

# HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"



## November General Meeting

**World Heritage: Blue Mountains and Solomon Islands — Indigenous Perspectives.** This will be the subject of a talk by Jim Smith at our general meeting on Friday 24 November.

Jim Smith has travelled extensively in Melanesia over the last 30 years including three lengthy visits to the Solomon Islands. He will be talking about the sites proposed for World Heritage in the Solomons and in particular the Marova Lagoon which has been seen as having World Heritage potential for about the same length of time as the Greater Blue Mountains. Jim will contrast the politics and community issues involved in attempting to list both sites and in particular look at the views of the "tribes" that live in and around them.

Jim will be attending the Australia Icomos "World Heritage. Where Are We At" conference in Canberra before the talk and will discuss the findings of the conference. The talk will be illustrated with Jim's slides of the Solomon Islands which have never been shown in public before.

The meeting at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, starts at 7.30 pm. Visitors are welcome.

## Challenging and Extending Community Consultation:

A Forum with workshops, on Saturday 2 December, all day, cost \$75, at the Centre for Popular Education, UTS, 1 Quay St, opp. Haymarket Monorail Station, organised by the Centre for Popular Education, UTS.

During the 1990s, consultation became a buzzword in Australia as the environment movement became a key stakeholder in a huge number of consultation processes at local, regional, state and federal levels. Ecologically sustainable development, water quality, water conservation, vegetation management, transport, tourism, urban development, air quality, greenhouse — the list goes on. After years of participation in this process, many activists (including some members of Blue Mountains Conservation Society!) are saying they have been 'consulted to death' only then to be ignored, and that consultation is simply a management tool of governments.

THE DEADLINE  
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS  
FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2000

## Sustaining the Catchments

The Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning has just released for public exhibition a new Draft Regional Environment Plan with the catchy title of "Sustaining The Catchments". This plan covers the Sydney drinking water catchments and includes large areas of the Blue Mountains. The intent of the plan to is to protect and repair the drinking water catchments to avoid another 'water scare' as seen in 1998 when *Giardi* and *Cryptosporidium* were found in Sydney's drinking water.

This is a vitally important document which the Water Cycle Sub-Committee has been following closely. The Water Cycle Sub-Committee will of course be preparing a submission on the Draft REP, but we encourage members to write personal submissions as well. The document is available on the DUAP Web Site at: [www.duap.nsw.gov.au/drinkingwater](http://www.duap.nsw.gov.au/drinkingwater), or by phoning 1300 363 506.

There are also a series of public meetings being conducted, which we urge you to attend:

- Blue Mountains Council Chambers, Katoomba, Tuesday 14-Nov-2000, 7pm to 8:30pm;
- Lithgow Workmens Club, Tank Street Lithgow, Monday 13-Nov-2000, 7pm to 8:30pm,

Please attend if you can. *Ross Coster, Water Cycle Sub-Committee.*

This forum is designed to explore the purpose and pitfalls of consultation, particularly for the Australian environment movement and to look at other options for partnership and political change.

Key speakers and their themes for the forum are: Dr Lyn Carson: Innovative Consultation Processes and the Changing Roles of Activism; Rick Farley: Constructing Community Alliances.

Panel-led discussions will include environmental activists who have participated in and learned from a range of participatory processes including consultation, negotiation and collaboration.

To find out more about this empowering forum, contact the CPE's website on [cpe@uts.edu.au](mailto:cpe@uts.edu.au) or phone on 02-9514 3843.

## Gorse Workday

Join us on a workday at Blackheath on Saturday 25 November to eradicate Gorse on private land which is encroaching on the Popes Glen Bushcare site.

Private land owners are required by law to control this noxious weed on their property. This is often done by slashing or spraying, neither of which are effective or desirable in the long-term. On the workday, a BMCC Gorse Education Officer will be discussing the problems and demonstrating effective removal techniques.

Do you have gorse on your property? This is an opportunity to come along and learn how to remove it. Do you have a few hours to spare on 25 November? Help make an effort against this terrible noxious weed and help protect Popes Glen against reinfestation.

For more information contact Bushcare Officer Laura Hays (4782.7692), but showing up on the day is all you need to do! Meet on the corner of Clarence Road and Fourth Street (turn left into Clarence Road off Govett's Leap Road). Work will be carried out between 9 am and 1 pm.

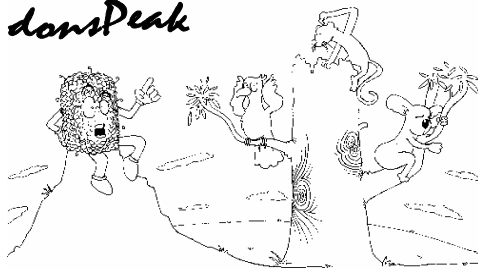
## Bushcare Christmas Party

Sunday 3 December, 12 noon onwards, at Megalong Valley Hall.

BBQ food and drinks supplied. BYO cutlery, plate and cup.

Come along and enjoy a great bush picnic. More info. Christine 4787.7246.

"Hut News", the newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.  
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**Beyond the Fringe**

Several members spent up to six days walking with me between Wheeny Creek and Mount Victoria, in October. The watercourses with undisturbed headwaters are startlingly superior to those on the main Blue Mountains Range — deep pools, no scouring and diverse, weed-free riparian vegetation. Lyrebirds and whipbirds were our constant day-time companions, with boobook owls, sugar gliders and (possibly) one yellow-bellied glider at night.

We traced fire trails and old stock routes and logging roads, some of which barely still existed. Special thanks to those who helped us prepare but couldn't do all the walk, including J Thompson, H. Coster, R Mosman, P Gill and J Truscott. Watch this newsletter for further adventurous proposals.

**Marketing an Eco-Experience**

Former Federal Environment Minister Barry Cohen is well advanced with plans to open an electric-fenced commercial sanctuary at Calga, near Gosford. His proposal is similar to Dr John Wamsley's idea for the Lithgow district, but in a more accessible location to the Sydney population. It remains to be seen how many ventures of this kind even a market the size of Sydney can sustain.

**Dracula Minds the Blood Bank?**

Total Environment Centre's Frances Kelly has criticised a plan to co-opt Four Wheel Drive organisations in management and monitoring of some 'Service Vehicle only' roads in National Parks. Breaking down 'anti-access for vehicles' policies has been a major goal of these organisations for a long time. Still, many green organisation members own four-wheel drive vehicles too. So perhaps we could be given vehicle access to the forbidden forest roads also. Then we and the FWD clubs could monitor each other's environmental behaviour in a 'holier than thou' contest to find out whether or not Dracula had been let into the blood bank. (P.S. Is the above a poor substitute for adequate NPWS staffing levels?) *Don Morison.*

**Cement Mixers for Sale**

The Society no longer requires its electric 2 cu.ft cement mixer. This stalwart of the Blackheath Nursery has provided sterling service for five years, and has never been used for making cement! It's as clean as a whistle, and is a steal at \$200. Invest in this quality product now, and repay your outlay in no time flat. Ring me to discuss arrangements for transport. *David Coleby, BMCS Nursery Manager, 4784.1395.*

**Active Outdoor Recreation**

Members of the Society have been busy investigating the issue of climbing/abseiling developments in the Blue Mountains. A recent example of an unauthorised development on private land has raised issues of where is the appropriate location for such intensively used sites and how can they be managed to minimise the impacts. A discussion paper is being developed, so if you'd like to contribute to our position on this please contact Lyndal. In order to increase our understanding of what can happen to a climbing/abseiling area which gets high use, a trip has been planned for Sunday November 5th at 9.30 am at Mt York.

We are very pleased to see that Council has agreed to look into the environmental impacts of active recreational activities covering not only rock-climbing and abseiling, but also mountain bike riding, trail bike riding, horse riding and canyoning. It will be looking into the appropriate locations for these activities and also standards to ensure proper management.

Members who are interested in working on these issues are asked to contact the Land Use committee soon. The work done to date on the discussion paper for rock-climbing and abseiling may be readily adapted for these other activities. Please ring Lyndal Sullivan on 4782 1635 or email [lyndalsullivan@telstra.easymail.com.au](mailto:lyndalsullivan@telstra.easymail.com.au)

**New Developments Not Checked for Environmental Impact**

Since 1979, Environmental Planning & Assessment Act has required Councils to consider "the environmental impacts on ...the natural environment" of all developments. How is Blue Mountains City Council doing this without any staff with environmental qualifications in the Health and Development section?

The Society has been concerned that all new developments are not routinely checked for environmental impacts by an environmentally trained officer. Councillors voted (10/10/00) on a recommendation to have a further report, into the cost to employ a qualified staff member to do this, before the preparation of next year's budget.

The councillors who voted against this report were: Clr Terri Hamilton, Clr Jim Angel, Clr Chris Van der Kley, Clr Colleen Kime, Clr Daniel Myles and Clr Jeff Egan.

Why can't these Councillors from the City in the National Park see the importance of proper environmental assessment?

With the introduction of the new LEP 2000 which has been heralded as being a progressive LEP, bringing more environmental safeguards, surely there is a need for someone adequately qualified to undertake environmental assessments?

One recent example of where the environment has suffered from the lack of such a person is adjacent to Minne HaHa Falls Reserve, North Katoomba where a new house is being built. The hanging swamp was slashed. Whilst this area is not zoned in any way to identify

the sensitivity of the swamp, the Act requires that Council should take account of such environmental features. The development approval conditions should have included some requirement that the owners protect it. Did it? It is not reasonable to expect a building inspector to pick up on this matter, but someone with experience in environmental management could not have missed the importance of a hanging swamp.

**Broombusters!**

For the last two years I've letterboxed in the Peter Carroll field area with a tiny flier stapled to a piece of flowering broom, and got help to cut and paint broom in the area. Is there anyone who could meet with me on a dry day and do it? I've seen the devastation caused by broom in the Adelaide Hills and want to keep it under control here.

Contact Shirley Lewis 4782.7370, email [shirley\\_lewis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:shirley_lewis@optusnet.com.au).

**Dealing with the Media**

**Date:** Saturday, 11 November, 10-4.  
**Venue:** Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson

In this one-day workshop you can learn:

- How to write a press release.
- How to crystallise your idea.
- How to turn that idea into a story.
- What happens to your story once it hits the media.
- How to improve your chances of getting your story in.
- Other ways of getting your message across. And
- Ways to help your story survive the sub-editor's pen or mouse.

Bookings are essential. To get more information and to make bookings, please ring Michael Burlace on 4758 9285 or email [michael@burlace.com.au](mailto:michael@burlace.com.au) (See October Hut News for more information.)

**Inspiring Talks at Meeting**

At our October general meeting guest speakers Nigel Bell, Robert Johnson, Hilary James and Paul Curtis, winners in the Blue Mountains City Council Business Awards for Environmental Care 2000, told how they put into practice their belief in living and working in an environmentally sustainable way. Their sincerity and commitment to their work practices was inspiring. It was an enjoyable and relaxed meeting.

Also at the meeting, a young woman, Madeleine, from Nature Conservation Council presented a very thorough understanding of Sydney Water Catchment policy and practice. Her knowledge and enthusiasm gave me great hope for the future because of these young people coming through to take up the environmental cause. *Meredith Brownhill.*

<p><b>Membership Enquiries</b>                  Contact Ross Coster                  (Phone - Work) 02 4759.1247                  (Phone - Home) 02 4759.1837                  (Fax) 02 4759.1095                  (Email) <a href="mailto:haytech@pnc.com.au">haytech@pnc.com.au</a>                  (Post) PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782</p>
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## Fire and Biodiversity

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, has been used as a term to mean diversity of life on earth, the range of variation among living things, or genetic diversity, or species richness: the number of different species in a given site, habitat or defined geographic region (Burgman & Lindenmayer 1998). Biodiversity can also include variation in habit or structure and ranges in age classes of species or populations.

Wildfire is an integral component of the regional ecosystem in which we live and much of the vegetation in the City of Blue Mountains is fire-adapted and therefore highly flammable. The climatic window of opportunity for wildfire occurrence is generally narrower in the Blue Mountains than in other parts of Australia and the world, however large-scale high-intensity fires can and do occur relatively regularly. Fire can have an influence on biodiversity, depending on frequency or temporal pattern, intensity, season, and pattern or spatial distribution. Post-fire weather patterns and post-fire herbivore predation also have a bearing on how fire affects biodiversity.

High frequency fire, resulting in the disruption of life cycle processes in plants and animals and loss of vegetation structure and composition, has now been listed as a threatening process in the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. It is high-frequency fire that is primarily of concern for the conservation of biodiversity and the practice of prescribed burning can be counter to the conservation of biodiversity: it can lead to loss of species diversity in the areas treated. As little as two ill-timed burns can change the species composition in an area, depending upon other factors.

The main problems for conservation of species occur when burns are an inappropriate intensity, or are conducted in an unsuitable season, for optimal regeneration of the range of species

present in the area: ie for germination of seed, growth of seedlings and maturation of plants; and when burns are conducted at a frequency that selects against obligate seeders — and even against many species of vegetative resprouters — thus depleting populations and ultimately causing local extinctions of species (Bradstock 1993:116-118; Keith 1995:34-37).

Post-burn herbivory in small patch burns could eventually lead to species extinctions within a fuel reduction mosaic (Williams and Gill 1995:24). Post-burn climate can also be a crucial factor in seedling survival (Whelan 1995:195-196). Another impact on vegetation occurs when seed stock of invasive exotic species is present in the area: burning tends to select for some weed species. Burns can thus initiate germination of weed species and provide a suitable environment for rapid development. Subsequent burns can exacerbate this situation, leading to dominance of the flora by weed species and eventual replacement of the indigenous species. — *Stuart James, Bushland Management Officer, Blue Mountains City Council, Environmental Management.*

## Welcome to New Members

Fernanda Duarte, Blackheath  
Alison and John Kniha, Warrimoo  
Shayne Manewell, Springwood  
Douglas Bateman, Katoomba  
Shirley Lewis, Katoomba  
Jules Martin, Wentworth Falls  
Shirley Gosson, Winmalee  
Sharon Laurence, Springwood

## Spring and the Bushfire

*"Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds has come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree putteth forth her green figs and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."*

*Could we wish for a more beautiful description of Spring than this? A love song truly! But is not Spring Nature's love song? Life surges and throbs anew and will not be denied. The flowers unfold their beauty, decking the earth in rainbow colours, but amongst these gold holds pride of place. Gold covers the hillsides and carpets the valleys, glows in the dark places, and from the high ridges flings back the radiance of the sun.*

*The birds are singing and calling with a new note of urgency, and could they put it into words, this love song of Solomon might well be their own — "The winter is past, the flowers appear on the earth; rise up, my fair one, and come away". So each calls to its mate as they diligently seek out a safe and hidden spot in which to secrete the home in which their precious eggs shall be*

## Greenhouse Corner

### Workshop on Sustainable Energy Policy

The Sustainable Energy Sub-Committee has written a draft Sustainable Energy Policy for members to comment on. Thanks to those members who have asked for copies to date.

We will be holding a workshop to discuss and hopefully finalise the policy, on Tuesday 21 November, at the Mid Mountains Community Centre in Lawson, starting at 7:00pm.

We are arranging to have some guest speakers to tell us about sustainable energy initiatives, and will provide supper.

Please come along and have your say. If you can't come but would like to comment on the draft policy, contact me and I will send you a copy. *Ross Coster.*



*cradled. Here the little hammock cradle is hidden in the thick foliage of a pendant branch, there is amongst the bushes and ferns, or under a tussock of grass, or again is camouflaged to look like the branch against which it rests. And look at the designs! Some mere flimsy platforms of sticks, others beautifully woven by the industrious little architects, who have no tools but their beaks! Some are open cup shaped cradles, others roofed over and with a verandah over the side entrance. Sticks, grass and bark, thistle down and spider web and feathers and mud, all these and more, are used as building material. There is no monotony in birddom.*

*To wander in the bush at this time, is to wander in an enchanted land, where we may buy "wine and milk without money and without price". Here the spirit may drink deep of beauty, and harmony, and the cadences of song and sweet perfume are food indeed. The bitternesses of life, and its difficulties are forgotten, as on the wings of this love song of nature, we too, "rise up and come away". But then, oh then—! A lighted match, a smouldering cigarette, an unextinguished fire, the work of a careless human hand, and with the wind the embers are fanned to action. Great leaping tongues of flame snatch hungrily at the bushes and ferns, and bring forest giants crashing to the ground. For days the fire rages, a devouring, roaring inferno, belching out dense clouds of smoke; the earth like a Garden of Eden before it, and behind a desolate, mourning waste. All the loveliness has gone, and the homes of the birds with their precious contents of eggs or little helpless baby things, have been offered up, a sacrifice to the cruel god of careless, selfish indifference. The love song of spring is changed into a dirge of death and bereavement.*

*Ruth Schleicher, Hazelbrook.  
(Katoomba Daily, October 1936)*

## Birds

Down the shady deep fern gullies  
Falls the clear creek sparkling by,  
Over rocks through mossy arches  
Where the fallen tree trunks lie.

Turpentine and towering Coachwoods  
Sassafras and Blackbutts tall  
Shelter Currawong and Whipbird  
And resound with Magpie's call.

Here the tiny tit and Blue wren  
Nimbly flit from limb so low  
And the Turpentine liana  
Coils around the leafy bough.

In the cool Cathedral dankness  
Of the forest dome so high,  
Pungen smell of leaf mould  
Incense like, rises to the sky.

Night falls soon in this creation  
Before the sun fades in the West  
Far below in the deep rain forest  
Birds go early to their nest.

Bob Jones, 1999.

## Weekend Bushwalks

Thanks to Matthew Martin who has put together a great bushwalks program this month. We are looking forward to good support from Society walkers in the summer. Phone Martin on 4782.4218 and suggest a walk that you can lead.

## Backyard First

I want to share with you what has become a very personal and empowering experience. My partner and I live in Warrimoo. We are both committed conservationists but recent events have allowed me time to do something more. I have been clearing about half an acre of weed-infested land between our block and the National Park.

I was motivated to do this because I see management of our land as the cost we must bear for the privilege of living in such a place. I couldn't embark on a locally-based reserve project before I could look out the back and see bush.

I wanted to: **1. Remove the weeds.** In the target area we were looking at bamboo (the species that inspired me), yellow jasmine, privet, blackberry, jacaranda and another creeper I'm not sure about as well as other less dangerous species like blue spruce, maple and other 'ornamentals'; and **2. Replace them with plant species as close as possible to what exists in the adjacent bushland** while keeping in mind the 'living on a ridgetop bushfire threat.

To do this I had to: **1. Audit the bush.** I am a botanical novice so I needed a 'heavyweight' to assist. A friend, Andrew Orme had enough expertise to be able to walk into the section of bush and start naming plants. I, the novice, furiously scribbled and with the help of two books produced the first audit. Since then it has probably doubled in size and many doubtful entries have been made official.

Even though I had seen some species in areas like Cross St or Warrimoo Oval I didn't want to commit to a species until I had found it behind our house. These confirmations of suspected species were very rewarding moments. In short, I have learnt a lot about the local species mix. I caught myself the other day on the way back from a south coast trip longing to see an Angophora after a week of Spotted Gums (lovely though they are).

**2. Source the plants/seedlings/cuttings** from nurseries or friends; and **3. Plant quickly.** Once the steep slope was exposed we had to plant quickly and plant species which grew quickly. We eventually chose about four species of Acacias, a local Tea Tree, Mountain Devils and Dagger Hakeas and got them in as quickly as possible.

A consideration was how we were going to maintain the slope in the short term and how it effected the species selection. We knew that bamboo and jasmine shoots would be exposing themselves for poisoning for a long time. We wanted plants which grew up as single stems so there would be no

- ### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
- Nov 11 (Sat) **Workshop: "Dealing with the Media"**. (See page 2)  
Nov 13 (Mon) **'Sustaining the Catchments' Public Meeting.** Lithgow Workmens Club, Tank Street, Lithgow, 7 pm to 8.30 pm. (See page 1)  
Nov 14 (Tue) **'Sustaining the Catchments' Public Meeting.** Blue Mountains Council Chambers, Katoomba, 7 pm to 8.30 pm. (See page 1)  
Nov 18 (Sat) **Management Committee Meeting.** 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson.  
Nov 21 (Tue) **Sustainable Energy Workshop.** Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson, 7 pm to 9.30 pm. (See Greenhouse Corner, page 3.)  
Nov 24 (Fri) **General Meeting.** 7.30 pm, Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls. Guest speaker will be Jim Smith, "World Heritage: Blue Mountains and Solomon Islands — Indigenous Perspectives". (See page 1.)  
Dec 02 (Sat) **Challenging and Extending Community Consultation.** A forum with workshops. (See page 1)  
Dec 03 (Sun) **Bushcare Picnic at Megalong Reserve.** (See page 1.)

**QUOLL CLUB** (Activities for 12 and under)

*For more information contact Jessica on 4757.2783. For a copy of the Quoll Club Newsletter, phone Ross Coster 4759.1247.*

**BUSHCARE** (Tools provided — bring morning tea and gloves.)

- Nov 12 (Sun) **Digger Cooper Reserve Bushcare Group.** Meet 9 am at the Reserve (GWH, West of Sorenson Bridge). Contact Ross Coster 4759.1247.  
Nov 14 (Tue) **Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group.** Contact Jessica 4757.2783 for the meeting place. (following Tuesday if wet).

**BUSHWALKS:** *Carry drinking water (minimum 1 litre), bring morning tea, and lunch for day walks. Wear shoes with a good tread.*

**Monday Leisure Walks:** *Usually half day walks, easy/medium, leisurely pace.*

- Nov 06 **The Nature Trail.** Meet at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, 9am. Call Bill Graham 4759.1692 if you need a lift from station. BBQ after.  
Nov 13 **Bus Trip to Deep Pass, Newnes Plateau.** Bus seats 20 (booked seats only), **Phone Bill 4759.1692 to book.** Bus leaves Katoomba 8.30, pick-up Mt Vic. Medium walk. Bring lunch. Contact Alan Macaulay for information.  
Nov 20 **Mystery Walk at Katoomba.** Meet at Gearins Hotel, Katoomba Station, 9 am. Contact Bill 4759.1692. BBQ after.  
Nov 27 **Dunn's Swamp Bus Trip.** (Booked out.) Leaves Katoomba depot 8.30. Lunch at Rylstone Hotel.  
Dec 04 **Mount Boyce from Blackheath.** Meet Blackheath commuter carpark 9am. Contact June Baxter 4787.7312. BBQ after.  
Dec 18 **LEISURE WALKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY, after walk at Lawson.** Meet at Lawson bowling club carpark 9am. Contact Jan Cutler 4784.3079.  
**Bushwalks:** *Walks of various grades, full or half day.*  
Nov 04 (Sat) **Dante's Glen.** Meet Lawson Bowling Club carpark 9.30 am. Contact Kate McManus 4758.7936. **Half Day.**  
Nov 11 (Sat) **Ruined Castle via Furber Steps/Scenic Railway.** Meet 9.30, in front Scenic Railway complex. Medium, lots of steps, option of Scenic Railway back up (\$5). **Long day.** Contact Matthew Martin 4782.4218.  
Nov 19 (Sun) **Wonderland Track.** Meet Medlow Bath station (opposite Hydro) 9.30. **Day.** Contact June Baxter 4787.7312.  
Nov 25 (Sat) **Wentworth Falls to Moya Point.** Meet 9.30, lower carpark of Falls Reserve, end of Falls Road. **Easy, full day.** Contact Matthew Martin 4782.4218.  
Dec 02 (Sat) **Terrace Falls and South Lawson Falls.** Meet Hazelbrook Station 9.30. Contact Kate McManus 4758.7936. **Medium, half day.**  
Dec 16 (Sat) **BUSHWALKER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, after walk at Hazelbrook.** Meet Hazelbrook Station 9.30. Contact Kate McManus 4758.7936.

**Walks are generally Easy to Medium Grade, unless otherwise noted.** **Easy:** Mostly good surfaces, but some rough or steep sections. Suited to people of average fitness. **Medium:** Includes rough or steep sections, some of which may require clambering over natural obstacles. Discuss with leader if in doubt. **Hard:** Strenuous walks, suited to fit and experienced walkers. **If this is your first walk,** or you are in any doubt, contact the leader or Bushwalks Convener Bill Graham 4759.1692.

concealment of weeds under the 'friendlies'. This ruled out Lomandra longifolia which would otherwise have been perfect for stabilising the ground.

After this initial period of furious activity we can now relax. We have some banksias coming from seed and we still haven't made any tree decisions apart from not wanting to plant any more Turpentines due to the fire hazard. We are still on the lookout for Grevillea buxifolia and Dillwynia retorta seedlings,

very common in the bush but we haven't been able to find any in nurseries and may have to rely on cuttings.

One 'bonus' is that a wallaby (we presume) reduced an Acacia and Scribbly Gum seedling almost to sticks before we caged the plants. Up till then our main focus was birds. The appearance of 'furries' is a real bonus. Colin Stanley.