



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

Our Hut News Editor is recovering from surgery and is doing well.
We've decided to give her time out to fully recover.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY AGM

At our AGM on Thursday 28 March we elected our management committee for the year commencing 29 March 2018. We warmly welcomed those taking committee roles for the first time as well as those who are returning for another year and thanked those leaving for their work throughout the year. You can see the names and contact details of all this coming year's committee members on page 2. A more detailed report on the evening will be in next month's Hut News.

Following the formal duties those present enjoyed the screening of the 30 minute documentary film on the Society's successful "Stealth" campaign which took place in 2004 against commercial filming in the Grose Wilderness.



School Strike for Climate on Friday 15th March in Springwood - More on page 5 by Clare Power

SPELLCHECK LEADS TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT RURAL AUSTRALIA

Many thanks to the member who phoned to tell me of my misspelling of the name of the town Narrandera in March Hut News. It was interesting to find out more about that area. The silo with the impressive mural which I photographed was at Weethalle NSW. I was told that in Victoria there is a "Silo Art Trail". I had to find out more and google led me to <http://siloarttrail.com/home/>

"The Silo Art Trail is Australia's largest outdoor gallery. The trail stretches over 200 kilometres, linking Brim with neighbouring towns Lascelles, Patchewollock, Rosebery, Rupanyup and Sheep Hills. Providing an insight into the true spirit of the Wimmera Mallee, the trail recognises and celebrates the region's people through a series of large-scale mural portraits painted onto grain silos, many of which date back to the 1930s."

Maybe another trip into the west of NSW and Victoria can be organised and there is always the joy of coming back to the Blue Mountains.

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The next Hut News issue

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20 APRIL 2019

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LEAVE RADIATA PLATEAU CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

As highlighted in March Hut News, the Labor Shadow Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe MLC, made a pre-election announcement that if Labor wins office they will seek to purchase Radiata Plateau and add it to the National Park estate. The Society was hoping that the NSW Liberals would make a similar commitment before the State election, ensuring the conservation of the Plateau had bipartisan support, but this did not occur. As the April Hut News goes to press, we await the outcome of the state election on March 23.

Residents, Blue Mountains Conservation Society representatives and the Liberal Minister for the Environment, Ms Gabrielle Upton, met at the Plateau on 13 February 2019. As a result of that meeting, Society representatives have now met with senior National Parks and Wildlife Service staff to discuss the conservation values of the Plateau. At the meeting national parks staff also explained the extensive process the state government goes through in order to purchase private land to add to the national parks estate.

Whatever the outcome of the state election, the Society will continue to campaign for this important and unique area to be added to the Blue Mountains National Park. For more information about the Leave Radiata Plateau Wild Campaign go to the Society website at <https://bluemountains.org.au>

- Land Use sub-Committee

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community organisation working to achieve the preservation and regeneration of the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Society believes that World Heritage status provides an opportunity for local community members to become custodians of the unique biodiversity and scenery of the Blue Mountains. The Mission of the Society is to help conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society are to:

- * Disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation.
- * Promote the need for ecological sustainability.
- * Protect the natural environment—flora, fauna, habitat, water, land and air.
- * Actively oppose those human activities which degrade or destroy the natural environment.
- * Repair the adverse effects of human activities upon the environment.
- * Encourage the love of the natural environment by conducting a regular program of bushwalks.
- * Increase the pool of expert knowledge about the natural environment, through meetings, excursions, research and other activities.
- * Provide information to the public on matters of Conservation, especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls.
- * Maintain close and friendly relations with like-minded groups.

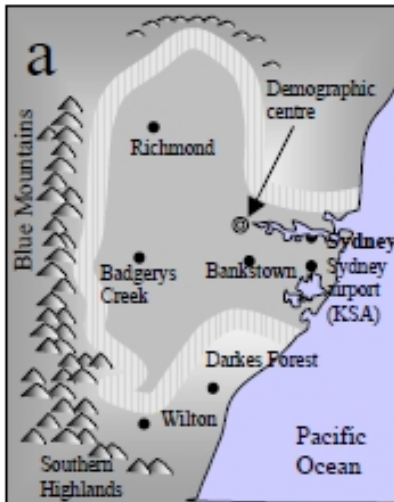
AIR POLLUTION IN THE SYDNEY BASIN

Last month I discussed the appalling pollutants that exit the exhaust pipe on cars, trucks and buses. The shape of the Sydney Air Basin concentrates these pollutants in ways that we understand, but ignore. The image of Sydney Air Basin pollutant flow, and much of the following text, is taken from a submission to a NSW EPA air pollution enquiry back in 2006. The author was Ms Janette Baros. The original submission can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=1810#tab-submissions> or <https://bit.ly/2Ch5EYp>

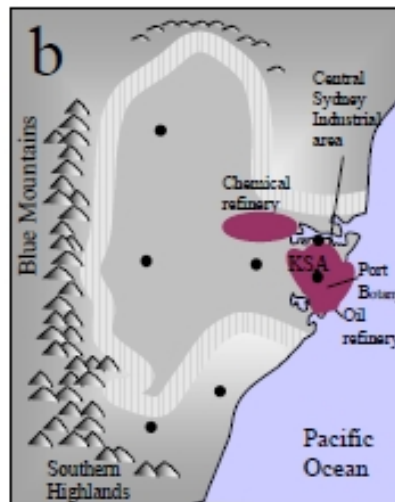
Sydney Basin: trapped air pollution circulation & lung cancer occurrence

SYDNEY: population 4m



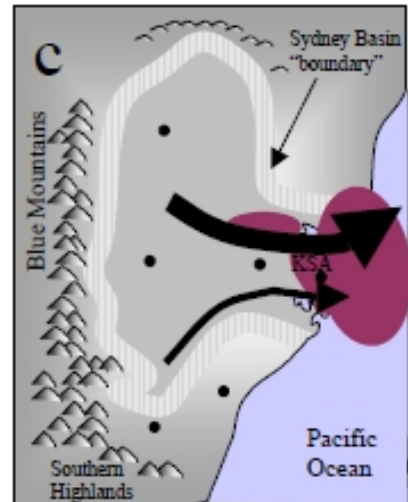
Sydney is in a classic, closed 'smog' basin. Its boundaries are mountains to W & S, high ground to N, and land/ocean temperature differential to the E. The boundary is stippled to indicate the 'sloping' nature of trapped air moving around inside the basin.

PRIMARY POLLUTION SOURCES



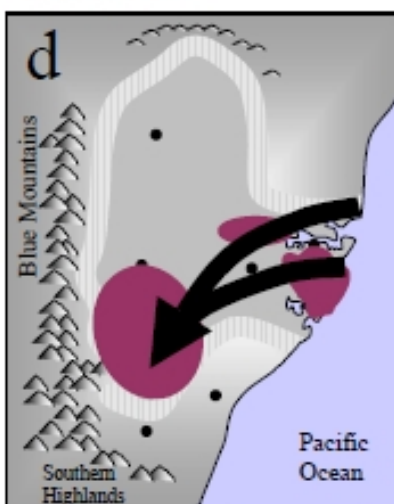
From early morning pollution is generated from primary sources: i.e. the airport, seaport, other industrial sources such as petroleum refinery, chemical works, and basin-wide road traffic.

MID MORNING



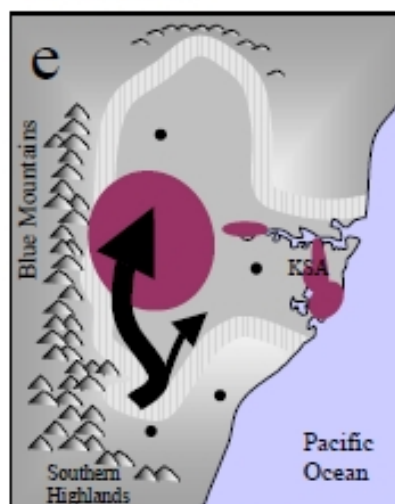
At about 10-11am, the offshore breeze blows morning air pollution about 7-8 km offshore, where it is blocked by the temperature differential between colder sea and warmer land.

AFTERNOON



In the afternoon, sea breezes bring the morning pollution back onshore, picking up afternoon emissions along the way, and concentrate it in the south-west corner of the basin. Note the pollution cloud comes back onshore in a different direction because of the coriolis effect.

NIGHT TIME



At night, cold air moving downhill from the south and southwest pushes the main bulk of accumulated pollution north and then east, over the most populous parts of Sydney. Smog may be re-circulated for several days, in a 'figure 8' pattern, until a strong wind flushes out the basin.

LUNG CANCER HOT SPOTS



Dark red depicts areas of lung cancer occurrences that are higher than the NSW average. The pattern corresponds with Sydney's primary pollution source areas in the east and the air toxic pollution trap in the west. (map after NSW Cancer Council 1991-1995 report)

(cont. from p3)

Primary air pollution sources, including Sydney Airport, Port Botany, and the port of Sydney are located in the narrow, eastern part of the Sydney Basin, adjacent to the Central Sydney Industrial Area.

In densely populated suburbs near, and downwind of, these facilities, and in the western & southwestern part of the Sydney Basin, there is sufficient evidence of a link between air toxic pollution and above-average lung cancer occurrences to warrant concern and action.

The diagram shows the typical daily cycle of air pollution, for those days when air is trapped inside in the Sydney basin, and illustrates an apparent connection between lung cancer occurrence and air toxic pollution

The Sydney basin is a classic “closed” basin, bounded by high terrain to the south, west and north, and by temperature differentials between land and ocean on the eastern side.

Trapped pollution may accumulate and circulate inside the basin periods of up to several days until a strong wind, such as a “southerly buster” or strong westerlies, flushes ‘dirty’ air out of the basin. Temperature inversions exacerbate the smog trap situation with relative frequency.

Children are particularly vulnerable to air toxic emissions because of their relatively small body size. One study in Britain found that children born near certain industries, near major roads, ports and airports are around 20% more likely to die in childhood from cancer than children born in cleaner air environments.

Premature mortalities in Sydney from exposure to fine particulates are occurring in the order of 400 per annum, and asthma is also common. Risk of heart attacks also increases on days of high particulate pollution.

Particulates are known to represent a health problem in the Sydney metropolitan area.

Exceedances of PM10 fractions have been occurring in inner city suburbs for many years. PM2.5 particles are smaller, and thus are more dangerous. Of particular concern is that PM2.5 particles which pass through a polluted urban air column may carry or “piggyback” carcinogens deep into human lung tissue, beyond the lung’s natural ability to expel them, thus becoming potential sites for future tumours.

© Ross Coster

A LONELY LAMENT

Why are we trashing our planet?
Why are we trashing our land?
Why do we trash our kid’s future?
Why do you sit on your hands?

Why are the “pollies” so blinded?
Why dig more coal from the ground?
Why frack and endanger our water?
Why? - and you don’t make a sound?

Why planes and pollution, not trains?
Why more roads and more toxic air?
Why denial that climate is changing?
Why this greed and no duty of care?

What will your answer be
To those generations of lives years ahead -
Why you chose to take no action?
Why you chose to steal their future instead?

© Ross Bridle, 2019.

photo by Clare Power (School Strike for Climate)



OUR PLANET IS CHANGING, WHY AREN'T WE?

Over 2000 protests were held in 100 countries around the world as part of the School Strike for Climate on Friday 15th March, with approximately 50 strikes held in Australia. A protest in Springwood was organised by three Primary school students and many other Blue Mountains students packed the train to head down to join thousands of other climate strikers in Sydney.

The Guardian compiled some of the placards from these protests: There is no planet B, I'd be in school if the earth was cool, Earth is more valuable than money; We live with your decisions; Denial is not a policy; Strike 4 UR rights, it's our future; Sorry I can't clean my room, I have to save the planet; Our planet is changing, why aren't we?; I am missing the Science class for this; Activism is learning; I want a hot date, not a hot planet; Our planet is more valuable than money; Change the system, not the climate; The snow much go on; Let's make love not emissions; Destroy patriarchy, not the planet; Act now, or swim later; Like the oceans we rise.

Directly inspired by the climate strikers Antonio Guterres Secretary General of the UN has pledged to bring 'world leaders together at a climate action summit later this year ... with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% over the next decade, and to net zero by 2050'. Read more at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/15/climate-strikers-urgency-un-summit-world-leaders>

BATTLE FOR BYLONG UPDATE

Meanwhile, in our backyard the Battle for Bylong is continuing. KEPCO's Bylong mine is one of 14 new coal mines and coal mine expansions in the NSW planning system right now. As of 19/3/2019 the Bylong mine has not yet been approved. The following information was provided by the Lock the Gate Alliance.

There is still an opportunity to make final contact with the Independent Planning Commission to argue that they should reject the Bylong mine proposal because of the impacts on water and contribution to climate change it will make. The delay is partly in light of the Land and Environment Court's landmark decision to refuse approval to the Rocky Hill coal mine in part because of its contribution to climate change.

KEPCO has now responded to many of the issues raised by submissions and the Commission has put these responses on its website. <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2018/10/bylong-coal-project>

You can read the new submissions from KEPCO and consultants about greenhouse pollution, World Heritage, economics and water, including a proposed compensatory water agreement for landholders. Water is a huge risk with this proposal.

Thanks to Lock the Gate, KEPCO has been compelled for the first time to consider the groundwater drawdown the mine will cause not just on neighbouring landholders' bores, but on bores on properties KEPCO itself owns.

The company has for the first time admitted that there are 35 registered bores on its own land that will be drawn down by more than 2 metres. Many of these are on the iconic Tarwyn Park.

The company has also admitted that its project will contribute to climate change. The 197 million tonnes of carbon dioxide that would be created by this coal mine is five times what the Rocky Hill mine would have produced.

URGENT ACTION

The Independent Planning Commission has told Lock the Gate Alliance that "Interested individuals and groups are welcome to provide the Commission written comments on any such new information," though it will not invite such comments.

Please tell the Commission you think the climate change contribution of this mine and its impact on water are too great and they must refuse the project. <https://lockthegate.good.do/savebylong/emailipc/>

Also, the Lock the Gate Alliance are collecting expressions of interest in a trip to Bylong to see the Valley and better understand the campaign to protect it from KEPCO's proposed mine. No date has been set yet. Please email nic@lockthegate.org.au if you are interested in joining a weekend trip.

© Clare Power

FAULCONBRIDGE POINT

Before the sun rose hubby and I were awake at 4am. A quick piece of toast and a coffee and we were on our way to catch the sunrise at Faulconbridge Point.

We got to the start of the walk in pitch dark with no sound of life. With torches we headed off down the fire trail. It was a new experience for me to walk in the dark and I was at first listening for anything I imagined was out of the ordinary. With each step we walked it became more comfortable and we started talking with each other like any other bush walk that we have done. Somewhere along the way the skies became lighter and the sounds of birds waking and singing joined us. Then the deafening sounds of the cicadas hit us in waves as their musical noise arrived.

Torches put away, we marched on but we had mistimed the sunrise and missed it. However, we did reach the point and it was an amazing view, one I had only seen in the photos of friends who had done the walk. We spent a little time at the lookout for breakfast and taking way too many photos. Heading back, hubby talked about some day wanting to do the track down to the Grose River. I said there is no time like the present so down the track we went. This proved much more challenging than I had anticipated. It was the steepest track that I have ever navigated. Within the first half hour my toes were blistered from slamming into the front of my walking boots but, to my credit, this did not stop my enthusiasm for getting to the river!



I was tested again when we came to a large rock with only a rope to get down. I wavered but continued on as I could hear the river calling: *I'm waiting for you and I am worth it.* So down the large rocks I climbed, urging myself on with the help of hubby saying I could do it.



After an hour and a half we were down at the water and it is without doubt one of the most magical places I have ever been. The water was very tea coloured as it flowed slowly past and it was all ours. I stood in the soft bottom of the pond and wet myself from top to bottom then stripped and dried myself on a huge rock. I noticed a very elegant and regal looking Water Dragon jump off my rock. It swam to another rock where it sat sunning itself while making sure I was enjoying myself. I watched my hubby swimming and splashing in his private pond and the joy of his antics will stick in my mind for the rest of my life.

After a swim and a snack the journey up to the fire trail had to be tackled. This turned into an unexpectedly hard experience for us. We knew that the climb out was going to be a slog but the act of looking up the track to where I should be going then looking down again was making me nauseated and very sick with vertigo. I had to sit down every 10 steps as hubby tried to keep me awake so that we could just keep moving. It was well over a 2 hour stint to get to the top, but we finally reached it after an amazing climb that I was glad was over. Thankfully my vertigo settled once we were back on level ground, and we walked the 5km fire trail back to the gate and the car.

[cont.p7]

[cont. from p6]

Although this was one of the toughest walks that I have done and I was absolutely exhausted by the 7 hour ordeal, it was also one of the most amazing. I feel so grateful to my hubby for his care and patience when I needed it most. I found the guts to keep going and I am just so proud of myself for what I had achieved. I may never be able to do this walk again as age is creeping up on me but it is one of the most beautiful places I have been to in Australia. So if you want to take it on, please do yourself a favour and do it just once. Believe me you will hate it but love it.

© **Phoebe Coster**

AUTUMN HONEY EATER MIGRATION

Autumn is the most exciting time of the year in the Blue Mountains. Every autumn the Blue Mountains is the setting of one of the most spectacular and amazing bird phenomena in Australia – the annual honeyeater migration. They are predominantly two species: Yellow-faced and White-naped Honeyeaters. Their flight calls are a characteristic sound of autumn – a brisk “chip chip ...” from the Yellow-faced and more liquid “mew mew mew ...” from the White-naped, continuously filling the air as they fly. (I asked Graham Alcorn, why do the honeyeaters call as they fly?. He told me that all migrating birds call as they fly to keep in contact with one another.)



photo: Yellow Faced Honeyeater by JJ Harrison

If you happen to live along the migration pathways, you might notice many thousands of these sparrow-sized birds streaming past. As they fly northwards they funnel up the gullies following cliffs and creeklines, streaming through the mountain townships at treetop level in their never-ending push towards their winter feeding areas. Watch the skies from the last week of March until mid May. Good places to see them include Narrow Neck at Katoomba, Darwins Walk at Wentworth Falls and Shipley Road near the top of Megalong Valley Road, Blackheath.

The migrating flocks normally come through from about the last week of March until around mid-May. They fly on most (but not all) fine-weather mornings but generally not when the weather is overcast, windy or raining. Numbers are usually greatest around mid to late morning (e.g. between 9 and 11am) if the weather is suitable.

Blue Mountains Bird Observers uses volunteers to do an annual count. Contact: info@bmbo.org.au

Find out more about migrating honeyeaters from Carol Proberts <http://www.bmbirding.com.au/hemig.html>

© **Christine Davies**

FEATURING: PLANTS WITH A BITE

Keen to find out about Australian carnivorous plants, what they are, what they eat, how they capture their prey and how to grow and maintain them in cultivation? So little is known about these plants, yet Australia has one of the world's richest carnivorous plant floras.

Our guest speaker Greg Bourke, who has an unbridled passion for these highly unusual plants, will answer all your questions. He is currently Curator-Manager, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mt Tomah and is Vice President for Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand. Greg is a wonderful speaker who will enthral you with his extensive knowledge of, and passion for Australian carnivorous plants. There will also be a selection of plants for sale.



PROGRAM FOR THE DAY

- 10 am Glenbrook Native Plants Reserve and Nursery**, 41 Great Western Highway, Glenbrook (Opposite Tourist Information Centre), for a guided walk around the reserve and an opportunity to buy plants.
- 9.45am Short walk Pippa's Pass**, led by Jim Ward. Meet at Blaxland Library car park, 33 Hope St., Blaxland at 9.45am for 10am start. The walk is a little rough at the start with a few uneven steps and may be slippery if wet but it then levels out and becomes easier. We would expect to see some of the common Blue Mountains species (see www.apsbluemtnsgroup.org and click on Bushcare, Reserves and Walks, Pippas Pass, for a plant list). *Xanthosia pilosa* and the Green Grevillea, *Grevillea mucronulata*, occur near the start of the walk
- 12-12.30pm Lunch**. Bring your own, Tea and coffee will be provided.
- 12.30-1pm AGM**
- 1-2pm Greg Bourke, *Plants with a bite*.**
- 2-2.30pm Afternoon tea & plants sales**
- 2.30-3pm Greg Bourke, Growing and maintaining Australian carnivorous plants.**

Registration fee (to offset cost of the hall, speaker's gift and afternoon tea)

- Members \$5
- Non-members \$10

A BEQUEST:

Please remember us in your Will.

The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording: "I bequeath the sum of \$... to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society shall be complete discharge to my executors in respect of any sum paid to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society".

UPDATE LAWSON CROWN LAND MASTERPLAN

Council is currently exhibiting the draft Masterplan for the Crown Land at Lawson, incorporating the old Lawson Golf Course, the Lawson Cemetery, Lawson Dog Off Leash area, and Lawson BMX track and the nearby oval. Council has previously sought community input through the exhibition of options and through community workshops.

The draft Masterplan will be on exhibition from Wednesday 6 March to Thursday 4 April 2019 and submissions will be received up until COB 18 April 2019.

The draft Masterplan can be viewed on Council's website here <https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/lawson>. You can also access the draft Masterplan and supporting documents at Lawson Library and Council's Springwood and Katoomba administration centres.

The old Lawson Golf Course is currently used for a range of low impact recreation, including bushwalking, dog walking and picnicking, as well as sporting purposes. The local Bushcare group has invested years of volunteer work revegetating the creekline.

The Masterplan outlines a two stage re-development of the Crown Land at Lawson.

Stage One centres on enhancing the existing passive recreation and includes:

- Increasing the riparian buffer to Lawson Creek;
- Improved connection to existing bush walking trails;
- Maintaining existing informal grassed areas for passive recreation;
- Retaining the BMX track and Lawson Oval in their current location;
- New park amenities (bubblers and seating);
- A new shared loop path around the whole site;
- A nature play area incorporating the enhanced detention pond;
- Relocated fenced dog off-leash area; and
- Retaining existing vegetation around the southern perimeter.

Stage Two represents an intensification of use and includes:

- Relocating and enhancing Lawson Oval;
- Native nursery and community use in the old clubhouse and/or a small cafe;
- Junior sports or children's bike play area near the retained BMX track;
- Increased parking to junior sports and BMX precincts;
- Flexible sports precinct including ovals with an amenities building mid site;
- Sports precinct car parking; and
- Secondary detention pond to retain and recycle sports facilities run-off.

The Society made a submission during the previous public exhibition process which can be found on the Society web page here <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/submissions/2018/bs180420-bmcs-submission-lawson-masterplan.pdf>

The Society does not support intensification of the recreational and sporting uses at the site and would like to see minimal re-development, with the site being protected as an open space recreation area and bushland reserve. This includes maintenance of the existing uses at their current locations, including the BMX track, oval, cemetery, dog off leash area and bushwalking tracks but no new sporting infrastructure or precincts, including no new ovals, car parking, and associated amenities blocks.

The Society does support the following proposals:

- Additional small-scale recreational opportunities consistent with the natural values of the site such as a children's nature playground, children's bike track, and other passive recreational opportunities (eg picnic tables and interpretative signage).
- Enhancement of the natural values of the site including widening of the bushland areas along the creekline and improved stormwater management.
- Upgrades and expansion of the existing walking track network.
- Identification of the old clubhouse space for a community native nursery. This would provide an ideal permanent home in the mid mountains for the Society's community native plant nursery. The Society's nursery is a community not for profit nursery run by volunteers, which provides affordable locally grown and sourced native plants to the general public. The Society has been attempting to find a location to re-open its nursery in the mid mountains for a number of years.

(cont.p10)

(cont. from p9)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make a submission supporting the Society's position as outlined above, including supporting the identification of the old clubhouse space as a location for the Society's community native nursery.

Details for making a submission on-line, via email or in writing can be found here on Councils website <https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/lawson>

- Land Use sub-Committee

CLARENCE MINE'S LICENCE CHANGES AND CENTENNIAL COAL'S COURT ACTION IS DROPPED

In 2018 the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) amended Clarence Colliery's licence to discharge to the Wollangambe River setting a very strict limit (100 EC) on how much salt could be in the discharge in a year's time. All discharges were to stop after two and a half years. The Wollangambe River at its headwaters is a near pristine river which flows through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Centennial Coal started court action to appeal these strict conditions.

However, on the Friday before Christmas last year, when everyone was doing last minute shopping, the EPA sent out an email to stakeholders advising that a new pollution reduction program had been issued and that Clarence had withdrawn its court appeal.

So what is this latest change to Clarence's licence and how will it improve the health of the Wollangambe River?

Clarence's licence now has no reference at all to reducing the salinity levels in discharges into the Wollangambe River even though this was the focus of the EPA's licence improvements for years.

Centennial will now have to lodge within a year an application to build infrastructure to reduce salinity to 350EC and transfer it to the Cocks River in one year. It will have to be built and operating within 18 months of DA approval or until all legal appeal rights are extinguished. However, the salinity level limits on discharges to the Wollangambe have been removed.

The EPA stated objective for at least the past five years has been to improve the quality of Clarence's discharge to match the sensitive ecology of the nearby Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Negotiations to achieve this have been protracted. Frustratingly, achieving this was put on hold as the EPA investigated and successfully prosecuted Centennial Coal over the massive coal fines collapse in 2015. The EPA then resumed its negotiations and set limits on heavy metals being discharged. Reducing the salinity in the discharge was the last step to cleaning it up. The EPA didn't appear to be making much headway until the salinity limits were imposed in September 2018. Three months the limits were removed.

There appears to be an agreed plan between the EPA and Centennial Coal to finally stop Clarence waste going into the Wollangambe River. However, there are a lot of uncertainties about how this will operate. In the meantime, Clarence Colliery can still discharge at current toxic levels of salinity for at least three and a half years, maybe five years.

© Madi Maclean

THURSDAY INTERPRETIVE NATURE GROUP and PLANT STUDY GROUP

For information, go to our website
www.bluemountains.org.au
(and click on "Activities")

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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BLUE TRAIL:

Natural and cultural experiences in the western Blue Mountains

This “Blue Trail” is a collective description for sites in the western Blue Mountains that arouse natural or cultural interest or both. Most are only a short walk from roads or vehicular tracks. One day a high quality walking path may link them.

57. GRAZING IN THE LONG Paddock, Parkesbourne District

As the drought worsened through the closing months of 2018, livestock was on the move. Some of it was headed towards places where its drovers thought there were yet to be exploited sources of feed and approached tablelands towns like Taralga.

We found a modern-day drover with time-honoured tools of trade, taking advantage of a road reservation that appeared to have been widened to accommodate a travelling stock route. He had his horse, his dog, his hat and black and yellow warning signs to caution motorists about the black coloured herd that would be most reluctant to surrender any space on the roadway.

Having time to spare, we were able to take in the peaceful cattle, visible against a background of old village buildings, a churchyard and the private lands to either side of the road reserve, which appeared to be already grazed to the limit at that stage of the drought. It took us back to the era when many members of a rural community were able to pasture their animals on a town common. All too rarely is there any sign of that heritage in NSW today.

Of course, this writer never mentions travelling stock reserves without noting that there was a government push some years ago to privatise them all and commending the John Williamson song, “Campfire on the Road” which was part of a campaign that has saved at least some of them.



© Don Morison
(Photos by Christine Davies)



Sections of the Blue Trail featuring the western Blue Mountains can be found in past issues of Hut News:
www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews.shtml
The full Blue Trail is being added at www.simplyaustralia.com.au/category/blue-trail/

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc: BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The BMCS Bushwalking Guide which explains the numbered grades can be found on the Society's website www.bluemountains.org.au or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942, mobile 04024 02783, email mauricekerkham@hotmail.com or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

SATURDAY WALKS: Usually a full day longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. If you are a new walker to Saturday walks, before attending contact the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Harold Thompson harold.thompson@bigpond.com 6355 1762 or mobile 0409 010 737

Saturday Walks driver reimbursement: *In an effort to ensure that car drivers are adequately compensated for the use of their vehicles a driver reimbursement policy applies* (Check www.bluemountains.org.au Saturday Walks page for details)
REMEMBER TO KEEP COOL AND STAY HYDRATED.

Apr 6: Thor and Asgard Heads plus a Mine and a Cave.

Leader Alice 4739 3086 or 0425738766. Meet Wentworth Falls Stn CP 8.30am. 9.5k. Gr 3. Map Mt Wilson

Apr 13: The Bell pagoda Walk

Leader, Mike, 47573660. Meet Mt Vic Station CP 8.30am. 14k, Gr3. Maps Mt Wilson & Wollangambe.

Apr 20: The famous Nobles Canyon

Leader Harold 0409010737. Ring Harold for details & to book in. 8k. Gr 3. Map, Cullen Bullen.

Apr 27: Holts Heaven Bungleboorie, Off track. Part exploratory. Protective clothing recommended.

Leader, Hugh 0423 309 854 or huespe47@gmail.com for details and to book in. Map Wollangambe

May 4: Bald Head, Bridge and Bennetts Lookout. Some off track.

Leader Alice, 47393086 or 0425738766 Meet Wentworth Falls Stn CP. 8.30am. 8k. Grd 3. Map, Mt Wilson

May 11: Govetts Leap to Perrys Lookdown via Bluegum Forrest

Mike 47573660 Met @ Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.30am 9.5k Grade 3 Map, Katoomba

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS: Short Day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of an average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water.

The Group Co-ordinator is Keith Dorrian, 4736 1010, 04111 62345, keithdor53@hotmail.com

Apr 1: Porters Pass, Centennial Glen and Walls Ledge, Blackheath.

Follow above and below the cliff line for lovely views of the Kanimbla Valley. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.40 am. Car pool. Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2.

Apr 8: Hartley Vale up Lockyer Track to head of Lawsons Long Alley.

Visit Berghofers Pass, back down to Hartley Vale via Long Alley. Approx 11 km. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.50 am. Car pool, fare \$5. Eddie 4784 2691. Grade 3.

Apr 15: Mt Victoria to Fairy Bower, Coxs Cave and then onto Rienits Pass and Bushranger Cave.

Mt Victoria Station 8-50am. Car Pool Wayne Read Ph 0429 021 296 Grade 3

Apr 22: EASTER No walk

Apr 29: Lost World Springwood. Steep climb down and up Great views

Springwood Rail Car Park 9-00 am. Car Pool Fare \$3 Ros King 0417 261 465 Grade 3

May 6: No Walk determined at this stage Hopefully we can organise one soon. See Website

May 13: Blue Gum Swamp and Grose Mountain Lookout Springwood.

Circuit walk round Shaws Ridge and Blue Gum Swamp with steep hill to Lookout and return. 12km. Springwood Station Carpark 9am. Car Pool, \$2. Ros King 0417 261 465. Grade 2

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Walks 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted.

Group Co-ordinator is Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076, denfenella12@bigpond.com

Apr 4: Katoomba Cascades and Falls. Lookouts, fungi and rainforest.

Meet Katoomba Station Car Park 9.30am. Leader Amanda 4751 5061. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

Apr 11: Walls Cave, Blackheath.

Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

Apr 18: Balls Head and Berry Island. Delightful, harbour bushland walk.

Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Take lunch. Grade 2

Apr 25: Anzac Day. No walk.

May 2: Leura Cascades. Views of falls and cascades.

Meet cnr The Mall & Megalong Street Leura 9.30am Leader Christine 4757 2864 Car pool Take lunch. Grd 2

May 9: Red Hand Cave, Glenbrook. Ancient rock art.

Meet Glenbrook Station Car Park (east) 9.30am. Leader Keith 0411 162 345. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

May 16: Duck Hole, Glenbrook. Large pool on Glenbrook Creek.

Meet Glenbrook Station Car Park (east) 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4738 4942. Take lunch. Grade 2