

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Govetts Leap Photography by Ian Brown

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2025-2026

President

Annette Cam

Senior Vice President

Annette Sartor

Membership Secretary

Andrew Solomon

Treasurer

Elizabeth Howard

Minutes Secretary

Heather Hull

Administration Office

Jeanette Robertson

Hut News Editor

Christine Davies

Publicity Officer

Laura Lewsey

National Parks and Heritage

Madi Maclean

Land Use Officer

Angela Langdon

Education Officer

Annette Sartor

Bushcare Officer

Peter Ardill

Threatened Species Officer

Liam Ramage

Sustainability & Climate Change

Nathalie Verellen

Nursery Manager

Bronwyn Murphy

Website Officer

Alan Crooks



Banksia penicillata image Graham Cam 2026

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Active members – 930
Bushwalkers – about 30% of
members

Breakdown:

Lower Mts 10%

Mid Mts 25%

Upper mountains 45%

Outside BM area 20%

50% members concession
memberships

60% individual memberships

40% household memberships

- ❖ Increase in members of
about 10% in 2 years
- ❖ Follow-up contact for new
members



Crimson Rosella (C)Bill Harding 2019 birdlifephotography.org.au

Networking

The Society continues to develop strong networks across the conservation space.

New partnerships in 2025-26 include:

- Blue Mountains Dark Sky Initiative
- Hawkesbury Environment Network
- Destination Stewardship Alliance Advisory Group

This brings us up to a network of 30 conservation and scientific organisations - and still growing.



Over 30 submissions /
letters 2025/26

SUBMISSIONS

Written by:

- National Parks Subcommittee
- Land Use subcommittee
- Bushcare Officer
- Climate and Sustainability Officer
- Individual MC members
- Input from members with relevant expertise



Eucalyptus oreades and tree ferns, Mt Wilson. Photo by Ian Brown

HUT NEWS

- Focus on informing and educating members and community
- Editor leads an effective team of volunteers
- Eleven issues per year
- Contributions by members
- Stories, poems, updates, kids page, photos, natural history.
- Paper or electronic copies sent to members
- Published on the website
- Printed copies now in colour!
- New flip pages version for online copy



Christine Davies Editor Hut News

EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT

- Events in 2025 focussed on 25th anniversary of GBMWA with additional events across the year.
- Included a formal celebration in November 2025 at Govetts Leap
- Gazette wrap November to bring community-wide attention to the anniversary



Blue Gum Forest Photo by Ian Brown

Plant Nursery Report

Thank you to the many volunteers at the nursery and Bronwyn Murphy for her leadership!

Ongoing sales at markets and other events

Sale of native plants supports BMCS initiatives to help reduce garden weeds and provide native habitats, as well as increased appreciation of local indigenous plants.

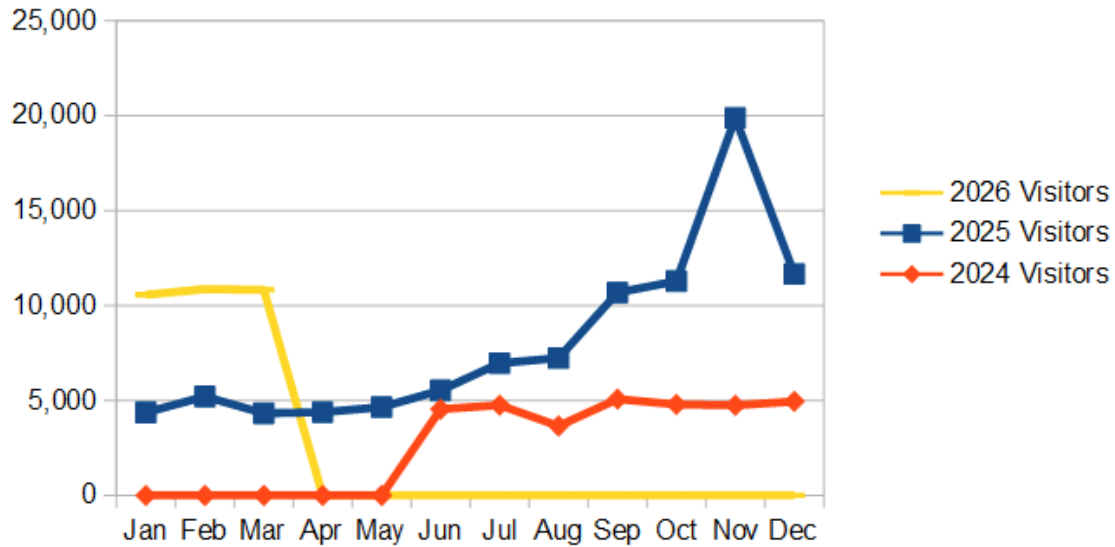


- Society Events promoted
- Submissions updated and Hut News posted
- Published Environmental Gardens Page & Environmental Weeds Page
- Programs for bushwalks and Plant Study Group
- Slide show added to home page
- Society Events and campaigns promoted
- Society YouTube channel
- Set up Microsoft Business basics account Received International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for Hut News from National Library
- Uploaded back copies of Hut News to National Library to 2019

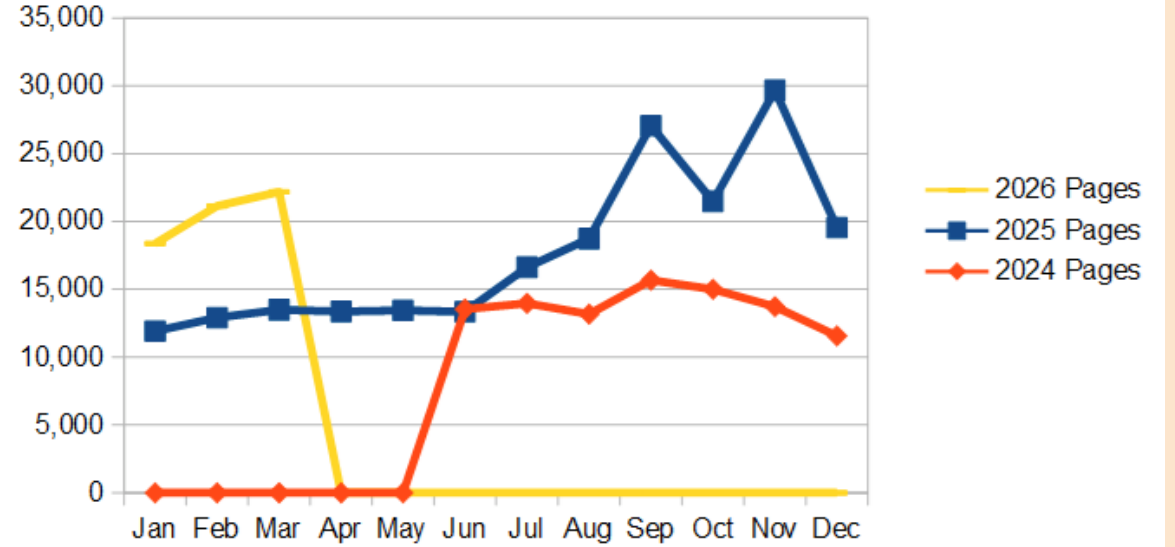
The screenshot shows the homepage of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. At the top left is the society's logo, which features a bird of prey perched on a branch, with the text "Blue Mountains Conservation Society" next to it. Below the logo are icons for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, an email envelope, and a magnifying glass. To the right of the logo is a large landscape photograph of a mountain valley, labeled "Butterbox Point" in the bottom right corner. Below the photograph is a navigation menu with links: "home", "about us", "activities", "campaigns", "conservation", "publications", and "resources". Underneath the menu is the society's mission statement: "Our mission is to help protect, conserve, and advocate for, the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains." Below the mission statement are three main content areas. On the left is a "membership" button. In the center is a call to action: "Like to receive campaign emails? Then add your name to our database". On the right is a "HUT NEWS" section, indicating it is the "April 2026 edition". Below these are four article teasers: 1. "Blue Mountains Not Just A Suburb of Sydney." with an aerial view of Katoomba and the address "142-150 Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba". 2. "Stop resort development in the Gardens of Stone" with a cartoon illustration of people and a speech bubble saying "...SO THEY CALL THIS SUSTAINABLE TOURISM WITHOUT HARVESTING THE LANDSCAPE!". 3. "Blue Mountains Wildlife Park" with a map of the proposed location and the text "This proposal is active again. Learn all about it here." 4. "2026 Society Events Calendar" with a photo of a sunset and the text "Support the Society by attending our events." A "TOP" button is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Website Officer

Visitors



Pages



Most visited pages

- Bushwalking
- Nursery
- Bushfires
- Katoomba SDD

NB no data prior to June 2024; 2026 data until March only

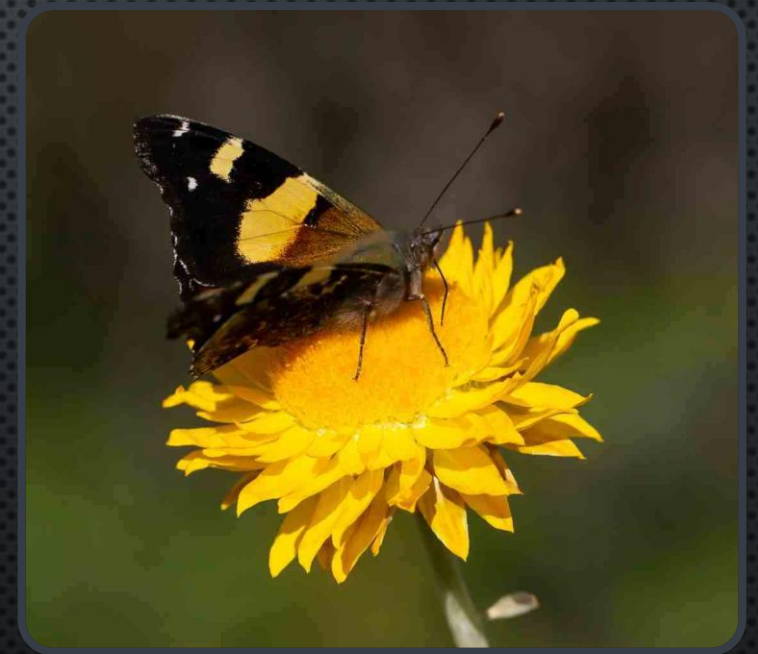
Website Officer

EDUCATION OFFICER

- Delivered school-focused “Re-imagining Conservation Challenge” in partnership with BMWHI.
- Supported Kindlehill School's Stage 6 “Bulgamatta: Connect to Protect” environmental program
- Community education initiatives to advance conservation awareness
- Conservation presentations and events at local schools
- Supported school participation in BMWHI Symposium 28 Nov



Wurmbea biglandulosa (Helel Yoxall)



Vanessa itea on *Xerochrysum bracteatum*
(Robin Murray)

NATIONAL PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE

Over nine submissions including:

- Inquiry into access restrictions to public lands and waterways
- Successful push to have some State Conservation Areas reclassified as National Parks or nature reserves.
- Additional work planned across 2026 to push for inclusion of remaining areas.
- Work with GOS Alliance on campaigns:
 - Centennial Coal's mine discharge into Cox's River;
 - Angus Place West mine expansion
 - campaign against private, luxury leases on pristine land.

Gardens of Stone Alliance Campaign

- GOS ALLIANCE AND 4NATURE
- CONTRACTOR ENGAGED FOR 26 WEEKS
- DRIVING THE GOS ALLIANCE'S CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT THE GOS AND SYDNEY'S DRINKING WATER CATCHMENTS FROM THE IMPACTS OF THE COAL INDUSTRY IN THE LITHGOW REGION.



Threatened Species Officer

Concrete study

- Studying effects of impacts of concrete on soils, natural vegetation and invasive weeds in sandstone.

Campaign for policy change in NPWS and BMCC to reduce use of environmentally harmful materials.



Pink Flannel Flower Robin Murray

Threatened Species Officer

Threatened flora surveys:

- Field work to locate new populations of species of threatened flora
- Contributes to management of species
- Includes the Dwarf Mountain Pine



Sprengelia monticola Liam Ramage

Threatened Species Officer

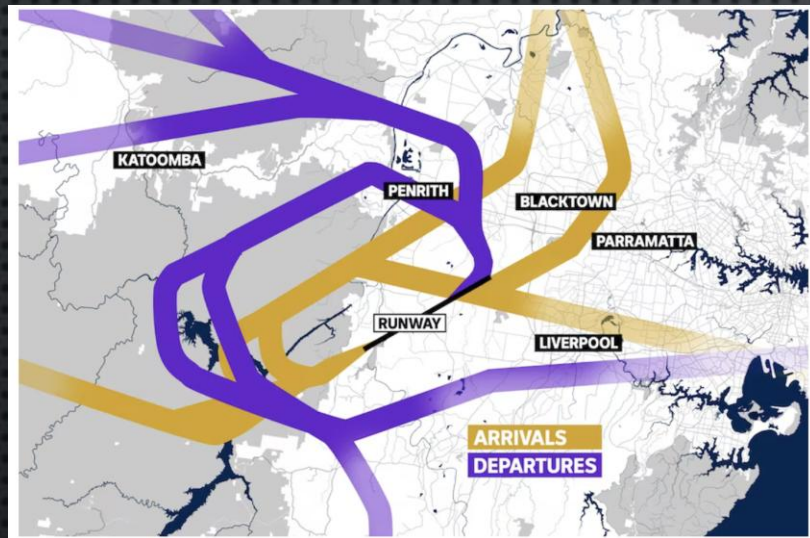
Consulting with community and
volunteers on:

- Threatened species
- Biodiversity
- Environmental issues
- Society campaigns
- Articles for Hut News



Isopogon fletcheri Phillip Gleeson

WSI AIRPORT IMPACTS ON GBMWHA



- WSI flight paths impact on Fauna and GBMWHA Outstanding Universal Value
- Senate Hearing No. 1 recommendation is to monitor the impacts of the flights on the native animals in the GBMWHA.
- Working with Uni Sydney, WSU, WSA and NPWS on monitoring of effects on fauna
- First cargo flights from WSI airport due in July 2026
- First passenger flights due November 2026.

LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE



Over 11 submissions on a range of matters including:

Helipad proposal Fairmont
Leura

State Significant Development
Narrow Neck Rd Katommba

Companion Animals Act

Trout in Wentworth Falls Lake

BMCC Draft cemeteries policy

Encroachment policy

Living Near the Bush

HOW TO SUPPORT NATURE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS



Blue Mountains Conservation Society

BUSHCARE

Second environmental weeds campaign to promote our message broader BM community.

Gazette advertising, radio interviews, social media posts, dedicated BMCS webpages for weeds and native gardens.

Revised and promoted "Living Near the Bush" to spread the Society's conservation message.

Led advocacy for restoration of highly degraded NPWS Gordon Creek, Leura.

Contributed to society events, items for Hut News, BM Gazette, submissions.

Governance Committee

- REVISION OF MC's:
 - PRINCIPAL PROTOCOL DOCUMENT
 - VISITOR PROTOCOL DOCUMENT
- COMMENCED:
 - UPDATING CONSTITUTION TO CONFORM WITH MODEL RULES, ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 2009 (NSW)
 - REVISION OF MC PROTOCOLS INCLUDING DONATIONS, COMPLAINTS.



Photo by Robin Murray



Regent Honeyeater (C)Bill Harding 2016 birdlifephotography.org.au

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Submissions including:

- Synthetic turf Summerhayes Oval.
- Renewable energy/energy transition
- Joined Mayoral Climate change reference group



Epacris reclinata (Jelena Emmerick)



BUSHWALKING

- DOUG NICHOLLS BUSHWALKING OFFICER
- 30% OF MEMBERS ARE BUSHWALKERS
- WALKS CATER TO A RANGE OF INTERESTS AND ABILITIES
- WALKS SCHEDULED EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY.
- HAROLD THOMPSON RETIRED FROM SATURDAY WALKS

- ❖ 30 active members
- ❖ Visits to:
 - ❖ Critically Endangered Cumberland Plains Ecological Community with Peter Cuneo
 - ❖ Mt Annan Botanic Gardens
 - ❖ Capertee Valley
- ❖ Expanding members knowledge, contributing to preservation of flora and fauna, sharing knowledge publicly.
- ❖ Work with BMCC bushcare networks (Coates Park and Sun Valley)
- ❖ 'Tread softly' motto and implement biosecurity measures to reduce spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* fungal spores



Deane's Bushcare Group with BMCC Bushcare staff and volunteers 2024

PLANT STUDY GROUP

See details of our trips on the BMCS website

❖ Examined:

- ❖ Newly discovered (2023) *Lomdandra briggsiana* at Glen Davies
- ❖ *Dodonaea multijuga* at Maiyingu Marrigu Aboriginal Place,
- ❖ *Hackelia latifolia* at Coates Park Bushcare site.



PLANT STUDY GROUP

See details of our trips on the BMCS website

Thank you for your participation!



