

*Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.*

# HUT NEWS

December 2020



*Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the  
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage  
Area*



# The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area - 20 years on

This special edition of Hut News has been published to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the success of a very long campaign by many to achieve recognition of the special nature of the Greater Blue Mountains. The goal was achieved on 29 November, 2000 when it was registered as a World Heritage Area (WHA) by UNESCO.

The contents of this issue have been written by some of the people who made that listing happen. They include Bob Debus, former Minister for Environment (among other portfolios) and local Member of Parliament in the NSW Government, Keith Muir, Director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Joan Domicelj whose consultancy put together the argument and the document for submission to the World Heritage Committee. Mayor Mark Greenhill has also contributed to this issue. Individual members of the Society also made significant contributions to the successful outcome of the bid for listing. We are very honoured to be able to present their thoughts about care of the Area, its future and its threats.

Recognition of the Greater Blue Mountains as a World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was highly important in itself but it was also an attempt to put a padlock on its protection into the future. In 2000, Governments were committed, by this achievement, to protect the area from the temptations of the future like development, roads, tourism and other abuses that would seek short term gain from it.

So while some might wonder why we choose to commemorate a mere 20 years later, it is because there are already imminent threats. As if drought, bushfire, stormwater pollution, weeds and erosion weren't enough to threaten the longevity of the value of GBMWA, our governments have added a proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, the possibility of helicopter flights over the area, under-funding national parks management and encouraging more and more tourists.

While State and Federal Governments had promised to care for the Area and ensure adequate funding for the purpose, we query their current commitment.

*Cover: The waters of the Kowmung River in Blue Mountains National Park are so clear that water worn pebbles on its bed are easily seen. Photo. Henry Gold*

Declaring the Gardens of Stone as a state conservation area, adding Katoomba Airfield to the National Park and abandoning plans to raise the Warragamba Dam wall would help to restore confidence in their attitudes.

The padlock can be smashed at any time by sheer negligence. We believe there is a need to remind everyone to be ever vigilant in protecting this jewel that is the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

**Tara Cameron, President**



*Christmas bells  
Photo: Ian Brown*

# This issue of Hut News

This was a labour of love.

We have been privileged to receive thought provoking contributions from some of those who made the World Heritage listing possible. They reflect on the event and also provoke caution about the future.

It has been just as great a privilege to be given access to the wealth of photographs by Ian Brown and Henry Gold. The quality and range of their collections is breathtaking and gave this editor no easy task in selecting them. The real difficulty was to decide what to leave out so I've chosen photographs that demonstrate the beauty, variety and grandeur of the Mountains and some, too few perhaps, of the many animals and plants that live here.

Preparing this publication has been humbling in the face of the magnificence of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the knowledge of those who have spent years living in it, discovering it and fighting for it.

On behalf of the Society I thank Bob Debus, Keith Muir, Joan Domicelj, Mark Greenhill, Ian Brown and Henry Gold for their generous contributions and Alan Page, Webmaster of the Society, for his unstinting and generous advice and time.

I trust this issue of Hut News will serve to enlighten and remind everyone about the reasons the Greater Blue Mountains must be protected forever.

**Susan Crick**  
Editor

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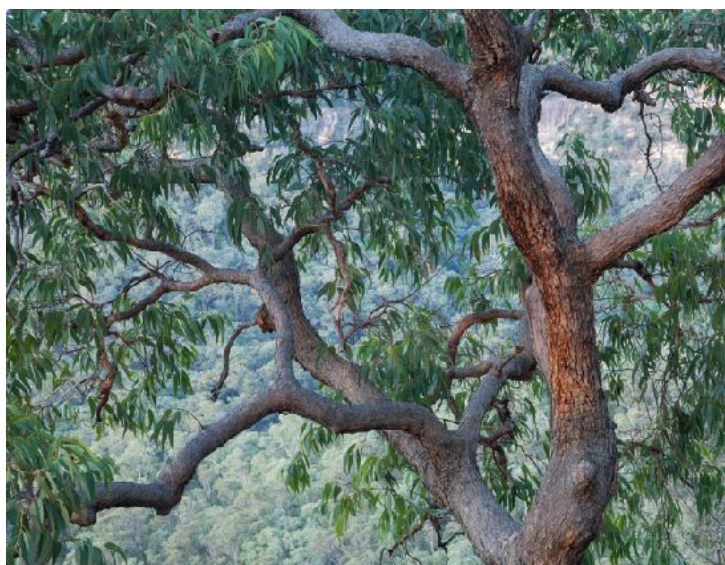
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*This issue was printed on coated paper from FSC mixed sources due to the special nature of the photographs and the occasion.*

*Left below. Yellow bloodwood, Yengo National Park.*

*Photo: Ian Brown*

*Right below.. Pink flannel flowers grow on ridges in the summer following fires. Photo: Alan Page*



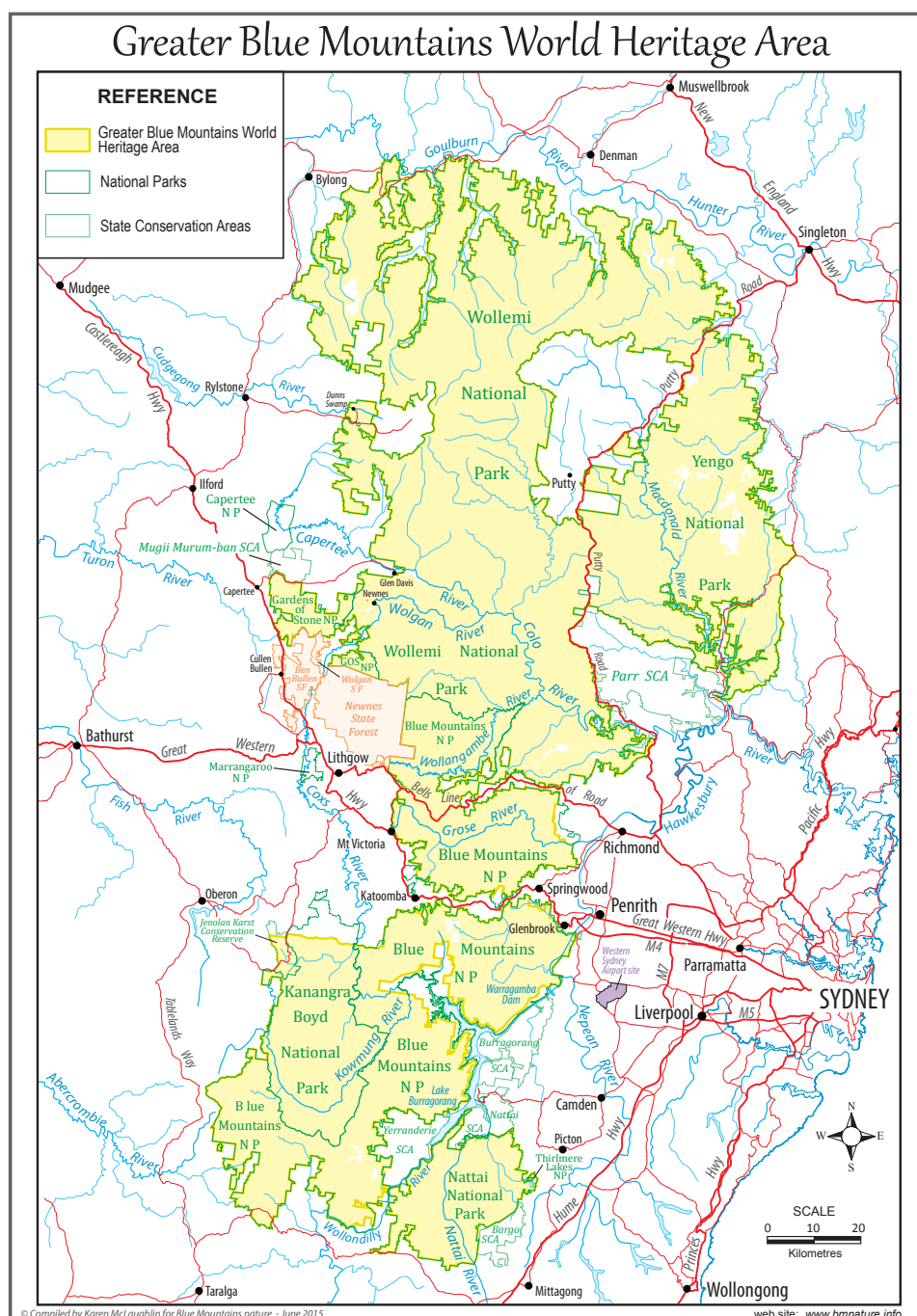


# What is the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area?

The nomination describes the Greater Blue Mountains as representing ‘an extraordinary story of natural antiquity, diversity, beauty and human attachment ... an environment in which key aspects of Australia’s exceptional natural and cultural histories are protected and presented to a wide spectrum of the public...’

From ‘Blue Mountains World Heritage’, Alex Colley and Henry Gold. Colong Foundation for Wilderness. 2004.

The map below is from <https://bmnature.info/docs/maps/gbmwha-km-map.pdf>. Thanks to author Karen McLaughlin.



# The national parks and reserves of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Ian Brown

The eight conservation reserves that make up the more than 10,000 square kilometres and 1300 vertical metres of the Greater Blue Mountains are divided, not according to landscape but on reservation history and political whim. However each constituent reserve does have defining features (see [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for more info).

## Wollemi National Park

A vast expanse of chopped-up sandstone and wild streams, Wollemi is the home of the mysterious Wollemi Pine, Eagles Reach Aboriginal rock art site, the largest wilderness area on the eastern Australian mainland and arguably the longest gorge system in Australia. The park straddles the Hunter, Colo and Cudgegong river catchments and is pock-marked with volcanic necks and lava flows in the west. A rich diversity of dry forests dominate with ribbons of rainforest along the cliff-lined gorges.

## Yengo National Park

Wollemi's eastern 'sister' is another sandstone park with a large wilderness area and rich Aboriginal heritage. Lava-capped Mount Yengo, the scene of important Aboriginal stories, dominates the view like no other peak in the region. Dry eucalypt forests rule this rain shadow country.

## Gardens of Stone National Park

Dramatic sandstone cliffs and 'pagoda' formations characterise the western edge of the WHA, straddling the Great Divide in the upper reaches of the Wolgan, Capertee and Turon rivers. A complex mix of escarpments, heathlands, outcrops, caves, canyons and gorges forms a remarkable landscape sheltering many threatened species.

## Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP)

More than sandstone, this park takes in great swathes of older rocks in the south. Diverse geology creates ecological and scenic richness, from the classic cliff-top lookouts of the deep Jamison and Grose Valleys to the shores of Lake Burratorang, the twisted terrain of the lower mountains, the Blue Breaks tablelands, and the remote forests and swamps of the volcanic Bindook Plateau.

## Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve

A small shining jewel in the crown, these limestone caves are some of the most complex and oldest in the world, and one of Australia's foremost tourist attractions. Rare species that favour the cavernous landscape include brush tailed rock wallabies, sooty owls and underground invertebrates.

## Kanangra-Boyd National Park

Montane forests and swamps of the granite-cored Boyd Plateau give way on three sides to gorges, waterfalls and great cliffs falling to wild streams of the Kowmung, Jenolan and Kanangra. Granite and metamorphosed sediments of the Lachlan Orogeny underlie much of the park, with bits of sandstone clinging to plateau edges. Kanangra-Boyd wilderness (partly in BMNP) is the second largest in NSW and the park has the greatest relief in the GBMWHWA.

## Nattai National Park

Edging the Southern Highlands, Nattai occupies the rugged sandstone plateaus and gorges east of Lake Burratorang and the Wollondilly River. Mostly wilderness, Nattai was first declared under the NSW Wilderness Act in 1991. Like Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai protects Sydney's critical drinking water catchment.

## Thirlmere Lakes National Park

The smallest of the reserves holds a jewel-like chain of freshwater ponds captured 15 million years ago when an ancient river valley was tilted. Called *couridjah* by the Dharawal people, the pools hold wetland ecosystems, migratory water-birds and biological rarities such as unique sponges and shellfish.

# The Movers and the Shakers

## Bob Debus AM



*Bob Debus was member for Blue Mountains in the NSW Government from 1984 to 1986 and then 1995 to 2007. He has held several positions in the NSW Government and later the Federal Government. He was NSW Minister for Environment from April 1999 to March 2007 and was the longest serving environment minister in any Australian jurisdiction, overseeing the expansion of the national park system of NSW by one third.*

*His special attendance at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Cairns on 29 November 2000 is credited with being the final gesture that led to their agreement to list the Greater Blue Mountains as a world heritage area.*

Support for World Heritage listing seems to me in hindsight to be the most popular thing I ever did during 20 years of representing the Mountains in Parliament. Two and a half thousand people attended a joyous dedication ceremony at Govett's Leap in May 2001.

They tolerated my very long speech because so much of it was devoted to thanking the exceptionally large number of local activists and organisations, scientists, public servants and elected representatives from every level of government who had contributed to the success of the campaign for recognition. It had been initiated by the Colong Foundation with the publication in December 1989 of Geoff Moseley's book 'Blue Mountains for World Heritage' and culminated in a tumultuous meeting of the

World Heritage Committee of UNESCO at Cairns in November 2000.

I make especial acknowledgment to Keith Muir and Joan Domicelj for the crucial roles that they played in these sometimes tempestuous events.

The nomination prevailed notwithstanding technical disputes about qualifying criteria and uncertainties created by international disquiet about the Australian Government's decision to permit uranium mining adjacent to Kakadu National Park and the views of the chief World Heritage advisor at the time, Dr Thorsell, who thought that too many new sites were being created.

Even back then I thought that he was wrong: that World Heritage status should be a significant tool of active nature conservation and that the idea of 'outstanding and universal value' should be used to preserve genuinely important places wherever possible, not to make an exclusive club.

The Greater Blue Mountains, an area the size of Belgium, was formally listed on the basis of its outstanding botanical characteristics. However, UNESCO's description of the site indicates that its integrity depends also upon the complexity of its geological structure, geomorphology and water systems, "which have created the conditions for the evolution of its outstanding biodiversity and which require the same level of protection." The description also acknowledges the ancient cultural connection of Aboriginal people to the Blue Mountains and indicates that "the conservation of these associations, together with elements of the property's natural beauty, contributes to its integrity."

Little did we realise, as we stood at Govett's Leap in the year 2000, that in less than 20 years we would be asking the World Heritage Committee to help to protect that same integrity.

After being addressed by the Colong Foundation at its meeting in July 2019, the World Heritage Committee put a formal motion to the Australian Government, part of which follows:



"The World Heritage Committee...

3. Notes with concern that the State Party recognises that the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall is expected to increase the frequency and extent of temporary inundation of the property upstream of the dam;

4. Considers that the inundation of areas within the property resulting from the raising of the dam wall are likely to have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, recalls Decision 40 COM 7, in which it considered that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and urged State Parties to "ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the OUV", and requests the State Party to ensure, in line with its commitment, that the current process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal fully assesses all potential impacts on the OUV of the property and its other values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, and to submit a copy of the EIS to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any final decisions regarding the project; .....

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021."

We are yet to see the EIS for the raised Warragamba Dam wall but there is no present reason to doubt that the Australian Government will respond seriously to this strong request and expression of concern by the World Heritage Committee.

There is every present reason for us to be outraged that the Committee's motion should need to be made in response to plans that have been put forward by the very Government of New South Wales that had been so actively engaged in the original process of World Heritage nomination.



*Red Hand Cave is one of the many indigenous heritage places in the World Heritage Area.  
Photo: Ian Brown*



*Cameron's Gap and Pantoney's Crown in the Gardens of Stone National Park.  
Photo: Ian Brown*



*Storm brewing over Mt Yengo in Yengo National Park.  
Photo: Ian Brown*

## Keith Muir OAM



*Keith Muir was executive director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness. He played a crucial role in securing World Heritage listing for the Blue Mountains and developed a series of NSW based campaigns to expand the wilderness estate from less than half a million to two million hectares. He was awarded an O.A.M for his services to conservation in 2004.*

Alex Colley OAM (1909-2014) was a legendary Tiger Walker, a conservation hero who dedicated his life to wilderness, and certainly the longest serving campaigner for the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. So, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, when you celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Heritage listing, please remember the long line of conservation volunteers who, like Alex and your late former President, Lachlan Garland, asked for nothing and gave their all.

In 1984, when a large part of the conservation movement's national park scheme for the Greater Blue Mountains had been reserved, Alex committed the Colong Foundation to what would become a 16 year campaign for World Heritage listing. Yet achieving the list was not really the end of that campaign, for not all values of equivalent quality were granted global recognition in 2000, with several comparable areas, including the Gardens of Stone, remaining unprotected.

The lesson of listing is that conservation battles are never won like a football game, for our efforts are also struggles

to bring people's minds, hearts, and souls to the cause of nature conservation. In this climate changing world where politics is so cynical, our state's magnificent national parks, wilderness areas, and even its World Heritage Areas, can never be safe. In a sense, reservation and conservation management of these special areas just raise the stakes of this political struggle for nature. There will still be noisy planes, water pollution, plagues of feral horses, as well as infestations of broom and gorse threatening the integrity of wilderness. These are the sorts of issues that drew concern from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature back in 2000, when it questioned whether listing a million hectares of parks and reserves next to Australia's largest city would be prudent. The answer was, and is, of course to press on for greater recognition, as the alternative heralds heritage oblivion for the Blue Mountains wilderness.

Yes, these are challenging times for Australia's grass roots conservation movement that must now fight for nature using *all* the tools democracy lays at our feet. And if you consider Harry Burkitt's efforts to advance the Give a Dam campaign, you will appreciate what it takes to use those tools well.

Equally it requires constant hands-on voluntary effort by groups like the Friends of the Colo and the Great Grose weed walk, and tactical ecosystem research by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute.



Colo River, Wollemi National Park. Photo: Ian Brown



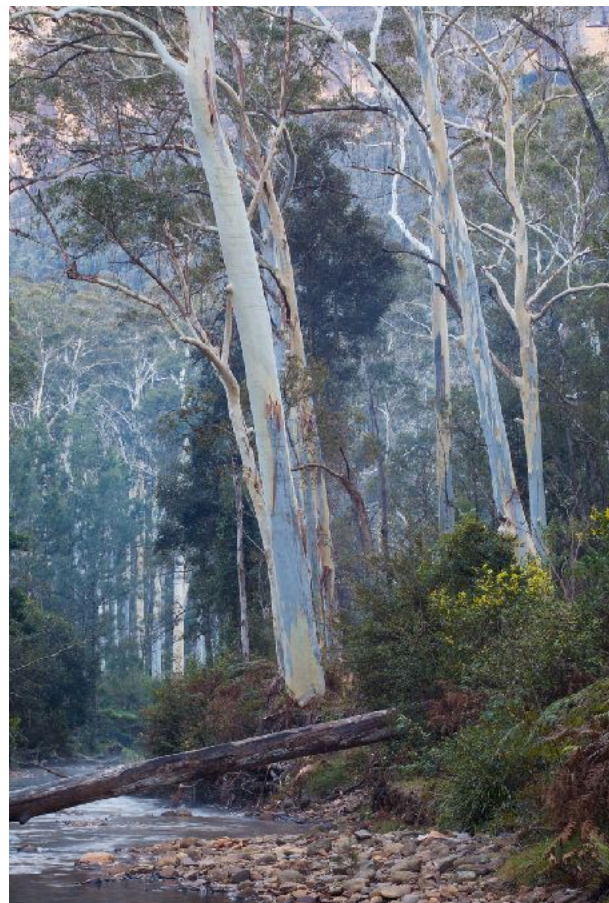
These tremendous and heroic voluntary efforts are indeed worth it, as just about every canyoner, bushwalker, photographer and local naturalist knows.

Herein lies the truth of the proposed renomination of the World Heritage Area to extend the listing to cultural heritage, geodiversity and scenic values, as well as over other areas. It seeks due recognition for hundreds of spectacular Indigenous cultural artworks at Eagles Reach Cave, only known to scientists and archaeologists since 2003. It would also acknowledge the continuous stream of community conservation innovations stretching back over 100 years, of which the 'friends of' groups and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute are but two more recent examples. Where else but the Blue Mountains would a volunteer World Heritage Advisory Committee seek recognition for such missing values and protection for threatened and unreserved areas through a renomination proposal?

In the last twenty years we have learnt much more about the true value of our Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the breadth of responsibilities needed for its adequate protection and management. Its volunteer defenders and workers shall go on learning through the wisdom of traditional owners, local university academics like John Merson and Ian Wright, and our experienced professional park managers.

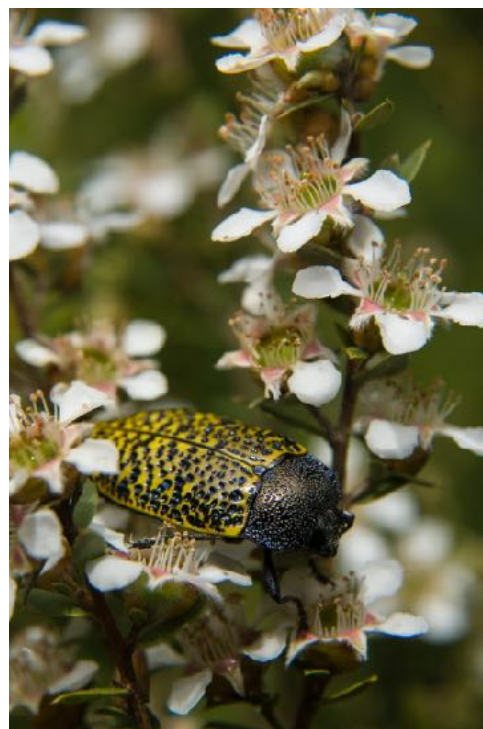
Together we shall ensure the survival of the Blue Mountains' heritage values, by adapting reserve and fire management plans to climate change, while fossil fuels are phased out and effective local economic transition plans are implemented. We shall ensure the effective management of its wilderness and standout sites like Eagles Reach Cave, the canyons that cradle Wollemi Pines, and the majestic Blue Gum Forest and we will do it together as a community with the dedication with which this City within a World Heritage Area is truly capable, because we love the Blue Mountains.

In the end, the future of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area lies with the future generations who must respond fearlessly and with endurance to protect its integrity. Their inspiration will continue to be found in its vast wilderness – not in some boutique glamour camp, waited on hand and foot – but under a skilfully placed tent fly beside mighty canyons and remote peaks. There they will travel light-footed and quickly, like tigers, in the footsteps of Lachlan Garland, Alex Colley and all the others before them, to where exploiters and greed have no place, relevance or meaning.



*Above: Blue Gum Forest where the Blue Mountains National Park story began in 1932. Photo: Ian Brown*

*Below.. A jewel beetle on tea tree flowers. Photo: Ian Brown*





## Joan Domicelj AM



*Joan Domicelj originally trained as an architect and urban planner. Over recent years, she has worked as a heritage advisor and cross cultural mediator; in particular on the values and conservation of world heritage properties.*

*Domicelj Consultants prepared the official nomination that won World Heritage listing for the Greater Blue Mountains in 2000, for which Joan and her husband Serge were awarded a Bicentennial Medal. She was delighted to chair the inaugural Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee*

*After twenty years, how is our glowing world heritage place, this immense network of spectacular reserves - cliffs, waterways, biota, faring under our custodianship?*

### Disclaimer

I should love to answer that question in explicit detail, as it deserves. Without research assistance however, all I can offer, for this birthday celebration, is this:- the nomination story; some impressions of this beloved place now; and questions arising from original statements in the 1998 nomination – perhaps to be answered by people like you, knowledgeable reader.

### 20 years ago: The Nomination Story

In 1998 we signed a fifteen-month contract with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Environment Australia to assess whether the so far undefined Greater Blue Mountains Area was of ‘*outstanding universal value*’ and, if so, to prepare a nomination document for UNESCO. This responded to years of dedicated community campaigning.

Shortly afterwards the clients reduced the contract to three months only, for submission one year earlier. A shock.

A colleague’s pleas persuaded us, despite misgivings, to continue, which we did by inventing a myriad of shortcuts to meet the deadline. Some 40 experts were involved. Authors were paired with respondents, to replace peer review; boundary discussions ran on until midnight; swift mediation was attempted over conflicting scientific views and, hardest of all, the programme for community consultation was cancelled to avoid a cynical over-brief exercise.

To everyone’s delight we established that yes, these million hectares were indeed of outstanding universal value and well protected. A flurry of extraordinary photography, mapping and editing followed and a beautiful document was launched.

After a referral back in 1999 and subsequent lobbying, the area finally joined the World Heritage List in 2000, for its biodiversity, profuse ecological processes and protective habitats - disappointingly, not for its indigenous and non-indigenous cultural associations nor for its aesthetic value, as we had sought. UNESCO endorsed the management systems then in place. Parks staff and conservation bodies provided support throughout.

### Impressions

Twenty testing years have now passed, with catastrophic fires, land slips, the rumbling uncertain climate, pests, encroachments and unsettling shifts in government decision-making.

Yet the regenerating bush is bounteous with familiar sounds, scratches, eucalypt scents and rolling skies. Resilient, generous. A lyrebird and black snake visited our backdoor last week; waratahs and banksias are blooming.

At last indigenous voices, our teachers, are acknowledged and ring more clearly across the mountains; improvements to infrastructure appear and scientific knowledge continues to grow. During the writing, I learnt of gaps still to be explored over passive margins, drainage patterns, biota, rock art ...

Fortunately, we have updates in the ‘*2016 Addendum to the 2009 Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan*’ (including the Smiths’ fine study of native fauna)



and the 2015 *‘Values for a new generation – Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area’*. Researchers are at work.

### Question 1. Warragamba Dam

The nomination states that, following environmental findings, the N.S.W. government decided not to raise the dam wall but to construct spillways, thus removing *‘the danger of irreversible damage to some 3,000 hectares of the nominated area, in the event of a major flood’*.

**Where is that protective commitment made to UNESCO now?**

### Question 2. The Custodians

#### • Government

Under the 1972 Convention, the Commonwealth must allocate *‘necessary resources and capacity building’* to conserve the property and periodically report on its condition; responsibilities shared with the State. The nomination detailed *legal status, protective measures, funding, expertise, staff and training*.

In 1997, \$4.3 million was spent managing the seven national parks, excluding fire-fighting, and \$3.1 million on Jenolan Caves. There were 33 professional, 38 technical and 35 maintenance staff. **What are those figures now?**

Commonwealth and N.S.W. suites of legislation, regulations and administrative structures have altered

substantially over two decades. **Are they still fit for purpose, offering effective protection?**

The government must also establish *‘a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders’* – that is us. **Do current confidentiality regulations allow for that?**

#### • Non-government

In 1996/97, in the Upper Blue Mountains, there were some 27 bush-care groups, with 75,000 volunteer hours spent on bushland protection. By 2008, there were 20 stream watch, 25 land care, over 45 bush care groups and innumerable fire fighting volunteers. (The Blue Mountains Conservation Society had 1,020 active members!)

Now, new people, new resources, new difficulties, new fields of concern.

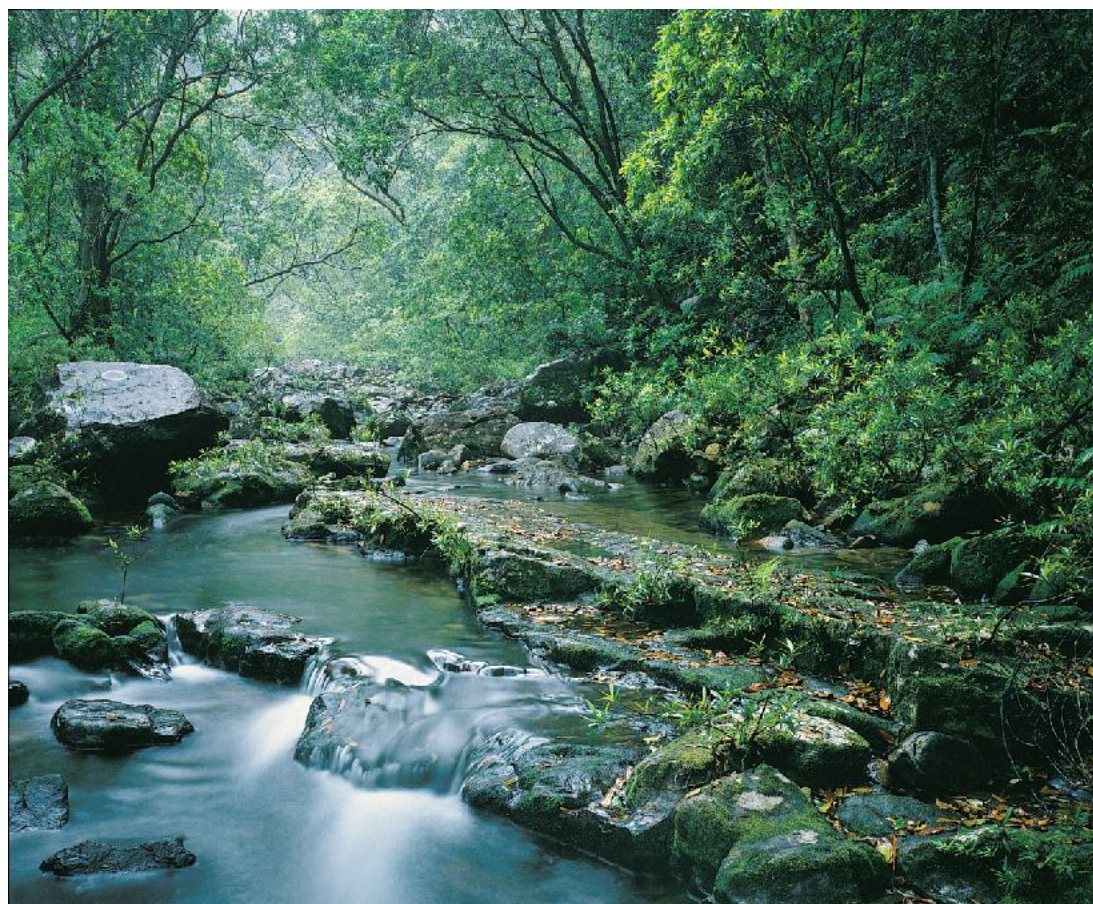
#### Where are we now?

Maybe the Big Fix can answer that? I predict reassuring responses.

Happy birthday G.B.M.W.H.A.!

*Wheeny Creek Rainforest, Wollemi National Park*

*Photo: Ian Brown*





## Mayor Mark Greenhill OAM



*Mayor Mark Greenhill was first elected as a Councillor in 1999, and has been the Mayor of Blue Mountains City Council since 2013. He served as Deputy Mayor from 2010-2013 and was President of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) from 2000-2003. Mark holds degrees in law and the arts, as well as tertiary qualifications in business. Outside Council, he has enjoyed a long corporate career.*

*In 2016, Mark was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to local government and to the community of the Blue Mountains. He is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, and was awarded the University of Western Sydney Community Award for his leadership during the 2013 bushfires. He was recently named Climate Ambassador of the Year at the national Cities Power Partnership Awards following his leadership in keeping climate on the national agenda after last summer's catastrophic bushfires.*

This year Blue Mountains City Council has been celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Greater Blue Mountains region being granted World Heritage status by the United Nations, by highlighting what it means to live in and manage an area of such special significance.

I was there the day the World Heritage Area status was announced and will never forget that moment. Managing an area of such spectacular natural beauty and cultural importance is both a privilege and a unique responsibility.

The Blue Mountains is one of the most rare and beautiful places on Earth. It never ceases to amaze me that we live in an area with over 160 rare or threatened plants and animals, including species, like the Blue Mountains

Dwarf Mountain Pine, which have inhabited the upper Blue Mountains for over 200 million years. We must all protect this unique place.

I am proud that Council has set a target for Council to be carbon neutral by 2025. Last summer we experienced an unprecedented bush fire season and our City faced fires on three fronts. Given the intensely fire prone region we live in, climate action now is critical. I am honoured to have just been recognised as a National Climate Ambassador by the Cities Power Partnership.

Council is also very active in investing in the conservation space – for example *Forests for the Future* is a \$350,000 project in partnership with the NSW *Save our Species* program, which will restore and protect unique environments in a number of Council managed reserves.

Council is enacting the Water Sensitive Blue Mountains Strategic Plan which is our blueprint for water management for the next 10 years. We have also embedded sustainability into our strategic planning (e.g. the Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement - *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably*). Both these plans recently won awards at the Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards.

In August, Council passed a resolution to recognise that animals are sentient beings with subjective experiences and feelings, to further enshrine protections for the vast number of rare and threatened species that inhabit our region. In addition to this, on March 31, Council agreed to integrate the *Rights of Nature* into future operations and planning.

This is a growing international movement that believes to achieve sustainability we must change our way of thinking from an exploitative relationship with nature, to one that values and respects all life and contributes to the health of the planet.

This is similar to the First Nations concept of 'Caring for Country' and for many years Council has worked with Dharug and Gundungurra traditional owners to Care for Country, to enhance our World Heritage values.

With millions of visitors coming to this city each year, tourism also has to be sustainable. Council is ensuring that the Blue Mountains is soon to be an internationally accredited ECO Destination. We all need to tread lightly in such a special place.



Finally, Council is collaborating with universities in the growing academic discipline of Planetary Health. We are planning to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for Sustainable Living, Environmental Science and Planetary Health. This leadership centre will support research and development, looking into practical solutions to better manage our bushfire risks, as well as other elements of our natural world such as water catchments and biodiversity.

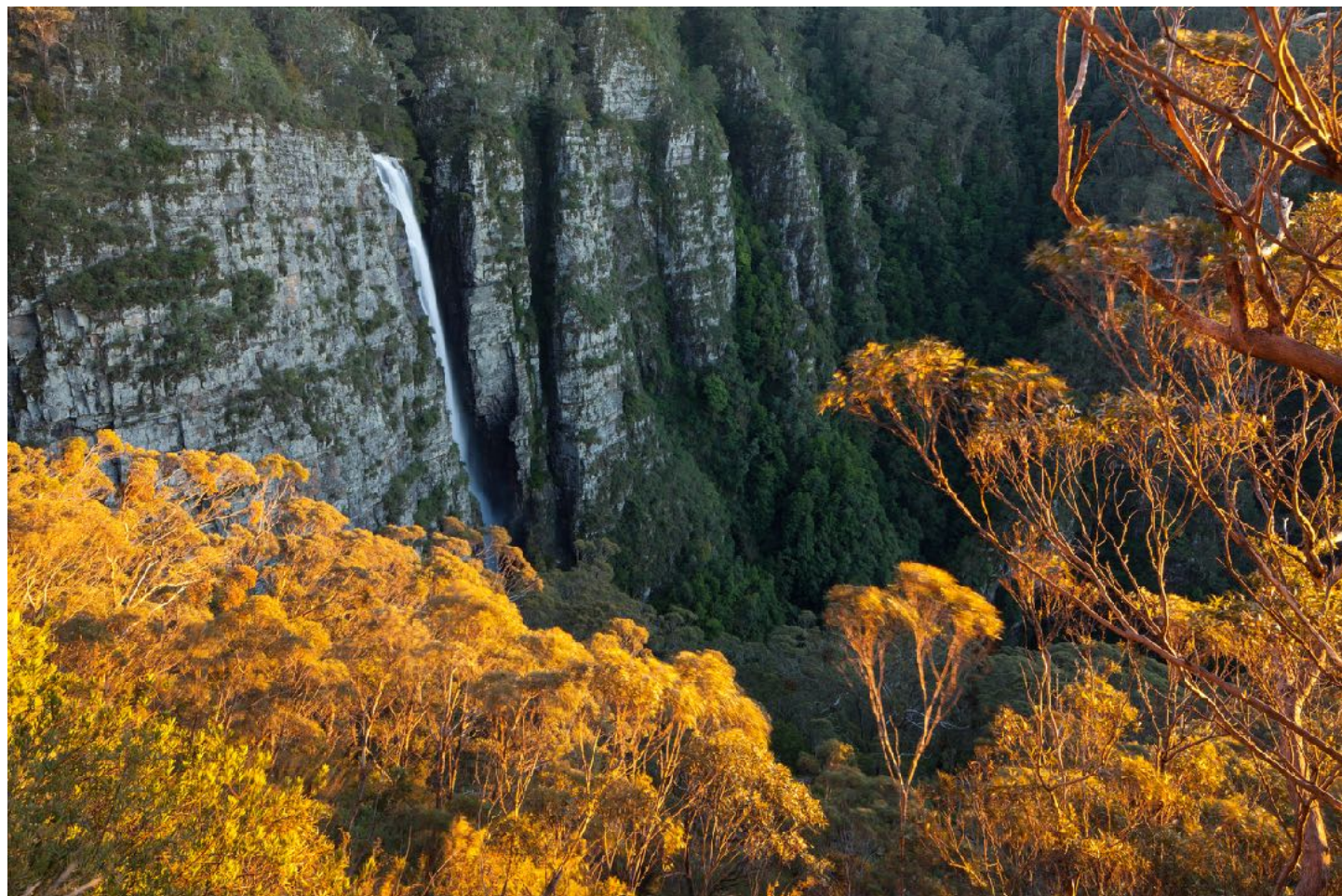
This is an exciting opportunity at this critical moment in global history.

Council embraces its responsibility to not only ensure the environmental, social and economic sustainability of our community at a local level, but to also play an important leadership role in contributing to the overall health of the planet.

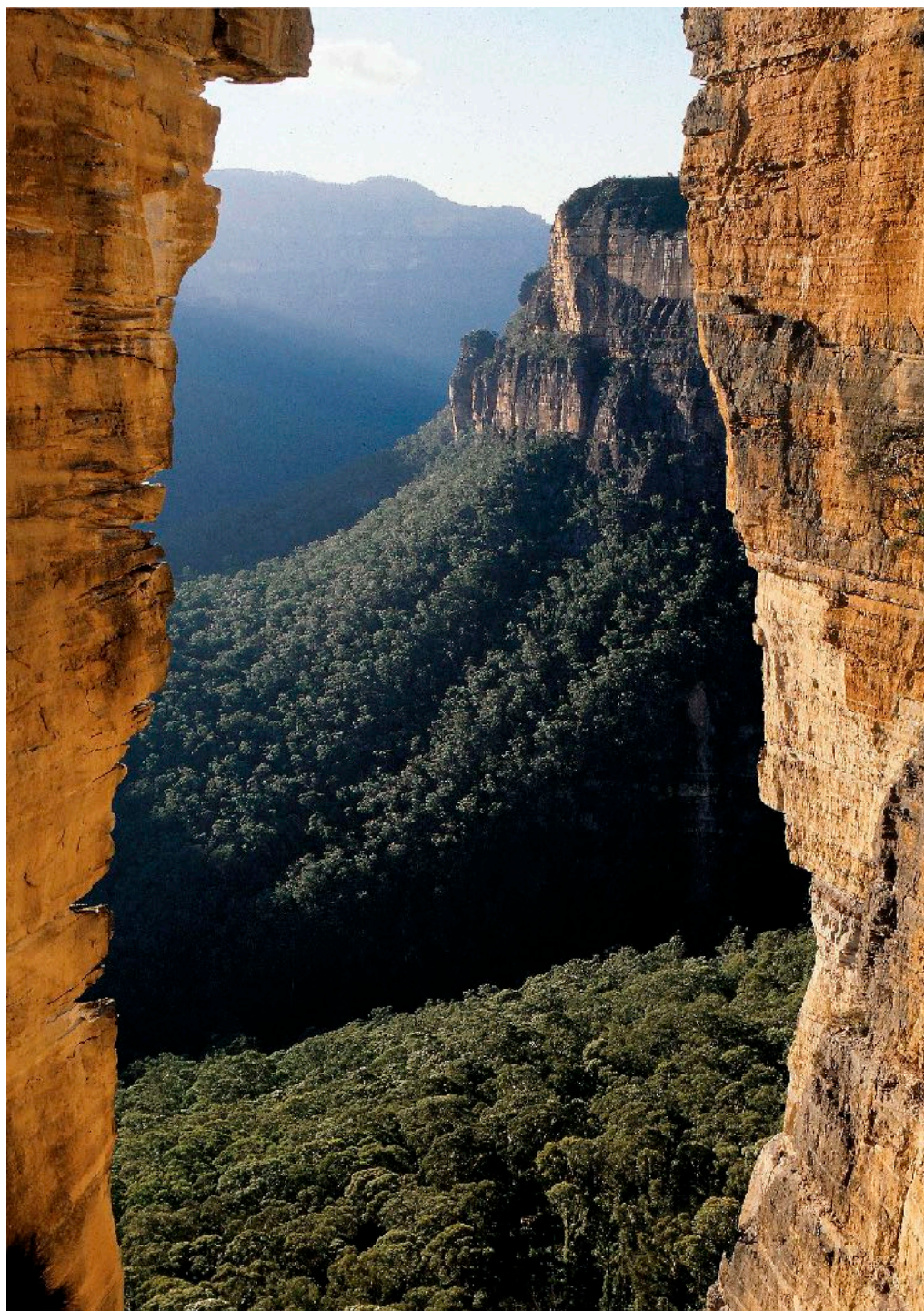


*Above. A brush tailed rock wallaby  
Photo: Ian Brown*

*Below. Kanangra-Boyd National Park  
Photo: Ian Brown*







*Right. Thirlmere Lakes National Park in the south of the World Heritage Area.  
Photo: Ian Brown  
The Upper Grose Valley in the Blue Mountains National Park.  
Photo: Henry Gold*





## Ian Brown



*Ian Brown is a nature photographer, conservationist, writer and outdoorsman based in the Blue Mountains. He loves wilderness journeys in far flung places but more often prowls his local bush for images. His work has been published in numerous magazines, books, calendars, diaries and websites, used in conservation causes and widely exhibited in the Blue Mountains. He has worked on many environmental projects as both a consultant and volunteer.*

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## Henry Gold OAM



*Henry Gold has supported the environment movement for over fifty years, as its honorary photographer. He knows the wilderness intimately as a photographer and through his many adventures with the Sydney Bushwalkers which he joined in 1956. His photographs are not just artistically appealing, they have been a major influence in campaigns for the preservation and World Heritage listing of not only the Blue Mountains but also the NSW rainforests.*

*In 1967 Henry Gold's images featured in the classic campaign brochure "Quarrying Valuable Scenery" that helped to save the Colong Caves in the southern Blue Mountains. Henry's photographs have been used to publicise wilderness protection ever since.*

*For his services to wilderness protection he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006.*

*The above is quoted from the Colong Foundation for Wilderness web site [colongwilderness.org.au](http://colongwilderness.org.au)*



# The Blue Mountains Conservation Society

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is an incorporated voluntary group of about 900 members helping to conserve the World Heritage Blue Mountains region. It was originally the Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society, formed in 1961.

We are governed by a management committee and much of our conservation work is undertaken by sub-committees and campaigns. We also have a native plant nursery, several bushwalking groups and a Bushcare group.

## Become a member

You can become a member by

- Contacting our membership secretary, Ross Coster on 02 4739 2987
- Emailing Ross at [membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)
- Sign up on our web page [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or scan this with your mobile:



## Visit us

[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Twitter: bmcsnsw

## The Management Committee

There are 22 positions on the management committee and a full list of members occupying those positions can be found on the web page at [bluemountains.org.au](http://bluemountains.org.au).

The principals are:

President: Tara Cameron, [taracameron4@gmail.com](mailto:taracameron4@gmail.com), 0418 824974

Senior Vice President: Madi Maclean,  
[gos@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:gos@bluemountains.org.au)

Second Vice President: Susan Crick,  
[susan@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:susan@bluemountains.org.au)

## Contact us

- By mail at PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782
- By phone at 02 4757 1872 (leave a message)
- By email at [bmcs@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au)



Top. Axe grinding grooves are part of indigenous heritage in the Area.  
Photo: Ian Brown

Middle. A female glossy black cockatoo. The species is endangered and sometimes sighted in the Blue Mountains. Photo: Jill Dark

Bottom. The Blue Mountains water skink is endemic to the Blue Mountains  
Photo: Nakia Belmer