

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



FROM THE PRESIDENT...



This edition of *Hut News* contains a lot of information about our Annual General Meeting. I hope to see many of you there as it is a time when we can reflect upon the huge amount of work undertaken by our Society and thank those involved.

Additionally, I hope to welcome some new people on to our Management Committee! Please look at the positions described on page 4 and give me a ring if you have any questions (4751 1130).

Getting back to conservation, we have had a great month with members heading off on various bus trips.

We braved a 3:30am start to head to Canberra and encircle Parliament House to protest against the Rudd Government's inadequate action on Climate Change.

We also went to Sydney to tell the NSW State Government that we do not want to open up our National Parks for private eco-resorts! This issue is not going away and we really need to keep up the pressure. Please read the column opposite for how you can help.

Tara Cameron 4751 1130

Stop the Commercialisation of National Parks

As reported in our last *Hut News*, the NSW Government plans to change National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to weaken National Park protection by:

- broadening the purpose of national parks to include 'sustainable tourism'.
- changing leasing arrangements to allow new 'eco-resorts', cabins and semi-permanent 'camps'.
- changing wilderness laws to allow commercial tours.

It's Bad for Parks AND our local tourism industry.

We are working with businesses to help keep tourists in the guest houses, boutique hotels, cafes and other facilities our Blue Mountain towns. They don't need to compete with private restaurants and eco-resorts in the Parks. But the Blue Mountains is specifically targeted in the Taskforce report.

CONTACT politicians to say:

- the NPW Act should not be changed
- new development is NOT needed in National Parks (beyond that already permissible such as toilets)
- Wilderness areas do not need to be commercialised
- The integrity and protection of our Parks is more important now than ever before

Mr Phil Koperberg, Shop 3, 107-109 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW 2777. Ph 4751 3298

bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Ms Carmel Tebbutt, Minister for the Environment, Level 30, 1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY, NSW 2000

dp.office@tebbutt.minister.nsw.gov.au

Mr Nathan Rees, GPO Box 5341, SYDNEY NSW 2001 Ph 9228 5239.

thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au

TC

— Overview of NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategy —

Kate Hammill is the Operations Officer for the Blue Mountains Region of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Region extends from Yerranderie in the south to Coolah Tops in the north and from the foothills of the Blue Mountains to the west of Mudgee, 1,150,000 hectares in all, encompassing 25 reserves and a major portion of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Operations Officer provides operational support and coordination of pest and fire management across the Region, and in particular complements the operational strengths of the four management areas – Upper Mountains, Kanangra, Hawkesbury and Mudgee.

Before coming Operations Officer, Kate worked for six years with DECC's Fire Ecology Unit, during which she was involved in research on remote sens-

ing of fire severity in the Blue Mountains; the influence of weather, terrain and fuel on fire behaviour and the effects of rainfall, temperature and fire history on vegetation composition across the Greater Blue Mountains.

Kate will be the guest speaker at our March Monthly Meeting at the Conservation Hut. She will provide an overview of the Regional Pest Management Strategy, including those protecting threatened species, combating remote weeds and managing vertebrate pests.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm, Friday, 27 February 2009

Conservation Hut, Fletcher St,

(after the Annual General Meeting)

VISITORS
WELCOME!

HUT NEWS

Hut News is the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782 Phone 4757 1872 Fax 4757 1753 Email: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Tara Cameron

4751 1130, dontara@bigpond.com

Senior Vice President and Meetings

Secretary: Heather Hull

4739 1493, hhull001@bigpond.net.au

Second Vice President &

World Heritage Officer: John Haydon

0403 797 585, jhaydonmc@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer: Bart Beech

4739 9947, bbeech@invensys.com.au

Administration Officer: Rob Baigent

4759 3104, robbaigent@iprimus.com.au

Environ. Education Officer:

Chris Yates, 4784 3407

christopher.yates@education.nsw.gov.au

Climate Change & Sustainability Officer:

Helen Deane

4787 6797, helen.deane@gmail.com

Lithgow Regional Subcommittee

Co-ordinator: Chris Jonkers

6355 1179, chrisandjulie@activ8.net.au

Meetings Convenor: David Brazil

4784 3496, david@dbrazil.com

Membership Secretary: Ilan Salbe

4759 2372, ilan.salbe@bigpond.com

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Publicity Officer: David Hall

0404 123 001, david.delegate@idx.com.au

Threatened Species/Bushcare Officer:

Clive Heywood-Barker

4782 3345, ozbundu@hotmail.com

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Bushfire Officer: Hugh Paterson

4751 2303, goodbush@pnc.com.au

Hut News Editor: Ron Withington

4757 3984, ronwit@ozemail.com.au

www.bluemountains.org.au

- RED ALERT -

The NSW Premier has announced the appointment of Bob Leece as NSW Infrastructure Co-Ordinator General. Special legislation will be introduced to give Leece exceptional planning powers.

He will have the power to declare development projects not be subject to the usual NSW Planning, Local Government and other approvals legislation, according to the Premier. This would seem to include the processes provided by the very developer friendly Planning Legislation passed last year.

The 'excuse' given by the Premier for putting this power in the hands of one person is to ensure that the NSW share of the \$42billion stimulus package is spent quickly. Apparently, the NSW Government does not believe it is functional enough to administer a Stimulus Program without granting such powers to one person.

Source -- *The Australian Financial Review*

David Hall

Working Bee to support the re-location of the Lawson Nursery

Our long association with Mt Hay Technology, Lawson, has terminated and we have vacated those premises for a new location, a short distance away, at the corner of Cascade and Park Streets in the Lawson industrial area. Now our big challenge is to construct full nursery facilities at the new location and we are calling on members to assist.

There will be a **Bumper Working Bee** at the new location on Saturday 28 March, 2009, during the hours 9.00am and 4.00pm. Materials will be provided, but please bring your lunch and your tools of choice, whether you be a plumber, electrician, carpenter, landscaper, general handyman or pick and shovel artisan. Refreshments will be on tap. Please give me a call if you require any further details. **Kevin Bell 4787 6436**



HUT NEWS EDITOR

This is my final edition as *Hut News* Editor, as I will be standing down from the Management Committee as from the AGM on 27 March, 2009. Thank you to all my contributors and readers over the past year.

We have not yet identified my replacement, so may I put in a special appeal for another member to come forward and take a turn at the keyboard. I am more than happy to provide advice and assistance during the orientation of a new editor. There is a nomination form on page 5! **Ron Withington**

DONATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY

The Society is pleased to have received these two books during the past month:

Overloading Australia

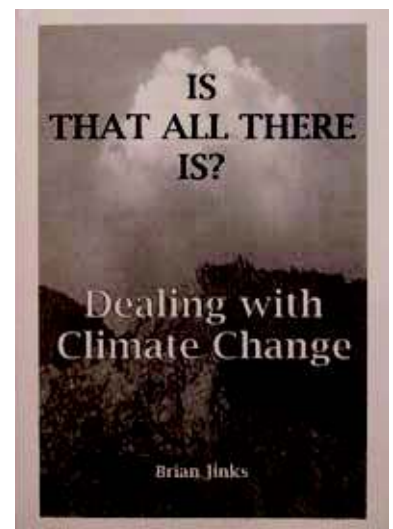
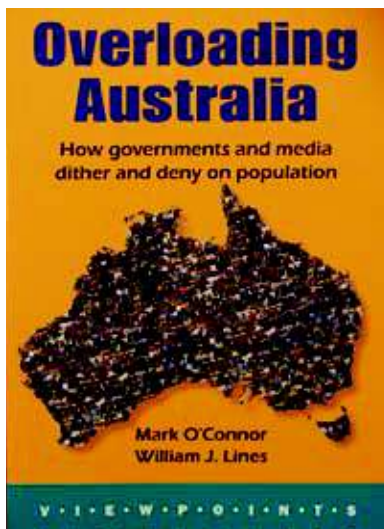
by Mark O'Connor and William J. Lines, donated by member Elisabeth Francis

Is That All There Is?

Dealing with Climate Change by Brian Jinks, donated by the author.

We have also received a DVD from Sydney Water, titled ***Upper Blue Mountains Sewage Scheme***. It highlights the innovative approach to safety, environment, the community and new technology during project delivery, which is now complete.

If you would like to borrow one of these items please ring Rob Baigent on 4759 3104.



BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY – NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 27 MARCH 2009

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held at the Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls at 7.30 pm on Friday 27 March 2009. Business will include receipt of reports, adoption of annual accounts, determination of structure of Management Committee, election of President, Management Committee members and other office holders and appointment of auditor. There is also a proposal to consider changes to the Constitution proposed by the Management Committee. There are 2 changes proposed:

1. To adopt the provisions of the model rules for incorporated associations published by the Department of Fair Trading for resolution of internal disputes, disciplining members, right of appeal of disciplined members and removal of member.
2. To eliminate the limit on the number of proxies which the Chairperson may hold at a general meeting and to specify that the Chairperson must follow any instructions on the proxy form as to how he or she should vote.

The specific wording of these proposed changes is as follows:

Existing Clauses	Proposed Replacement Clauses
<p>22 APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES</p> <p>(a) Each Ordinary Member shall be entitled to appoint another Ordinary Member as proxy by notice given to the Meetings Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.</p> <p>(b) The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form set out in the Appendix to these rules.</p> <p>(c) No member shall accept proxies from more than five other members.</p>	<p>22 APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES</p> <p>(a) Each Ordinary Member shall be entitled to appoint another Ordinary Member as proxy by notice given to the Meetings Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.</p> <p>(b) The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form set out in the Appendix to these rules.</p> <p>(c) No member other than the Chairperson of the meeting shall accept proxies from more than five other members.</p> <p>(d) The Chairperson of the meeting must follow any instructions included in the form of proxy as to how to vote on a specific item or items.</p>
<p>7 VACATION OF OFFICE</p> <p>The office of a member of the Management Committee shall become vacant:</p> <p>(a) Upon the member's decease;</p> <p>(b) If the member becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally;</p> <p>(c) If the member becomes mentally ill or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;</p> <p>(d) If the member resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Society;</p> <p>(e) If the member is absent for more than six months without leave of the Management Committee from meetings of the Management Committee held during that period;</p> <p>(f) If the member ceases to be an Ordinary Member of the Society;</p> <p>(g) Upon a resolution being passed by a two-thirds majority of Ordinary Members present at a properly constituted general meeting specially called for the purpose, to remove the member from office;</p> <p>(h) If the member holds any office of profit under the Society;</p> <p>(i) If the member is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Society.</p>	<p>7 VACATION OF OFFICE</p> <p>The office of a member of the Management Committee shall become vacant:</p> <p>(a) Upon the member's decease;</p> <p>(b) If the member becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally;</p> <p>(c) If the member becomes mentally ill or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;</p> <p>(d) If the member resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Society;</p> <p>(e) If the member is absent for more than six months without leave of the Management Committee from meetings of the Management Committee held during that period;</p> <p>(f) If the member ceases to be an Ordinary Member of the Society;</p> <p>(g) If the member holds any office of profit under the Society;</p> <p>(h) If the member is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Society.</p>
<p>18 DISCIPLINING AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS</p> <p>A member may be disciplined or expelled from membership of the Society by the Management Committee, if in the opinion of the Management Committee, (after affording such member an opportunity of offering the Management Committee an explanation of the conduct either verbally or in writing as the Management Committee may decide), the conduct of the member is detrimental to the best interests of the Society, provided that:</p> <p>(a) Such disciplining and expulsion shall not be effective unless it is confirmed by a majority of Ordinary Members present at a Special General Meeting of members convened to consider the disciplining and expulsion;</p> <p>(b) Such Special General Meeting is held within a period of one month from the date the decision of the Management Committee to discipline and expel the member;</p> <p>(c) At such Special General Meeting, the member whose disciplining and expulsion is under consideration shall be allowed to offer an explanation of his conduct verbally or in writing at the option of such member;</p> <p>(d) The voting at such Special General Meeting shall be by ballot if at least five Ordinary Members present at the meeting so request;</p> <p>(e) It shall be in the power of the Management Committee to exclude such member from participation in the affairs of the Society until such Special General Meeting shall be held;</p> <p>(f) The Society may make provision for appeal from any decision made by it to discipline or expel a member.</p>	<p>18 DISCIPLINING AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS, DISPUTE RESOLUTION</p> <p>The provisions of the model rules published by the Office of Fair Trading (or any successor body responsible for oversight of incorporated associations in New South Wales) shall apply covering the following topics:</p> <p>(a) resolution of internal disputes,</p> <p>(b) disciplining of members,</p> <p>(c) right of appeal of disciplined members</p> <p>(d) removal of member</p>

The current model rules can be found on the Office of Fair Trading website at http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/About_us/Publications/f119.pdf. The rules by which we would be bound should this proposal be passed are numbers 10, 11, 12 and 19.

To be effected, these changes must be passed by a three-quarters majority of members present at this meeting (Constitution Clause 20(a)).

By order of the Management Committee
23 February 2009

BMCS — MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

APRIL 2009 TO MARCH 2010

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The following office bearers comprise the BMCS Management Committee.

These members attend monthly Management Committee meetings, and other meetings as needed.

Additional personal time is needed to effectively handle the responsibilities. A guide to the total number of hours per month (hpm) is shown in brackets after each position.

President (35 hpm)

- Provides leadership and direction for BMCS
- Chairperson for BMCS meetings
- Spokesperson for BMCS
- Coordinates the BMCS response to ad hoc matters
- Provides copy for Hut News
- Participates in selected BMCS objectives where practicable

Senior Vice-President

Second Vice-President

(Two positions, each 15 hpm)

- Deputises for the President as required
- Takes responsibility for one or more nominated major projects
- Undertakes business arising at meetings, assists sub-committees when required
- Welcomes members and visitors at monthly meetings, assists with name tags and attendance book

Administration Officer (30 hpm)

- Receives and distributes incoming mail from post and email
- Prepares monthly schedules of correspondence – inwards and outwards
- Manages office, including files, archives, stationery supplies, computer and other office equipment

Meetings Secretary (15 hpm)

- Prepares meeting agendas and minutes.

Membership Secretary (35 hpm)

- Initiates programs to attract new members to the Society
- Keeps membership records
- Sends welcome letters to new members
- Sends renewal notices, follows up members who become unfinancial
- Removes unfinancial members from membership
- Provides monthly membership report
- Arranges printing and postage for each member mailout
- Deposits membership fees

Treasurer (10 hpm)

- Responsible for BMCS finances
- Responsible for BMCS insurance
- Pays accounts and deposits receipts

- Provides monthly financial report
- Arranges audit for AGM

Land Use Officer (20 hpm)

- Convenes Land Use sub-committee
- Monitors changes to land use/planning legislation
- Monitors developments and impacts
- Prepares submissions
- Initiates campaigns on key issues

Newsletter Editor (35 hpm)

- Liaises with existing and potential *Hut News* contributors
- Edits/produces 11 newsletters per year

Publicity/ PublicAffairs (35 hpm)

- promotes BMCS issues in the media
- Attends monthly meetings and publishes a review in *Hut News*
- Takes photographs of key BMCS events, locations, people etc
- Provides website with news and views
- Prepares sundry publications for distribution. Writes a monthly column for the *BM Gazette* with input from all

Website Officer (12 hpm)

- Maintains BMCS website
- Updates content of website monthly and as required
- Designs and codes new web pages
- Manages web hosting account
- Advocates for acquisition of new communication technologies as appropriate

Meetings Convenor (10 hpm)

- Arranges speakers for each monthly meeting, after discussion with Management Committee
- Arranges hospitality, welcome, introductions, gift and supper for speakers

Environ. Education Officer (15 hpm)

- Responsible for education program
- Liaises with BMCC to promote community environmental education
- Convenes Env. Ed. sub-committee
- Prepares publications, workshops, activities to inform the community about nature and conservation issues

Plant Nursery Manager (30 hpm)

- Responsible for overseeing operations of the Blackheath and Lawson nurseries.
- Purchases nursery materials
- Collects and maintains a seed bank of local plants
- Arranges sales and contracts for plants with government and private individuals
- Promotes the use of Australian plants in private and Council gardens
- Manages nursery financial affairs

Climate Change/Sustainability Officer (15 hpm)

- Liaises with local CC/Sustainability groups and BMCC

- Takes an active role in political/governmental aspects of CC policy, submissions and grants.
- Supports sustainable village models and concepts, with an emphasis on transport and food solution.

National Parks Officer (25 hpm)

- Liaises with NPWS about parks management matters
- Lobbies to advance and enhance conservation in, or in areas adjacent to, national parks
- Campaigns for inholdings acquisitions
- Campaigns for parks/WHA additions
- Co-ordinates matters relating to the Western Escarpment and Newnes Plateau

Threatened Species/Bushcare Officer (15 hpm)

- Deals with threatened species issues and prepares submissions etc.
- Promotes threatened species conservation
- Represents BMCS on the BM Threatened Species Recovery Team
- Liaises with NPWS, BMCC and other bushcare groups
- Represents BMCS at Bushcare Network meetings
- Advises on Bushcare issues

World Heritage Officer (15 hpm)

- Lobbies for WHA management funding
- Monitors/comments on WHA management
- Identifies/campaigns for WHA additions

Management Committee Meeting Arrangements

Mid-Mountains Community Centre, Lawson, 9am, Saturday prior to last Friday of the month.

Annual General Meeting

Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls
7.30 pm, Friday 27 March 2009

Non -Management Committee Positions:

Public Officer (0.1 hpm)

- Contact point between BMCS and Department of Fair Trading.
- Ensures that annual returns are filed with Dept of Fair Trading

Bushfire Committee Rep. (5 hpm)

- Represents NCC on BM Bushfire Mgt C/tee and Risk Mgt Sub-C/tee
- Attends appropriate NCC workshops

Walks Convenor (10 hpm)

- Prepares & distributes seasonal bushwalks newsletter
- Maintains Bushwalkers' Sub-Group Insurance and attendance records
- Keeps up to date with BW insurance policy & requirements.
- Organises quarterly meetings of BWs co-ordinators & other interested BWs
- Sends welcome pack to new BWs

Attention all Gardeners, Bushcare Volunteers, Permaculturists, Nurseries, Conservationists and Bush Regenerators



PLANT WHAT NATIVE WHERE?

Does 'provenance' matter,
or will any native plant do?



A Forum

Bob Makinson
Co-ordinator, Centre for Plant Conservation
Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Thursday April 2 2009

7pm – 9:30pm Santa Maria Centre, Lawson
Parking Kitchener & Mary Streets, and on the Highway

The Agenda

- Does it matter what native species we plant, and where?
- Does what you plant in the garden affect the bush over the road?
- Will climate change overwhelm restored native bushland?
- Protecting genetic integrity
- Discussion about Best Practice for revegetation works and Blue Mountains gardens

A free event. Tea, coffee & cake provided.
Bookings essential. RSVP by Mon March 30

Lyndal Sullivan, Bushcare Coordinator
Blue Mountains City Council (02) 4780 5528
lsullivan@bmcc.nsw.gov.au



MICROSTROBOS HAPPENING

On Saturday 18 April, Blue Mountains City Council is holding a **Microstrobos Event** at Wentworth Falls, and all those interested are invited. *Microstrobos fitzgeraldii* (Dwarf Mountain Pine) is an endangered species as old and as rare in the wild as the Wollemi Pine, and it is found in only a few Blue Mountains locations, including in the spray zone of Wentworth Falls.



On the Saturday morning in question, from 9.00am to 1.00pm, Council will run a working seminar on the plant. There will be an informative talk by Michael Hensen, Biodiversity Conservation Officer, a viewing of *Microstrobos*, morning tea, and (wet) bushcare, working from the edge of the Falls back along Jamison Creek.

The good work of nearly all the Wentworth Falls bushcare groups affects the *Microstrobos* zone, keeping the environment of the plant clear of weeds. Please come along and be part of the event. Contact Michael so that he has an idea of numbers for catering and provision of equipment.

Phone: 4780 5471
Email: mhensen@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

The Management Committee always needs new talent, and urges you to seriously consider nominating at the AGM for one of the positions set out on the opposite page. You can copy this Nomination Form, or simply tear it out – there is nothing vital on the reverse side. Please mail your nomination to the Meetings Secretary PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls 2782 or Fax 4757 1753

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. 2009/2010 Management Committee Nomination Form

We.....and

being members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society hereby nominate

..... for the position of

Signed Date:

I,being a member of the above Society accept the nomination.

Signed Date:

This form must be lodged with the Meetings Secretary at least 24 hours before the AGM

Help Save our Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps

The *Save our Swamps (SOS) Project* is seeking to rehabilitate degraded Temperate Peat Swamps on Sandstone EECs in the Lithgow and Blue Mountains LGAs. The Temperate Peat Swamps on Sandstone listing include the endangered Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps, of which a large proportion is managed by Forest NSW.

The *Save our Swamps* project officer, Michael Henson from BMCC, will coordinate and project-manage the Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp Rehabilitation project. The SOS project will also contribute \$5,000 towards providing resources to run community involvement work days rehabilitating Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps on or adjacent to NSW Forest lands.

The first project, Browns Swamp, is an excellent example of the endangered Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp ecological community and is located between the Zig Zag railway, the Centennial Coal site, the Dargan Dams and the Bells Line of Road. The swamp's location at the entrance of a key access route onto the Newnes Plateau represents an excellent opportunity to educate visitors about the environmental values of the Newnes Plateau, the Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps and the threatened species that inhabit them.

Browns Swamp is being adversely impacted upon by unauthorized vehicle access to the head of the swamp opposite the Zig Zag railway parking area, as well as by stormwater discharges coming off the highway, resulting in nutrient enrichment and weed invasion into the swamp system.

The Lithgow Oberon Landcare Association (LOLA), the Dargan/Bell Landcare/Bushcare Group, Lithgow City Council, the Zig Zag Railway, Centennial Coal, and the *Save our Swamps* project have formed a partnership to manage the adverse impacts on Browns Swamp.

The project will include:

- 1- Rehabilitating the unauthorized vehicle access and parking area at the head of Browns Swamp by restricting vehicle access to the area and revegetating the disturbed area.
- 2- Interpretive signage highlighting the significance of Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps and their associated threatened species and recognizing partner organizations.
- 3- Improving stormwater management and controlling the associated weeds impacting on Browns swamp.

The first planning meeting was held at the Browns Swamp site on 29 January. It was attended by representatives of the Zig Zag

Railway, CMA, Dargan/Bell Landcare/Bushcare Group, LOLA and BMCS. Michael Henson explained the project, and practical ways of implementing the ideas were discussed. It was agreed that the first step would be **1** (above). The Zig Zag Railway representative agreed to provide the materials for the bollard and help with the erection. Centennial Coal will be approached for help with providing the necessary tools and equipment. The Zig Zag rep also agreed that signage could be erected wherever we thought appropriate. The group inspected the site, particularly the extent of the weed problem in the swamp. We also agreed on a date for the first community bush regeneration day.

First Community Bush Regeneration Day Saturday 28 March from 9.00am-3.00pm

After having had the pleasure of conducting many BMCS bushwalks on the Newnes Plateau I know that many members are passionate about helping to preserve the unique values of the area. It is also of course part of the GOS2 proposal which is a major objective of the Society. Lithgow swampcare volunteers have been coming to the Blue Mountains to help with the Blue Mountains Swamps and it is time to repay the favour.

We are inviting all BMCS members who are interested in the SOS Project and would like to participate in a practical way to join us for a great day out.

Training, tools and lunch will be provided.

We will meet at the Zig Zag Railway entrance at 9.00am.

To register please contact Michael Hensen on mhensen@bmcc.nsw.gov.au (preferred) or 4780 5471.

Karen McLaughlin



Trail-bike and 4WD damage to a Newnes Shrub Swamp

Consoc support for BM Bushcare

BLUE MOUNTAINS

VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP

meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon.

Karen Hising is our volunteer leader, providing instruction. Tools and gloves are made available.

You bring a drink, a snack, a hat and a wanton will for weed withering...

New members always welcome!

Please ring Karen on 4757 1929.

But if you can't make it to our site please find a Bushcare Group nearer to your home. See the website:

*www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/bushcare_groups.asp
or phone Lyndal Sullivan at: BMCC 4780 5528*

THE GREAT GROSE WEED WALK (GGWW) IS ON AGAIN

Many members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society have been involved since its early beginnings as the Great Grose Gorse Walk over 15 years ago, and it is thanks to the hard work of such volunteer bush-carers over that time that gorse is being kept out of the Grose Valley.

But we need to keep on fighting it, so twice each year, in Autumn and Spring, Great Grose Weed Walk volunteers work to stop the spread of lots of other environmental weeds – and they need your help again this Autumn.

National Parks & Wildlife Service Rangers and Blue Mountains City Council Bushcare Officers provide training and equipment, so no experience is needed. There is a variety of activities on the Autumn program.

For details and a registration form please contact Monica Nugent at NPWS in Blackheath on 4787 3108 or email monica.nugent@environment.nsw.gov.au

Crash or Burn with the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

LETTER OF THE MONTH
MARCH 2009



**Heather Hull, Lachlan Garland and Tara Cameron
at the barricades!**

Over 500 representatives of more than 100 different grassroots climate action groups met in Canberra recently at the Climate Action Summit.

The aim of the summit was to adopt a set of campaign objectives for 2009, in the run-up to the next global climate negotiations in Copenhagen at the end of the year.

A major unifying objective was to prevent the Federal government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) from becoming law in its current form.

Why oppose the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)?

Ultimately Australia's survival from the threat of climate change will depend on what the other countries of the world are prepared to do. As the developed country most threatened by global warming, we cannot expect these countries to set higher global targets for carbon emissions if we are prepared to set such a low one, and to have it already legislated before the Copenhagen negotiations take place. Nor can we expect to have a say in what those targets should be.

Australia will not be able to participate in setting higher global targets at Copenhagen if we have already legislated our own low target.

Together with leaders of all the peak environment groups, the National Climate Change Adviser, Professor Ross Garnaut has damned the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in its present form as a threat to the environment, the national budget and global prosperity.

He has called on the government to keep open the option of a more ambitious cut to carbon emissions by setting an upper limit of 25% in its target of 5-15% by 2020.

Professor Garnaut, the Government's own advisor, has also strongly criticised the government's plan for compensation of the biggest polluters, saying "Never in the history of Australian public finance has so much been given, without public purpose, by so many, to so few" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 20.12.08).

Dr Clive Hamilton, in the opening session of the Climate Summit, said that the CPRS was "as if the government had announced a new tax on cigarettes, but exempted smokers from paying."

There is little incentive for the renewable energy industry in the CPRS with cheap coal-fired electricity virtually given a free ride.

Also, the CPRS in its current form totally removes any incentive for individuals to actively reduce their emissions (e.g. by installing solar panels), as by doing so they will simply make it easier for polluting industries to increase their emissions.

The Climate Action Summit proposed that climate action groups target their local MPs and voice their opposition to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

We can increase our pressure as individuals by phoning a message, as well as emailing or writing. Various media reports suggest that local members are feeling the pressure in their electorates and we need to step it up to ensure the CPRS scheme is not adopted before Copenhagen in December.

Make your concerns known to our Member for Macquarie the Hon. Bob Debus. His electoral office is now in Katoomba on Level 1/98 Bathurst St, Katoomba 2780 (above the Medical Centre). Write to him at PO Box 997 Katoomba 2780 or telephone on 4782 4644 or send a fax to 4782 4643.

Here are some points you may wish to make:

- Ultimately Australia's survival from the threat of climate change will depend on what the other countries of the world are prepared to do. As the developed country most threatened by global warming, we cannot expect these countries to set higher global targets if we are prepared to set such a low one, and to have it already legislated before the Copenhagen negotiations take place. Nor can we expect to have a say in what those targets should be.

- The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme should not be put to Parliament in its current form.

- The government should keep open the option of a more ambitious cut to carbon emissions by setting an upper limit of 25% in its target of 5-15% by 2020.

- Professor Garnaut, the Government's own advisor, has strongly criticised the CPRS in its current form, especially the government's plan for compensation of the biggest polluters.

- There are no incentives for the expansion of the renewable energy industry, with cheap coal-fired electricity virtually given a free ride.

- The CPRS in its current form also totally removes any incentive for individuals to actively reduce their emissions (e.g. by installing solar panels), as by doing so they will simply make it easier for polluting industries to increase their emissions.

It would be especially powerful if you could talk (or write) about your own individual actions to lower your emissions and how you fear that these actions will become pointless if the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is adopted.

*Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman via
Citizens Climate Campaign*



Part of the Climate Action Summit encircling of Parliament House.

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 more information: Liz van Reyswood, on 4757 2694, bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au, or PO Box 29, W/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

- Mar-21 Lawson to Hazelbrook (2/3) Jo 4758 6009 Map:** Katoomba **Meet:** Lawson Stn Car Park, Nth 9.00am
8km. Via Dantes Glen, Empire Pass – FT to Korawal School (Hbk) and The Amphitheatre.
- Mar-28 Bald Hill and Environs (2/3) Sue 4787 8887 Map:** Mt Wilson **Meet:** B/heath Neigh/hood Ctre 9.00am
8km. Bald Head - Hat Hill Rd to Hat Hill - Bald Head Ridge to Bald Head and return with perhaps a side trip to Bennet Lookout for a great view of the Grose Valley.
- Apl-04 Fortress Ridge to Fortress Ck (3/4) Meredith 4782 4823 Map:** Katoomba **Meet:** Leura School, Mt Hay Rd 8.30am
8km. Steep Scrambling descent and ascent to Fortress Creek but the Canyon and views out over the Grose Valley. make it all worthwhile.
- Apl-11 Noble Canyon, Glowworm Tunnel (2) Bob 4757 2694 Map:** Ben & Cullen **Meet:** Mt Vic Station Car Park 9.00am
Easter 10km. Car pool required.

MONDAY 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

- Mar-23 Hanging Rock (2) Mary 4757 4569 Meet:** Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.00am
Views over Grose Valley.
- Mar-30 Wiseman's Ferry (2) Maurice 4739 4942 Meet:** Council Depot, South St, Nth. Katoomba 8.00am
Walk on convict built road. Bus Trip. Fare \$12. Book & pay Birgitta 4784 3191. Lunch at St.Albans Pub.
- Apl-06 Six-Foot Track (3) Tera 4751 3303 Meet:** Blackheath Commuter Car park 8.30am
15km over 5.5 hours. Walk to suspension bridge. Car pool required.
- Apl-13 Victory Track, Faulconbridge (3) Mary 4757 4569 Meet:** Faulconbridge Railway Station 8.30am
Forests & Mountain Streams.

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

- Mar-19 Nature Trail, Wentworth Falls (2) Maurice 4739 4942 Meet:** Wentworth Falls Carpark, near clock 9.30am
Classic walk with a variety of habitats.
- Mar-26 Wilson Glen, Woodford (2) Simone 4757 3416 Meet:** Woodford Station, South, (uphill side) 10.00am
Leisurely walk to Gypsy Cave.
- Apl-02 Bus Trip to Dunns Swamp (2) David 4757 3416 Meet:** Council Depot, South St, Nth Katoomba 8.00am
Cost \$12. Bookings Simone 4757 3416. See note in *Bushwalkers' Newsletter* about bus trips.
- Apl-09 Berghofers Pass, Mt Victoria (2) Maurice 4739 4942 Meet:** Mt Victoria Station Car Park 10.00am
Explore one of the old road crossings.
- Apl-16 Witches Leap, Furber Steps (2) Joan 4782 5966 Meet:** Gearins Hotel, Katoomba 9.30am
Descent into rainforest. Take lunch, return via Scenic Railway.

Another reminder about the recovery program for Saint Helena Crater

Saint Helena Crater was not especially difficult to get to via fire trails in the mid-1970s, but not frequently visited, either. However, anyone who has attempted to approach the Crater in recent times is aware of the devastation caused by the 2002 fires and the subsequent growth in the rich volcanic soil of rampant blackberry and other weeds, making access into and through the crater next to impossible.

In concert with the NPWS, Peter Miller and the Brisbane Waters Outdoors Club have formed the Friends of Saint Helena Crater Bushcare Group and they are asking interested and willing clubs to help. Weekend working bees have begun, with three held in 2008. These early weekends were mainly for mapping and planning. The real bushcare begins in autumn, initially March 14/15 and April 18/19, followed by two more sessions in the spring.

Jim Percy, our Saturday Walks Co-ordinator – 4758 6009 – is calling for interested and willing members to contact him with the intention of joining the April 18/19 weekend to assist in the recovery program.

NPWS have the OH&S obligation to train and protect volunteers and are particularly interested in people attending a preparatory training course on chemical handling and spraying technique. The course will be held in early March – so indications of interest are needed as soon as possible.

Members can still help without the training – they will not be involved in any spraying or other chemical handling. There will be plenty of other jobs.

The plan is for the April weekend session to appear on the Autumn Walks program April 18 and 19. The party will walk in to the crater with an overnight pack from Martins Lookout via the Kings Link track. It will not be necessary to carry in any tools as all equipment will be provided by NPWS.

MEMBERS' MEMORANDA



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS
Paul Bourne Hawkesbury Heights
Maureen Grant Blackheath

BMCS MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:
Ilan Salbe 4759 2372
membership@bluemountains.org.au