



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



## Celebrate World Heritage in the Greater Blue Mountains SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER, 2015 2.30 pm with official ceremony at 3 pm Govetts Leap Lookout, Blackheath

A community event to celebrate 15 years of  
World Heritage Listing of the Greater Blue Mountains Area

### HELP US launch a new book "Values for a new generation: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area", book and e-publication

A series of papers on geodiversity, biodiversity, contemporary  
Aboriginal values, historical issues, nature-culture and scenic  
grandeur to support understanding of potential National and World  
Heritage values. Authored by members and former members of the  
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee  
and edited by Doug Benson.

**EXPERIENCE world premiere of Treasure dance performance.** With a story written and directed by Janelle Randall-Court, choreography by Jo Clancy, and music by Jacinta Tobin, this captivating performance piece will form part of the celebrations. The production tells the story of the male satin bower bird, who takes us on a journey of passion, love and culture, as well as the tragedy of environmental impact and the hope of renewal.

### VISIT the Bunburang Maroodang Exhibition at the Blue Mountains Heritage Centre

Experience the southern Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area along Gundungurra Ancestral Pathways at the Bunburang Maroodang Exhibition presenting audio, video, written, painting and sculptural works of walkers and support crew on the Bunburang Trail.  
(Last day of exhibition)

### A Postcard from the Wilderness

Today I awoke with the mountains of Wollemi  
The ancient basalt of Coricudgy, Morundilla, Coriaday  
The broken sediments of an ancient ocean  
the rainforest  
the open forest  
the Apatophyllum and Pultanaea  
the lyrebirds and wombats  
the secretive quolls that lurk in the  
gullies and leave nothing but scats  
to mark their passing through  
this wild place

Who dares to walk this wilderness?  
Who dares to unlock its secrets?

The rock wallabies sit quietly in their  
hiding places and smile.

They know their secrets won't be revealed.

**Sue Morrison, Gosper's Mountain, October 1992**

*The poem "A Postcard from the Wilderness" was written on part of the Great Blue Mountains World Heritage campaign walk. Wyn Jones and others walked in stages from the Goulburn River National Park, near Muswellbrook, to Mittagong.*

### Get your fingers tapping . . .

Another year is being celebrated by vested interests trying to lock Governments into new anti-environment decisions before Christmas.

Brian Marshall's article on Page 7 explains why the Government's coal policies harm the environment and economy.

December brings deadline dates for Western Sydney Airport and the management plan for Muggii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. Articles by Ross Coster and Madi Maclean link to material to make informed submissions.

The airport Environmental Impact Statement documents are very long. When discussing the airport, environmentalists should make clear that we favour a Very Fast Train system instead.

Flight paths for a Badgerys Creek Airport have been mooted. But, remember: once there is an airport, any guarantees about flight paths will not be worth the paper they are written on. Decision-makers will be entirely at the mercy of lobbying by airlines and residents of densely populated flight path suburbs.

Happy submission writing.

**Don Morison, President.**

"Hut News", the newsletter of  
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## In Focus Photographic Competition – Update

The Gardens of Stone Alliance has been overwhelmed with the response to the *In Focus* competition, with 237 people taking part in the 21 guided photography walks undertaken. There were 102 photographers who submitted 478 images, many of them accompanied by stories and poems.

The judges selected 137 exhibition entries by 55 photographers. In addition to contributions by the seven invited professional photographers, there were 76 other professional entries and 402 non-professional entries. From these, 29 professional entries were selected with 108 non-professional entries making the body of the exhibition. There were 21 junior entries, 7 of which were selected for exhibition.

Of the seven categories, it was no surprise that the most competitive category was the non-professional landscape, with 130 entries from which 24 were selected. Perhaps understandably, the least competitive non-professional categories were the photographic series with 72 entries, 23 of which were selected (providing the best chance of being exhibited!) and rock features with 107 entries and 24 images selected.

We are sure that the exhibition will be exciting when the selected images bring the Gardens of Stone region to Sydney. We expect to have more information about the venue in November.

We thank everyone for their patience and help with the competition and now we need to muster our resources for the exhibition itself. In the meantime, please visit our online gallery <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/gardens-stone-focus-photographic-competition-gallery> and enjoy the broad range of talented photographers who have contributed. There is also provision on the site to select favourite images, and these preferences will be collated into a people's choice report.

Keith Muir, for the Gardens of Stone Alliance.

### BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Our nursery offers the home gardener, landscaper or large contractor a big variety of quality local native plants at economical prices.

**Lawson Nursery**, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 9am to noon.

The nursery is located in the Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets - see map on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au).

**Blackheath Community Market**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm.

**Magpie Market**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm.

Tube stock \$3. Larger pots available.

Discounts for bulk orders and large contracts.

Enquiries Sue Nicol 4787 8887, [nursery@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:nursery@bluemountains.org.au)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
 ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS  
 21 NOVEMBER 2015**  
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## EIS released for Western Sydney Airport Ross Coster

The Environmental Impact Statement for Western Sydney Airport was released on 19-Oct-2015. You can find all the sections of it here: <http://westernsydneyairport.gov.au/resources/deis/index.aspx>

The EIS is, as expected, a huge set of documents, comprising thousands of pages. The No Western Sydney Airport Sub-Committee will be studying the document(s) and writing a BMCS Submission in due course. We have 60 days to get this done.

If you want to help us plough through this huge task, please contact me (Ross@coster.com.au) We *will* need help.

Some guidelines for members to make a submission will be on the Society's website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) from the end of November, and in December Hut News.

In the meantime, have a read of the Executive Summary which at 54 pages makes alarming reading.

### Executive Summary makes alarming reading

The flight paths for the Airport on pages 20 and 21 show every landing aircraft approaching over Bells Line of Road and the Grose Wilderness, then being funnelled into a narrow path over Springwood, Blaxland and Glenbrook. Take offs are spread more generously, over Lake Burragarang and the Southern Blue Mountains, and over the Wollemi Wilderness.

This airport will have a huge impact on our World Heritage National Parks and Wilderness areas, our townships and our tourist industry.

The EIS uses ideal numbers from modern aircraft (the A320) for noise modelling, and shows 60dBA over the lower Mountains National Parks and townships. If the plane doing the landing is a 747-400, then the noise level at Glenbrook will be 70dBA.

60dBA is equivalent to a normal conversation; 70dBA is classified as 'loud' and is equivalent to 'normal street noise'. A typical A380 (which the spruikers will have you believe is 'quiet') sits somewhere between these two numbers.

Deputy PM Warren Truss anticipates that "noise levels around the western Sydney area will be manageable.

They will generally be about conversational level in volume, and rarely would people be required to raise their voices because of the fact that there were aircraft movements in the area. "Planes over the Penrith CBD (and Glenbrook) would be flying at 5000 feet which would mean a noise level below 70 decibels. "That is equivalent to the noise that you would hear from a passenger car travelling on a suburban road," Mr Truss said. (SMH 18/10/15)

### What will be the effect of this aircraft noise on our World Heritage National Parks and other quiet places?

Some studies of noise effect on bird life have crossed my desk in recent months.

Researchers (Halfwerk, Holleman, Lessells and Slabbekoom) looked for evidence of bird abundance close to a heavily trafficked road (where 70 dBA would be expected) and found a marked drop off in bird numbers (about 30% less birds).

A different study (Francis, Kleist, Ortega and Cruz) found that noise reduced seed dispersal and pollination patterns around the noise source.

An article in the SMH (23-24/6/12) by Deborah Smith mentions that birds in urban (noisy) environments develop different calls, at higher frequencies, and with slower patterns, so they can hear each other over the noise. This leads to lower breeding success and shrinking populations.

Not only will we, as residents of the Blue Mountains, be bombarded with 24-hour intermittent noise as loud as a nearby conversation, but our birds will also be affected and reduced in numbers, and our plants will not be seeded and pollinated as often or as widely.

The proposed Airport at Badgerys Creek is a grand experiment in how much humans will tolerate in the interests of jobs and growth, and in what effect the Airport will have on birds and other wildlife.

This is an experiment we do not need or want conducted.

Ross Coster, No Western Sydney Airport Subcommittee.



To my father, Michael Dark

## I WILL FIND YOU

Flying.

As you swing me  
Hand to hand gripped,  
Over the waves at Maroochydore.

I will find you over the Jamison,  
where tree tops splinter light,  
and rake the sky.

On Narrow Neck,  
Where you built us a house of mud and stick,  
Ankle high.  
That showed us, how to bear the weight of loss.

I will find you, each time I peel an orange.  
You showed, with pith on your fingers,  
Taking each segment by segment,  
Apart.

On steep bush tracks,  
That fall to wet rock shelves,  
Where orchids grow.

I will find you on the great rock wings of  
riverbeds,  
In each pool that holds the sky, like an eye.

I will find you missing, on a slow train from  
Brisbane.

In the walls we build,  
Missed comprehension, missed understanding,  
That collapse, rebuild, collapse,  
Those walls that made my resolve.

I will find you in ambivalence,  
Love or not love,  
And how do we know?

In the drift of wordlessness,  
the night turns your trees to shadow play,  
Where we lose our form.

I will find you,  
Where you begin and I end,  
Where I begin and you end.

I will find you listening.

And that is it,  
I will always find you.

**Jann Dark**, 12 July—20 August, 2015.



### Springvale Mine Extension Project

The Planning Assessment Commission approved the Springvale Mine Extension Project (MEP) on Newnes Plateau on 21 September 2015. The conditions of approval were improved in relation to water quality of mine discharge and impacts on Coxs River and Sydney's water supply but did not require avoidance of undermining threatened swamps or require buffer zones.

The environmental groups making submissions helped to improve the original conditions. An independent committee of experts in mine subsidence, upland swamps and landforms will be appointed by the Department of Planning to advise on monitoring of mining. However, overall this is still a disappointing outcome.

The Commonwealth Minister approved the MEP on 15 October. At time of writing, it appeared that additional conditions required by the Commonwealth Minister for Environment had been tightened.

The Society will be concentrating on how the EPA finalises the mine discharge issues and keeping the focus on the need for swamp protection.

### Airly Mine Extension

Airly Mine is underneath and beside Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area (SCA) near Capertee. The expansion would move into the biodiversity-rich eastern part of Mugii Murum-ban SCA.

The Society made a submission to the Planning Assessment Committee (PAC) and presented to the PAC in Lithgow on 23 September. The areas of concern included undermining of pagodas and cliffs, threatened species protection and loss of water flows. At time of writing the PAC Review report had not been released.

### Mugii Murum-ban SCA draft Plan of Management

This Plan of Management for Mugii Murum-ban, a small park with spectacular pagodas landscape, rich biodiversity and mining heritage remains, is on exhibition until 18 December. The draft contains some good protective measures for the significant conservation values. Members are encouraged to make a submission to protect those values. See page 6.

### Former Coalpac open-cut mines

The new owners of the two Coalpac mines, Shoalhaven Starches trading as Castlereagh Coal, have indicated that their main aim for these mines will be to supply coal to run their Shoalhaven plant. Shoalhaven Starches was a creditor of Coalpac. This will mean producing 100,000 tonnes a year from the Invincible open-cut Mine which is much less than the previous expansion proposals. It will need to gain planning approval.

Castlereagh Coal are now also responsible for the rehabilitation of the two mines including the six voids. Full and proper rehabilitation is important for any future conservation outcomes for this land after mining ceases.

Madi Maclean

**BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

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## Bunburang Maroodang Exhibition

7 - 28 November 2015

**NPWS Blue Mountains Heritage Centre  
at the end of Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath**

An exhibition about walking across Gundungurra Ancestral Pathways. As told through the images, words and creative responses of Bunburang Trail walkers and support crew

**Opening:** 7th November: 3 – 5 pm

**RSVP:** Blue Mountains Heritage Centre T: 4787 8877

**E:** [bluemountains.heritagecentre@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bluemountains.heritagecentre@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Experience the southern Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area along Gundungurra Ancestral Pathways at the Bunburang Maroodang Exhibition presenting audio, video, written, painting and sculptural works of walkers and support crew on the Bunburang Trail.

The works presented are raw and authentic. Walkers and support crew will be present at different times throughout the exhibition to discuss their experience with visitors.

The best way to understand the Bunburang Trail is to walk the track (Maroodang). For those who can't, we hope this exhibition gives you a taste of our experience crossing the Blue Mountains.

Sponsored by the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc., curated by Margot Turner with funding from the Australian Government's Community Heritage and Icons Grants Program and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Photo: Michael Jackson sharing the Gurungatch and Mirrigan story, Bryden Williams 2015.

## People's Climate March, Sydney

On the last weekend in November, world leaders will be gathering in Paris on the eve of the United Nations Climate Summit. Meanwhile, across the globe, millions will gather in their cities to create the biggest climate march the world has ever seen.

Join the People's Climate March in Sydney on 29th November, 1.30 to 3.30, location to be announced.

Watch for further information on social media. People from the Blue Mountains will be bringing their placards and meeting on the train which leaves Katoomba at 9.26 am, in the second front carriage.

## Classic folk at Cittaslow fund raiser

\*Cittaslow (livable cities) is a concept started in Italy to encourage places rich in heritage, community and culture. Places that protect nature and landscape, good health and a sustainable future.

Katoomba Blue Mountains is one of only three towns in Australia who have been accredited with Cittaslow Status.

Cittaslow status is accredited to "towns rich in heritage, squares, cafes, workshops, restaurants and spiritual places, towns with untouched landscapes and fascinating craftsmen, where people are still aware of the slow passing of the seasons, marked by genuine products, respecting tastes, health and spontaneous customs...."

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30 to 4.30 pm, Cittaslow\* Katoomba is having a fund raising House Concert. Local musicians Christine Wheeler and Leigh Birkett are presenting a program of Australian and international folk music.

Chris' classic folk-style singing evokes comparisons with Joan Baez. Leigh's exceptional musical imagination on guitar and bouzouki overlays jazz chords onto a Celtic sound. Their music is compassionate, powerful and joyful.

Contact Susanne Rix 4757 4231 or Sarah Horton 4784 2527 for venue information.

## Welcome to new members

Sandra Cleaver, Hazelbrook  
Niki Shepherd, Wentworth Falls  
Linda Kennedy, Katoomba  
Anne Clare, Katoomba  
Kathryn McLachlan, Lane Cove Nth  
Richard Waterfield, Lane Cove Nth  
Peter White, Leura  
Ian Dalkin, Blackheath  
Max Dalkin, Blackheath  
Oscar Dalkin, Blackheath  
Heidi Malik, Blackheath  
Jeff Sandon, Wentworth Falls  
Yutaka Nakajima, Wentworth Falls.

First Published in Hut News, November 2009.

Down the Wallaby Track — a backward glance,  
with John Low

### A MOST STATELY AND REGAL FLOWER

The waratah was an object of wonder from the early years of settlement, its popular name quickly adopted from the language of Sydney's original inhabitants. It was also the focus of early botanical scholarship and in 1810 the Scots botanist Robert Brown, who had sailed with Matthew Flinders, studied specimens collected in the Blue Mountains and assigned the genus *Telopea*.

When the Western Road was opened in 1815, in a landscape that often seemed dull and monotonous, the attention of spring travellers was drawn instantly to the waratahs. Their bright red 'flower heads', blazing on tall stems, were highly visible against the more subdued greens, browns and grays of the bush. Travellers noted, described and enthused about them in journals, letters and diaries.

Passing Springwood on his return from Bathurst in October 1822, judge and writer Barron Field, for example, observed that "the *telopea* was now in even finer bloom than on my outward journey". Thirteen years later, in October 1835 and in the same vicinity, the Quaker missionary James Backhouse commented similarly, but added: "The Blue Mountain Parrot, partly blue, and with a breast of crimson, as brilliant as the flowers, was drinking nectar out of the blossoms of this splendid shrub."

Perhaps, though, the waratah made the deepest impression upon that delightful and forthright commentator on colonial life, Louisa Meredith. A fine naturalist and artist, she described them in October 1839 as "a most stately and regal flower" appearing "like bright flambeaux amidst the dark recesses of these wild forests". At The Weatherboard (Wentworth Falls) she came upon an almost circular "bower" of slender eucalypts "beneath whose leafy canopy dwelt a sisterhood of queens - a group of eight or ten splendid waratahs, straight as arrows - tall, stately, regal flowers, that with their rich and glowing hue seemed like the magic jewels we read of in fairy tales, that light up caverns by their own intrinsic luster." She was so taken with these particular specimens that she could not bring herself to pick any!

The waratah has become a prominent motif in the Australian imagination and has been the official emblem of NSW since 1962. It has featured in the work of artists as diverse as Louisa Meredith, Margaret Preston and Jenny Kee and in our local towns and villages has a bold presence in murals on public walls and bus shelters.

**John Low** ([johnlow@iprimus.com.au](mailto:johnlow@iprimus.com.au))

**Waratah** (*Telopea speciosissima*), photographed by Corinne Gaston, near Bell, during a BMCS Interpretive Bushwalk on 22 October 2010.



### A Jewel in the Crown of the Gardens of Stone

Two prominent mesas, Mount Airley and Mount Genowlan, dominate Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area (SCA). Time and weather have sculpted the stone to form structures like towers, temples, step-pyramids and 'lost cities'. The result is the 'Three Hundred Sisters', with hundreds of pagodas, isolated tablelands and hidden valleys.

Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area (Mugii SCA) is one of the jewels in the Gardens of Stone crown. Gazetted in 2011, and only 3,650 hectares in size, it is a pagoda wonderland, with a diverse flora and spectacular cultural heritage.

In recognition of its importance, NPWS has released a draft Plan of Management which is now on display for public comment. We need to support the plan for protecting this conservation area which, if adopted, will enable NPWS to manage, protect and present the park's heritage and natural values, just as they deserve to be.

### Please write a submission in support of the draft plan of management for Mugii-Murum-ban SCA.

Download the Draft Plan of Management, the Colong Foundation for Wilderness submission, and a guide letter at [www.colongwilderness.org.au/form/support-npws-draft-management-plan-mugii-murum-ban-state-conservation-area](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/form/support-npws-draft-management-plan-mugii-murum-ban-state-conservation-area)

Write to: The Planning Officer, Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, National Parks and Wildlife Division, 27-31 Inglis Street, Mudgee 2850. "I support the draft plan of management for Mugii-Murum-ban SCA that seeks to protect, present and interpret park values in a way that encourages ecologically sustainable visitor use." Or use the guide letter on Colong's website. This can be submitted online.

**Submissions close on 18 December 2015.**



## Springvale Extension and Adani: abuse of power or devious to an extreme? Brian Marshall

The Springvale Extension Project involves longwall mining beneath some of the best examples on Newnes Plateau of the federally-listed endangered Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone. This was approved by federal Minister Hunt on October 15<sup>1</sup>. It occurred a day after his approval of Adani Mining's massive Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail Project in Queensland's Galilee basin<sup>2</sup>. Commonwealth approvals were required because both proposals impact Matters of National Environmental Significance under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. Once such an approval is received, the last opportunity to reject or substantially constrain a proposal has passed.

Springvale went through the NSW planning process involving extensive consultation, several assessments by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), and two reviews including public hearings by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC), before being signed off by the PAC on Planning Minister Stokes' behalf. This dragged out for more than two years, and Adani experienced a similarly drawn out process in Queensland, this being justifiable in both cases in terms of the magnitude of impacts envisaged. However, Minister Hunt's approvals signified that, in his judgement, the benefits from exploiting the coal resources were deemed to outweigh adverse environmental and social impacts.

In Minister Hunt's eyes, it would all seem to be pretty simple: state, national and international economic benefits justify damaging environmental and heritage values and inflicting negative social outcomes. Such value-judgements reflect cost/benefit analyses (involving somewhat debateable principles and methods) and embrace claims by the proponent and government instrumentalities that the anticipated adverse impacts will variously be 'negligible' and/or avoided (yes please!), mitigated (desirable), or offset (officially sanctioned destruction!). This has three important implications: any 'residual' impacts are classed as acceptable within the broader national interest; the environment carries the risk because most management processes stipulated in conditions of approval rely on recognising 'unpredicted' damage and (if possible) remediating it; and, the processes are geared to facilitating mining rather than preventing damage. Forget the Precautionary Principle!

The above is only part of the story. Global warming and its implications for moving from fossil-fuel dependence to renewable energy sources are largely disregarded. Australia exports most of its coal-contained pollution and thereby divorces itself from responsibility. The State and Commonwealth governments share this blinkered approach to the impact of coal-exploitation on climate change and rising sea levels.

At a local scale, 'Lithgow' applauds the decisions of Ministers Hunt and Stokes because jobs are maintained for another 13 years (or until the company decides the mine is sub-economic) and some protagonists see a future with training opportunities and employment for their children. But over this period, the demand for

thermal coal, already in oversupply, will further decline and the 'Lithgow' community will still be clinging to the past and refusing to see its demise. Of course there are alternatives which receive a degree of lip-service, but they are stifled within the dominant, short-term, coal-dependent monoculture.

At the national scale, as articulated by ex-Prime Minister Abbott and recently enunciated by Resources Minister Frydenberg<sup>3</sup>, coal has a strong future, there is a 'moral' case to export it, and Australia will continue to grasp the opportunity. One might be tempted to add, selfishly and unashamedly disregarding the consequences for the world's delta- and floodplain-related rice-growing regions, the hundreds of millions of people which they support, and the many small atoll-based nations. Yet, in parallel with Lithgow, Australia is beset with a declining manufacturing industry and, whilst paying lip-service to being a clever country, is gambling with a coal- and gas-based future. Such denialism is surely an abuse of power?

Much is being said about various free-trade agreements, although Australia has little to export beyond its coal, gas, iron ore and other metallic resources, and a belief that it might become the world's food-bowl. So the questions become: are Lithgow and Australia rejecting reality and racing towards insignificance? Or could there be a more devious plan in which by driving up CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, sea levels rise, and Australia indeed keeps its head above water by becoming a major food-bowl?

<sup>1</sup> <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/entity/annotation/fd5f610b-0173-e511-b93f-005056ba00a7/a71d58ad-4cba-48b6-8dab-f3091fc31cd5?t=1445318381433>

<sup>2</sup> <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/publicnoticesreferrals/> October 14

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/moral-imperative-in-australias-biggest-coal-mine-says-resources-minister-josh-frydenberg-20151017-gkbu0s>

### Swordgrass Brown Butterfly

A butterfly often seen in the Blue Mountains is the Swordgrass Brown Butterfly, (*Tisiphone Abeona*), so named because its larvae feed on various species of Gahnia (Cyperaceae) which are tall sedges with sharply edged leaves. It is dark brown with several "eyespot" and usually a broad orange/yellow band on the forewings and can be found in southern Queensland, NSW, Canberra and South Australia.



The adults have a slow lazy flight and bask with wings partly or fully outspread on low herbage.

The larvae grow to a length of about 6 cm. They are bright emerald green with a broad suffused red stripe along the back. They feed in the evening and hide by day at the base of the plant. (Photo by Corinne Gaston)

## RIP RACK ROAR AND RUMBLE

Dismal Dingle

THUNDER GORGE

Dante's Glen

MONKEY CREEK

SLACKS STAIRS

THE TOTEM POLE

Carmarthen

The Blue Breaks

Hills

Donkey Mountain

Pool of Siloam

### The Name Game Don Morison

The dilemma of naming new features in an unfamiliar land was brilliantly satirised in a 1980s ABC film called "Barbakuaria". A group of indigenous actors, dressed as Governor Arthur Phillip and his officers, row up Sydney Harbour in longboats. They come on a group of white Australians congregating on a grassy patch of foreshore. Black Governor Phillip pompously addresses a middle-aged fellow in terry-towelling hat and stubby shorts, holding a beer in his hand: "What do you people call this place?" The drinker replies: "It's a barbeque area, mate." Governor Phillip declares, with great gravitas: "I like it. This place shall be named 'Barbakuaria'."

In promoting the Blue Mountains, we need to make sense of a hotchpotch of names, most of them appended to mountains features by non-indigenous newcomers who were dreaming of subjects and images far away. The indigenous peoples may not have permanently settled large parts of the mountains till about 5,000 years ago and, even then, may have been largely interested in the river valleys where fish and small mammals abounded. So their feature naming would have concentrated on the need to navigate through those areas.

We're stuck with some names that have precious little to do with our mountains, for example Asgard Swamp (Norse mythology), Pool of Siloam (Biblical), Hassans Walls (from an acquaintance of Governor Macquarie's in India). The renowned bushwalker Wilf Hilder (1934-2011) appended names associated with the old Newnes shale railway to northern mountains landforms (Rail Motor Ridge, Derailment Hill, Bevel Spur) but, while still favoured by canyoners, some of these names have disappeared from more recent maps. BMCS itself had some achievements in the name game, having some features at Leura permanently associated with local heroes, Digger Cooper and Isobel Bowden. And, somehow, some 1930s bushwalkers singing ditties by a campfire atop Mount Solitary (or is it Korowal?) managed to leave behind "Singajingawell Creek" as well the ashes of their fire.

Unromantic as it may seem, now we have six-figure grid references, we don't need so many names to identify the environmental features we are striving to protect from damage. With our diverse society, the things we value about the plethora of landforms and ecosystems in the Blue Mountains, it is to be hoped, will change many times during future millennia through which the mountains will retain much of their present appearance. Although it is tempting to continue to name little known

wild places, sometimes a measure of anonymity and ongoing mystery might serve the area's future best.

This writer is displaying a bias against trite names associated with the passing fashions of non-indigenous people developing particular types of attachment to the Blue Mountains. However, one particular non-indigenous explorer possessed so much foresight, charisma and timeliness that his geographical names surpassed their initial triteness and are likely to last. Myles Dunphy (1891-1985) deserves to have his "Snarling Dog", "Growler", "Yellow Pup" and all their canine cousins reside forever in the Greater Blue Mountains National Park system he envisaged. We can only yap our approval.

### LEND A HAND ...

Angela Langdon has put up her hand to be **Land Use Officer** on the management committee. Thank you Angela.

The Society needs somebody who can **help organise general meetings and other events and handle technical equipment**, and a person interested in **sustainable population and climate change** who can represent the society, network with other organisations and write articles for Hut News.

Ross Coster has asked for volunteers to help go through the bulky **EIS for the Western Sydney Airport** to assist the subcommittee to make a submission.

Contact Ross Coster [membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

## Poets' Corner

### We descend

Into the shade of sandstone cliffs,  
a narrow thread of bitumen  
curls through dusty sclerophyll  
to reach the coachwood glen.

Before the axe and bullock teams  
tamed valley floor to sun, the wind  
and crows, an ancient forest  
spread its fingers south.

Moist air filtered by green light,  
translucent tree ferns dense and still,  
a wood-rot scented earth, where  
boulders fell into the lap of moss.

This remnant clings to shadows  
between high ridge and farms,  
it speaks a tongue that's primitive  
we translate deep inside.

- Michele Fermanis-Winward

Readers of Hut News are invited to send a poem inspired by the Blue Mountains, maximum of 20 lines. Each month, one or two will be published in Poets' Corner. Poems can be emailed to [brendan049@gmail.com](mailto:brendan049@gmail.com) or even posted to Poets' Corner at 5 Lurline Street, Wentworth Falls 2782.  
rendan Doyle.

## Kindlehill School and the Giant Dragonfly

### SINGING UP THE DRAGONFLY

This year, Kindlehill School in Wentworth Falls has begun a relationship with the Giant Dragonfly, *Petalura gigantea*, that will hopefully become a kind of “custodianship” of this endangered species.

We have explored the ecological dimensions of habitat, characteristics and lifecycle. We have educated ourselves about the threats to this species in our local region and how we can support its continued existence. Ian Baird, a world expert on this dragonfly has been our tutor as well as local ecologists who have been part of the bioblitz and bush tracker programs conducted at Wentworth Falls Lake. Out of this, we recognised the importance of swamp health as a foundation to protecting the giant dragonfly.

We have explored habit and lifecycle artistically. Leanne Tobin and her son Shay have helped us create a dragonfly mosaic, central to our school environment. Artist and parent, Amy Jenkins has worked with kindy through to high school to create artworks that trace the lifecycle of the dragonfly through the seasons. This will culminate in the Spring **Dragonfly Emergence Festival**, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November, where all our work throughout the year will be woven together and presented in dance, story, music and in a dragonfly garden exhibition.

Perhaps in this way Kindlehill School contributes to the songline of Dragonfly, singing it up anew, kindling its life as well as its qualities for ourselves and the world. May we continue to deepen our relationship to *Petalura gigantea*, the giant dragonfly. May we truly aspire to be as “custodians” of this beautiful, shimmering light-filled being. May its fragility of existence and its endurance be our teachers.

Lynn Daniel, Principal,  
Kindlehill School.



Giant Dragonfly, *Petalura gigantea*  
Photo by Ian Baird

### Dragonfly Emergence Festival Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2 – 9 pm Kindlehill School, 8 Lake Street, Wentworth Falls

We warmly welcome you to come and relax and experience the culmination of this year’s focus on The Giant Dragonfly.

- Okey Dokey Karaoke – Musical - 2 - 3 pm;
- Dragonfly Story in Dance and Music - 3 - 4 pm;
- Dragonfly Sunset Parade – 6 pm;
- Live Music – 7 - 9 pm;
- Dragonfly Garden Art Exhibition;
- Delicious Wholesome Food Stalls;
- Hand crafted market stalls;
- Activities for Children.

Please contact [community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au](mailto:community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au) for the full program. This is an alcohol and smoke free venue.

### You can become a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society

- **Post** this Application Form with your cheque or money order to: Blue Mountains Conservation Society, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782, **OR**
- **Join online** at: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

Address: .....  
.....PC .....

Phone(s) .....

Email .....

**I/We agree to support the aims and objectives of the Society as set out on reverse side of this membership application:**

Please sign if named above.

Signature(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

**MEMBERSHIP FEES** (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student) \$20  
Household \$35 Household Concession \$25  
Corporate (negotiable)

Membership (circled above) \$ .....

Donation (tax deductible) \$ .....

Bushwalkers: please add  
\$20 per walker per annum. \$ .....

**TOTAL AMOUNT** \$ .....

Send my copy of Hut News by  
Please tick box  mail  internet only

Would you like to be involved in any of the following activities or working groups? (Please underline):

Land use/development issues; Environmental Education; Threatened species issues; Website and social media; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Administration;

**ENQUIRIES:** Phone 02 4757 1872

Email: [membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

### A BEQUEST: Please remember us in your Will.

The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording: “I bequeath the sum of \$ ... to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society shall be complete discharge to my executors in respect of any sum paid to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society”.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community organisation working to achieve the preservation and regeneration of the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Society believes that World Heritage status provides an opportunity for local community members to become custodians of the unique biodiversity and scenery of the Blue Mountains.

The Mission of the Society is to help conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society are to:

- Disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation.
- Promote the need for ecological sustainability.
- Protect the natural environment—flora, fauna, habitat, water, land and air.
- Actively oppose those human activities which degrade or destroy the natural environment.
- Repair the adverse effects of human activities upon the environment.
- Encourage the love of the natural environment by conducting a regular program of bushwalks.
- Increase the pool of expert knowledge about the natural environment, through meetings, excursions, research and other activities.
- Provide information to the public on matters of Conservation, especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls.
- Maintain close and friendly relations with like-minded groups.

JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society,  
or renew your membership online.  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

## VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon. Tools and gloves are available. Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat.

New members are welcome.

Phone Karen 4757 1929.

## Threatened Birds Talk, Wentworth Falls 17 October

On Saturday 17 October at Wentworth Falls, Dr Holly Parsons, Birds in Backyard Program Manager for Bird Life Australia gave an informative presentation on the recently released 'State of Australia Birds' report and the community's role in addressing its findings. 85 attended.

The report is compiled from surveys submitted by the community and by research scientists. Even some common species have shown declines including magpies, laughing kookaburras, willie wagtails, southern boobook owls, double barred finches and crested pigeons. The results are variable across Australia from different regions and habitats but declines have been found in these species and others on the East Coast. Holly also discussed the Arid Zone.

Ecologists will now examine the data hoping to infer causes in threats and drivers for any declines and appropriate conservation management measures.

More Information: <http://www.stateofbirds.org.au> to read the report, and <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net> for surveys and bird identification.

Holly referred to interactive community education programs to help increase the community's awareness of birds and their requirements for survival and protection. These included the 'Birds in Schools' program, implemented in Sydney over the last two years.

She outlined how to make your garden a bird friendly garden by planting plants in layers to attract birds. Birds need grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees - not just trees only - for food and for nesting. For further details about bird friendly gardens see: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/places> and also the ABC Gardening Australia's website <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s4332125.htm> where Holly gave a practical demonstration of a bird friendly garden on the episode screened 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Carol Proberts joined Holly for a lively Q & A. Many thanks to both for sharing their extensive knowledge and experience, as well as all the volunteers.

I encourage everyone to get involved in surveying birds in your local area. You can send regular surveys in using the Birds in Backyard website - see survey link on the homepage. It's not just for the expert twitchers. Do it for the birds - to protect their futures!

**Beth Rohrlach, Environmental Education Subcommittee.**

(Photo: Red-browed Finch, by Dilshara Hill)



Dilshara Hill

## 9. Chert and Timber Incline, Mount Victoria.

Nestling in the typical Blue Mountains ridge Eucalypt forest south of Mount Victoria are the remnants of a most unusual industrial operation. From 1925 to 1930 an incline railway operated to a main line siding from the valley, carrying timber and the rock known as chert. (Source: F. John Reid, article in "Light Railways", January 1979.)

The main attraction to entrepreneurs was the chert. Although this rock had always been highly prized by local indigenous people, the European settlers wanted to use it as an alternative to blue metal in road base. The felling and extraction of timber from the valley was considered a bonus.

The entire enterprise was never as successful as hoped and the operation changed owners at least once during the few years before its abandonment.

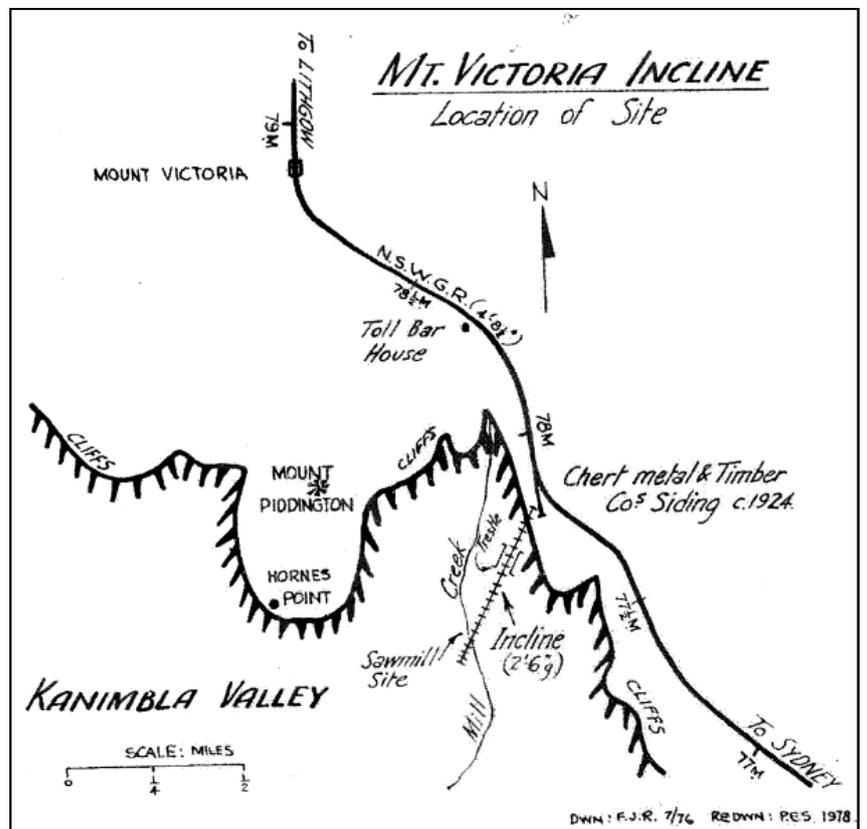
The archaeological site represented by the old siding and incline head station is now on a publicly accessible walking track from Fairy Bower picnic area at Mount Victoria along the western side of the railway to the north end of Station Street Blackheath. Apart from the concrete blocks (pictured) you can still see a number of old items from the 1920s lying about if you look carefully.

In the 1980s, Jim Smith and the late Wilf Hilder re-established a walking track from Fairy Bower picnic area to the bottom station, deep in the valley west of Mill Creek. This area proved particularly rich in relics such as old skips as well as chert and timber that was never loaded. They named the track "The Kinderin Track", taking a local indigenous word.

It is sobering, even now, to think that this rich lode of a resource, respected by the traditional owners, was so messily and unsuccessfully disrupted.

Relics of incline head station. Photo by Christine Davies.

Location of Site sketch from "'Chert' Incline, Mt Victoria, NSW" by F John Reid.



This "Blue Trail" is a collective description for sites in the western Blue Mountains that arouse natural or cultural interest or both. Most are only a short walk from roads or vehicular tracks. One day, a high quality walking path may link them.

### BMCS Planning and Development Resource Kit

Do you want to take action on an environmental issue in your neighbourhood or the Blue Mountains more broadly?

Do you want information about the laws and procedures relating to development and environmental protection?

Find out what **YOU** can do! Go to the Planning and Development Resource Kit

[www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml)

### The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

\$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage.

Buy the map online ([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)) or write to BMCS, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 with your cheque or money order.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc: BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The BMCS Bushwalking Guide which explains the numbered grades can be found on the Society's website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942, mobile 04024 02783, email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricekerkham@hotmail.com) or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

**SATURDAY WALKS:** Usually a full day longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. If you are a new walker to Saturday walks, before attending contact the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy—phone 4758 6009, email [jp34@tpg.com.au](mailto:jp34@tpg.com.au) Check [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) for updates.

**Saturday Walks driver reimbursement:** *In an effort to ensure that car drivers are adequately compensated for the use of their vehicles a driver reimbursement policy applies* (Check [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) Saturday Walks page for details)

- Nov 14 **Newnes Ruins** - view our industrial history and wonder at the might of nature taking back its own. Leader **Meredith** 4782 4823 -Meet at Blackheath Stn Carpark 8.15am – 6 Km -Gr2 Map **Ben Bullen** and local sketch map.
- Nov 21 **Pagoda Country** see why the pagodas of the Gardens of stone are worth protecting – **With a new Garden on each trip you won't be disappointed** - get in early for your place - party limit of 8 as wilderness area. Waratah sightings along the way- Leader **Hugh** -Ring on 0423 309 854 for details.
- Nov 21 **Alternate Walk, Yarramundi up the Engineers' track beside the Grose River, to the gauging station.** This section is on good track. Then further upstream depending on conditions, with some bush-bashing as track is very overgrown in places. Swim in lovely waterhole of Grose River. Leader - **Diana M** 0432619305. Meet at Springwood station, south side 7.00am. Gr 3, about 9 kms, Map **Kurrajong**.
- Nov 28 **Pagoda Country** - see why the pagodas of the Gardens of stone are worth protecting – **With a new Garden on each trip you won't be disappointed** get in early for your place - party limit of 8 as wilderness area + Waratah sightings along the way-Leader **Hugh** -Ring on 0423 309 854 for details.
- Dec 5 **Furber Steps to Scenic World board walks**, with extension to the landslide and further depending on the day. Options of return via scenic railway or Furber steps-Leader **Eddie** 4784 2691- Meet at Katoomba Railway Station Carpark-8.30am-6Km-Grade 2/3- Map **Katoomba**.
- Dec 12 **Echo Point to Furbers Steps** via Prince Henry Cliff Walk, down Furbers Steps then along **Federal Pass to Leura Forest** and up to Solitary Restaurant. Opportunity to see the newly reconstructed track to the Three Sisters. 550 metres descent/ascents. Leader -**Warren** 4787 5403 - Meet at Katoomba Railway Station Carpark- 8.00am-10Km – Grade 3 - Map **Katoomba**.
- Dec 19 **Christmas Lunch at Wentworth Falls Country Club.** It is a traditional Buffet, \$41.00 per person. Leader **Bob** 4757 2694 -Meet at The Club at 12N for 12,30 start. Deposit please.

**MONDAY LEISURE WALKS:** Short Day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of an average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Keith Dorrian, 4736 1010, [keithdor53@hotmail.com](mailto:keithdor53@hotmail.com)

- Nov 9 **Ingar Picnic Grounds to Bedford Creek and Mount Bedford.** Meet Wentworth Falls Station car park 8.45 am. Car pool, fare \$5. Eddie 3484 2691. Grade 3.
- Nov 16 **Banks Wall, Bells Line of Road.** Views of Grose Valley. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.50 am. Car pool fare \$5. Tracey 0434 362 611. Grade 2.
- Nov 23 **Leura Forest, Federal Pass to Furber Steps, Katoomba.** Descend into lovely rainforest. Meet Katoomba Rail Station car park 8.25 am. Car shuffle. Keith 0411 162 345. Grade 3.
- Nov 30 **City Walk, Bundeena to Jibbon Head**, 5-6 km round circuit. Swim. View Aboriginal carvings. Train to Cronulla and then ferry to Bundeena. Extra return fare for ferry \$12.80 or \$6.40 senior. Be on Mountain train that arrives Redfern at 9am (platform 1, short platform, be in 1<sup>st</sup> 6 cars) for 9.22 am departure from platform 12 to Cronulla. Françoise 4751 2303 (M) 04385 12301. Grade 2.
- Dec 7 **Medlow Bath and surrounds.** Meet Medlow Bath station 9.30 am. Liz Stark 4754 4966. Grade 2.
- Dec 14 **Christmas Party, Glenbrook Bowling Club**, 3 course meal \$35. Book and pay Maurice by 30 November – “Entertainment”. Meet Glenbrook Bowling Club 12.30 pm. Maurice 4739 4942 (M) 04024 02783.

**THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS:** Walks 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. Group Co-ordinator is Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076, [denfenella@optusnet.com.au](mailto:denfenella@optusnet.com.au)

- Nov 12 **Numantia Falls Faulconbridge.** Rainforest and waterfall walk. Leaders Helen 4751 7704 and Lindsay 4751 6640. Take lunch. Meet Faulconbridge Station Car Park south side 9.00am. Grade 3.
- Nov 19 **Leura Cascades circular walk, Leura.** Meet cnr The Mall and Megalong Street Leura 9.30am. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2.
- Nov 26 **Baltzer Lookout, Blackheath.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2.
- Dec 3 **Wilsons Glen, Woodford.** Leisurely walk to cave and waterfall. Meet north side of Woodford Station 10.00am. Leader Maurice 0402 402 783. Take lunch. Grade 2.
- Dec 10 **Christmas party at Lindsay's house.** Contact Lindsay on 4751 6640 for details.
- Dec 17 **Walls Cave, Blackheath.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2.
- No walks December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.