



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



\*\*\* *Reminder* \*\*\*

### March 2015 State Election Meet the Candidates Meeting - hosted by Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Just a few weeks before the State Election the Society will be hosting its *Meet the Candidates* meeting, so come along and stay well informed. All candidates have been invited to present their environmental policies and positions, and there will be an audience Q&A after the candidates' talks. Details are as follows:

**Date:** Sunday 1st March 2015

**Meeting Time:** 2 PM

(An informal pre-meeting cuppa will be available from just after 1.00 PM)

**Venue:** Mid Mountains Community Centre, 7 New Street, Lawson

**This is a public meeting and all are very welcome.**

*BMCS Vote for the Environment Campaign Team*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **Sunday, 15 Feb: ELECTION FORUM AND Q&A.**

Hosted by Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains. 2pm-4pm, Wentworth Falls School of Arts. (page 1)

#### **Thursday, 19 Feb: SUNSET GET-TOGETHER.**

A chance for members and friends to get together over a cuppa and find out more about our Society. 7pm, Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls. (page 1)

#### **Sunday, 1 March: MEET THE CANDIDATES** —

hosted by Blue Mountains Conservation Society. 2pm, Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson. (page 1)

#### **Friday 20 March: BAT NIGHT.**

Lots of fun activities for the kids and a chance to observe and find out all about these furry little creatures, the Micro Bats, with NPWS Discovery Rangers.

6.30 pm, NPWS Heritage Centre, Blackheath, and it's FREE. A popular annual event! More information in March Hut News.



#### **Thursday 26 March: BMCS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 7.30pm, Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls.**

### SUNSET GET-TOGETHER

**Thursday 19 February, 7.00 pm  
at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls**

Members and friends are again invited to get together over a cuppa and share one of the best sunset views to be had in our glorious Blue Mountains. This event last year was a great success, despite the clouds on the night.

This is an opportunity to meet old and new friends, meet some of the Society's management committee and find out what they have been doing over the past year.

*Have you joined the Society recently and would like to meet other members?*

*Are you a long-standing member who would like to get to know and exchange ideas with some of our newer recruits?*

*Are you thinking about joining the Society, but would like to know more about it?*

**Then this special evening is for you.** Come along and discuss with other like-minded people what your concerns are, your special interests, and maybe how you could get more involved.

There will be some songs from Jim Low and Alan Foster. Jim Low is a singer-songwriter, author and historian. He lives in the Blue Mountains and has been performing and writing about Australia, its history and people for many years. Alan Foster lives in the Blue Mountains and writes and sings topical Aussie songs with a quirky sense of humour.

The Conservation Hut is in the Blue Mountains National Park at the end of Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls.

***Find out the facts on Coal Seam Gas before you vote!***

### **Election Forum and Q&A Sunday 15 February, 2pm – 4pm Wentworth Falls School of Arts**

*Speakers:*

**Sharyn Munro**, Author, *Rich Land, Wasteland*

**Mark Ogge**, Researcher and Public Engagement Officer at the Australia Institute

**Jess Moore**, Spokesperson for Stop CSG Illawarra

**Mark Greenhill**, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council  
Local candidates and the relevant state politicians from the main parties have been invited.

Entertainment by **Ecopella** environmental choir  
Refreshments served after the event

**Presented by  
Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains**

[stopcsgbm.net.au](http://stopcsgbm.net.au)

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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS  
18 FEBRUARY 2015**

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## Nursery News

On New Year's Day the Nursery lost its oldest and longest serving volunteer, Imre Gahl. He will be greatly missed at Blackheath where he was always to be found carefully weeding the seedlings and kept up his good work right up until a month or so before he died. His wife, Joan, has been dedicated to the Nursery for the same period and will continue helping us at Blackheath.



*Lomatia silaifolia*. Photo by Alan Page.

The volunteers have had a one month break over the Christmas period but are now back and the Nursery is again open for sales. Sales at the markets recommence in February.

The plants have put on lots of growth over the summer and we will have a good range to choose from including Correas, Acacias, Grevilleas and our plant of the month- *Lomatia silaifolia*. Its common name is Crinkle Bush. You will see this in many places at the moment, its tall, creamy flower spikes really stand out. The bush fires of October 2013 have promoted a particularly good flush of growth. We have plenty of tube stock available.

**Sue Nicol, Nursery Manager** ([nursery@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:nursery@bluemountains.org.au) 4787 8887)

### BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Our nursery offers the home gardener, landscaper or large contractor a big variety of quality local native plants at economical prices.

**Lawson Nursery**, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 9am to noon.

The nursery is located in the Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets, opposite Federation Building Materials - see map on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au).

**Blackheath Community Market**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm.

Tube stock \$3. Larger pots available.

Discounts for bulk orders and large contracts.

Enquiries Sue Nicol 4787 8887, [nursery@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:nursery@bluemountains.org.au)

### Remember this?



An old fashioned garbage bin, made of metal. The household would put it out once a week and, in the early morning hours, men would run beside the garbage truck, hoist the bin to a shoulder and empty it into the truck. Where I grew up in Hornsby the "garbos" were often rugby league players. The job gave them a good training workout in the morning and the rest of the day free.

Dad composted vegetable matter for the garden. The dog ate the meat scraps. The children collected empty drink bottles and took them to the shop for a refund. Old newspapers were bundled and sold to the fish and chip shop for wrapping. Our family (eventually seven children, but probably three or four at the time I am thinking of) had an incinerator in the back yard where other paper rubbish was burnt. I don't remember there being plastic ...  
Christine.

## Western Sydney Airport: A major threat to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Alan Page, Society President

Although not opposing a second Sydney airport, Blue Mountains Conservation Society is strongly opposed to anything that impacts the environment of the Greater Blue Mountains and its world heritage listing.

In April 2014, the Australian Government announced that Badgerys Creek would be the site for a Western Sydney airport.

The airport site is 50km west of Sydney's central business district and 8km from the eastern edge of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The airport would operate 24 hours a day and handle up to 70 million passengers per year. (The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website).

On 4th December 2014, the proposed Western Sydney Airport was referred to the Federal Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act).

The Referral document stated that –

"A significant impact on the World Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area is not considered likely."

The Society wrote a submission (see our website) which began –

"The Society strongly disagrees with this conclusion, and believes that the Western Sydney Airport and its attendant infrastructure and associated industries poses a very real threat to the GBMWhA. And as a result, the Airport is a threat to the Blue Mountains communities, tourism and businesses.

The only way that the airport should proceed is for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to clearly show that there is no adverse impact on the GBMWhA. In addition, constraints and controls must be put in place to avoid an impact in the future."

The principal impact on the GBMWhA and Blue Mountains communities of the proposed Western Sydney Airport is aircraft noise.

Aircraft noise is incongruent with natural ecosystems. While natural ecosystems may have their own noise – sometimes inherent (like a waterfall); sometimes occasional (like a storm) – they have evolved over millennia to have this as part of the ecosystem.

265 Australian bird species can be found in the GBMWhA – 111 (42%) of these are migratory or nomadic. A list of these 111 species was included as an appendix to the submission.

The number is probably higher as this list was compiled at short notice by Carol Proberts. Thanks Carol.

The potential effect of aircraft noise on birds has several consequences, and may include an impact on –

- flora - as some birds are pollinators; while others disperse seeds.
- their breeding - as they seek out new breeding grounds and become separated
- their feeding - as they need to find new food sources, or their nocturnal hunting is disrupted
- other birds - as they are either displaced, or become overcrowded.



Qantas A380 - photo by Andrzej Kostrzewa

After a brief extension, submissions closed on December 22. On the following day, the Federal Dept. of Environment decided that an Environmental Impact Statement was required.

We await details on this.

It was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 4 January that the United Nations' world heritage body will issue a "please explain" to the Abbott government demanding a detailed report on the threat posed by Badgerys Creek airport to the natural integrity of the Blue Mountains.

### **Emeric Francis (Imre) Gahl 10 May 1922 – 1 January 2015**

We farewell Imre Gahl, past president of Blue Mountains Conservation Society and a dedicated nursery volunteer.

The funeral service was held at the Leura Crematorium – family, neighbours and friends sharing two of the passions in Imre's life – conservation and string orchestral music.

After the service we gathered outdoors at Imre and Joan's home near Sublime Point at Leura, hidden from the road behind an extensive bush garden and overlooking the Three Sisters and Narraweek. Storm clouds gathered over Narraweek, thunder rumbled and Simon Watts played his violin. The storm passed us by, and afterwards, from Eaglehawk Lookout on Cliff Drive an amazing rainbow was seen – a solid band of brilliant colours, arching downward from Echo Point to beyond Sublime Point.

Ross Coster writes:

Imre Gahl. He died on New Years Day 2015, he was my friend, and I miss him.

We met in the mid-1990's, he was already retired, when he was a Vice President, and I was Membership Secretary. He went on to do a stint as President, and was a pleasure to work with. He roused on me once, and it was a joy to be part of, calm, polite, dignified and firm.

He worked tirelessly at the BMCS Nurseries for many years, volunteering for the tough or dull jobs that nobody else wanted.

This was the man. Tireless worker. Dignified Gentleman. My friend. Farewell Imre Gahl.

## Pink Flannel Flowers on the Newnes Plateau Alan Page

In October 2013, the State Mine bushfire ripped through 56,000 hectares from Lithgow to Bilpin.

Fire is a natural ingredient in the lifecycle of many of our native plants – eucalypts and the Proteaceae family in particular.

A visit to the Newnes Plateau in mid January showed the bush regenerating - regrowth and seedlings. The Waratahs looked particularly healthy and keen – I am looking forward to a visit in spring to see their magnificent blooms.



The most common flowering plant seemed to be the Crinkle Bush (*Lomatia silaifolia*). But the prize must go to the Pink Flannel Flower (*Actinotus forsythii*). It is an annual and grows in the year following a bushfire. In certain places there were thousands of flowers.

My experience is that it is usually found on exposed ridges (thus its other name of Ridge Flannel Flower) and among the charcoal sticks that were banksias, hakeas and conesticks (*Petrophile* species). My thought is that its germination is triggered by enzymes in the smoke of these Proteaceae species and its seeds can lie dormant for decades until given a smoky kiss of life.

## Coalpac is in its death throes but its mine is not! Brian Marshall

In the November Hut News No 320 you were told that the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) had comprehensively rejected the Coalpac Modifications Proposal which was put forward following the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's rejection of the original Coalpac Consolidation Project<sup>1</sup>. As a direct consequence, a meeting of Coalpac's creditors unanimously voted to wind up the company on 17 November, 2014<sup>2</sup>.

The liquidator is charged with realising the company's assets, distributing the funds to creditors (and shareholders should there be a surplus), and ultimately deregistering the company. It finally seemed that the major creditors had lost patience with Coalpac, and that Coalpac's assault on the unique land system of this portion of Ben Bullen State Forest (BBSF) was at an end. A celebratory drink at Christmas was in order for the many who appreciate the region's magnificent environmental values.

Unfortunately, although Coalpac is effectively dead, the mine could still become operational. Approximately 6 ha of Ben Bullen State Forest<sup>3</sup>, originally approved on 19 August 2004 for open-cut mining as part of NSW Development Consent DA-200-5-2003, have not yet been mined. But before commencing this mining, the proposal must be referred to the federal Department of the Environment (DoE) in terms of whether or not it infringes the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; in essence, is the proposal deemed a Controlled Action and if yes, under what conditions, if any, can it proceed?

Coalpac's referral to the DoE claims that the proposal **should not be a Controlled Action**. The Society and associated members of the Gardens of Stone Alliance have strongly opposed this contention for a range of reasons, including the unacceptable direct and indirect

## Wolgan Runes

I have the knowledge  
To read the runes;  
I've walked the river,  
Barefoot through shallows  
And over sandy shoals;  
I've seen the tracks, the marks,  
The grit that swirls  
In flowing sans serif;  
I've scrambled through breaks  
In cliff lines,  
Hands on rock glowing red  
And black in shadow  
To look down on the  
Silver script of the river's flow.  
So many messages  
For me and mine to see -  
I read them  
And wonder at how much more  
There is to know.

Stephen Fortescue

impacts on the unique Ben Bullen Pagoda Land System, the federally-listed vulnerable *Persoonia marginata*, and the local surface water and groundwater regimes.

**The present article is for your information rather than action.** This is because Coalpac's referral documents were listed on the DoE's website on January 8 (far too late for the December-January Hut News), and the statutory closing date for submissions was 22 January (too early for the February Hut News). Furthermore, an e-blast was deferred as the DoE were not initially aware whether the company's liquidation status might influence its proceeding with the referral.

**If the DoE decides the proposal is not a Controlled Action, or approves it with limited additional controls, a purchaser of the mine will be able to use this environmentally-outdated Development Consent to further desecrate BBSF! And who can doubt that such 'success' will presage further attempts to attain Coalpac's previously rejected abominations?**

<sup>1</sup> Also see the BMCS website at <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://insolvencynotices.asic.gov.au/browsesearch-notices/notice-details/Coalpac-Pty-Ltd-in-Liquidation-003558914/6eb2f1c3-3224-4c51-8f26-b9a845c90ced>

<sup>3</sup> A map of the current proposal is available in Figs. 4 and 5 of Attachment A in the Referral documents at: [http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc\\_ap.pl?name=referral\\_detail&proposal\\_id=7412](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=referral_detail&proposal_id=7412)

### VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon. Tools and gloves are available. Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat. New members are welcome.  
Phone Karen 4757 1929.

## State Election 2015: Has the NSW Government honoured its 2011 Environmental Contract with the people of NSW?

In the lead up to the 2011 NSW state election the NSW Liberals and Nationals released their "*Contract with NSW*", with the then Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell, signing it and asking us to "*Please keep this Contract and by all means hold us to account*". As requested we did keep the contract and with reference to Item 5, "*Protect our local Environment*", we believe the incumbent government must be held to account.

The NSW Government is now 46 months through its 48 month term, and to be brutally blunt we believe the Liberals and Nationals have unequivocally broken their environmental contract with the people of NSW. Further we believe that in many instances not only have they failed to protect the environment but have actually initiated changes that demonstrably degrade it. Why do we say this? Because we have kept a record of what they have done, both good and bad. Looking at a reasonably comprehensive record of significant environmental actions we can state the following:

**For every step forward, there has been one standing still, and 3 going backwards.**

We do not ask you to just believe us, rather have a look and judge for yourself. You can find the Government's Environmental Track Record at:

<http://www.bluemountains.org.au/election15-record.shtml>

You will find a brief summary of each significant action and links that provide greater detail, context, and background.

The Society is not alone in the above assessment, the

Nature Conservation Council of NSW speaking on behalf of nine leading environmental advocacy organisations in NSW, states:

*"We can no longer allow the government to place vested interests and political deals above clean air, water and iconic natural places. Together we must tell the NSW Government that enough is enough: we will not stand by and watch our environment be destroyed."*

**So, what about the March state election . . .**

We recognise that there are many factors that influence how each of us votes - some economic, some social, and some cultural. However, underpinning all of these is the environment, and a healthy natural environment is the non-negotiable essential base for any society that wants to last more than a few hundred years. Polluting air and waterways and strip mining the earth is not a recipe for a sustainable civilisation for our children,

grandchildren, and subsequent generations.

**As such, we ask you to put the environment front and centre in your considerations about how to vote. Beyond considerations pertaining to the incumbent government's track record, covered above, the Society has sought from all candidates their answers to key environmental questions at both the local and state level. You can find full coverage of the Questionnaire and responses on the Society's web site. And there's more . . . on Sunday 1st March the Society will be hosting a *Meet the Candidates* event; this is your chance to ask your environmental questions, so come along. Yes, there really is a lot to consider.**

**BMCS Vote for the Environment Campaign Team**



### Just a short drive from Blackheath ...

At Bald Hill on the Newnes Plateau, the burnt bushland stretches as far as the eye can see. Scars on the landscape are the Clarence colliery and a sand mine, and there is a vague glimpse of what might be "civilisation" in the vicinity of Mount Victoria. A couple of narrow ribbons of unsealed roads, and the rest ... a magnificent desolate wilderness. But desolate is not the word ... look closer! Beneath the burnt trunks of the

mallee gums there is luscious growth where multiple new trunks have sprouted. A profusion of new tiny trees and shrubs and herbs cover the ground—some of them have already flowered or are flowering. Thousands of tall Xanthorrhoea flower spikes, now bearing seeds. (continued on page 11)

Photo: Part of the view from near Bald Hill—in foreground, burnt trunks of mallee gums with regrowth, in middle background a jumble of pagodas in Bungleboori Creek catchment.

## Numantia's forgotten bushwalking track in Faulconbridge by Jim Smith PART 2.

Part 1, in December/January Hut News, tells how the long forgotten track between Numantia Falls and the site of Sir Alfred Stephen's home *Alphington* was located by Jim Smith and Wilf Hilder. The closing paragraph is repeated ...

As Wilf hopped on the train for his 2 ½ hour journey home, I reflected on all the hundreds of days over the last 20 years that he had travelled from Sydney to help me find the 'lost' historic walking tracks of the Blue Mountains. Even though he was then aged 70, we still had many great walks ahead of us, including three epic journeys, up to a week's duration, along the Gundungurra Aboriginal pathways of the Southern Blue Mountains.

After Wilf Hilder's death I found in his papers a delightful article by Sir Alfred Stephen which included memories of his days wandering in the gullies around *Numantia*<sup>5</sup>. As this article has previously been unknown to historians, it is worth quoting here.

### *Memories of Numantia.*

*Many happy health-giving hours have I passed in one such valley, many of them with dear friends, now no more. Among these was occasionally the lovable William Bede Dalley<sup>6</sup>; himself a lover of romance, and in whose company no man could feel dull. Nor were bright eyes and fair forms always wanting<sup>7</sup>. It was at the foot of a range below Numantia, the country residence of the late Chief Justice of New South Wales, Sir James Martin, the first occupant of Crown land there- adjoining about a hundred acres purchased by the writer.*

*Yes in the Valley, or at that classical retreat, I have with those men — both most distinguished in their day, both too soon alas! Departed — enjoyed many a pleasant, many an intellectual and festive hour.*

*At the extremity of my ground, several hundred feet below the Numantia dwelling, was a large cave, nearly hidden by huge trees and tangled bushes, and skirted by a stream which here and there expanded into lakelets, where, "maramis" (small cray-fish<sup>8</sup>) were occasionally caught by some of us. Never, I should say, by Martin; for we could not persuade him at any time to attempt these deep recesses. But Dalley, a skilful fisherman, more than once collected a dishful; making a delicious soup, of which we all partook at Sir James's table. In that cave, dear in its many recollections to me, a merry party once assembled; and they began — Augustus Morris<sup>9</sup>, I remember, or Henry Stephen<sup>10</sup> leading the way--to make verses, or at least to write lines, inspired by the occasion.*

Alfred Stephen's own verse, inspired by the cave on his property, is one that bushwalkers of today can readily relate to.

### *Lines in a Cave.*

*It is quite easy to descend below: -  
So Virgil said, or sang, some years ago;  
But sagely added, what we all soon learn,  
That 'tis an awful labour to return.  
It is no easy task to reach these dells;  
Of wearied feet this cave the story tells:  
But wine (or water, if you like it best),  
With luncheon basket, song and chat, and jest,  
May here revive us, and the frame prepare  
To mount the rock-bound hill, and breathe the upper air.*

Stephen acknowledged Virgil's *Descensus Averno* as the inspiration for this verse, and the other extracts from his 'Octogenarian's Note Book' are replete with allusions to Classical Greek and Roman literature, with many quotations in Latin. The name Numantia was in itself a reference to the battle of the Numantines against the Roman army. Sir James Martin was "a reader of the Latin historians and poets, and kept sundry favorite authors on his Numantine shelves." Badham was a professor of Classics at Sydney University. Stephen, Martin and Badham composed poetry in both Latin and English. Sir Henry Parkes's poetry, though only in English, was greatly appreciated by the Chief Justice James Martin when he wandered across the gully from *Numantia* to Parkes's cottage *Stonehurst*. The two men "would discuss world affairs over a bottle of Sir Henry's favourite champagne, pool their views on how federation was to be achieved or work out a plan for landscaping Sir Henry's garden."<sup>11</sup>

The men with holiday homes in the Central Blue Mountains: Martin, Stephen, Parkes and Badham, and their visitors such as Dalley<sup>12</sup>, took part in the early debates and Conventions that led to the establishment of Federation. Many discussions about the future of the Australian colonies, and other affairs of state, took place in the caves and gullies around *Numantia*.

Wilf must have forgotten about the reference to the cave "dear in its many recollections" on Stephen's property, otherwise we would have looked for it.

Any walkers planning to visit this area should remember that Numantia Falls, and the track to it, are on private property.

### **Eleanor Falls.**

Eleanor Falls is a place that you will not find listed in Brian Fox's *Blue Mountains Geographical Dictionary* (2006). So far as I know it has never appeared on any map. The only indication of its existence is a photo on a postcard. Curiously, this postcard exists in two forms. On the first it is labelled "Waterfalls Parkes Gully Faulconbridge". (Parkes Gully was the original name for the valley of upper Sassafras Creek.) The same image on the second postcard has this caption scratched out and the name "Eleanor Falls Faulconbridge" printed below it. It is possible that this name is connected to the family of Sir James Martin, as his daughter Eleanor died in 1880, at the age of seventeen, while at *Numantia*. This tragedy affected the Martin family, and the little Faulconbridge community, severely. Eleanor was described as "... unselfish, loving, tranquil, cheerful. She had radiated harmony..." It was said that "the Parkeses, the Stephens, the Badhams mourned as for their own daughter."<sup>13</sup> Perhaps Henry Parkes named a waterfall on his property as a memorial to her.

The name Eleanor Falls must have been in use for some decades, as the postcard was published in about 1910.

### **References.**

- A. Stephen, 'Numantia. A Place of Disillusioned Aspirations', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Volume 31 (4), 1945, pp. 249- 276.
- A. Searle, *Faulconbridge*, Springwood Historical Society, 1977.

(Continued on page 7)



**Eleanor Falls**  
Postcard by  
unknown  
photographer  
and publisher,  
c.1910, Jim  
Smith  
collection.

#### Endnotes:

<sup>5</sup> A. Stephen, 'Leaves from an Octogenarian's Note Book', *Centennial Magazine*, 1889, pp.571-573.

<sup>6</sup> William Bede Dalley (1831-1888) was a lawyer, orator, journalist and Member of the Legislative Council. "...he was renowned as the most scintillating conversationalist and after-dinner speaker in the colony." (Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB), volume 4). He was a personal friend of Sir Alfred Stephen and Sir James Martin but a political enemy of Sir Henry Parkes. Dalley's wife was a sister of Lady Isabella Martin. The latter's name is now associated with the reservoir called 'Lady Martin's Bath', near the second uncompleted *Numantia* building (later called Martin's Folly), east of Linden.

<sup>7</sup> This sentence indicates that women and children accompanied the men.

<sup>8</sup> The common local crayfish species are the Sydney Crayfish (*Eustacus australasiensis*) and the Giant Spiny Crayfish (*E. spinifer*). Marami is a word from the Wiradjuri, and possibly other Aboriginal languages, that was adopted into Australian English. R.Dixon, W. Ramson, and M. Thomas, *Australian Aboriginal Words in English*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1990, p.99. The local Gundungurra word for the freshwater crayfish is Muggaroon.

<sup>9</sup> Augustus Morris (c.1820-1895) was a pastoralist and businessman who served terms as a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. ADB, Volume 5.

<sup>10</sup> Matthew Henry Stephen (1828-1920) was the fourth child of Sir Alfred Stephen.

<sup>11</sup> E.Grainger, *Martin of Martin Place*, Alpha Books, 1970, p 137.

<sup>12</sup> Other distinguished visitors included Sir Hercules Robinson, Sir John Robertson, Sir George Allen and Lord and Lady Lamington.

<sup>13</sup> Grainger, p. 141.

**Note:** You can read Part 1 in December 2014 Hut News/ media/Hut News Archives

## BOOK REVIEW: Wasteland, Wilderness, Wonderland – Getting to know Sydney's Sandstone Country, by Gil Jones

Published by the Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, based in Lawson.

"Wasteland, Wilderness, Wonderland – Getting to know Sydney's Sandstone Country" is beautifully written by Gil Jones with excellent illustrations. This book is written from the heart, but with the clarity of a scientist who is intimately involved with the subject. It is full of hidden gems of knowledge with particular reference to pre – European history of the area. The chapter titled "Bala, Boree, Bora" is full of information regarding indigenous history and culture. Gil Jones says "The Aboriginal speaks of real identity. He says simply and without qualification; "I am the land". "The Aboriginal person feels himself part of every other and every other as part of himself...The land is a sacred place, a spiritual entity." Those immersed in the European and egocentric culture now sweeping the world both in the east and west could do well to read this book and gain another vision for the world which is not about building the highest buildings and the biggest roads for so called economic development.

Knowledge is held within this sandstone of the Sydney Basin. The Sandstone is the 200 million year old fabric underlying the Sydney region. It is the fabric which brings the area together as a whole. If we can understand that we are part of that fabric we would certainly have an understanding of our true self and our relationship with the landscape. The sandstone with its attendant fauna and flora is the awareness that joins all of us together who live on this Sydney basin. We destroy it at peril to ourselves.

Gil Jones has adopted a rather eccentric manner in noting references for his work which indicates a great respect for the past sources of knowledge whether Indigenous or European. His sources appear no less important than the main text.

This is a book which once read can be referred to again and again at any time and any page for enjoyable contemplation and reflection on the Sydney sandstone country. It should be essential reading for all school children in the greater Sydney region, so that they have an understanding of the heritage that surrounds them.

Reviewed by Chris D Whiteman, September 2014

Price: \$40.00. Available from Turning Pages Springwood, Lamdha Wentworth Falls, Megalong Books Leura, Gleebooks Blackheath.

### Grandparents for Generational Equity [www.genequity.net](http://www.genequity.net)

Go the website ... keep informed ... write letters ...tell your friends. Let's take some real action to help leave a world our grandchildren can survive in.

## Loose Feathers, with Carol Probets

One January evening I went for a walk onto a heath-covered hill north of Wentworth Falls to listen for nocturnal species at dusk. The hill provides a good vantage point over two small valleys and beyond, across more distant ridges that lead towards the Grose Valley. As I walked past the last house, a pair of Gang-gang Cockatoos flew into the trees beside the road. I stopped briefly before continuing on my way as their calls faded into the distance behind me.

It was 8.12pm when the sun set. At 8.20, a Chestnut-rumped Heathwren sang from the edge of dense bushfire regrowth. Soon after, I managed to catch a glimpse of it slipping quietly away through the bushes. At 8.30 a lone White-throated Needle-tail swept low over the hill on its long, scythe-shaped wings, disappearing towards the town in the fading light. Meanwhile, an orchestra of mole crickets were increasing their calling to a deafening buzz and I wondered how it would be possible to hear anything else.

At 8.45, the mole crickets stopped and I breathed a sigh of relief. At 8.55, I became aware of a very soft, low chuckle like the beginning of a kookaburra call, but it was barely audible. As I looked around trying to work out where it was coming from, a large, dark, hawk-like shape was suddenly flying straight towards me. Within two metres of my head, it abruptly swerved and disappeared down the hill. I tried to follow it with my small torch but the light beam was swallowed up in the darkness.

What I had just seen was one of the most cryptic birds in the mountains, a White-throated Nightjar. Like frogmouths and the little owl-nightjar, these are not owls, though they are nocturnal. The nightjar roosts and nests lying flat on the ground amongst rocks and leaf litter, relying on its superbly camouflaged plumage for protection. At night they hawk moths and other insects in agile flight, catching prey with their wide bill.

I waited, hoping for a reappearance. I thought I heard the low chuckle once more - this is what has been called the "agitation call" and is different to the far-carrying, weird ascending laugh that's more often heard. Perhaps I was near its nest.

It wasn't the only nocturnal bird around. At 9.15 an owl-nightjar called briefly from one of the low trees but remained unseen as they so often do. I decided to head home. The final bird for the night was a koel which showed no sign of retiring as I reached the first houses at 9.30pm.

Who'd have thought a short evening walk could produce so many interesting birds. If we limit our wandering to daylight, we miss out on so much. The twilight hours either side of sunrise and sunset are times of great activity and rich times to be out amongst nature.

Carol Probets, [origma@westnet.com.au](mailto:origma@westnet.com.au) Twitter: @carolprobets



### The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

\$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage.

Buy the map online

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

write to BMCS, PO Box 29,

Wentworth Falls 2782 with your

cheque or money order.

### Central West dam threatens caves and tourism Don Morison

A protest meeting was held in Orange on 21 November to oppose the Needles Gap dam construction which threatens a major limestone cave system, a hot spring and significant fossils. Needles Gap dam, proposed to be located on the Belubula River, between Canowindra and Mandurama, has become an election gimmick for conservative politicians in NSW, even though a recent Federal study of worthwhile dam projects did not include it or any other dam in this state.

The meeting in Orange was attended by about 120 people, the Central Western Daily reports. Farmers, scientists and cavers have criticised the dam proposal. The Cliefden Cave system could be clogged with silt once the dam fills. Spectacular cave decorations and valuable scientific information would be lost.

The catchment of the Belubula River has yet to reach its full tourism potential as part of the Blue Mountains and Central West Region. This catchment contains the "Age of Fishes" Museum at Canowindra (fossils of prehistoric marine creatures), the gem of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture which is Carcoar village, relics of 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese gold mining and other significant natural and cultural features. The tourism potential should not be compromised by this short-sighted dam proposal.

### Welcome to new members

Jennifer Wilson, Bangore  
Martin Reusch, Woodford  
Donna Mulhearn, Woodford  
Cheryl Bawhey, Glenbrook  
Jim Browning, Yellow Rock  
Kristel Smits, Katoomba

.....  
: The Australian Owlet-nightjar is a :  
: small nocturnal insect-eater which :  
: roosts by day in tree hollows. :  
: Photographed in the Capertee Valley by :  
:.....

Down the Wallaby Track: a backward glance, with John Low

## THE DISTANT CORRESPONDENT

*"The weary world of waters between us oppresses the imagination. It is difficult to conceive how a scrawl of mine should ever stretch across it ... a sort of presumption to expect that one's thoughts should live so far."*

In 1823 the English essayist Charles Lamb, for whom London was the world, wrote these words to a friend and fellow writer lost to him in the "Hades of Thieves" on the other side of the globe. Older readers may remember studying Lamb's essays in high school but I wonder if any can identify the friend, addressed as 'B.F', whose company Lamb was missing. He spent seven years in NSW but remains largely unknown.

Barron Field (1786-1846), was appointed Judge of the NSW Supreme Court in 1816 and arrived in Sydney with his young wife Jane in February the following year. In an early letter, received soon after his arrival, Lamb inquired how his friend was coping "in the land of thieves" and how he occupied his "extra-judicial intervals". In fact, if Field's official duties were often controversial and the cause of much animosity, his literary interests and passion for natural history reveal a quite different side to his life in Australia.

Despite expressing a conviction that the Australian landscape would never produce poetry, Field was an observant man keenly interested in his surroundings. Indeed, his belief in an un-poetical Australia did not stop him from writing poetry himself and producing the first collection of verse printed in the colony. In his "extra-judicial intervals" he also studied and wrote about the flora and fauna, helped found the Philosophical Society of Australasia and corresponded with scientists in Britain and Europe. The botanists Alan Cunningham and Charles Gaudichaud held him in high esteem and valued his advice and both named plants in his honour\*.

When the French scientific expedition under Louis de Freycinet visited Sydney in 1819 its members were entertained and advised by the Fields. Courteous and charming, Mrs. Field was especially popular, her knowledge of French literature and "ravishing ankle" making lasting impressions; while the three scientists (one of whom was Charles Gaudichaud) who took the opportunity to visit Bathurst acknowledged her husband's assistance in mounting their excursion.

Though he did not accompany them on this occasion, Judge Field did venture over the Blue Mountains at least once during his residence in Australia. Setting out in early October 1822, he filled his journal with detailed and opinionated descriptions of the landscape, its trees, flowers, birds and people. This un-poetical country clearly fascinated him and scattered through the mass of information and comment small vivid word pictures bring his journey alive: his camp fires give "a picturesque effect to the tent and cart, and to the tethered horses ... patiently standing on the bleak and bare hill"; "the quiet of a beautiful night on the banks of the Fish River" leads to a reflection on "rural sounds"; and a Sabbath morning in Bathurst is "heavy with mist slowly rolling away, lingering with a light cloud across the tops of the hills".

Lamb's "distant correspondent" had no trouble filling his spare time among the thieves of NSW.

John Low ([grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com](mailto:grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com))

P.S. If anyone wishes to read Barron Field's account of his trip to Bathurst, it is included in "Fourteen Journeys Over the Blue Mountains 1813-1841" edited by George Mackaness. Though out of print, this should be available through the local library.

\* One of the plants named in honour of Barron Field is *Fieldia australis* - described on page 12.

## You can become a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society

- Post this Application Form with your cheque or money order to: Blue Mountains Conservation Society, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782, OR
- Join online at: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

Address: .....  
.....PC .....

Phone(s) .....

Email .....

**I/We agree to support the aims and objectives of the Society as set out on reverse side of this membership application:**

Please sign if named above.

Signature(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student) \$20

Household \$35 Household Concession \$25

Corporate (negotiable)

Membership (circled above) \$ .....

Donation (tax deductible) \$ .....

Bushwalkers: please add  
\$20 per walker per annum. \$ .....

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ .....

Send my copy of Hut News by

Please tick box  mail  internet only

Would you like to be involved in any of the following activities or working groups? (Please underline):

Land use/development issues; Environmental Education; Threatened species issues; Website and social media; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Administration;

ENQUIRIES: Phone 02 4757 1872

Email: [membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

## BMCS Planning and Development Resource Kit

Do you want to take action on an environmental issue in your neighbourhood or the Blue Mountains more broadly?

Do you want information about the laws and procedures relating to development and environmental protection?

Find out what **YOU** can do! Go to the Planning and Development Resource Kit [www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml)

## 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.

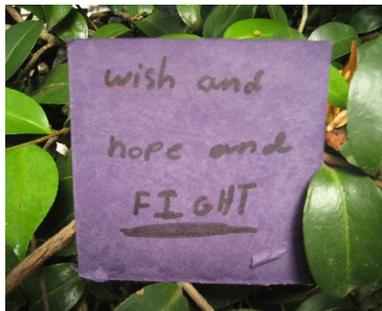
JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society,  
or renew your membership online.  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

## 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".

## Climate Change Conversations – Springwood Gets Up



**“wish and hope and FIGHT”** This was one of the messages pinned to the message tree at the Climate Change Conversations in Springwood last September. It encapsulates everything that we need to keep in mind if we are to bring about a massive change in direction, a change in our business-as-usual Co2 emitting world.

Beth Hill and I wanted to create a space in which people could sit down and have a conversation with us, allowing them to air their feelings about the inexorable warming of our world. It was not your conventional rally. They could also write messages on pieces of paper and then pin them to the tree. Gordon had brought a beautiful blossoming spring branch and we planted this in a bucket of sand. To wish, and to hope, is to have a vision of the future which is not a catastrophic burnt dystopia. Of course, it is important to act on such dreams, otherwise you are a Walter Mitty eternally in a pleasant dream of your own creation.

That is where the last word comes in, **“FIGHT”**. In this context this word means to strive, to struggle, to be prepared to meet opposition. It does not necessarily mean setting up the ‘other’ as a foe to be vanquished ( see my piece on *“Mother Nature Has Pneumonia”* on my blog, [dianajumpsintohaiku.blogspot.com](http://dianajumpsintohaiku.blogspot.com)). What do you say, for instance, about our PM who declares categorically that coal is good for us? (As I write this, a long convoy of coal trucks rolls along the Blue Mountains line, bound for the port at Wollongong.) Do what? ‘Nothing’ is not an option.

Here’s another wish from the tree:

### **“I want a world for my grandchn”**

I sat in a cane chair, under an umbrella and listened to people one at a time. I heard anger, utter frustration, confusion and a slightly dazed state, as if a cicada had been blown around in a strong wind. I heard people talk about their frustration - here is the house burning down but no-one is talking about it! their fury with politicians. The bland responses, if any, they’ve received in reply to their letters to the government. My overall impression was of a big gap: between the strong feelings aroused, and an appropriate channel in which to **act** – perhaps to **fight**.

GetUp! was the motivator behind our Town Square event. <https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/climate-action-now/we-made-history/> You’ll also get a sense of the millions of other people around the world who also ‘got up’. Beth and I thank GetUp! for their support, and also Helen Y, Gordon, Kaye, Helen C, Daniel, Michael and...all the others. Diana Levy.

## Tassie Wobbley

The Tasmania Government has been involved in a media stunt to give a false impression that commercial development in national parks is non impactful.

Renovation for tourist purposes was completed at “The Pumhouse”, a long established existing structure adjacent to Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park and to the existing tourist village of Cynthia Bay. During the gimmicky media exercise, dignitaries arrived by sea plane, although this renovation occurred five minutes drive off the Lyell Highway, one of Tasmania’s best maintained traffic arteries.

This stunt has nothing to do with the serious question of whether commercial development will be allowed to alienate national park and wilderness areas around Australia. Don Morison.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held at the **Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls at 7.30 pm on Thursday 26 March 2015.**

Business will include receipt of reports, adoption of annual accounts, determination of structure of Management Committee, election of President, Management Committee members and other office holders and appointment of auditor plus the following Special Resolutions:

### Changes to Constitution

Ordinary members will be asked to vote on proposed amendments to the constitution which are recommended by the Management Committee. These amendments are required by the Registrar of Environmental Organisations in order for the Society to retain its deductible gift recipient status. The proposed resolution is as follows:

The Society's constitution be amended as follows:

1. Clause 14.1 (a) – Add wording to clarify that the Society meets the requirements for deductible gift recipients:

**The Society agrees to comply with any rules that the Treasurer and the Minister with responsibility for the environment may make to ensure that gifts made to the Public Gift Fund are only used for its principal purpose.**

2. Clause 28 – Add wording to remove any doubt that the general not-for-profit rules apply to the Public Gift Fund as well as to the Society as a whole so this clause becomes:

**The Society, including the Public Gift Fund, shall be operated on a not-for-profit basis. Its income and property, regardless of source, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to members of the Society or of the Gift Committee.** Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any servant or officer of the Society.

Instead of

The income and property of the Society, regardless of its source, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to members of the Society. Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any servant or officer of the Society.

As there have been several changes to the Constitution since it was last adopted in total, if the above proposal is passed then a second proposal will be put that the Society adopt an updated constitution incorporating the above changes plus those already adopted by the Society in previous general meetings.

By order of the Management Committee  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

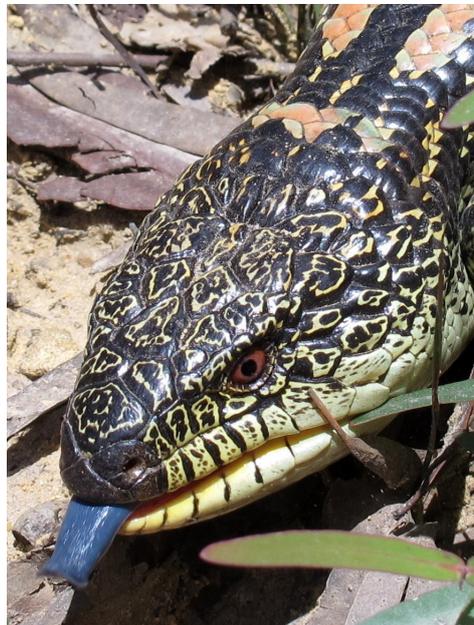
**BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc**

'Like' us on Facebook:  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
Follow us on Twitter: bmcnsnw

## Just a short drive from Blackheath ...

(continued from page 5)

Along the road we came across a Blotched Blue Tongue Lizard, sunning itself. This species' range extends from Tasmania, through Victoria to the Blue Mountains where it is restricted to higher altitudes. When approached it moved slowly off the road, becoming aware I was not a predator, merely annoying.



Entering pagoda country on the approaches to Lithgow, we stopped to wander among the wonderful pagodas, the ground scattered with pink flannel flowers which bloom only after fire, thousands and thousands of tiny flowers.



Through Lithgow and along the highway to the historic Hartley village for lunch at the café in the old post office. Now we are in granite country, with huge granite boulders behind the building.

Such wonderful places to go and things to see on our very doorstep ... I never cease to be amazed and thankful. Christine Davies.

## 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](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Jim Percy—phone 4758 6009, email [jp34@tpg.com.au](mailto:jp34@tpg.com.au) Check [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) for updates.

**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](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) Saturday Walks page for details)

- Feb 14 **West Street Valley of Waters, Vera Falls, Wentworth Pass, West Street .** Have Valentines Day with Warren. Leader **Warren** 4787 5403. -Meet at Wentworth Falls Stockyard carpark 8.30am. 10Km. Grade 3. Map **Katoomba**.
- Feb 21 **Turpentine Track to Murphys Glen** (and you might get a swim in Bedford Creek). Leader **Bob** 4757 2699. Meet at Woodford Station carpark, south side, 7.30 am. 8 km. Grade 2/3. Maps **Katoomba/Jamison**.
- Feb 28 **Nobles Canyon—The South Side.** Another new one by Harold. Leader **Harold** 9600 8005. Meet at Blackheath Station carpark 8.15am. 6Km. Grade 3. Map **Cullenbullen**.
- Mar 7- **Yarramundi to Winmalee**, with sections of Grose River wade. Finish along the Blue Gum Swamp tracks after the delightful views from Grose Head South. Leader **Diana** 0432 619 305. Meet at Springwood Station carpark. Contact Leader for more detail. Grade 2/3. Maps **Kurrajong / Springwood**.
- Mar 14- **Lindemans Pass – Leura Falls to Roberts Pass.** An historic (1911) track which is spectacular but not maintained. Although only 10 km there are several difficult sections where landslips have to be negotiated so this walk is graded 4 and requires a high level of fitness. Please call leader in advance. -Leader **Bart** 4739 9947. Meet at Leura station 8 am. 10Km. Grade 4. 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, [keithdor53@hotmail.com](mailto:keithdor53@hotmail.com)

- Feb 16 **Medlow Bath to Blackheath via Mermaid Cave.** Meet Medlow Bath Station 8.30. Liz Stark 4754 4966. Grade 2.
- Feb 23 **Mount Piddington, Ferris Cave, Pulpit Rock and Sunset Rock.** Meet Mt Victoria Station 8-45am. Liz Stark 4754 4966. Grade 2.
- Mar 2 **Perimeter Walk at Bell.** Meet Mt Victoria Station 8-45am. Car pool \$5. Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 3. Check the website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) for contact Keith or more walks in March.

**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, [roybev12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:roybev12@bigpond.net.au)

- Feb 12 **Minnihaha Falls Katoomba.** Creek-side walk to lookouts with short descent to base of waterfall. Car pool. Take lunch. Meet Katoomba Station car park 9.30am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2.
- Feb 19 **Leura Cascades Leura.** Round walk along cliff top to lookouts. Views of falls and cascades. Car pool. Take lunch. Meet cnr Mall and Megalong Streets Leura 9.30am. Leader Keith 4736 1010. Grade 2.
- Feb 26 **Royal Botanic Gardens to Mrs Macquaries Chair Sydney.** Take lunch. Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.30am Leader Maurice 4739 4942 Grade 1
- Mar 5 **Bus trip to Mount Tomah.** Book and pay Beverley \$12 4757 2076. Take lunch. Meet Council Depot South Street North Katoomba 8.30am sharp. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 1.
- Mar 12 **Anvil Rock and Wind Eroded Cave Blackheath.** Short walk to classic viewpoint. Car pool \$2. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.

### A donation from afar

Out of curiosity, our membership secretary Ross Coster asked an overseas donor, "how did you find us, and why did you donate?"

The reply: "My wife and I just got back from Australia on our honeymoon. As a gift to each other every year for Christmas we donate to a charity of our choice. We were fortunate enough to spend a few days in the Blue Mountains and had a wonderful time. I know that the donation is not much, but I hope that the money goes toward preserving such an amazing place for others to enjoy in the future.

Thank you for the note, it truly made my day and am even more excited to share with my wife.

Kindest regards, Brian Norman"

### Plant named for Barron Field

In his "Down the Wallaby Track" column this month (page 9) John Low tells us about "The Distant Correspondent", Barron Field, who was held in high esteem by botanists Alan Cunningham and Charles Gaudichaud who both named plants in his honour.

You can find one of these plant species at Mount Wilson: *Fieldia australis* was originally described and placed in its own genus Fieldia by Allan Cunningham in 1825.

It is a small climbing plant or epiphyte which grows in eastern Australian rainforests. The plant uses adventitious roots to grip hold of tree trunks and moss-covered rocks. It flowers chiefly in summer and autumn, and its fruit is a berry.



*Fieldia australis* -  
New South Wales Flora  
Online, Royal Botanic  
Garden, Sydney.