4823 and Karen McL.** Meet at Mt Victoria Station.
- Nov 03 **Crossing of the Blue Mountains of NSW - Day 3. Woodford to Lawson.** Wilsons Glen - Transit of Venus track - Hazelbrook Creek Waterfalls - Firetrail to Lawson via Frederica Falls. 11 km all on track, road or firetrail. **G3. Jim 4758 6009**
- **Nov 10 - Please Note - Changed Walk.** The original walk programmed for today has been deemed too long and difficult a drive and the walk unsuitable some walkers. So we are now offering an option.
Walk 1 - Tessellated Pavement, Mt Irvine. Extensive sandstone rock platform with spectacular views, with a walk in Mt Wilson to finish off the day. 8 to 10 kms. **G2. Ron 4757 1526** Meet Mt Vic Stn at 8:00am
Walk 2 - Bell to Wollangambe Crater. Spectacular scenery through at times difficult terrain. Interesting Thermal Crater and the Waratahs look like being fantastic. Distance 12 kms **G4 Party limit of 8 as this is wilderness area - Bookings required.** (This will be a long day). **Jim 4758-6009.** Meet at Mt Vic Stn at 8.00 am.
- Nov 17 **Wentworth Falls Circuit - Darwins Walk- National Pass - Nature Trail - Darwins Walk.** Spectacular Wentworth Falls with newly completed trackworks. 10 Km all on track **G3 Ros 4733 3880**



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. For more information, contact Karen on 4757 1929.

Bushwalking members have recently been sent a letter from the Walks Convener which attempts to give some information about the Society bushwalking group's bushwalks, insurance, etc. If you didn't get a copy please get in touch with the Membership Secretary, contact detail below.

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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