

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



BMCS Family Picnic for Members, kids and grandkids

Join us for a Day of Fun and Games on Sunday 9 November at Sun Valley Reserve. Commencing at 10.30am.

BYO Meat/Veggie Burgers and Drinks for a BBQ and picnic lunch.

Barbecues, Tea and Coffee provided.

Bring picnic table, chair and a big sun umbrella.

We plan to have sack races, egg & spoon races, cricket, rounders, face painting, weed tossing, tug-of-war.

Plus an easy local walk in this unique volcanic area.

Team competitions between BMCS Walking Groups.

Management Committee vs Nursery Staff Challenge?

Special Recognition of our Walks Leaders.

Coming by car: Turn off the GWH heading east between Warrimoo and Valley Heights and follow the signs.

A bus will leave the Katoomba Depot at 9.30am.

Pick-up along the way.

Ring David Bowskill for an \$8 return seat, 4757 3416.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Welcome to another bumper edition of *Hut News*!

This month, much of my effort has been devoted to promoting the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal to politicians and local bushwalking clubs (see page 6). I find it very inspiring to work for the conservation of such a wonderful area.

I would love to see you at the November Monthly Meeting as we have some beautiful slideshows to present on this topic. Please come along to see footage from a recent flyover of the Newnes Plateau and learn more about this campaign.

I am also looking forward to meeting many of you at our Picnic (My daughter is very excited about the egg and spoon race!) The yellow bloodwoods are flowering at Sun Valley so it's a perfect setting for a gathering of people who love the bush.

One of the activities at our picnic will be to acknowledge the contribution of many of our Walks Leaders. Like many people involved in conservation, I got motivated to protect nature when bushwalking. Hence I would like to thank all of the people who make it possible for our members to appreciate our wonderful environment.

Speak with you next month, *Tara Cameron*

DISCOVERING THE GARDENS OF STONE Stage 2



Striking images compiled by Tara Cameron in association with Karen McLaughlin, and David Brazil, including a recent aerial photo shoot from an aeroplane piloted by none other than our Treasurer, Bart Beech. A full-on BMCS event presented by Consoc personalities!

SHOWING AT THE BMCS

MONTHLY MEETING 7:30PM FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Conservation Hut, Fletcher St.

Wentworth Falls (far western end)

What is changing in our part of the catchment?



A meeting will be held in Katoomba at the Blue Mountains Emergency Services Centre, RFS Training Room, Cnr Bathurst Road & Valley Road Saturday 15 November from 1.30pm - 4.00pm



The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) is holding this community meeting in our region of the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment to discuss the changes in our local environment. HNCMA will be providing information on the current condition of the region and on major issues re the ongoing health of the landscape. It is also our opportunity to help HNCMA learn what we think are the most important of these issues to be addressed. If you can't get to the meeting you will be able to participate through a catchment-wide survey which can be sent to you or accessed online by mid-November at www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au

Please RSVP to Gina Luca 4587 0050 or email gina.luca@cma.nsw.gov.au

HUT NEWS

Hut News is the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.
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TASKFORCE ON TOURISM – NPA steps up its Campaign

This is the NPA media release of late September:

Big business has seized control of the Labor Government's planning for nature-based tourism, according to a peak NSW environment group. National Parks Association believes that the public interest has been sidelined while powerful companies push for more development in national parks.

"The O'Neill report into tourism in NSW was released in June and treated National Parks as just another resource to be exploited. The industry has been running very hard since then to get their agenda up, and the Labor Government has been complicit in advancing the industry agenda," said Andrew Cox, NPA Executive Officer.

"On 13 August, the Minister for Tourism, Matt Brown, announced that a 'draft strategy for NSW tourism' had been 'released'. It's not true!

"The real story is this: after two months of closed-shop talks with the industry, they all got together to endorse the guts of a plan, a secret plan. There was no 'release' because we've tried to get details of the strategy and we have been refused access. Not one public interest group has been involved in this cosy little deal.

"The secret plan is now being worked up into the final strategy. Matt Brown said the strategy will be approved by the Government in September, fast-tracked behind even more closed doors. The public has been locked out," Mr Cox said.

"At the same time, the Government's *Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks* is working out the details of how to exploit our parks. The Taskforce has already flagged changing the laws to allow more tourism and development in National Parks and wilderness areas. That's exactly what the Tourism and Transport Forum has been pushing for years."

Mr Cox said, "Well-funded lobby groups like the Tourism and Transport Forum want to remove National Park protection so they can exploit these precious areas for short-term cash. We're all for more people enjoying parks, but we don't need ghastly resorts and other private developments.

"The environment has to come first, now more than ever. The community knows this, but the Government is stuck in the 1960s," said Mr Cox.

"The State's planning laws have already been undermined with Part 3A, now the same people are going after our national treasures. But we haven't fought for 50 years to create a great system of parks to let the big end of town have their way with them now. These are the people's parks, forever, and the people have to be heard.

"NPA supports the Government's goal to see more people visiting our parks and reserves. The Government must focus on the \$1 billion worth of visitor facilities that we already have in National Parks. They should be much better managed and presented so the public, tourism and local businesses can all benefit."

LETTER OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2008

Our regular request to members for campaign action by letter writing

Credit Crisis, Climate Crisis

With the news of the global financial crisis, the issue of climate change has almost disappeared from the media. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's plans for dealing with the financial crisis made no mention of it. However, the necessity for action on climate change has not gone away, and the global economic turmoil does not preclude not taking action. In fact the PM's injection of \$10.8 billion to fund infrastructure would have offered a golden opportunity to announce investment in renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture and quality public transport.

Instead, in the first significant news on climate change, a new report from ACF revealed that \$3 billion could go to some of the richest companies in Australia in free carbon pollution permits when the Australian Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme commences in 2010 (*Sydney Morning Herald 20.10.08*).

This is in contrast to Professor Ross Garnaut's strong recommendation that all permits should be auctioned, ensuring that big polluters take their obligations to reduce emissions seriously. It would also deliver to the Government much-needed cash for investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. His clear conclusion was that free allocation of permits would lead to political interference and heavy lobbying.

Send a short message to Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd, making some or all of the following points:

- I congratulate the Prime Minister on his leadership in the current global financial crisis.
- I suggest that the \$10.8 billion to fund infrastructure in Australia offers a golden opportunity to show real leadership in the global climate crisis, by investing in renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture and quality public transport.
- I call upon the Australian Government to ensure that all carbon pollution permits to be issued in the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme be auctioned, as recommended by Professor Ross Garnaut, to ensure that big polluters take their obligations to reduce emissions seriously. This would also deliver to the Government much needed cash for investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.

Robin Mosman & Rosemary Lathouris

Contact Details: Parliament House, Canberra 2600. To email fill in a form on the PM's website www.pm.gov.au/contact/index.cfm?p=3

Groundwater Protection

Letters have been sent to the Bundanoon group, Central Coast Environment Network, providing information on the Drink Tapwater Campaign, suggesting that they might like to launch a similar campaign in their area. Letters were also sent to Lithgow and Southern Highlands Councils, and the Bega Environment Network. A letter was sent to Minister Peter Garrett, asking him to actively promote the drinking of tap water in preference to bottled spring water, for the sake of the environment. No response received. An approach will also be made to Lithgow Council, liaising with Lithgow Environment Group.

Sadly our campaign does not meet the criteria for Sydney Water sponsorship, but we are attempting to attract the Dental Association as sponsors.

Sydney Catchment Authority offers regular rounds of catchment protection and improvement grants for community groups. Our first application was rejected, but a second attempt is being drafted, hopefully with support from Phil Koperberg.

Drinking fountain installation has been discussed with the BMCC. While they are not a current priority due to health, vandalism and cost considerations (arguments we do not accept), three new ones have recently been installed. The Society is supporting the installation of new bubblers and/or taps to enable locals and tourists to refill water bottles as opposed to purchasing bottled water.

Mt Victoria Bypass

See the report on Page 10.

Port Macquarie NP Proposal, in Capertee Valley

This NPWS proposal involves the possible reservation of predominantly freehold land and small portions of Crown land as a National Park. The region has outstanding conservation values that are not well represented within the broader region.

At present, the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal is concerned with reservation of parts of Newnes Plateau, the Ben Bullen and Wolgan State Forests and the Airly-Genowlan region.

The reservation of Port Macquarie area, abutting Airly-Genowlan to its north, would enhance the existing merits of the GoS2 and could ultimately lead to reservation of much of Newnes Plateau. The resulting continuum would ensure proper coverage of all the lands of significant conservation value from Bell-Lithgow in the south, through to the Capertee Valley in the north. Consoc has written to the NPWS heartily endorsing the proposal.

Transport Policy adopted

The Workshop to consider the BMCS Draft Transport Policy duly met on 27 September. Additions made to the draft published in *Hut News* 252 included:

- co-operation with the BM Sustainable Transport Alliance;
- support for tourism initiatives that expand the role of sustainable transport. e.g. rail, motor coach, cycling and walking;
- prevention of further deterioration of the Blayney to Cowra railway line;
- encouragement and lobbying for research into alternative fuel technologies and environmentally sustainable freight transport alternatives;
- support for accounting strategies to reflect the true costs of maintaining roads vs rail;
- a call for a further investigation of **subsidised** rail freight as a means of postponing extensive highway upgrading west of Soldiers Pinch **based on true cost**.

The Policy was adopted.

Pollies Visit to Newnes

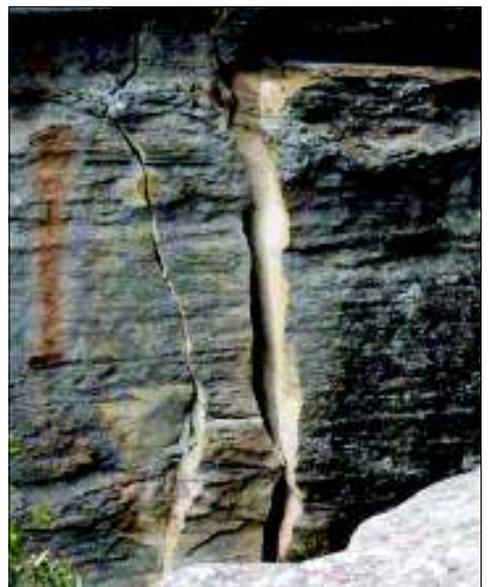
See the report on Page 6.

Tree Removal Opposed

Under DA X/589/2008 it is proposed that six mature trees (and additional trees) be removed at St Columba's School. Consoc is in opposition as the trees are in a Threatened Ecological Community – Turpentine Ironbark Forest – nominated as critically endangered under both national (EPBC) and state (NSW Threatened Species Act) listings. We have asked that the DA be referred to the NSW Parks Service. Previous work was carried out by an earth-moving company which overcleared in several areas (totally destroying approximately 80m² of bushland). Vital protective fencing was removed along College Dr and has never been replaced. Mike Purtell is fronting our comprehensive submission.

Catchment & Mountain Bikes

Nathan Rees as Minister for Water gave some hope to those requesting dedicated cycle tracks in Schedule One catchment areas. Consoc has written to the new Premier and new Minister Costa to plead for no loosening of the legislation pertaining to catchments and visitation. In his letter, Brian Marshall pointed out that these water storages have had minimal human impact for over 30 years. Mountain bikers like horseriders are not discriminated against, as walkers are also denied access, but the wheeled and hooved visitors have a far greater potential to damage vulnerable areas. Brian also made a request that any loosening of the legislation should be preceded by a major impact study.



Lithgow Env. Group reports..

Chris Jonkers spotted this Southern Boobook Owl keeping watch over an aboriginal heritage site (BBC-RS1) in Ben Bullen State Forest last week – above the proposed Baal Bone Colliery longwalls LW 29-31. And he asks, “What do you think are the odds of this site surviving unscathed, given the subsidence damage already caused by this same mine in the same area? Afterwards they will of course say– pity about that – but there was no way it could have been predicted!”

Marmion Road Swamp

Consoc has received a report on the work from Wayne Robinson, Project Manager, Upper Blue Mountains Sewerage Scheme, Priority Sewerage Program. Monitoring is ongoing. The swamp is looking to be in better health.

BMCC CC RoundTable

Helen Deane was invited to attend a BMCC round table discussion on 27 October on behalf of Consoc. Titled *Climate Change in the Blue Mountains* it involved key stakeholders in the Mountains and also covered what the Council are working on in this area. Report to follow!



The Johnstones at work in their 'allotment'. Photo Kate Geraghy

Over the months, particularly during 2007, *Hut News* has published a series of Green-Hints on sustainability by our Climate Change Sub-Committee where Susan Girard was mainly responsible for the research. On 7 October 2008, *The Sydney Morning Herald* printed an article by Tim Elliott outlining a green-hint initiative of particular originality and probable future relevance. Here it is reproduced in full:

"The English have their allotments; in Sydney we use the streets. In a variation on guerilla gardening, Sydneysiders are moving veggie plots from the backyard to the street verge, and converting formerly fallow public land into mini-market gardens.

"Environmentally, ethically and from a community perspective, it's a great thing to do," says Eva Johnstone, a landscape architect, who with her husband, Bill, has been growing vegetables on their Marrickville street verge for the past two years.

"We always wanted to grow our own food, but our backyard is quite small, so the logical step was to grow it on the street, which was not being used for anything," Ms Johnstone said.

The Johnstones now have an established vegetable garden, with spinach, artichoke, rhubarb, peas, potatoes, beans, broccoli and beetroot. A nearby tree bears a passionfruit vine and a sign telling passersby to help themselves.

"We have more than we can consume," Mrs Johnstone says, "so we are more than happy to share."

"The garden is a 'big talking point'," she says. Neighbours want to know how to convert their verges from worn-out grass to "something they can actually eat". Street verges are council property but Mrs Johnstone says the council has been "happy to turn a blind eye".

"Global warming, the drought and rising food prices have other Sydneysiders looking at local solutions to food production," says Michael Mobbs, a sustainability expert. A year ago, he and fellow residents of Myrtle Street, Chippendale, planted their nature strips and footpaths with a range of edible plants, including tomatoes, herbs, strawberries and fruit trees. Raspberries, rocket, native mint and passionfruit vines climb the telephone poles.

"There are several advantages to growing food in the street," Mr Mobbs says. "You make the streetscape more friendly by getting rid of the concrete and providing more shade.

"In conjunction with the *Herald's* Good Food Month in October, the street was blocked off for the inaugural Food For The Future Fair, which featured dishes made with food grown in the street.

"We want to show people that they can grow food where they live and return to simpler, lower-impact lifestyle," says Mr Mobbs, who received support from the City of Sydney, which provided some labour and plants. Other councils are following suit.

"North Sydney Council has established a permaculture garden with veg-

etable beds at the coal loader site, next to Balls Head, Waverton," says the Mayor of North Sydney, Genia McCaffery. "We would certainly be very supportive if communities wanted to grow veggies in their street, as long as it's a community initiative."

So there's the challenge for Blue Mountains residents and our predominantly large nature strips: the soils may be rocky and less fertile, the climate a bit raw, but our resolve might be all the stronger. Who will be the first to take it up with the BMCC?

For good measure here below is an extract from the One-Year Birthday Edition of *Strobus*, the Consoc educational environmental magazine published by Blue Mountains school students for students. It advocates eating vegetables, home grown or not, instead of meat. This may not be everyone's choice, least of all Groucho Marx, who once remarked, "I'm not a vegetarian, but I eat animals who are," – but it's worthy of consideration.

RW

VEGETARIAN GOOD FOR ENVIRONMENT

Like the author of the new book "Ethical Eating", at 16, I chose to stop eating meat. Written by Angela Crocombe, the book looks at the environmental cost of how food is produced, packaged and sold. The book is not just a personal view but refers to many scientific and government reports. I learnt that we can all have a local and global impact by changing the way we eat. "Think a little more about what you put in your mouth and the journey it has been on to get there, rather than mindlessly stuffing your faces with whatever you find," she says. A new scientific study shows that becoming a vegetarian could save more greenhouse gas emissions a year than switching to a hybrid car. Another study of food miles by environmental organisation CERES, found an average basket of fruit and vegetables travels 8730 kilometres from where it is produced to the shop. I also learnt at school that it can take up to ten times as much water and energy to produce meat compared to vegies, fruit & grain.



Making the switch could mean improving your health and wallet. The higher cost of organic produce is more than offset by the savings made from spending less on meat and processed food. A good place to start might be our Food Co-op in Katoomba or the many organic veggie shops up here. Better still grow your own. Check out the many networks around the mountains and don't forget, the Blue Mts is now a Cittaslow city. Fiona

NOTES:

1. **Cittaslow** (literally Slow City) is a movement founded in Italy in October of 1999. The inspiration of Cittaslow was the Slow Food organization. Cittaslow's goals include improving the quality of life in towns while resisting 'the fast-lane, homogenized world so often seen in other cities throughout the world'. Celebrating and supporting diversity of culture and the specialties of a town and its hinterland are core Cittaslow values.

2. *Strobus* can be downloaded from our website each month, www.bluemountains.org.au

Sustainable House Day

Sustainable House Day took place over the weekend of the 13th and 14th September. Organised by the Australia New Zealand Solar Energy Society (ANZSES), volunteers open their homes for inspection. As a supporter of the Society, it is likely you have visited the Conservation Hut, one of our many local eco buildings. This one in Medlow Bath uses a passive solar design to take best advantage of the sun, shade and breezes. It has two 13,000 L rainwater tanks and walls constructed from special thermal blocks. Windows are UPVC double glazed with motor shutters, for insulation and bushfire protection with floor length curtains. Heating and hot water is supplied by a solar hot air system with gas fired backup. A grey water system and low water use lawn technology is being installed. The roof has a steep pitch for the solar giving a habitable insulated loft Stacey



TAP WATER ROAD SHOW

Our Drink tap water campaign, this month hit the road. Stacey, Marc and I went to Black heath Wentworth falls and Katoomba Primary Schools, to speak to their student representative bodies, answer questions and hand out stickers We like the fact that Katoomba's is a parliament with ministers and opposition. The students learnt that "spring" water is taken from hanging swamps & wetlands where it is needed to sustain a balanced eco-system.



This is the sticker which we handed out to be used on water bottles and fridges to remind them to refill their bottles rather than buying new ones. There were lots of questions about filtered water. It is better than bottled and makes a difference to water quality. Jackson

ELLISON ECO CENTRE

Ellison School now has a new Environmental Centre. Unveiled by Mr Koperberg and named Wingara it has programs for adults and children of the local community. The name is Aboriginal for "place of learning". Isobel

This is Page 2 of the September 08 First Birthday issue of Stobus, the Consoc Environmental Magazine published by students, for students. It is presented here as an example for the information of our readers who are unable to access it on our website. The original has graphics in full colour.

FERAL CATS GETTING BIGGER

Recent sightings of the **Blue Mountains panther**, a legendary big cat that has been reported by residents of the Blue Mountains area, for over a century, started us thinking about feral cats in our area. It is speculated that the creature (or maybe, creatures), if it exists, could be the offspring of animals that escaped from traveling circuses about a hundred years ago. Many cats are abandoned every year. Blue Mountains. R.S.P.C.A says "Each year over 3000 are euthanised." Feral cats kill our beautiful, native fauna. Over 1000 possums, birds, lizards and small mammals are estimated to be killed yearly because of these vicious animals. It also causes concern for locals as other pets and small children may be attacked. To stop this problem we need to de sex and keep our cats inside as much as possible. At the very least put a bell around kitty's neck. The main reason why cats become feral is because owners let them out at night, where their natural predatory instincts take over. Also many owners don't get them de sexed, causing cats to breed,. Tegan & Isobel



WALK TO WORK DAY

Just as a reminder Friday October 6 is Walk to Work Day. The Commonwealth Government the event through funding to the Pedestrian Council of Australia of \$1.5 million over 3 years. Walk to Work Day is an annual event that encourages Australians to develop regular walking habits and aims for better health, cleaner air, less traffic & increased use of public transport. Marc



SOLAR BOAT CHALLENGE

Several teams of aspiring sailors from Mountain High Schools weighed anchor and unveiled their solar vessels at Penrith Regatta Centre on the 13th of September to compete in the annual State Solar Boat Challenge. I spoke to Doug, Will, Jacob, Miles and Rowan from KHS that day who encountered technical difficulties. But it didn't stop them from having fun and in fact their rivals, old seadogs Gabby, Molly and Belle from Winmalee, offered assistance. Congratulations to them for making the National Finals in November and to Springwood (let us know how you went) .



Ryan

MEETINGS WITH POLLIES & OTHERS

The photograph shows Brian Marshall and Karen McLaughlin of BMCS inspecting the trail bike degradation at Happy Valley on Newnes Plateau on 1 October, 2008. They were accompanied by the Member for Bathurst, **Gerard Martin** (second from right) the Member for Penrith, **Karyn Paluzzano** (at right) and **Trish Doyle** representing **Phil Koperberg**. President Tara Cameron, who arranged the invitations, said that the day's inspection was fruitful.

The pollies were particularly shocked by the trail bike damage and seemed interested in the issue. Ian Brown's report to Consoc on the tourist potential of the GoS2 area is due for completion at the end of October. Tara then intends to follow up with invitations to the area to **Michael Paag**, **Brad Hazzard**, **Pru Goward**, and **Carmel Tebbutt**, and then hopefully arrange a meeting with all of these visitors, the BMCC and the Lithgow Advisory Committee to discuss Ian's report.

A meeting with **Gavin Jeffries** of Forests is proposed, hopefully to be followed by a roundtable between Forests, NPWS, Consoc and **Inspector Hoolahan** of Lithgow Police to discuss illegal trail bike damage. In fact the Inspector has written to Karen McLaughlin welcoming the meeting.

Again on the subject of GoS2 promotion, following the very positive presentation to Springwood bushwalkers, Ian Olsen has drafted a letter to other bushwalking clubs seeking an opportunity to present Tara's slideshow.

Tara Cameron, Brian Marshall and Keith Muir have arranged a joint BMCS/Colong Foundation meeting with **Bob Debus** on Monday 3 November 2008. The aim is to discuss several key issues: Mt Victoria Bypass options, covered on page 10 of this *Hut News*, the associated future for the Bells Line of Road expressway proposal and the Greater West Area Transport Needs Study.

They also want to focus with Bob on funding of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, specifically for **Inholdings Acquisition and Pest Species Management**.

The Society believes that inholdings acquisition and pest species management are two priority areas for additional funding. These priorities were identified in a report written by Ian Brown in 2001. They remain a high priority, because they have received little funding since 2001. To our knowledge, the Federal Government has not provided financial assistance in these areas.

DRAGONFLIES & BUTTERFLIES

Check out this beautiful Brown Swordgrass caught in repose beside Walls Cave track, Blackheath!

Being keen on butterflies and dragonflies I was wondering if any like-minded enthusiasts would care to join me at Glenbrook Lagoon on 22/23 November, 2008 at 11am, for an outing to look for dragonflies. All you need are binoculars, hat and sun screen. I will bring field guides.

I am thinking about setting up a Butterfly and Dragonfly Group and if people are interested this would be the inaugural field trip. Regular outings would depend on the number of people who respond. If this could be your thing, please let me know.

Robin Murray 4751 7350



Inholdings can present a threat to the GBMWhA through the incursion of pest species. They often create special management needs such as the maintenance of roads, which diverts funds away from conservation management. Many small and remote inholdings would be valuable additions to the GMBWhA and could be purchased cheaply.

The need to manage introduced species has become more obvious since the report was written. The ecological integrity of the area is severely threatened by a number of plant and animal pest species (blackberry, serrated tussock, pigs, foxes). Additionally, new problems are emerging such as bell minor associated die-back. There is no funding or dedicated staff to address the management of phytophthora. The NPWS spends only a fraction of what is required to fully implement their pest species management plans. There is still no qualified bush regenerator employed to undertake bush regeneration works. A report on the meeting will be presented in the next issue of *Hut News*. **TC/RW**

Consoc support for BM Bushcare

BMCS Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon.

Ring Karen Hising: 4757 1929

Tools and gloves are provided and a Blue Mountains City Council Bushcare Officer provides instruction. You bring a drink, a snack and enjoy the communal weeding. But if you can't make it to our site please find a Group nearer to your home. See web www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/bushcare_groups.asp or phone Lyndal Sullivan at: BMCC 4780 5528

WEED IDENTIFICATION BOOKS

Lyndal advises that Tocal College of the NSW Dept Primary Industries has produced a two-volume publication, *Native Plant or Weed – Pick the difference*, by Ann Loughran.

It has full-page colour photos of each weed with the similar native species, and a written explanation of the differences without all the confusing botanical terms. Both are A4, around 70 pages and spiral bound for field use. Cost \$20 and \$24.

Copies have been ordered for all the local libraries and should be arriving soon.

The volumes are in stock at *Turning Page* in Springwood and *Megalong Books* in Leura. Alternatively you can contact Tocal College directly on 1800 025520 or go to the website <http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/reader/tocal-publications>



There was an audible gasp of disbelief. We were five minutes into this feature film when suddenly we were confronted with the image of five backpackers setting out to Butterbox Point from Mt Hay Carpark – the very spot where Consoc had foreclosed on the *Stealth* crews with their massive infrastructure!

But it turned out OK: after the show the director explained that under NPA supervision no cameraman or equipment was permitted to advance into the World Heritage Area here or elsewhere beyond 20m.

I was at *The Edge*, for the Australian Premier of director Mark Forsmann's film, *Monkey Puzzle* on 22 October. The film

is set in wilderness, a theme that worked well for Sean Penn when he made *Into the Wild*. Showing only minimal bias, I thought that *Monkey Puzzle* was a more credible film.

It is a low budget production telling the story of five young people who over the Easter break venture together into the heart of the Blue Mountains, because one of them has an overriding passion to see the Wollemi Pine in its native environment. He has a map – dunno where he got it – but that doesn't put a snag in the plot.

The leader has some basic bush skills, but neither he nor his companions – two boys and two girls – are experienced walkers. Long before they strike problems it is clear that rather than bonding in the wild as we might expect, they are well on the way to disfunction.

It doesn't help that on the first abseil they leave the map behind, and on the first night possums steal all their food except for a bag of Easter eggs.

Disputed navigation, poor sleep, desperate bush tuckering and inability to set a course of action all take their toll, amplified by the complexities of their prior and aspiring relationships one with another. This can only be a prescription, as the tension builds and builds, for tragedy.

Mark Forsmann says that "he wanted to tell a story about what it's like to get lost in the wilderness when you do silly things in your early 20s. It's about how getting stranded changes you and pulls friends apart."

Film Review ★★★★★

What impressed me, as a bushwalker and canyoner, who has sometimes known the fear of 'dislocation', was the way in which the wilderness is captured as a beautiful but malevolent force against the unprepared. Mark in fact says, with strong credibility, that the wilderness is the sixth character of the film.

I enjoyed the fact that the group was never confronted by leeches, snakes, spiders, flood or avalanche, the stock in trade of every wilderness film since Johnny Weissmuller first uttered 'Me Tarzan' to Jane. They were confronted simply and elementally by the complexities of the landscape, shot magnificently in natural light.

It may come as a relief to members that the location of the trees is not revealed, but of course we did ask the director to come clean on his locations, and I am sure you would also love to be "put in the picture".

For night scenes he worked in Lane Cove! Otherwise scenes were played out, apparently in freezing conditions, in Dargans Canyon, Empress Pass, Coachwood Glen, Anvil Rock and Mermaid's Glen with some aerial footage over Gardens of Stone. All very difficult, even for the initiated, to recognise these locations.

Monkey Puzzle has been screened in St Paulo and Cork festivals and won the Best Environment Film Award in Shanghai. By the time you read this it may have fallen over *The Edge*, but it is due to reappear as a rental DVD in November. **RW**

COUNCILS IN PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT SWAMPS ON NEWNES PLATEAU AND ELSEWHERE

On 30 October 2008 the *Lithgow Mercury* reported: "The unique natural values of the Lithgow area have again become the focus of NSW State Government environmental programs with funding being allocated to restore significant local wetlands.

"The Lithgow region contains some of the western-most distribution of the federally listed endangered temperate peat swamps on sandstone swamp communities and is home to the endangered Newnes Plateau shrub swamp ecological community.

"Following last year's successful collaboration on the Upland Swamps Rehabilitation project, **Lithgow City Council has once again joined forces with Blue Mountains City Council** to seek funding to protect these endangered swamp communities that occur across both local government areas.

"The two Councils are working in partnership on the *Saving our Swamps (SOS)* project which will receive \$250,000 over three years.

"This will come from the NSW government's Environmental Trust Urban Sustainability program to rehabilitate degraded temperate peat swamp systems in the Lithgow and Blue Mountains areas.

"Areas include the Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp, Montane Peatlands and Blue Mountains Swamp communities.

"Lithgow Mayor Neville Castle said it makes sense for the Councils to cooperate on environmental management.

"We are both neighbours bordering adjoining sections of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area with similar environmental problems," Cr Castle said.

"The money will be used for weed control works and the restoration of hydrological function in degraded swamps using soft engineering rehabilitation.

"In addition the project will run a community awareness-raising campaign about these significant vegetation communities.

"The project will operate on both public and private lands and includes a private landholder incentive program and a school education program."

Richard Stiles, like Chris Jonkers of Lithgow Environment Group, is quite surprised, although pleased, that the Lithgow Mercury and Mayor Castle are promoting joint BMCC/LCC action to protect endangered swamps on Newnes Plateau.

Perhaps it is an indication that they may be rethinking their opposition to the reservation of the Plateau as a State Conservation Area and perhaps they may now become more active in helping to curtail trail bike damage!

Could they also begin to oppose the Newnes Plateau route for the Mt Victoria Bypass? For as Michael Hensen of BMCC SOS said in Lithgow recently, Browns Swamp, adjacent to Bells Line of Road near Clarence Colliery turn-off, is highly likely to be sliced in half if the RTA with their consultants do adopt that route option. **RW**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HUT

a review of our Monthly Meeting, Friday 31 October

The program advertised last month for the Members Meeting on 31 August could not be realised, as the nominated speakers from the Mulgoa and Hawkesbury Groups felt that their respective campaigns against overdevelopment, and for Threatened Species protection, were not sufficiently well advanced for wide dissemination. Members who have nominated contact from Consoc by email were informed of the change of topic.

The meeting, instead, was thrilled to welcome Keith Muir, Executive Officer of the Colong Foundation, speaking from his in-depth knowledge, with his often laconic, but very real passion, on WILDERNESS!



TAPPING INTO BMCS MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES – Part 2

Last month we dealt with progress on Objective 2 of the 2008-09 Management Committee, **Water Conservation**. Although progress on most of the Objectives is effectively covered in reports in *Hut News*, the Committee feels an obligation to let members know in a more structured sense just how we are going against our formalised aims.

This month the focus shifts, not to Objective 3, the BM Western Escarpment, as promised, but to **Objective 10, Communication**. The specific tasks are:

a. Maintain the website. The website has now been under the 'mastership' of a single officer for some three years, and is consolidated into a steady source of member information, reliably updated, and purged of outdated material. In particular it offers visitors the opportunity, should they so desire, to download *Hut News* in advance of the hard copy mail-out and with images in colour. The colour incre-

ment is of value as we are often dealing with photographs of the natural world that do not enjoy being rendered in grayscale. It is from the website that *Strobus*, the robust publication by students, is also accessed.

b. Produce *Hut News*. A wider coverage of Consoc initiatives has been implemented without adding to the size, and at a significantly cheaper overall cost.

c. Update the Consoc Display Case outside the Hut. This case is scarcely noticeable because it is almost hidden by the cooks' gas bottles. A good thing, because it is seriously out of date. Needs relocating with a complete overhaul of content, two jobs for which the subcommittee has not yet found time. (Volunteer?)

d. Continue to improve liaison and coverage with the local press. There is ongoing representation made to the most senior staff of the BMG. We achieve satisfactory service for paid adverts, but there seems to be some rationing of feature ar-

ticles, probably due to real estate advertisers being antagonistic to a conservation group. In brief, we prepare and submit much more material than members will see in print.

e. Produce a BMCS Poster to be placed on community walls in BM Libraries. This is a task which must be undertaken for the new year.

f. Hold an Annual BMCS Banner Event. This is not the Consoc Picnic for members being promoted in this issue of *Hut News*, it is a designated community event. A proposal for a BMCS expo at *Everglades* was negotiated during the last few months, but we were unable to come to finality with the management of a satisfactory time slot at this much-utilised facility. Back to the drawing board.

The Management Committee is always pleased to receive input from members on the ways we might improve our overall communication to the community. *RW*

TIDBITS FROM THE BM WORLD HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING IN OCTOBER

These notes by John Haydon present an interesting commentary on the review of our Monthly Meeting with Wendy Dollin of Blue Mountains Tourism Ltd in last month's Hut News, particularly in respect of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive and the Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks.

The latest meeting of the **Blue Mountains World Heritage Advisory Council (BMWHAC)** meeting was held on Wednesday evening, 22 October. Hosted by Blue Mountains City Council, this was the first meeting since April and was held under the chairmanship of Clr Howard McCallum, a recently-elected Greens member from Ward 4, following the retirement of Jim Angel. The meeting was mainly attended by representatives from community conservation groups and the World Heritage Institute coordinator.

The meeting primarily became a briefing session for Clr McCallum into past and present general business and reporting procedures of the group and a review for other participants. I tabled a short, but by no means complete, list of some of the current conservation issues which occupy the Management Committee and subcommittees of Consoc.

There was a discussion of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive tourist project. The project, originally proposed and developed by Blue Mountains Tourism Ltd with support from BMCC, AusIndustry and Tourism NSW in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has been embraced

by regional Councils and businesses which share the mountainous World Heritage Area, in order to encourage tourism. However, the current push by DECC to develop facilities in National Parks runs contrary to the aims of business interests which had in mind that they are already established to supply accommodation, catering, recreational activities, etc. as gateway opportunities for visitors to parks.

It seems that DECC now wants to set up as an alternative developer in competition with existing businesses. During the discussion it crossed my mind that we may have some allies within the local tourist business communities, Glenbrook, Katoomba, Leura, in the BM area, together with Lithgow, Mudgee, etc., bearing in mind that many businesses outside national parks are already subject to licensing control by the local government authorities. Tourist developments set up within the national parks will be subject only to restraint by DECC.

It was originally hoped in the early development stages of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive tourist project that a successful implementation would help to bring many of the fourteen local council areas surrounding the WHA to the realisation that increased visitation to the National Park areas on their doorsteps could be a positive rather than a negative drain on their finances and that careful control over visitation could benefit the local economies. Tourist facilities set up within the park perimeter would be generally a disbenefit to the locals, or neutral at best.

John Haydon, BMCS World Heritage Officer

Blue Mountains Set to Become a Solar Neighbourhood

Thanks to the Community Bulk Buy Discounts on solar panels being offered by *Aussie Solar*, the Blue Mountains is well on the way to becoming a Solar Neighbourhood. Time may, however, be running out for the next round of participants in the Bulk Buy Programme. Due to an unprecedented run on the Federal Government's Solar Panel rebate scheme, around 1000 households a week are applying for solar panel rebates – 30 times more than the Government budgeted for.

There is now a strong concern that the solar panel rebate will be axed or dramatically cut back on 11 November. According to **Lis Bastian**, who is co-ordinating the **Upper Mountains Bulk Buy Program** which runs from Lawson upward, "I'm frantically confirming as many people as possible before 11 November, so that we can ensure rebates and discounts for at least another 30-40 Blue Mountains households. Aussie Solar has also guaranteed that, despite huge price increases on imported solar panels, the price of the current offer will remain the same for this project. This is a very good deal. It means you can get a 1kW system with a 2 kW inverter (which allows you to add another kW) for under \$1000 after receiving the rebate. A 1kW system has an output of about 5kWh per day, which is about one third to one quarter of your energy needs, depending on your energy usage. This could reduce your annual energy bill by around \$300 per year. This means that it would only take about three years to pay back your investment. If feed-in tariffs are introduced you might even start

earning money from the grid."

Supporters of renewable energy have been lobbying hard for feed-in schemes like those in Germany and other countries. Several Australian states already have feed-in tariff schemes in place – South Australia, Queensland and Victoria have introduced net feed-in tariffs which means they pay homeowners for the electricity exported to the grid minus what is consumed in the home at the time it is produced.

On 2 July the ACT Parliament passed the Electricity Feed-In Tariff Bill which approved Australia's first gross feed-in tariff. The bill comes into effect no later than July 2009 but there is every expectation that this bill will be effective before the end of this year.

Key features of the Bill are that payment will be 3.88 times the tariff – approx 60cents per kWh. Both business and the residential sector can benefit. This is also the first time there are incentives in place to encourage the commercial sector to invest in solar power.

"Buying solar panels now, with the Community Bulk Buy discount and the current rebate while it still exists, and before import prices go up even further, is an extremely smart move," said Lis. "Then we just have to lobby NSW to follow the ACT's lead!"

If you'd like to be part of this Discounted Community Bulk Buy of solar panels contact Lis URGENTLY on 4787 7533.

Helen Deane, BMCS CC&S Officer

Nursery Notes

Success at last! In September *Hut News* we featured the Woody Pear and said that we were germinating about 40 of their large, winged seeds. After about 10 weeks without result, causing us to wonder what we had done wrong, suddenly they are all sprouting and producing large, fleshy dicotyledonous leaves. This is one of the joys of raising plants from seed but we still have to nurture them before they are ready for sale. So, if you would like one of these fascinating plants, which are in flower in the bush now, put in an order and we'll reserve one for you.

The Magpie Markets: If you have never attended one of these markets, held every third Sunday of the month in the grounds of Lawson Public School on the Great Western Highway, you are missing one of the largest and most interesting markets in the Mountains, not least because we have a stall there. In our last three appearances, we have collected a total of \$1492. We will be there on 16 November with good stocks and providing an opportunity for those of you who cannot get to our nurseries on weekdays.

Gift Certificates: Are you looking for a present, suitable for any occasion, for somebody who loves gardening? You could buy some of our lovely plants for them or give them a Gift Certificate so they can make their own choice. These certificates, designed by Ron Withington, come in denominations of \$10, 20 and 50

and can be bought and tendered at either of our nurseries or at the Magpie Markets. Plants make living, ever-changing, delightful gifts.

What's in a Name? If you wander through our plants for sale you will notice a commonly occurring species name: sieberi or variations on that. These names honour the German botanist **Franz W. Sieber**, born 1789 in Prague and died there in 1844. Sieber was an avid plant collector, travelling all over the world and visiting the new colony of Port Jackson for seven months from June to December 1823, collecting over 600 plants, many of which now bear his name. His original specimens are preserved in herbariums all over the world. Sadly, he spent the last fourteen years of his life in a psychiatric asylum – just a coincidence!

We sell four plants bearing his name: *Callistemon sieberi*, a yellow flowered bottlebrush, found in the upper mountains; *Prostanthera sieberi*, a beautiful mint-bush with purple to mauve flowers; *Eucalyptus sieberi* or the Silvertop Ash, a common large tree in the mountains; and *Gahnia sieberiana*, the Red-fruited Saw-sedge or Sword Grass, common around damp areas and makes an ideal feature plant or low hedge. If you have an area in your garden which you would like to dedicate to the memory of this important botanist, come and see us to begin your collection. **Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager**



Gahnia sieberiana

There is something very rewarding about working at the Nursery. Maybe the answer does "loy in the soil", as Kenneth Williams used to say in the radio show, Round the Horne. There is a variety of activities to choose from each Tuesday morning from a list Kevin has pinned up on the wall. I particularly enjoy planting seeds, while other workers prefer potting the seedlings, weeding the plants out for sale, or even, bless their hearts, washing tubes! And of the seeds I plant, the ones I love are the winged ones like woody pear, that have to be tucked into the soil in neat rows like soldiers. At the end of three hours, with an enjoyable break for morning tea, I leave feeling refreshed and virtuous. A great way to spend a morning. Margaret Withington

There are two route options being considered for the Mt Victoria Bypass on the Great Western Highway. The RTA has commissioned two consultants. **The Hartley Vale option is being analysed by Cardno and the Newnes Corridor option by Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM). The Environmental Movement position is the avoidance of the Newnes option!**

The Colong Foundation has met with both consultants and established that the Corridor studies are to be completed by the end of 2008, the preferred Corridor selected by May 2009, and the preferred route selected by the end of 2009.

Keith Muir of Colong comments that “criteria and timing of the release of reports must be watched so that Newnes boosters do not compromise the assessment process and are caught out if they do. There are overlapping reporting timelines for the Cardno and SKM projects, which could be politically manipulated. For example by publicly releasing the Cardno work before the SKM corridor work is complete. Both consultants to RTA acknowledge that the relationship between these processes has not been well explained to the public.”

Accordingly Colong, with endorsement by Consoc, has asked the Minister for Roads to request the RTA that it explain to the community how the Cardno and SKM Mt Vic Bypass reports are to work together so that neither option is handicapped by the assessment process. Also to ask for community comment on the draft between project corridor selection criteria and proposed input values under these criteria.

Keith also comments that “the Newnes Route option is more than ten kilometres longer and has extra bridges, whereas the Hartley Vale option has more land acquisition costs and perhaps more social impact. The ‘tweaking’ of the multiple criteria ‘assessment’ on social, engineering and environmental criteria could be excessive which could make the Newnes option the preferred route.

“The tunnel option has not been ruled



out but it would appear that a two or three kilometre tunnel could cost more than either option but has the advantage of being able to use the good bits of the existing Great Western Highway. The expressed priority for the project is safety!”

As far as **government funding** is concerned, the sharing is 80% Federal and 20% State. The maximum budget: is \$450 million. The project is not a Federal priority project for the \$20 billion infrastructure fund.

Keith says that the briefs for Cardno and SKM are different.

Cardno is to select a preferred corridor and determine its technical viability to a more detailed level, examining economic feasibility of the option, whereas SKM is to look at options for corridors, then select a preferred corridor and then produce a specific route in that corridor.

Cardno believes the Central West Transport Needs Study is a long-term project irrelevant to the by-pass proposal, whereas SKM sees that the Needs Study may inform the selection process if it identifies a relevant long-term need (for truck haulage?). Presumably one option may satisfy this need better than another.

Of the meeting with Cardno (Ms Louise Collier) on 23 September, 2008, Keith comments:

NEWNES BY-PASS ROUTE OPTION

- Colong requested avoidance of the World Heritage Area.

- It was noted that the Cardno examination of route starts somewhere between Soldiers Pinch and Mount Victoria on the Great Western Highway.

- The route width is 500 metres, three lanes; bend radius minimum 600 metres; six per cent slope.

- The route passes through the Greater Blue Mountains WHA behind Mt Victoria, crosses Farmers Creek catchment within a kilometre of so of stored waters (high-end sediment controls required), crosses Commonwealth land south of Marrangaroo Creek apparently to avoid unexploded ordinance, and joins the existing GWH before Mudgee Road turnoff.

- The route requires some private property acquisition along Marrangaroo Creek, one bridge over Farmers Creek, two bridges over railway (either main western line and Clarence balloon loop, or main western line and the Zig Zag.)

Newnes Plateau is listed on the National Estate. Cardno has given a buffer for streams on the route of 40 metres. Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps have a buffer, also 40 metres. Spur ridge just to the east of

the Commonwealth land would be used to gain access to the Plateau.

Of the meeting with SKM (Andrew Spinks) on 9 October, 2008, Keith comments:

HARTLEY VALE ROUTE OPTION

- Colong requested avoidance of the World Heritage Area.

- Colong requested engagement of the community on the development of corridor selection criteria.

- No routes are identified as yet.

- There are four sets of criteria – economic, environmental, socio-economic and technical. Criteria as explicit and measurable as possible are to be developed based on past experience.

- There will be a ‘within-project’ analysis for the Hartley Vale project done by SKM.

The big question for those of us who are concerned with the protection of the World Heritage Area is the matter of who will make the decision between Hartley and Newnes on the route to be adopted. Presumably this will be done by the RTA, most likely with political intervention. An earlier EIS for a highway upgrade through Hartley was rejected by the Planning Minister. This may handicap any option that uses existing road elements around Hartley, whether these options are good routes or not. The Campaign goes on! **RW**

The Special General Meeting of Members called for Thursday 16th October at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, was duly held.

Six of the seven motions for changes to the Constitution as notified to members by letter on 23 September were defeated. Following the defeat of Motion 4 there was no need to vote for Motion 7. Voting in round terms for Motions 2 to 6 was 20 votes in favour, 150 votes against.

Motion 1 was lost by 14 votes, but following the meeting the Treasurer provided members with the explanation that had been called for.

There will be no changes to the Constitution as a result of this meeting!

Please contact our Meetings Secretary, Heather Hull, if you require more information.

Saturday Walkers on Boorong Crag One and Two



Jim on Boorong Crag ledge

On Saturday 29 September, Jim Percy led 12 walkers to Boorong Crag. We had morning tea atop Mt Hay at a location Jim disconcertingly referred to as the 'drop-off point'. After a little concert by a Spotted Pardelote (identified by Jo), we did drop off, scrambling and bottom-sliding down the steepish east side, with our leader unerringly finding the way. After ascending the Tor of Venus we scaled the monolithic First Crag via an interestingly high and narrow ledge, and lunched in the shade of whispering casuarinas. The Second Crag was reached after another steep descent and a lesser climb. Two loops on the return made for diversion in the walk. Lest my superlatives go too far, may I just say 'pretty splendid scenery' out there on the heath-lined edge of the Grose, with isopogons and boronia just coming out and flannel flowers about to erupt.

Hugh Speirs

In Memoriam

It was with sadness that bushwalkers recently held a small memorial service on the banks of Woodford Creek to remember their friend Andy Gardiner, who died on 1 October 2008. Andy always offered a friendly hand to help at creek crossings and up steep slopes. His photography showed many of the beautiful places we have walked over recent years. It can be seen on the Society's website. **MB**

Vale – Andy Gardiner

*Call the birds from the winding track
The green, the red, and the violet birds,
Parrots galahs and pardelotes, and
Form them up in two straight lines
Ready to sing when the drum roll ends.*

*Of wild flowers have a circle made
Of blue Dampieri a carpet roll,
And red waratahs – a hundred find
To light the eucalypts' half shade.*

*Have them ready on parade
While distant bell-birds ring their toll
Set them in Dalpura's heath
Where a choir of casuarinas sing
To a swirling organ – the mountain wind.*

*Beneath a dazzling azure sky
There let us join this strange depart
And add our voice with open heart;
For there so long as we might try,
There shall we find his memory.*

Hugh Speirs, 10/08

CHANGE FOR THE GOOD

There are many simple ways you can help combat climate change, one of which is as easy as supporting companies who support the environment!

NoCO2 and LowCO2 certified businesses are serious about reducing their carbon footprint and have taken steps to measure, reduce and offset their climate change impacts.

When you buy from NoCO2 and LowCO2 businesses, you are helping drive a low carbon economy which encourages other businesses to get on board also.

To find carbon neutral or low carbon businesses, or to initiate the process in your organisation, visit the Carbon Reduction Institute's webpage at www.NoCO2.com.au

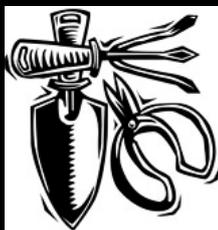
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In Australia, the Walk falls right when Federal Cabinet are deciding on Australia's emissions target for 2020 and just before the crucial international climate talks in Poland.



WITH FORK, SECATEURS AND TROWEL AT THE READY, SEE YOU ON....

Saturday 15 November Mt Victoria – Headwaters of Grose River 8.30am – 4.00pm

A joint NPWS/BMCC Great Grose Weed Walk Event.

Contact NPWS Coordinator Monica Nugent on 4787 3112 or Monica.Nugent@environment.nsw.gov.au

Friday 21 November Leura – Swampcare Event 9.00am – 12noon

Blue Mountains City Council with Hester Creek Landcare Group.

Contact Michael Hensen at BMCC on 4780 5471 or mhensen@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The *BMCS Bushwalkers' Guide*, which explains the numbered Grades, can be found on the Society's website www.bluemountains.org.au, or will be posted on request.

For further information please contact the Walks Convenor, Liz van Reyswood, on 4757 2694, email bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au, or by mail at PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

Before attending a walk, please discuss the walk with the contact person or group co-ordinator (see below)

SATURDAY WALKS

Usually a full-day, longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Before attending ring the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy, 4758 6009 or email jp34@tpg.com.au

- Nov-22 Mt Banks & Explorers Brook (3/4) Jim 4758 6009 Map:** Mt Wilson **Meet:** Mt Vic Station CP **Contact**
8km or 13km. Must contact Leader. The option (4) includes compulsory wet feet, steep scrambling descent and ascent.
- Nov-29 Temple of Doom, Wolgan River (3) Bob 4757 2694 Map:** B/C Bullen **Meet:** Mt Vic Station CP **8.30am**
12km. Temple of Doom to Wolgan River pagodas via Spanish Steps track. Views of Wolgan Gorge. All on track or fire trail.
- Dec-06 Bell to Wollangambe River (3/4) Jim 4758 6009 Map:** Woll/gambe **Meet:** Mt Vic Station CP **Contact**
12km. Spectacular scenery through at times difficult terrain. Interesting thermal crater. Contact leader for details. An easier option will be followed if the day is very hot.
- Dec-13 Pool of Siloam/Christmas Lunch (2) Bob 4757 2694 Map:** Katoomba **Meet:** End Gladstone Rd, Leura **11.00am**
5km. Pool of Siloam. Then Lunch at Everglades at 1.00pm. Lunch Cost \$30 inc. soft drinks. Deposit \$5 to Bob. BYOG.

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS

'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Maurice Kerkham, 4739 4942, or email mauricekerkham@hotmail.com

- Nov-24 Jack Evans Track, Glenbrook (2) Heather 4739 1493 Meet:** Glenbrook Commuter CP **9.30am**
Grade 2. National Park walk including Erskine Creek.
- Dec-01 Mowbray Mangroves, Lane Cove Heather 4739 1493 Meet:** Top of escalator, Central Station **9.30am**
Grade 2. Walk beside Lane Cove River.
- Dec-08 Rigby Hill, Walls Lookout (2) Maurice 0402 402 783 Meet:** Mt Victoria Station CP (car pool) **9.00am**
Grade 2. Off Bells Line of Road. Views of Grose Valley.
- Dec-15 Christmas Party (1) Judith 4758 6310 Meet:** Lawson Swimming Pool **10.30am**
Grade 1. Bring salad or sweets to share.

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS

The walks are of 2-3 hours length conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. The Group Co-ordinator is Simone Bowskill, 4757 3416, email simbow@tpg.com.au

- Nov-13 Darwin's Walk (2) David 4757 3416 Meet:** Wentworth Falls Stn CP (near the clock) **9.45am**
Start at south end of Falls Road and walk to Wilson Park. Car shuffle.
- Nov-20 Florabella Pass (2) Maurice 4739 4942 Meet:** Warrimoo Station (north side) **9.20am**
Revisit area to see spring flowers. Walk to Glenbrook Creek. Return from Blaxland Station.
- Nov-27 Birdwood Gully/Madeline Glen (2) Maurice 4739 4942 Meet:** Springwood Station **9.20am**
Walk through rainforest and unusual rock formations to Dell and return.
- Dec-04 Hyde Park near Hartley (1) Marie 4787 1257 Meet:** Mt Victoria Station CP **9.50am**
Easy walk to picnic area on the River Lett. Bring picnic food and swimmers.
- Dec-11 Wilson Glen, Woodford (2) Simone 4757 3416 Meet:** Woodford Station, south side **10.00am**
Leisurely walk to Cave and Waterfalls.
- Dec-18 Christmas Party (1) Simone 4757 3416 Meet:** Linden Station **11.00am**
Celebrate at Kings Cave, Linden. Bring a plate and a chair.

MEMBERS' MEMORANDA

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mark Boloazzo	Glenbrook
Robyn Clarke	Blackheath
Belinda Dunne	Katoomba
Denis Golding	Blackheath
Christine Laurence	Blaxland
Francis Lipscombe	W/worth Falls
Margaret Lipscombe	W/worth Falls
Joy Martin	Springwood
Asha Pickering	Glenbrook
Lyndall Pickering	Glenbrook
Andrew Pye	Blackheath
Nicholas Todd	Katoomba
Peter Wright	Blaxland

BMCS MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Ilan Salbe 4759 2372

membership@bluemountains.org.au

REVISED DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS FOR

MILK CARTONS FOR THE REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT

The Regent Honeyeater Project has established itself as one of the most active volunteer conservation projects in the whole of Australia.

It has engaged a multitude of farming communities in restoring remnant box-ironbark habitat for the endangered species still living in the district, and attracted ongoing support from a wide cross-section of the community to help farmers with the on-ground works.

Thank you to everyone who has been donating their used one-litre milk cartons for the Capertee Valley Tree Planting.



Note that the address they are to be delivered to has been changed. Please phone Carol Probeta on 4782 1831 or 0400 821 862 for the new instructions. CP