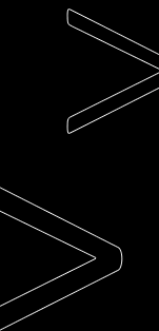


*WELCOME! 2024 AGM*



# 2024 Annual General Meeting President's report



# MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023-24

Christine  
Davies

Heather  
Hull

Jeanette  
Robertson

Nathalie  
Varellen

Tara  
Cameron

Alan Page

Elizabeth  
Howard

Hayley  
Poynton

Ross  
Coster

Paul Vale

Paul Irwin

Madi  
Maclean

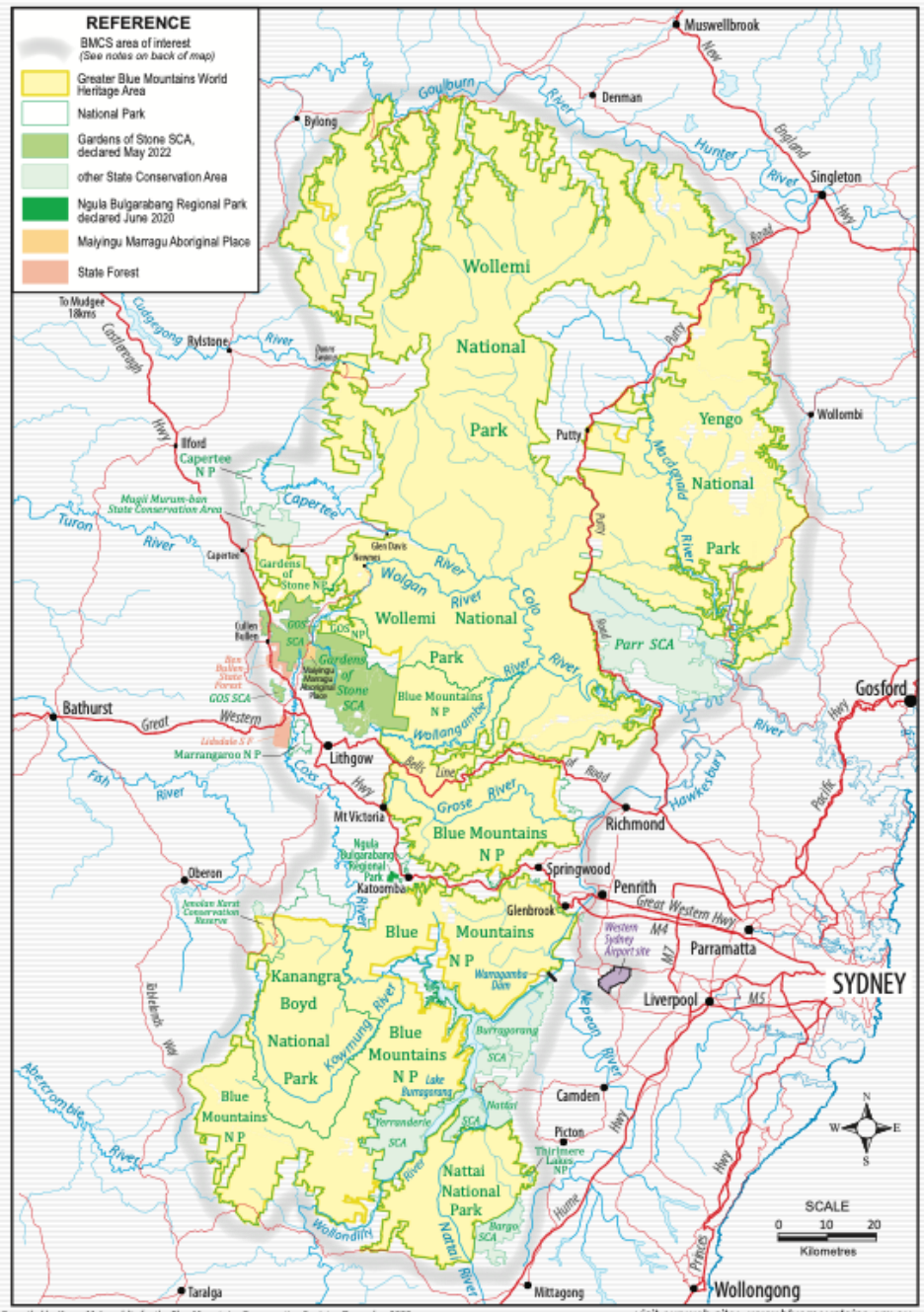
Angela  
Langdon

Annette  
Cam

Andrew  
Solomon



# BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY - AREA OF INTEREST



# Networking

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Bushcare and plant regeneration groups

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Faunal study and conservation groups such as Blue Mountains Bird Observers

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Lithgow Environment Group

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Wilderness Australia

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Nature Conservation Council

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Total Environment Centre

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Sydney Basin Koala Network

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Science for Wildlife (Blue Mountains Koala Project)

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Better Planning Network

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Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

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Residents Against Western Sydney Airport

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National Parks Association

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Environmental Defenders Office

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Bushwalking NSW

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Blue Mountains City Council

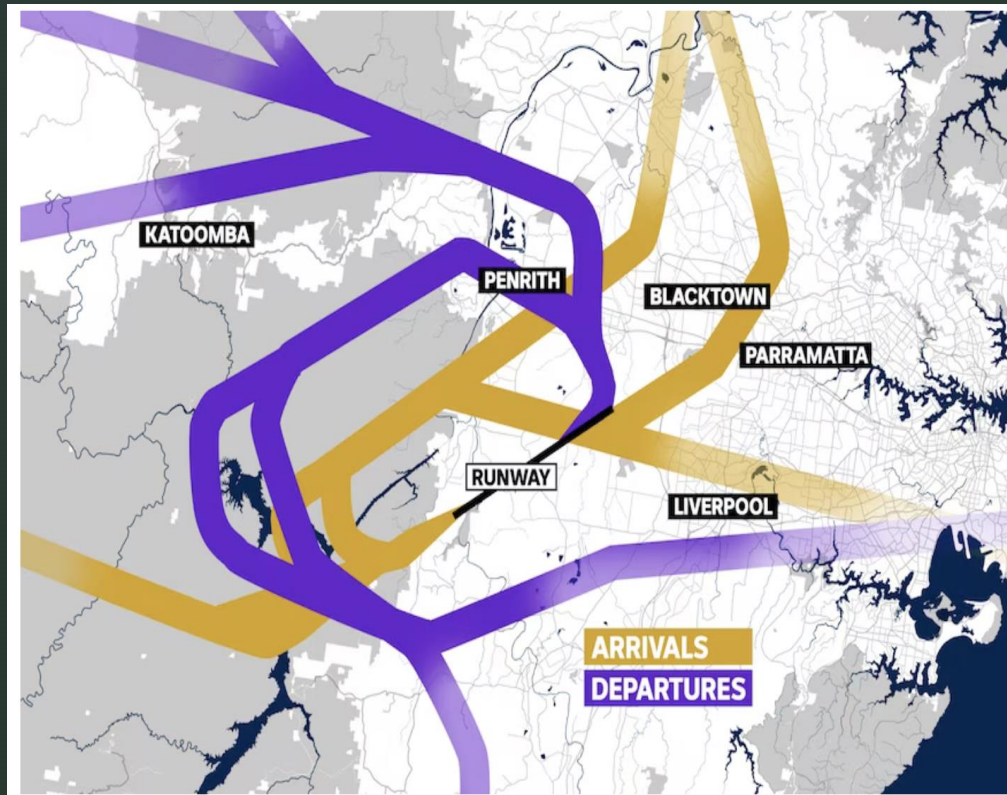
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NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

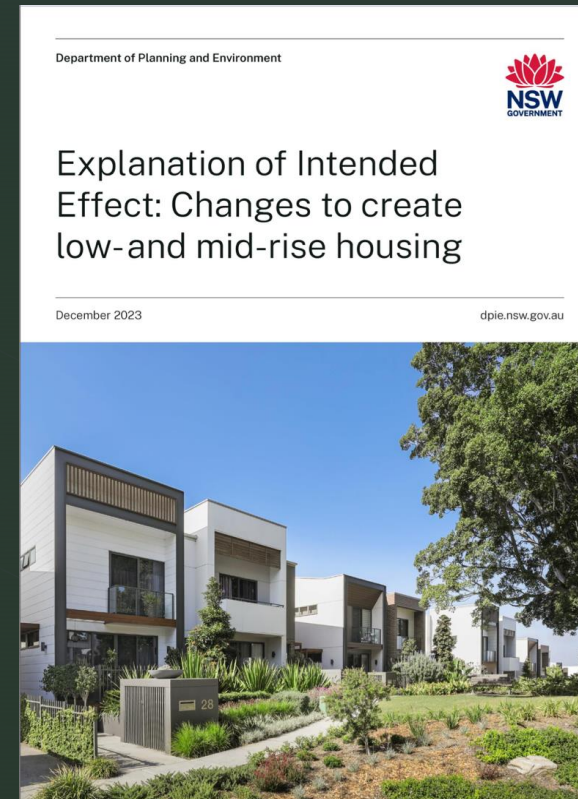


# Submissions

WSI airport



Housing reforms



# Submissions

Twenty –four  
submissions / letters to  
Government 2023/24

Written by:

- National Parks Subcommittee
- Land Use subcommittee
- Individual MC members
- Input from members with relevant expertise



*Photo by Paul Vale*

## Membership Secretary

Active members - 863

Bushwalkers - 301

Upper mountains largest  
percentage of members

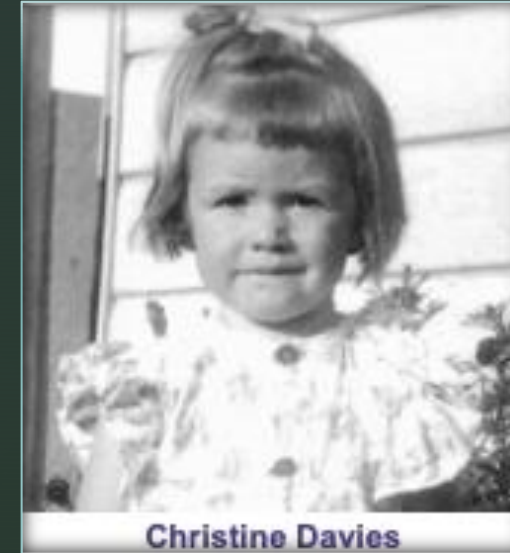
Forty-eight per cent of  
members hear about us  
through a friend; 18 per cent  
through web search, 10 per  
cent each through Gazette  
article or from Conservation  
Hut.





# Hut News

- Christine leads a small and effective team
- Eleven issues per year
- Contribution by members
- Stories, poems, updates, kids page, photos, natural history.
- Paper or electronic copies sent to members
- On the website



Christine Davies

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. 

# HUT NEWS

*"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"*

Issue No. 422  
March 2024 

**Blue Mountains Conservation Society**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 6.30 PM**  
**at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts**  
**Cnr GWH & Adele Ave, Wentworth Falls**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March.  
(See Notice of AGM on page 6.)

Please come along and support your Society. Vote for a management committee to serve the Society in a voluntary capacity for the coming year. Consider nominating for a position. Learn what the Society has been doing in the past.

**Our Management Committee**

Members of the management committee are ordinary members of Blue Mountains Conservation Society who put up their hand and are willing to work as a volunteer for 12 months to help with the work of the Society to "conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains and to increase awareness of the natural environment in general".

Read our Mission Statement:  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) - 'About Us'

At the AGM we will elect a Management Committee for the coming year.

# Events - *over the past year:*

- Ten events held over the past year, including:
- Winter Magic Festival
- Nest boxes for wildlife
- Bat night
- Cat forum
- Mick Dark Talk for the Future
- Back to the Hut in October 23
- Sunset Gathering
- General Meetings at the Hut
- Thanks to the event team led by Andrew Solomon



Belle Butler

# Plant Nursery Report

Retails sales increased from \$19,594 in 2022/23 to \$22,330 this year.

From October last year, selling more mature plants increased market sales.

Total sales slightly less than last year.

We are working with BMCC to locate a new nursery site

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



# Webmaster and Environmental Education



Website - over 800 visitors daily



Society Events promoted



Campaigns detailed



Submissions and Hut News posted



Programs for bushwalks and Plant Study Group



Kids webpage



Community noticeboard



Talks to school groups, distribution of *Blue Mountains Nature – an introduction* (Alan Page)





## National Parks Subcommittee

- Fortnightly meetings
- Provides direction and action on many issues affecting GBMNP and WHA
- Submissions as per website
- Warragamba Dam wall / WSI
- Monitoring progress on Australian Heritage Council's assessment of additional values and areas
- Work with GOS Alliance on countering Centennial Coal's mine discharge into Cox's River
- GOS – abandonment of zip lines, ferrata and other infrastructure

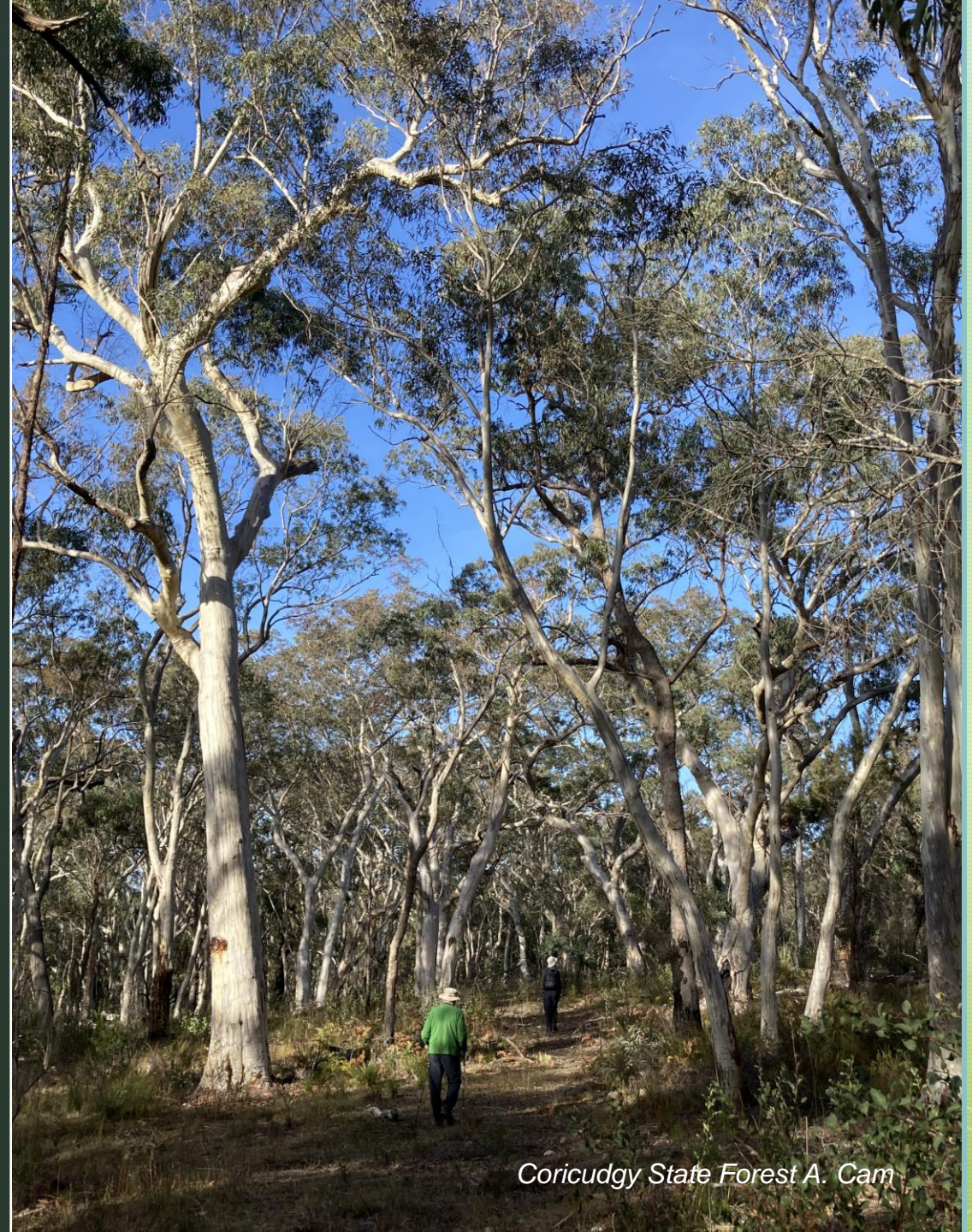
## Additional Areas and values GBMWA

- List of additional areas and values sent to Australian Heritage Council for assessment.

- The assessment will consider values related to:

Geodiversity, aesthetic, historic, Indigenous cultural value, biodiversity related to additional areas

- Slow process to have these evaluated



Coricudgy State Forest A. Cam

# Land Use Subcommittee



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Responses to NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act and NW Native Species Management Review

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Highway widening and tunnel

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Zoo/hotel Wentworth Falls

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campaign against "Zombie" developments

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Trout in Wentworth Falls Lake

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Katoomba Golf Course and town plans

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Housing reforms

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# Bushcare

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Work continues in areas such as Popes Glen, Valley of the Waters, Green Gully, The Gully Garguree Swampcare, Centenary Reserve

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Bushcare voluntary members 400+



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Participation in Clean Up Australia Day

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Increased positive reactions from local communities to natural bushland

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Recent rain and warm weather has resulted in explosion of seed germination and growth both of weeds and native plants

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Revival of air monitor research program

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▪ *Photos by Paul Vale*





## Sustainability and Climate Change

- Working with BMCC and community groups
- Advocating for BM transition from gas and end to coal
- Attendance at Net Zero Workshop
- Roy Tasker talk – Biochar
- Support Planetary Health



# Bushwalking

- Doug Nicholls Bushwalking Officer
- Bus contracts with BMCC rewritten
- Resumed regularly hiring BMCC buses
- 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

Regular monthly outings

Plant surveys

Reports in Hut News and on website



*Epacris rigida* (Sue Nicol)



Photo Liz McQueen

## Plant Study Group



# Conservation Hut

- Reopened in 2023
- Back to the Hut meeting in October 2023
- NP Subcommittee negotiated with NPWS over 12 months to ensure we keep our access
- Jeanette and Alan sorting out the ConSoc office

# Strategic Planning

- New MC subcommittee
- Purpose is to provide direction to MC on strategic planning
- Incorporates work from annual Planning Days
- Development of overall Society's Strategic Plan
- Issues of governance and financial planning



# Strategic Planning

- Focus on improved communication with members and wider community
- Develop an overarching strategic plan within which our other plans will sit
- Financial budget structured to reflect strategic directions and achievement of outcomes



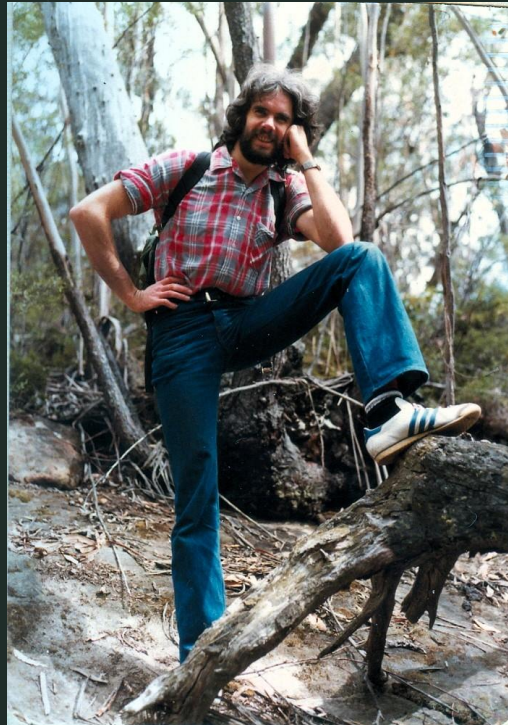
# Strategic Planning

- General Meeting suggested for 2023 did not occur
- My apologies for this
- General Meeting to discuss issues related to funds will be scheduled for later in 2024
- Plan to hold GM within the next 4 months



## People leaving the Management Committee

Hayley Poyton Publicity Officer for 2023-4. Thank you Hayley for your assistance over the past 12 months.



Ross Coster age 26

Ross Coster  
Membership Secretary

Paul Vale  
Bushcare Officer



*Thank you for your participation!*

