

WELCOME! 2025 Annual General Meeting



Southern Boobook (C)Andrew Crouch 2019 birdlifephotography.org.au

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Govetts Leap Photography by Ian Brown

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Christine
Davies

Heather
Hull

Jeanette
Robertson

Nathalie
Varellen

Tara
Cameron

Alan
Crooks

Elizabeth
Howard

Liam
Ramage

Jo Carroll

Annette
Cam

Andrew
Solomon

Peter Ardill

Paul Irwin

Madi
Maclean

Angela
Langdon

Annette
Sartor



BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY - AREA OF INTEREST



N

Bushcare and plant regeneration groups

E

Blue Mountains City Council

Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

T

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Blue Mountains Bird Observers

W

Lithgow Environment Group

Wilderness Australia

O

Nature Conservation Council

Blue Mountains Planetary Health Initiative

R

Sydney Basin Koala Network

K

Science for Wildlife (Blue Mountains Koala Project)

Hawkesbury Environmental Network

I

Residents Against Western Sydney Airport

National Parks Association

N

Bushwalking NSW

Planet Ark

G

Australian Conservation Foundation



Over twenty-nine
submissions / letters
2024/25

Written by:

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

SUBMISSIONS



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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Active members – 913

Bushwalkers – 36% of members

Breakdown:

Lower Mts 9%

Mid Mts 26%

Upper mountains 42%

Outside BM area 23%

50% new Members do not
renew after 1 - 2 years

Priorities for 2025-26:

- ❖ Ways to retain new members
- ❖ Developing more effective ICT infrastructure via new subcommittee.



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

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!

Eastern Yellow Robin (C)Stephen Garth 2015 birdlifephotography.org.au

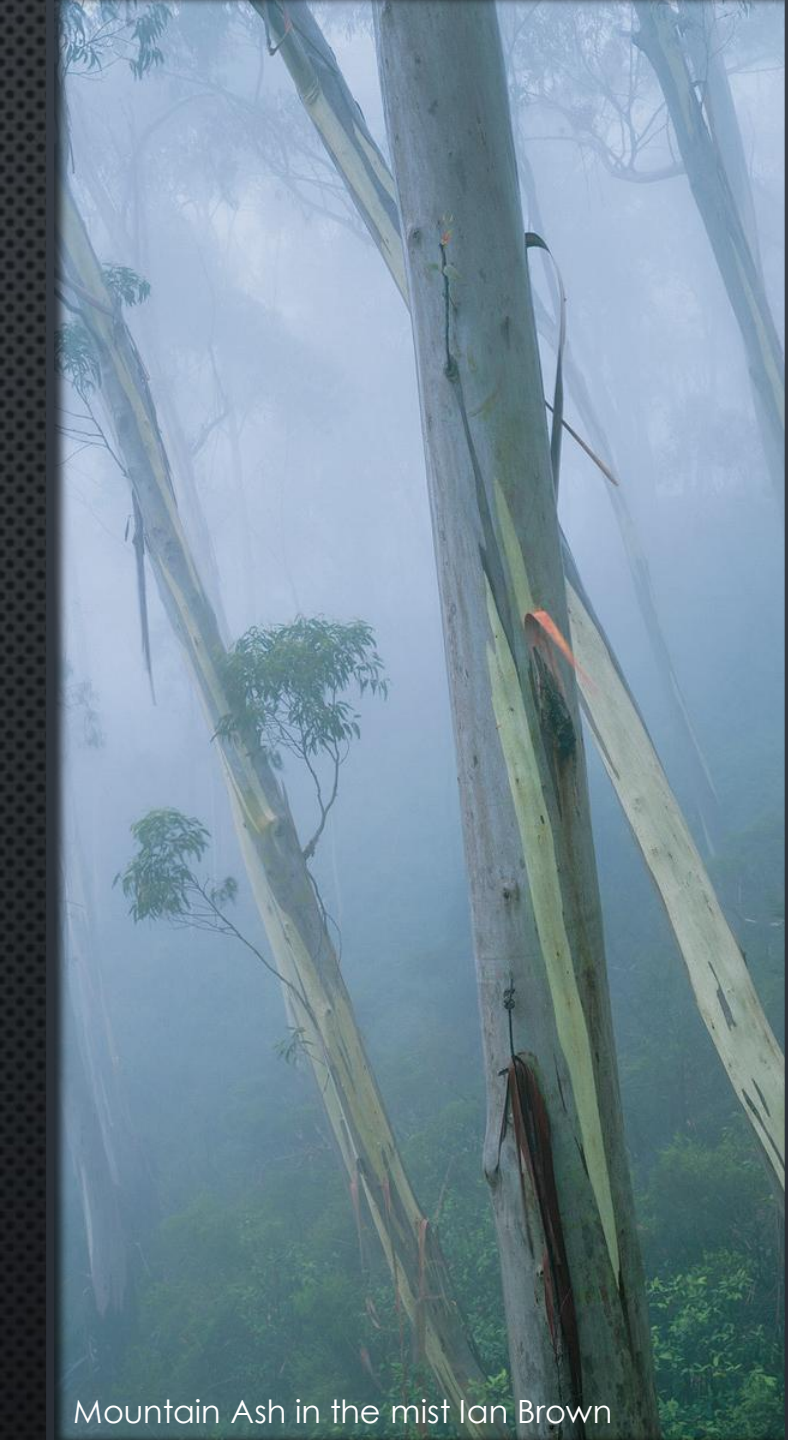
EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT

PROGRESS:

- Coordination of the management of events
- Working to be more inclusive of members and volunteer ideas
- Regular posting to Facebook and Instagram
- Increasing information sharing with other organisations focused on the GBMWhA
- Collaborating on rewrite of Living Near the Bush
- Creating a YouTube channel to disseminate our message



Blue Gum Forest Photo by Ian Brown



EVENTS COORDINATOR REPORT

CONCERNS:

- Membership engagement in events generally low – need to understand why
- Lack of information readily available to general public on conservation matters – working to address this
- BMCS is longstanding and politically influential but rather hidden from the community
- Volunteers scarce and we need to understand why
- Numerous organisations working on conservation and many people who are working hard to conserve our world. Can we be a link?

EVENTS 2024- 2025

- Four members nights at the Hut
- Mick dark talk for the future
- Wildlife real estate day
- Bat night, Australian Bird Storybox, Planetary Health Day, Sustainability Festival, World Animal Day, Springwood Spring Fair, Local Farmers Markets
- *Focus in 2025 is on events related to 25th anniversary of the inscription of the GBMA!*



Plant Nursery Report

Thank you to the many volunteers at the nursery and Paul Irwin for his leadership!

Improvements include: nursery WiFi, automatic watering system, new plant display labels, photos, QR code, new nursery truck, seed storage fridge, Square payment system.

Thank you also to support from MC!



WEBMASTER



Website - over
?? visitors daily



Society Events
promoted



Campaigns
detailed and
updated



Submissions
updated and
Hut News
posted



Environmental
Weeds Page



Programs for
bushwalks and
Plant Study
Group



Kids webpage



Community
noticeboard



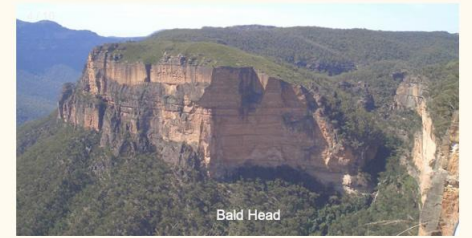
Slide show
added to
home page



Society
YouTube
channel



Blue Mountains
Conservation
Society



Bald Head

Celebrating 25 years of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

[home](#) [about us](#) [activities](#) [campaigns](#) [conservation](#) [publications](#) [resources](#)

Our mission is to help protect, conserve, and advocate for, the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

[membership](#)

Like to receive campaign emails?
[Then add your name to our database](#)

HUT NEWS
[March 2025 edition](#)

**World Heritage
25th Anniversary**
Understand it, connect with it
and protect it



Greater Blue Mountains World
Heritage Area © Tourism
Australia

[Click here to see details.](#)

**2025 Society Events
Calendar**



[Support the Society by
attending our events.](#)

**Environmental Weeds
in the Blue Mountains**
characteristics, threats,
management, identification



Environmental Weeds

[Click here to see details.](#)

**Support our
Native Plant Nursery**
local native plants at
economical prices



Native Plant Nursery

[Click here to see details.](#)



Alan Page

- Community outreach with community members
- Educational programs related to school curriculum and target audiences
- Advocacy and awareness raising activities
- Involvement in campaigns
- Building partnerships with likeminded groups
- Assisting with member events

EDUCATION OFFICER



Wurmbea biglandulosa (Helel Yoxall)



Vanessa itea on *Xerochrysum bracteatum*
(Robin Murray)

NATIONAL PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE

- Provides direction and action on many issues affecting GBMWA
- Submissions are on website
- Monitoring progress on Australian Heritage Council's assessment of additional values and 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.

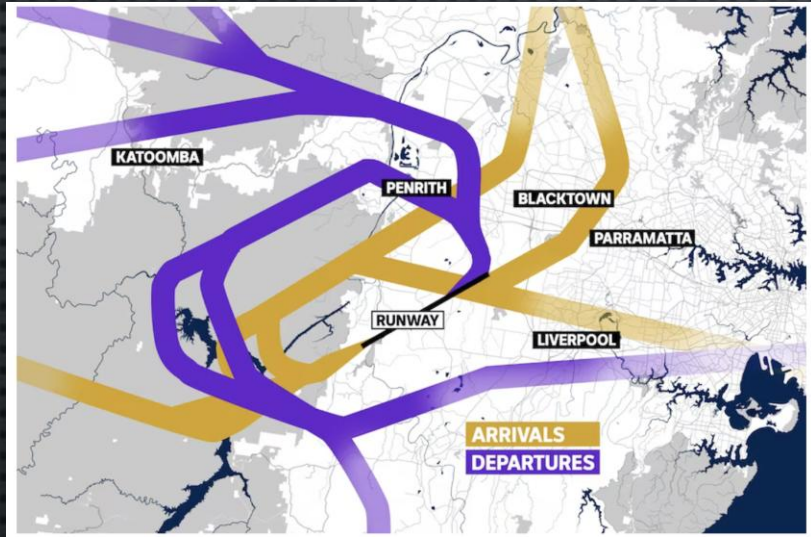
NATIONAL PARKS

- Threatened species – risks from concrete use near sensitive bushland.
- Maintaining community-based advisory committee for GBMWhA beyond June 2024
- Reclassify BM State conservation areas to Nature reserves or NP
- 25-year anniversary GBMWhA listing in Nov 2025. Organisation of events in celebration in liaison with other organisations.



Pink Flannel Flower Robin Murray

WSI AIRPORT IMPACTS ON GBMWHA



- WSI flight paths impact on Fauna and GBMWHA Outstanding Universal Value
- Worked with RAWSA and other local community groups on campaign
- Numerous meetings with/Submissions to MPs, Ministers King and Plibersek, Senators.
- Witness at Senate Hearing in Penrith
- Meeting with CEO WSA Co.
- Working with BMWHI, Uni Sydney and NPWS on monitoring of effects on fauna

LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE



Cat containment

Wildlife Park Wentworth Falls

Trout in Wentworth Falls Lake

Low and mid-rise housing
reforms

BUSHCARE

Prepared and implemented a 2024-25 spring/summer environmental weeds campaign.

Positive feedback from BMCS members, community and professional environment managers.

MP Trish Doyle recently acknowledged the importance of weed management in parliament.

Prepared 13 submissions and letters on environmental weed management issues, NSW nature laws and Commonwealth environmental law reform.

Supported BMCS members and general public with enquiries and environmental management issues.



Cordyline Banksia streamlet
Katoomba Peter Ardill



Feral Arum Lily Lawson Peter Ardill

Environmental weeds

Don't delay,
excavate a
weed or
two today!

Blue Mountains swamps store vast quantities of water, and keep our local streams and waterfalls flowing, even during dry periods.

Tulsi is a declared environmental weed, and has infested many Blue Mountains swamps. Tulsi overwhelms indigenous swamp vegetation, including ferns, sedges, orchids and herbs.

How can you help?

- Consider removing or controlling any environmental weeds on your property
- Avoid purchasing or sharing weed species
- Buy the local native plants available at:
 - Conservation Society Nursery (Blackheath Growers Market),
 - Wildplant Rescue Nursery (Katoomba),
 - Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve and Nursery.



Tulsi, Water Nymphs Deer Swamp, Wentworth Falls 2024

For weed lists, illustrations and management advice, scan the QR code, or go to www.bluemountains.org.au/environmental-weeds.shtml

Thank you for helping to protect our magnificent Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



The Blue Mountains Conservation Society recognises that the Blue Mountains is located within the Country of the Dharug and Bundjalung peoples. We recognise that the Dharug and Bundjalung Traditional Owners have a continuous and deep connection to their Country, which is of great cultural significance to Aboriginal people.



Blue Mountains Conservation Society
www.bluemountains.org.au

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Submissions:
 - Council Net Zero Draft Plan
 - NSW Plastic: a way forward
 - Letter to Council on artificial turf
- Joined Mayoral Climate change reference group
- Assisted with sustainability festival in September



Calochilus robertsonii (Robin Murray)



BUSHWALKING

- DOUG NICHOLLS BUSHWALKING OFFICER
- 36% OF MEMBERS ARE BUSHWALKERS
- WALKS CATER TO A RANGE OF INTERESTS AND ABILITIES
- WALKS SCHEDULED EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY
- DOUG IS HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN WORKING WITH BMCC TO HAVE TRACKS UPGRADED

- ❖ 30 active members
- ❖ Visits to:
 - ❖ Critically Endangered Cumberland Plains Ecological Community
 - ❖ Blue Mountains swamps, Glenbrook Lagoon and Faulconbridge Mallee Ridge
 - ❖ Deanei Reserve, Springwood
 - ❖ Snow Gum Woodlands on Mt Bindo at Hampton
- ❖ Expanding members knowledge, contributing to preservation of flora and fauna, sharing knowledge publicly.
- ❖ Margaret Baker led a Beginner's Botanical Course for members 2024.
- ❖ Work with BMCC bushcare networks.
- ❖ 'Tread softly' motto and implement biosecurity measures to reduce spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* fungal spores



PLANT STUDY GROUP

See details of our trips on the BMCS website

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- DEVELOPMENT OF OVERALL SOCIETY'S STRATEGIC PLAN
- FOCUS ON IMPROVED COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS AND WIDER COMMUNITY
- FOCUS ON EDUCATION OF COMMUNITY
- ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL PLANNING



Thank you for your participation!

