



Bodington plans now available

Preliminary plans for the proposed zoo and hotel at Bodington Hill, along with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), have now been posted on the NSW Department of Planning's [Major Projects website](#).

These plans are not on public exhibition but they show what's intended for the development. The Environmental Impact Statement and development application will follow later and members will be notified when they are on public exhibition.

What's proposed?

- A 56-room hotel housed in five separate 2 and 3-storey buildings, conference facilities and restaurant/bar.
- Parking for 8 coaches, and what appears to be a multilevel semi-underground 250-space car park excavated into the hillside.
- Indoor and outdoor zoo exhibits. Indoor exhibits include possums, lizards, gliders, aviary; outdoor 'free-range' exhibits include (indicatively) kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, wombats, emus, koalas, possums, cassowaries, dingoes, numbats, quokkas, aviaries; 'premium exhibits' fronting the hotel buildings include animal feeding and petting experiences and 'Koala View Rooms'.
- A theatre, vet clinic, café, gift shop.

Apart from animal welfare and biosecurity issues, some of the Society's main concerns are:

• **Encroachment into environmentally sensitive areas.**

The proposed development is enormous and, as we feared, cannot fit into the current development zone. Buildings, carparks and 'free range' zoo exhibits therefore spread into the high ecological value E2 Environmental Conservation zone, and into steeply sloping areas and the protected swamps and riparian corridor. We are concerned that soil erosion from clearing, excavation and construction on steep slopes along with vegetation trampling and denudation by grazing exhibits will threaten the health of the swamps and watercourse.

• **Loss of the bushland buffer between Bullaburra and Wentworth Falls.**

The Society believes that the development presented in the plans, with the building heights proposed, and the vegetation clearing necessary for buildings, structures, carparks, internal roads, asset protection zones etc will have a significant visual impact.

• **Impact on hydrology and quality of water discharged into the National Park/World Heritage Area.**

This is a particularly challenging site to trap and purify all stormwater and run-off before it is discharged into the swamp and water course. We are also concerned about the impacts of the proposed development on groundwater and surface water flows feeding swamps and water courses.

• **Uncertain fate of the fauna tunnel under the highway**

The southern exit/entry point to the tunnel currently opens behind the fence on the highway. However, this tunnel entrance is on Transport for NSW land. When the site is fenced for the development, the tunnel entrance will be outside the property on the highway. Alternative arrangements for a wildlife crossing may have to be made.

• **Highway access**

The highway configuration at the moment only allows left-in, left-out access for westbound traffic. Arrangements for eastbound traffic seem to rely on access via Tableland Road and Miller Street, requiring construction of a road down the steep Bodington Hill escarpment from Miller Street.

We expect these issues, along with bushfire protection and Aboriginal heritage, to be thoroughly addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

For more information and analysis go to our [campaign page](#).

President's Annual Report

Tara Cameron

Reflecting on the past year, I would like to begin by thanking all of our members for supporting the work of the Society. Our voice comes through our strength in numbers and our collective efforts.

Obviously COVID has made the year particularly challenging for everyone and we recognised this by giving all members a three month extension on their memberships before payments were due.

Despite the challenges, we managed to continue working to conserve the natural environment. The Land Use subcommittee worked on issues such as proposed zoo and hotel development (aka the Croc Park site), the Great Western Highway Upgrade and Lawson Crown Land Draft Plan of Management. Our efforts to stop a commercial lease allowing helicopter joy flights at Katoomba Airfield gathered momentum as the government stepped back from its initial rejection of this plan.

The Protected Areas subcommittee opposed raising the Warragamba Dam wall and examined the proposed Govetts Leap, Gordon Falls, Narrow Neck and Green Gully upgrades. Actions to address climate change were promoted through the publication of a brochure and a showing of The Weather Diaries movie.

The Gardens of Stone campaign continued to push for protection particularly for the upland swamps impacted by fires and underground coal mining. There were also other initiatives in environmental education and position development about the impacts of increased tourism.

The nursery has gone from strength to strength in 2021 and 2020, adapting to CoVID regimes. Online sales increased and different ways of operating were introduced. The bushwalkers and plant group also coped with restrictions and continued to run excellent programs allowing people to enjoy the bush we love.

A positive development this year was the running of a planning day which helped the Management Committee and some subcommittee members examine the feedback in the members' survey and begin planning in a more pro-active way. One of the outcomes was an increase in co-ordination between publicity, the newsletter, website and membership resulting in some membership initiatives via social media and events. This has led to an increase in membership which is now over 900, up from the time of the 2020 AGM.

I would like to thank all subcommittee and Management Committee members and especially recognise those stepping down: Maurice Kerkham, the Bushwalking Convenor from April 2010 to March 2021 and Valda Low who has fulfilled a number of roles including Website Officer (August 2015 to March 2018), Environment Education Officer (April 2018 to March 2019) and most recently Social Media Officer (April 2020 to March 2021).

I look forward to working with you in the future as we strive to protect the natural wonders that surround us.

Save the date

Members' Workshop

Do you want to be more involved with the Society? Learn about campaigns, communications, activities? Do you have ideas and suggestions to share or want to help with planning? Are you interested in joining a subcommittee or working on an issue? If so it would be great to see you at our Members' Workshop to be held on:

**Saturday 1 May, 2 pm to 4 pm
at the Mechanics Institute, Great Western Highway, Lawson.**

Important: Please register if you wish to attend the members' workshop. Call Susan Crick on 0409 829635 or email Susan at susan@bluemountains.org.au

The outcomes of the members' workshop will be fed into the Management Committee's planning day on July 3.

Annual General Meeting

The results of voting at the AGM (31 March) will be published in May Hut News, the web site and in an eBlast immediately after the meeting.

For full details of the AGM, including Management Committee positions, please refer to our website - <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/index.shtml#agm>

Management Committee monthly meeting on 20 March, 2021

The following is a summary of matters discussed by the management committee at its last meeting:

- Funds approved to buy new truck canopy, label, printer and pressure hose for the Society's nursery.
- Council elections this year and preparation of a questionnaire for candidates.
- Progress with hiring a graphic designer. One has been selected and has been briefed. Funding approved.
- Annual general meeting organisation. Outstanding nominations are the Events Coordinator and the Threatened Species Officer. Arrangements for talk by Dr Kellie Leigh. Financial statements completed and to be accepted at the AGM.
- Evans Lookout upgrade proposals being monitored.
- Report on meeting with BMCC about Echo Point Plan of Management. The draft plan will be available for public comment by June.

- Mick Dark talk. Possible maximum numbers are very low (40) due to venue restrictions. Those who haven't been able to book a seat can arrange to view the streamed version.
- Climate change membership campaign - there has been an increase in membership due to this.
- Members' Day / Workshop to be held in May to enable member input and increase involvement. Details in this issue
- Planning Day for the Management Committee to follow later.
- Gardens of Stone campaign and planned activities for the next three months. (Details will be in future members' emails).
- The Society's letter of support for Federal government protection of heritage in the Burratorang Valley (see separate report in this issue).
- A revised Plan of Management for Blue Mountains National Park is being finalised by NPWS and will be on public exhibition in late 2021.
- Meeting with the Ms Terri Butler MP, Shadow Minister for Environment and Water. We gave her a copy of our bushfire submission and informed her about our concerns about the Commonwealth EPBC Act and lack of federal funding for managing the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.
- Letter to NPWS about Karuna Sanctuary and about the Grand Clifftop walk.
- Calendar updated - see eBlasts.

Next page photo: The flooded Burratorang Valley, now Lake Burratorang, from McMahon's Point. Photo taken in 2019 by Alan Page.

Are you concerned about environmental damage or a development related activity in your neighbourhood but don't know who to contact?

The Society's Planning & Development Resource Kit may help you.

<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml>

Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

The Visitors Map is full of suggested walks and trips. It is in full colour, 60 by 85 cm in size, and covers the entire Gardens of Stone region at a 1:100,000 scale, making it ideal for planning your next trip to the area. You can buy a map on the society's website at:

www.bluemountains.org.au/sales-map.shtml



Seeking Federal government protection of cultural heritage in Burratorang Valley

Madi Maclean

The Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association has recently applied for federal government protection of cultural heritage in the Burratorang Valley. This application has been made under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act (ATSIHP Act) 1984* and covers the area which would be flooded if the Warragamba Dam wall was raised. The purposes of this federal law are to preserve and protect from “injury or desecration” areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition.¹

The Burratorang Valley holds great significance for local indigenous organisations as a cultural landscape which embodies traditional stories and beliefs long held to the present day. The southern Blue Mountains is a rich cultural landscape belonging to the Gundungurra People. In particular, the landscape of the valley is the

location of the Gundungurra creation song line, the Journey of Gurangatch and Mirrigan.² The proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall will cause repeated flooding of the valley and irreparably damage and destroy this cultural landscape. It will also destroy the remaining sites of this story, including Indigenous archaeological sites, creation waterholes and cave art.

The federal legislation is intended as a last resort if state governments cannot or have not protected the area. The Burratorang Valley area was nominated in August 2018 for declaration as an Aboriginal Place under the *National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) Act 1974 (NSW)*.³ An Aboriginal Place declaration is the only legal avenue in NSW to protect and conserve a significant cultural landscape. Declared Aboriginal Places in the Blue Mountains include The Gully, Kings Tableland, the Three Sisters and Red Hands Cave. However, the *NPW Act* provides

¹ ATSIHP Act, s.4

² See for instance, K Knox and E Stockton (eds, *Aboriginal Heritage of the Blue Mountains*,) 2019 and Richard Mackay, “The Contemporary Aboriginal Heritage Value of the Greater Blue Mountains”. Chapter 3 in *Values for a new generation: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area*. GBMWA Advisory Committee, 2015

³ National Parks and Wildlife website: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/declared-aboriginal-places>

only limited protection for cultural landscapes. For NSW First Nations, protecting cultural landscapes whose significance derives from stories, songs, traditions and relationship to country, is essential for the continuation of cultural traditions.

No Aboriginal Place decision has yet been made for the Burratorang Valley. The NSW government has also weakened other protections the *NPW Act* could provide to the Burratorang Valley. In 2018 it

legislated to ensure that temporary flooding of land upstream of Warragamba Dam was a permissible activity within a national park.

The Society supports the Gundungurra Association's application to the federal government to protect this important cultural landscape. You can read the society's submission of support [HERE](https://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/submissions/2021/bl210223-burratorang-valley.pdf) <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/submissions/2021/bl210223-burratorang-valley.pdf>

Media release: 'Raising Warragamba Dam won't stop flooding'. Former Emergency Services Minister

21 March 2021

In an event that has recurred over centuries, a very serious flood is disrupting communities, again placing people and property in peril across the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

State and local governments have continued to allow urban development in flood-prone areas and that is why we are in the position we find ourselves in again today.

If this flood event tells us anything, it should tell us that further residential development on the flood plain is dangerous and shortsighted, especially because it can be expected that flood events are likely to get more extreme in the future due to climate change.

Former Emergency Services Minister and Colong Foundation Chair, Bob Debus, said that it was dangerously misleading to suggest that floods can be stopped by raising the Warragamba Dam wall.

"It is very important to remember that it is not possible for Warragamba Dam, whatever its size, to stop the most extreme floods. [Leaked charts published in the Sydney Morning Herald](#) have shown that raising the wall would have only a moderate effect even in a 1 in 500 year flood event.

"I take it to be very significant that the [Australian insurance industry has now withdrawn their support](#) for the Dam wall raising as the critical element in flood management and mitigation in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

"Moreover while we are debating raising the Warragamba Dam wall, other obvious and immediate flood management actions are going begging.

"Very little has been done in recent years to improve evacuation routes for people on the floodplain despite [requests from Local Government](#). Plenty of evacuation roads can be cut by quite minor flooding at present.

"But above all I can't help but agree with [Emergency Services Minister David Elliott when he pleaded with his colleagues Stuart Ayres and Melinda Pavey to preemptively release water from the dam last year](#). We all knew that big rain events were likely at this time in our seasonal cycle.

"Preemptive release before floods arrive is something that is done with other dams, but is ignored here because of domestic political agendas.

"There are no silver bullet solutions, but after all, lowering the reservoir level by 10 metres has a

similar effect to raising the wall by 10 metres and it doesn't [cost \\$1.6 billion](#).

"Regardless, plenty of flooding in the Valley has nothing to do with Warragamba at all.

As the Premier correctly said today, '*You have to look beyond the dam, it's all the rivers*'. Warragamba Dam is not on the Nepean or Grose Rivers or South Creek, all of which would be flooding now irrespective of the water flowing over Warragamba Dam wall.

"In the prospectus for raising the Warragamba Dam wall, Infrastructure NSW has stated they plan to place an [additional 134,000 people on the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain in the coming decades](#). But those people would not be safe from flood events, even if they were lulled into believing so.

"In this sense the raising of the Dam wall would actually increase the risk to life and property into the future."

Harry Burkitt

0490 010 909

harry@colongwilderness.org.au

Remember the bushfires?

Do you remember the horrendous bushfires which dominated the headlines for seven months during winter/spring 2019 and into summer 2019/2020?

It was a year of drought and dust storms and extreme heatwaves, even in the Blue Mountains.

The fires demonstrated to the world what can happen with one degree of human induced global warming. Can you even begin to imagine two degrees, or more?

Some of us thought that at last the Australian government would be forced to recognise the urgency to reduce carbon emissions. But the news cycle moved on – floods, cyclones, storms and something called a coronavirus. The dams filled and the bush began to regenerate and all the headlines focussed on the immediate threat of CoVID 19 to human life. But climate change has not gone away.

What are we doing to reduce emissions and lessen climate change? This information comes from The Conversation (17/3/21). While more than 110 world governments have pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, Australia is lagging behind. According to a recently released report by some of Australia's most senior climate change scientists and policymakers, by requiring very little emissions reduction this decade, the Morrison government is leaving our children a much harder task – people living in the 2030s and 2040s could be forced to reduce emissions by ten times as much

people this decade. Australia is also failing on its moral obligation to do its fair share in the global climate effort. Read more: <https://theconversation.com/wake-up-mr-morrison-australias-slack-climate-effort-leaves-our-children-10-times-more-work-to-do-157136>?

Our government's reluctance to take immediate meaningful action to reduce emissions reminds me of the urban myth about the "boiling frog". But frogs will not stay in the water as it boils, they will jump out. Are frogs smarter than us?

Christine Davies (Image source: "Legal Planet")



Climate Action Now - changes you can make

Clare Power



Consume less and reduce waste

- Reduce, reuse and refuse
- Buy second hand
- Share, make, fix, upcycle and repurpose
- Compost or find a community compost

You might note that recycling is not on the list above. Of course, recycling is very important but we have other choices we can make before we acquire goods that need recycling. We can **refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and then recycle**. However, if you do have goods you wish to recycle, and are not sure whether you can, or how to, then the Planet Ark site is a great resource - <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/materials/>

Refuse: sometimes also referred to as rethinking, we can make conscious choices about any product we buy and consider whether we really need to purchase it and what alternatives are possible.

When buying food for example, you might decide to refuse anything that is packaged in plastic. We are fortunate in the Blue Mountains to have the BM food co-op and Lyttleton Stores co-op to make this much easier when we are buying food and household products. Other examples include refusing free handouts such as plastic children's toys during promotions at supermarkets, free

bottles of water at events, plastic bags or 'no junk mail' stickers on your letterbox.

Reduce: Consider ways that you might reduce your consumption and review your lifestyle choices. Small steps can result in reduced energy, water and car usage as well as less garbage such as plastic and food waste. Select goods with less packaging, choose multipurpose products, buy clothes of higher quality and ethical origin, and less of them, eat leftovers for lunch instead of takeaway, grow some of your own food, **join a local buy, swap, sell group**. Search 'Dunedin Government, 55 ways to reduce kitchen waste' for some great tips. .

Reuse: Reusing products offers a world of different options, and saves resources and reduces waste in the process. Reusable coffee cups and carrying your own water bottle are good places to start, but there are many ways you can donate or find, trade or exchange pre-loved items. There are also many great op shops in the Blue Mountains, garage sales, community markets and swap/trade exchange forums.

There is also burgeoning access to collaborative consumption where people share access to goods and services rather than individual ownership. The Blue Mountains Tool Library is a fantastic resource where you can borrow tools for your home or garden. They have a monthly café, with the motto – Throw it away? No Way! See more <https://toolo.com.au/> Street libraries are another great example of reusing and sharing, as are car share services, community gardens, clothes swaps, party kits and holiday home and travel sharing. Search Planet Ark Reuse Information hub for more details.

Repurposing and repairing: Before disposing of an item, consider the ways in which it could be repurposed or repaired. Recreating new items from used or unwanted materials is referred to as upcycling and it's a creative process that has few limits to its possibilities. Search Upcycling and you'll be inspired by all of the possibilities.

Ramblings

Alan Page

Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park

A long walk around the Ngula Bulgarabang Regional Park, nestled on Radiata Plateau, is a joy on many levels. The wide track allows you to walk side by side and chat. The loop at the end gives you a sense of not having to retrace your steps. The many native plants in flower through the year provide an added delight. (Just block out the pines.) And of course glimpses of the Megalong Valley are always a treat.



The Park now boasts new signs. Funny how an official sign can formalise something – in this case its acquisition, creation and naming as a regional park.

Nomenclature

I tend to become a titch agitated when botanical names don't observe the rules of nomenclature. It's very straight forward as in this example of the botanic name of the White Mountain Banksia-

Banksia integrifolia subsp. *monticola*

Genus species subspecies. The genus is capitalised. All words are in italics except "subsp." When unsure of the species, then it is written – *Banksia* sp.

There is no accepted convention for common names, and writers and editors are sometimes in conflict. I capitalise common names for a specific species. This also sometimes avoids confusion – such as with the white Pink Flannel Flower shown here.

Australia's Virtual Herbarium has more on this – <https://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/avh/help/names/index.html>

Sclerophyll

85% of the Greater Blue Mountains is dry sclerophyll forest. These forests dominate the exposed, low-nutrient soils of the vast sandstone plateaux and the valley slopes of the softer Permian geological deposits.

Here is an excerpt from Ian Brown's series of articles on the vegetation of the Greater Blue Mountains - <https://bmnature.info/veg-overview.shtml>

Do you know what sclerophyll means? Or did you, like me, just think it was a scientific name for the bush around here. The answer is both of those in fact. "Sclerophyll" simply means hard leaves. Think of eucalypts, Banksias, Acacias – none have soft leaves.

Pink Flannel Flower fever

I understand the attraction of this uncommon blooming - as I was enchanted by it in 2004. And close-ups of the flannel like bracts (not petals) adds more wonder to this small flower.

It certainly wasn't a "once in a lifetime" event - which was how some described it - as there have been mass flowerings three times in the last seventeen years after the three major bushfires in 2003, 2013 and 2019.

But this time the event was different because of internet and social media providing images and locations.



Left. A white pink flannel flower

Photos: Alan Page

My initial agitation about the invasion of floral snappers has now been tempered somewhat because I realise if I lived in an apartment in Sydney, I too would seek the verdant tranquillity and beauty of the Blue Mountains – and treasures such as these. And for some it may provoke an appreciation of the bush and the protection of the environment in general.

Blue Trail Village Scenes number 9

Everything money can't buy – Newnes

Copyright Don Morison



A permanent pub with no beer - the Newnes Hotel. Photo: Christine Davies

The village that uses this slogan on its entry sign is one of the least populated settlements in the Greater Blue Mountains. The surrounding sections of the Wollemi National Park suffered greatly in the Gospers Mountain fire of 2019/2020 but the vegetation closest to the old shale mining ruins was saved along with the present day buildings. Now many of the trees along the road from Lidsdale feature sleeves of epicormic growth and, on a misty March morning, the shrubs near the Wolgan River glisten with the webs of thousands of orb spiders.

The only surviving building from the early 20th century shale days is the Newnes Hotel which was moved in the 1980s to stop the river undermining it, losing its liquor licence in the process. Now Lithgow Environment Group stalwart, Thomas Ebersoll, is modifying the hotel to include live-in staff quarters for management of the cabins and camping ground, so rapidly are they regaining their popularity.

Thomas is renowned for finding time for special projects. Although, kangaroos, wallabies and numerous bird species have returned to this part of

the national park since the big fire, wombats are slow to come back. A striking wooden sculpture by Thomas is adorned with a message for a prodigal wombat, containing this wording:

Why I built this seat

A giant wombat reclined here,
long time ago.
His name was Bob.
As he sat & contemplated
the world he thought:
"Wouldn't it be nice to have
a proper seat here"
He might be back one day....

Stairway to... Heaven?

If the likes of you ponder
In what shape thy body be -
There is a set of stairs
Beside the Sisters Three.

I took the test the other day
And it soon became clear to me,
As onwards and upwards toward Heaven I went,
The phenomenal power of gravity.

"Not dying.....admiring the view",
I proclaimed to the "athletes" storming the crest,
As I hung over the railing
Heart leaping out of my chest.

Sitting on benches, reflecting on Life,
More so, how it might end.
Should I call Triple O now ?....
....Probably won't send!

But, by taking my time
I for once saw the views,
And, only partially exhausted, thought
How such ancient vistas can seem so new!

Ross Bridle

About us

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is an incorporated voluntary group of more than 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.

Visit us

www.bluemountains.org.au.

Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Twitter: bmcsnsw

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/blue_mts_conservation_society/

The Management Committee

There are 22 positions on the management committee and a full up to date list of members occupying those positions can be found on our web page.

The following are some of the officers who you may want to contact.

- President: Tara Cameron,
taracameron4@gmail.com, 0419 824974
- Senior Vice President: Madi Maclean,
gos@bluemountains.org.au
- Second Vice President: Susan Crick,
susan@bluemountains.org.au
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Howard
eh.mistover@bigpond.com
- Land Use Officer: Angela Langdon
landuse@bluemountains.org.au
- Publicity Officer: Rebecca Knight
publicity@bluemountains.org.au

Contact us

- Call the Membership Secretary, Ross Coster on 02 4739 2987
- By mail at PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782
- By phone at 02 4757 1872 (leave a message)
- By emailing bmcs@bluemountains.org.au

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
- <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/joining.shtml> or scan this with your mobile:



Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to our new members who are as follows:

Linda Pringle
Peter Davis
Owen Thompson
Peter Hickey
Gretchen Sman
Louise Larcombe
Linda Hurrell
Neil Abraham
Sandie Abraham
Peter Ofner
Esther Shanks
Anne-Maree McEwan
Stan Stefaniak
Virginia Williamson
Chris Virtue
Susan Harvey
Chris Vennell
Janice Thorpe
Eddie Gulen
Ema Robinson

There are now over 900 members.

Walks Program, April - May 2021

The three month walks program appears on our web page: <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/bushwalking.shtml>

Monday walks

Short day walks of 3-5 hours, Suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. The Group Coordinator is Keith Dorrian 0411 162 345 keithdor53@hotmail.com

Date	Description	Meeting Place	Activity Leader	Grade
5 April	Easter Monday No walk			
12 April	Blue Gum Swamp and Bees Nest Hill Winmalee. 13 kms with 270 ascent / descent, otherwise it's all on track with a couple of minor water crossings	Springwood Station Carpark (nth side) 8-35am. Car pool to beginning of walk at the end of White Cross Rd, Winmalee.	Angela Berry 0427 133 327	3
19 April	Aeroplane Hill Wentworth Falls (from Ingar Road), about 14km return - long but easy walk	Wentworth Falls Car Park (Stockyard) 8-30am Car Pool	Dave 0416 109 141	3
26 April	Cranebrook Waterways & Wianamatta Nature Reserve, Cranebrook- 9kms	Glenbrook Station Car Park 9am. Car pool. Fare \$4-00. Local Walkers meet at Cnr. Castlereagh Rd. & Nepean St. Cranebrook.	Maurice 0402 402 783	2
03 May	Circuit walk from Glenbrook Station via Lapstone Zig Zag, Elizabeth Lookout, Lennox Bridge and Glenbrook Lagoon. 9km approx. Some steep steps.	Glenbrook station Car Park (off Euroka Road). 9.30am	Ros 0417 261 465	3
10 May	Wentworth Pass Loop Track , via Wentworth Falls, Slack Stairs, Valley of the Waters and Overcliff/Undercliff tracks; some rough sections and lots of stairs. Shaded most of the way. 6 km loop with 400m descent/ ascent. 4-5 Hours	Start at Falls Rd Car Park, end of Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls 8.30 am. If you need a ride from the station ring Lyn 0432 352 850 and she will pick you up	Lyn Bevington 0432 352 850	3

Tuesday walks

Tuesday walks are "Medium Day Walks" of 3-5 hours suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Co-ordinator: Susan Nicholls phone: 4754 1516, email: suerosn@bigpond.net.au

Date	Walk description	Contact	Meet at	Grade
6 April	Easter Tuesday – no programmed walk			
13 April	Du Fours Rocks, Chinamans Hat and Pheasants Cave, Mt Wilson. Easy / Med 4K	John Blanche 0402 906161	Mt Victoria station 9.41 am	1/2
20 April	Winmalee Conference Centre walk. Easy / Med 4K	Ken Robinson 0417 514534	End White Cross Rd Winmalee 9.15 am	2
27 April	Empire Pass, Nth Lawson. Med 8K	Sharon Cox 0404 622 515	Lawson station North side 9.03 am	2/3

Thursday walks

Thursday walks are walks of 2 - 3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch . Co-ordinator: Beverley Thompson, phone: 4757 2076, email: denfenella12@bigpond.com

Date	Walk description	Contact	Meet at	Grade
8 April	Point Pilcher, Medlow Bath Car pool, take lunch	Maurice 4739 4942	Medlow Bath station 9.40 am	1 / 2
15 April	Nature Trail, Wentworth Falls Car pool, take lunch.	Beverley 4757 2076	Stockyard car park 9.30 am	2
22 April	Fairfax Track, Blackheath Car pool	Maurice 4739 4942	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.50 am	1
29 April	Evans Lookout, Barrows Lookout, Braeside Walk. Circular walk, carpool.	Tracy 0434 362611	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.40 am	2
6 May	Two lakes, Lithgow brickworks and Wallace Lakes, Lithgow. Car pool, take lunch.	Tracy 0434 362611	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.45 am	2

Saturday walks

Saturday walks are usually a full day, longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Coordinator: Harold Thompson phone: 0409 010737 email: harold.thompson@bigpond.com

Date	Walk description	Contact	Meet at	Grade
10 April	Jinki Ridge and Pagodas 7km. Mount Wilson map.	Alice 0425738766	Wentworth Falls Stockland car park 8.00 am	3
17 April	Darks Cave to Fortress Ridge. 10km Katoomba map	Geoff 49589113	Mt Hay Rd. near school. 8.30 am	3
24 April	Bellbird Point to Iron Pot and Tin Pot. 9km Jenolan map.	Harold 0409010737	Blackheath station car park. 8.30 am	3
1 May	Watertrough Hill to Defaurs Creek, to Bells Line Rd 11km Mt Wilson map.	Harold 0409010737	Mt Vic Station car park 8.30 am	3
8 May	Yileen Spur 8km Mt Wilson map.	Harold 0409010737	Katoomba Station car park 8.30 am	3



Above: Flannel flowers at Anvil Rock, the bottom half of the photo used in the banner on page 1. Photo by Ian Brown