



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

NURSERY NEWS

Our Blackheath nursery is chock-a-block with little plants just waiting to grow a bit before going to new homes. But the lease on our Lawson nursery, which was used for plant storage and sales, has expired and we are looking for a new second nursery site.

We need space, preferably in the Mid Mountains, for our shade house, potting area and tool storage, probably a bit larger than a tennis court, with water connection, vehicle access to load/unload plants, access for volunteers and public access (two mornings a week) for plant sales. Please contact me if you have any ideas, suggestions or offers.

In the meantime, we have a good range of excellent plants ready for sale and planting in your garden. You can buy them at the Blackheath Market (1st Sunday of the month) and Lawson Magpie Markets (3rd Sunday of the month). Special orders can be placed and deliveries arranged by contacting me. We will also be selling our plants at the Leura Garden Festival in October.

Sue Nicol, Nursery Manager
nursery@bluemountains.org.au 4787 8887.

Blue Mountains City Council Election Saturday 10th September

We have asked all the leading candidates some questions on the environment and conservation. There are 19 leading candidates across the four wards, and all but one of these has replied.

Their answers to our questionnaire are on our Council Election website – bmce16.info

We have also assessed the Council's performance over the past four years based on our 2012 Questionnaire.

See page 7 for our thoughts on the candidates' responses.



CAN YOU HELP AT EVENTS?

At the **Mick Dark Talk for the Future on Sunday 25 September** we need BMCS volunteers to help as parking attendants (2) to serve afternoon tea (4), and others to help promote the Society at an information table. Contact Marilyn 04025 51809 marilynkraus@hotmail.com or Tara 04198 24974 taracameron@gmail.com

THE GARDENS OF STONE *In Focus* PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Weekend of 17- 18 September, 2016

The new Law Building, Sydney University

The **Gardens of Stone: *In Focus*** Photographic Exhibition will display, in a kaleidoscope of images, the breathtaking beauty of a rarely visited but accessible part of the Blue Mountains, near Lithgow.

Book now and join us in this celebratory event to view the works and share in each other's passion for photography and conservation through a series of nature and photography talks and workshops. Socialise at lunch and the celebration dinner. Witness the launch of the Gardens of Stone Heritage Report.

Opens Saturday, 10:00 AM - Award ceremony and refreshments from 2:00 PM . Exhibition closes 2pm Sunday. To book go to the **Gardens of Stone *In Focus*** celebration registration page: www.colongwilderness.org.au/campaigns/the-gardens-of-stone/register-gardens-stone-focus

Read more in Brian Marshall's article on page 3.

Varuna, the National Writers House and Blue Mountains Conservation Society present: THE MICK DARK TALK FOR THE FUTURE 2016 "The Future is Wild"

Two internationally respected speakers share their perspectives on the essential shift in thinking that is already shaping our collective future

2 pm Sunday September 25, 2016

Kindlehill School Performance Space
8 Lake St, Wentworth Falls

Tickets \$18/\$15 concession www.trybooking.com/221354

Childcare available @ \$10/child (booking essential)

Speaker profiles on page 9

FAMILY BUSH DAY

A Community Event hosted by
Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Sunday 16 October, 10AM to 2PM

Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson

Bring your family and enjoy the fun of this special event - all ages welcome. Learn about our local native animals. Citizens Science Projects. Frogs from the Frog and Tadpole Study Group team. Drawing workshops. Bird walks with Blue Mountains Bird Observers. Meet special animal friends from Taronga's "Zoomobile"... and more.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY!!! More information soon on www.bluemountains.org.au and in October Hut News. If you can help on the day, please contact Beth 04247 32287 bethrohlach@yahoo.com.au

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Species survival in the balance Christine Davies

The Night Parrot is one of the world's most elusive birds. Until 2013 it hadn't been recorded for 75 years and was believed to be extinct. A short story in the Sydney Morning Herald on 11 August told of a little nursery found hidden in a spinifex tunnel which contained two eggs, the first time this had been observed since the 1880s. But six days later the nest had been raided and the eggs eaten – not by a feral predator as was first suspected, but by a native animal, a King Brown Snake.

September is Threatened Species Month. Over 50 species of Australian animals and 60 species of Australian plants have become extinct in the last 200 years, and the little Night Parrot is one of many species threatened with extinction. Short term "solutions" to save our unique species are often promoted: keeping selected threatened species in feral-proof fenced areas; reintroducing locally extinct species to the same areas where they were unable to survive in the first place.

While the parrot and the snake have coexisted long before our intervention, the introduction of feral predators such as cats and foxes and other human activities have reduced the number of the little parrot to such an extent that even natural predation can be disastrous – the balance is fine.

The Blue Mountains has approximately 10% of the listed threatened species in NSW. In 2009 the list of Endangered Species in our Local Government Area included 20 plants, 2 birds, 1 amphibian, 1 insect, 2 mammals, 2 reptiles and 8 ecological communities. Another 12 birds, 14 mammals, 3 amphibians, 28 plants and 1 reptile were listed as Vulnerable.

A small shy animal which is battling to survive in our Blue Mountains swamps – the Blue Mountains Water Skink – is featured in an article by Louise Bennett on page 10 of this newsletter.

GREAT GROSE WEED WALK – SPRING 2016

The Great Grose Weed Walk has been going for over 22 years.

This volunteer program encourages everyone to join in and protect this precious area by helping to stop the spread of weeds. All are welcome, and most activities don't require bushcare experience. The Spring 2016 program (17 September to 30 November) offers a wide range of activities in remote and more accessible places, and you can find out more on (02) 4787 8877.



BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW – YOU CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Morning tea/lunch provided.

HAZELBROOK SWAMP – SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER, 9-3PM Search and destroy a small infestation of weeds in this swamp and reverse the damage – be prepared to get your feet wet. Book with Vanessa (02) 4787 3112 or vanessa.richardson@environment.nsw.gov.au by 14 September.

BRAESIDE BLITZ (BLACKHEATH) – SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 9-1PM Ideal for first-timers – spend the morning with the Braeside Bushcare group. Book with Vanessa by 21 September.

KITTYHAWKE SWAMPCARE (WENTWORTH FALLS) – WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER, 9-3PM Help restore the habitat of the Giant Dragonfly and the Blue Mountains Water Skink. Restoration of this swamp has been a long-term effort in conjunction with Blue Mountains Council. Book with Lyndal (02) 4780 5623 lsullivan@bmcc.nsw.gov.au by 11 October.

Contact Vanessa or Lyndal to find out more about other events:

Grose Valley Remote, weekend 29-31 October (Vanessa); **Valley View Swamp, Blackheath**, 3 November (Lyndal); **Hensen Glen, Leura**, 7 November (Vanessa); **Water Nymphs Dell, Wentworth Falls** (Vanessa); **Katoomba Creek Remote**, 26 November (Lyndal); **Weeding with a view, Blackheath**, 30 November (Vanessa)

The **DEADLINE** for the next issue of HUT NEWS is

17 SEPTEMBER 2016

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The Gardens of Stone: In Focus [GoSIF] Brian Marshall

The Gardens of Stone Alliance (Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation, Lithgow Environment Group) announces that the Celebration Event encompassing the ***Gardens of Stone: In Focus Photographic Exhibition***, together with pertinent **Talks and Workshops**, will take place **on September 17-18 at the New Law Building, Sydney University**.

You will have seen information about this event in the August Hut News, BMCS e-blasts, and in Colong e-Bulletins. But in these days of information overload, you may have passed it by or forgotten what it is about. So let's recap!

- The event is part of the campaign involving the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal. This wants the NSW government to protect about 40,000 ha of magnificent pagoda landscapes and endangered swamp-based ecosystems. The landscapes and swamps have national and state recognition. See more at <http://bluemountains.org.au/gos2.shtml>
- Protection is needed because coal mining has caused, and is still causing, irreparable damage to the landscapes and swamps. Adequate protection is **not** provided by the current planning system. See more at <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/campaigns/the-gardens-of-stone/about-gardens-of-stone>
- Time for protection is running out because coal mining is intensifying beneath the most significant swamps in the face of strong evidence that it should cease, and the assault on the pagoda landscapes of the western escarpment is being rekindled.

GoSIF aims to re-focus attention on what is being lost. It has been incubating for over 18 months, not least because finding a well-positioned venue at anything very much less than \$50,000 for two weeks was impossible, and several less suitable options were still far too expensive and, in any case, were denied us because the campaign was deemed political. In consequence, the scope of the event was necessarily curtailed to two days at a venue well within budget.

It is ridiculously sad that saving landforms, which have taken from hundreds of thousands to several millions of years to develop, takes second place to political expedience. This is particularly so when we should be reducing our dependency on fossil fuels for power; and also be moving away from an economy based on exporting finite resources before the importing countries become increasingly self-sufficient and abandon us.

You now have the chance to take a stand against both the current environmental desecration adjacent to your World Heritage Area and the longer term economic picture by:

- visiting the **GoSIF Exhibition** to see some of the beauty and majesty which exist in the Gardens of Stone within a two-hour drive of your back door, and to meet some of the photographers who captured these moments within the changing seasons;
- participating in the **Talks and Workshops**, listening to those who truly love the Gardens of Stone; and,
- going to the Gardens to experience for yourselves the beauty and serenity which even the best of photographers strive hard to capture

Most of all, you can achieve all this and more, by registering for the **GoSIF Exhibition (this is free)** and obtaining a **one- or two-day pass** to attend the **Talks and Workshops (not free – but worth it)**. Regardless of what you choose, registering is essential for organizers planning the fully inclusive catering.

PLEASE REGISTER NOW (it is not too late) through <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/campaigns/the-gardens-of-stone/about-gardens-of-stone>

NSW Container Deposit Scheme

On 23 August 2016 the NSW Government released the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit Scheme) Bill 2016 (the Bill) and a CDS Regulatory Framework Discussion Paper for public consultation. Submissions close **5pm, 21 September**.

The draft Bill details the proposed objectives and structure of the scheme, the roles and responsibilities of the various bodies that will run it and the obligations on beverage suppliers to ensure that they are included in the scheme. The Discussion Paper describes the other parts of the regulatory framework and outlines how the scheme will work.

Comment by email container.deposit@epa.nsw.gov.au or post to Container Deposit Implementation Team, Waste and Resource Recovery Branch, Environmental Protection Authority, PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232

For more information and to view the draft Bill and Discussion Paper, go to <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-draft-bill-consultation.htm>

No Western Sydney Airport Campaign – An Interesting Month!

PENRITH COUNCIL

Penrith Council has a policy that supports Western Sydney airport, provided there is a curfew and road and rail links are built **before** the airport opens.

I wrote letters to all 15 Penrith Councillors on 25-Jul-2016 on behalf of No Badgerys Creek Airport (NoBCA) asking them to review their support for Western Sydney airport, which is contingent on a curfew that is **not** proposed!

On Monday 8th August Penrith Council held a 'Policy Review' session, with the public in attendance. Councillor Maurice Giroto, a member of NoBCA, put forward a motion that Penrith Council should: conduct a series of community forums (similar to Blacktown Council); inform attendees of the impacts of the airport; get feedback from attendees; revise their policy based on the feedback

Penrith Council voted 8-6 **not** to hold forums. Councillor Ross Fowler said at the meeting that the Federal Government had a mandate to build the airport (I guess he missed the fact that every seat around the airport is now with Labor).

HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

Blacktown Council had planned a community forum on the Western Sydney airport and the "World's Biggest Incinerator", at Kellyville, and booked a school hall for that purpose. Shortly before the forum, the headmaster of the high school cancelled the booking.

Blacktown Council made an alternative booking at the Wrights Road Community Centre, then letterboxed 10,000 homes in Kellyville advertising the forum. One of the houses letterboxed was that of the (Liberal) Mayor of Hills Shire Michelle Byrne. Ms Byrne promptly cancelled the booking at the Community Centre, quoting safety of other users of the facility during the 'Political Rally' as her reason. Blacktown Council attempted to organise a meeting in the car park of the Community Centre, but were refused a permit by Police, again quoting safety.

At the Hills Shire Council meeting of 9-Aug-2016, six 'silent protestors' attended, taped their mouths to signify

West Sydney Commissioner engages on most issues

Members of our Land Use Subcommittee have described as "on the whole a good meeting" their first encounter with West Sydney Commissioner Sean O'Toole. Since the new layer of planning administration known as the Greater Sydney Commission was established by the NSW Government, there has been considerable speculation and publicity about the precise role it will create for itself.

Mr O'Toole offered a helpful discussion of most of the planning issues in which the Blue Mountains Conservation Society is interested—but not the Badgerys Creek airport!

Elizabeth Farrelly, in a SMH article on 20/8/16 states "(NSW Planning) is a system where all the big, driving decisions are taken by men-armed-with-numbers, engineers, traffic guys, bean-counters, politicians, developers – and 'planning' is left to trot along behind."

In the Society's initial encounter with Mr O'Toole, his feeling unable to discuss the airport proposal may be consistent with Ms Farrelly's concerns about the Commission.



loss of free speech, and turned their backs whenever the Mayor addressed the meeting. An interesting and effective protest that generated some media: <http://www.hillsnews.com.au/story/4087888/silent-protesters-appear-at-the-hills-council/>

SPRINGWOOD MEETING

On Saturday 13-Aug-2016 Susan Templeman held a Community Forum at the Springwood Hub, with Bill Shorten, Emma Husar (Member for Lindsay) and Senator Doug Cameron in attendance. The forum was so well attended that it was moved from the smaller hall to the theatre. The photo shows half the crowd!

I am told the Airport was a major discussion point. Bill Shorten made it plain that Labor support for the airport is about the promised jobs, and that if they don't 'stack up' their position may be reviewed. He also gave considerable attention to the High Speed Rail option, so I guess our activity has had an impact. Blue Mountains Mayor Mark Greenhill presented Bill Shorten with a copy of the Council submission on the draft EIS, which he believes is an eloquent dismissal of the proposal.

The campaign is not over! The airport has not been built!
We keep working!

Ross Coster nwsa@bluemountains.org.au

Free Sustainable Seafood Guide App

Australian Marine Conservation Society has released [Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide](#), you can take it to the supermarket, restaurant or fish and chip shop - anywhere you buy your seafood!.

The app features an easy to use traffic light system to inform you of any threats to protected species or fish stocks and how the seafood is farmed or fished.

www.sustainableseafood.org.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY www.bluemountains.org.au

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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Protect the Gardens of Stone

GARDENS OF STONE UPDATE

Madi Maclean

The Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal, just to the north of Lithgow, embraces Newnes Plateau, the broken stone country to the west of the Plateau, and the Airly-Genowlan mesa to the north in the Capertee Valley.

The area is the last unprotected part of the 1934 Greater Blue Mountains National Park proposal compiled by Myles Dunphy for the National Parks and Primitive Areas Council. It also includes the Blue Mountains Western Escarpment lands from Blackheath to Lithgow. To find out more about this magnificent area and the long campaign to protect it, go to BMCS and Colong Foundation websites - <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/gos2.shtml> and <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/campaigns/the-gardens-of-stone>

Springvale Mine seeks to increase coal production

Springvale mine, which operates on and under the Newnes Plateau, is seeking to increase its annual coal production. Submission closed on 23 September. Significant swamp damage has occurred above the Springvale mining area, most recently the significant drop in the water level in Carne West Swamp and the loss of the waterfall.

The Springvale independent experts panel, appointed to advise on subsidence impacts and environmental consequences, has expressed concerns about this damage, its likely cause and how it could recur. The panel has recommended changes to the mine's next extraction plan and its development consent.

The society is making a submission on the need to take into account the independent panel's report and amend the consent conditions in order to protect the remaining swamps in the mining area.

Prosecution for Clarence mine waste spill

The prosecution of Clarence Colliery for its huge waste heap collapse last July has slowed after a court appearance failed to set a hearing date for sentencing. Clarence Colliery, a subsidiary of Centennial Coal, pleaded guilty to a Tier One offence for the damage caused by the toxic coal waste reaching the Wollangambe River and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area. This is the most serious level of offence under NSW environmental laws. Clarence Colliery has also pleaded guilty to damage to a national park.

The matter has been adjourned to 2 December when it is hoped that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will be asking the court to set a hearing date. This means the matter is unlikely to be decided before 2017!

Meanwhile another problem has emerged at the Clarence Mine site

Water sampling of Clarence Colliery's discharges, which was required after the mine waste collapse, have uncovered problems with a leachate dam located above the creek line that the collapsing mine waste followed to the Wollangambe River. The EPA has required Clarence to ensure the dam and its associated pipework does not leak and to undertake surface water and groundwater monitoring to identify any impacts from this dam.

Barton Park Giant Trees Arboretum Lake Wallace, Wallerawang

Founded in 2007, the Barton Park Giant Tree Arboretum (the Arboretum) at Wallerawang is gradually developing its plantings, which are broadly arranged in three major collections: 1. Endemic trees (of the local area); 2. Rare and endangered Australian tree species; and 3. Giant trees of the world.

The Arboretum's ideal setting on the shores of Lake Wallace is a wonderful place to enjoy that sometimes elusive sense of serenity, with the many waterbirds (moorhens, coots, occasional pelicans and swans) and parrots being a common sight, while early morning strolls might stir a small mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Several species of raptor frequent the area; the presence of Wedge-tail and Sea Eagles obvious from the rapid surge of waterbirds into the reeds.

James Walker and his family were the first settlers in the area and hosted Charles Darwin during his excursion to Bathurst; Darwin saw his first platypus here. The historic homes 'Wallerawang' and 'Barton Park', were demolished to make way for Lake Wallace as a water source for the now decommissioned Wallerawang Power Station. Fortunately, not all of the early history was lost. The Walker family cemetery's headstones and sandstone wall were saved by raising them some five metres to be higher than the lake; among its historic headstones is one dedicated by James Walker to "Bobby and the Wallerawang aborigine tribe".

When local men set off for WW1, an English oak was planted on the land then owned by the Barton family. Another two oaks were planted at the end of the war. These trees were the genesis of the move to create an arboretum dedicated to 'the giants.'

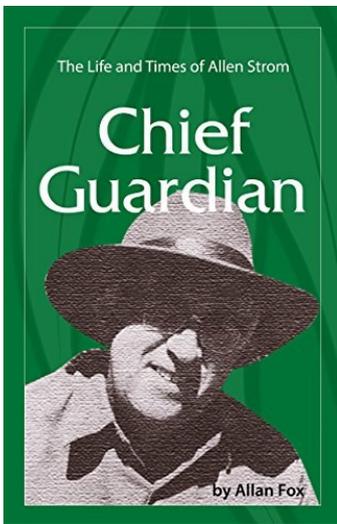
A native plant garden has been established by the Lithgow Garden Club near the entrance to the arboretum. Future plans include an Oriental garden and, with the help of the local Aboriginal community, a bush foods section. A long-term goal is to build an education centre on the site.

The Arboretum is in its incipient establishment phase and has a small membership who would welcome newcomers. The Barton Park Giant Tree Arboretum sits at the foot of the western escarpment of the Blue Mountains, at the gateway to the magical Pagoda country of the Gardens of Stone National Park and the Wolgan, Capertee and Turon Valleys.

A couple of open days each year are notified on the Arboretum website www.giantsarboretum.com and on the FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/904016952982109>, while interested groups can arrange a visit. Membership costs \$20 p.a. Contact 0263 514434 or 0263 522212 or email: bartonparkgianttrees@yahoo.com.au



Rolling clouds are reflected in the peaceful waters of Lake Wallace



Chief Guardian: The Life and Times of Allen Strom Kindle Edition

Allen Strom was a leading conservationist and environmental educator in Australia. This is an inspiring biography of a person who came from humble beginnings to become the leader of the national parks service in the state of New South Wales. Allen Strom also founded environmental education centres in NSW and contributed greatly to the progress of environmental management in the state. The Strom biography was written by another of Australia's leading conservationists, Allan Fox. Allan Fox only drafted sections of the biography before his death, and it appeared the Strom story would be lost. However, a group of Strom followers linked parts of Fox's beautifully written drafts together to produce this Kindle e-book. A must read for anyone interested in nature conservation.

Kindle Edition \$8.12

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Chief-Guardian-Times-Allen-Strom-ebook/dp/B01H8IEORO>

Author: Allan Fox Editors: Neil Dufty, Kevin McDonald, Syd Smith, David Tribe, Ken Schaefer

Former Society Patron inspired conservationists

Allen A Strom's advice and guidance was sought and given to our Society in its formative years (at that time named Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society). He helped frame the Society's original constitution. In recognition of these services, Allen was made the Society's Patron in 1970.

In June 1986 he wrote in the (then) Upper Blue Mountains Conservation Society newsletter:

"As your Society continues to grace me with the title of 'Patron' and send me copies of your excellent little journal, I have felt it essential to make a contribution from time to time. I was particularly motivated by recently calling at the 'Hut' ... The visit reminded me of the day of the opening of the Hut by the then Minister for Conservation, to which I was invited. I was at that time Chief Guardian of Fauna for the State of New South Wales, and most appreciative of the initiative of the Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society in undertaking 'conservation education' - in other words, trapping all those happy-go-lucky tourists who ventured along the walking tracks around the Valley of the Waters - tracks incidentally, that my father used to carry me on his shoulders, more than sixty five years ago."

Allen goes on to discuss the problems with environmental education, it is "slow and problematical" and:

"We all need to see some results for our efforts, since unlike the developer and investor, the achievements of the conservationist rests with management of the resources rather than with their exploitation. ...

"We are responsible for what happens to this 'living place and living space', irrespective of who causes good or evil. Too many of us will not face the job of persistence on behalf of the life-style of balanced resource use. ...

"What is needed most is a change in human behaviour. We need a primitive understanding of association with the earth and living things. ... If we learn to believe that life is a battle with the natural system, we will be one sort of person - if we learn to co-ordinate with nature, we must be another person, indeed."

'Swamped by Threats' - a 10 year project to protect threatened species

'Swamped by Threats' is an exciting new project which aims to protect several threatened species of upland swamps with a focus on the Giant Dragonfly and the Blue Mountains Water Skink.

Work will occur in priority swamps in two key locations for the species, on the Newnes Plateau near Lithgow and in the Blue Mountains between Hazelbrook and Blackheath. These unique swamps provide a number of other important environmental benefits including clean and healthy waterways.

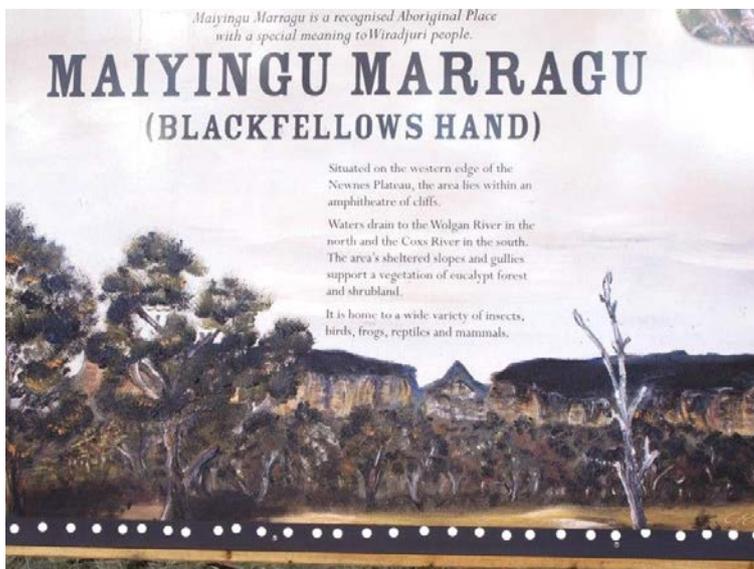
The swamps, and the species that rely on them, are fragmented and highly vulnerable to a number of threats including climate change, stormwater run-off, loss of groundwater resources, inappropriate access, feral animals and weed invasion, and inappropriate fire regimes. The project will address these threats and improve the condition of the swamps through activities such as erosion control, stormwater management, access management, weed and pest animal control and monitoring. An improved understanding of how the species are tracking and the impact of these threats will also be a focus.

In 'Swamped by Threats' the Central Tablelands Local Lands Services will take a lead role working with project partners, stakeholders and community groups. Project partners include the Office of Environment and Heritage, Environmental Trust, Greater Sydney Local Lands Services, Lithgow City Council, Blue Mountains City Council, Forestry Corporation, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Lithgow and Oberon Landcare Association. They will also consult regularly with species experts, Dr Ian Baird, Professor Rick Shine and PhD student Sarsha Gorissen.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.

Society members were sent an E-blast inviting them to attend the project launch on Saturday 3rd September 2016. More information: <http://centraltablelands.lis.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/media-releases/2016/swamped-by-threats-a-10-year-project-to-protect-threatened-species>

Publicity Officer for the Society: Can you help with publicity and media releases. Contact Don Morison 8230 2116 president@bluemountains.org.au



Community works to protect Aboriginal Place

Members of the Wiradjuri community have installed interpretive signage and have begun other improvements at their site Maiyngu Marragu near the Wolgan Valley Discovery Trail on the threshold of the Gardens of Stone area, north of Lithgow. One of the interpretive boards features a beautiful landscape painting by local indigenous man, the late C Riley.

Objectives of the community's work include vehicle management, erosion control and increasing visitor respect for this intriguing area of indigenous art and pagoda rocks. Funding allocated so far only covers a small proportion of the total work envisaged by the community members.

Blue Mountains City Council Election—Saturday 10th September 2016

Candidates show strong commitment to the local environment

The candidates in the 10th September Council Election are showing a strong commitment to environmental issues with unanimous support for no Coal Seam Gas (CSG) in the Blue Mountains, no nuclear waste transportation, and the retaining of key environmental provisions in the current LEP 2015.

In a bid to gauge opinions of the leading candidates, Blue Mountains Conservation Society distributed a questionnaire comprising of twenty questions relating to local environmental and conservation matters. Each candidate was also given the opportunity to provide a brief statement on their personal conservation values.

There are 19 leading candidates across the four wards, and all but one candidate replied. The results were very pleasing with overwhelming positive responses to the questions asked. As a City within a World Heritage Area it is crucial that we have the appropriate measures and provisions in place to preserve and protect our unique environment - to do this requires having a responsible and proactive local Council.

The questions posed ranged from natural area management to planning and development; from waste to tourism; and from the Western Sydney Airport to CSG.

SP3 Tourism Zone

One main point of difference amongst the candidates is the introduction into the Blue Mountains of a new zone - SP3 (Special Purpose) Tourism - which is aimed at encouraging high-end intensive tourism development. Liberal candidates in Wards 2, 3 and 4 all support the introduction of the zone. Other candidates indicated opposition to the introduction of the new zone or indicated they would seek the advice of Council staff.

As detailed in the May Hut News, the Society is opposed to the introduction of the SP3 Tourism Zone in the Blue Mountains. The Society believes current intensive tourism sites are operating successfully within existing zonings and the SP3 zone is not appropriate for the Blue Mountains with its sensitive and fragile environment.

In areas where small scale tourism is currently occurring, such as the Blackheath Caravan Park, the Society is

strongly opposed to Council's recent proposition of moving forward on the process of applying the SP3 zone, including further public consultation.

Badgerys Creek Airport

In a win for the community, nearly all candidates strongly opposed the Western Sydney Airport, including all the lead candidates in Ward 4.

Waste

Views differed amongst candidates with regards to dealing with waste into the future. The Society's suggestion of introducing financial incentives to encourage residents to compost is not supported by any Liberal candidate and one Labor candidate.

Bushcare

While all candidates surveyed supported maintaining the existing budget for volunteer Bushcare groups, not all candidates supported increasing the Bushcare budget.

Find out more

Candidates' questionnaires and responses, on a Ward by Ward basis, can be viewed in detail at our dedicated election website: bmce16.info



BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

We offer the home gardener, landscaper or contractor a big variety of quality local native plants at economical prices.

We are in process of relocating our mid mountains nursery. In the meantime, plants can be purchased at:

Blackheath Community Market, 1st Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm

Magpie Market, 3rd Sunday of month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm

Tube stock \$3. Discounts for bulk orders.

Enquiries Sue Nicol 4787 8887,
nursery@bluemountains.org.au

NAMING THE WILD DOG MOUNTAINS—Jim Smith (Part 6 of 7)

Parts 1—5 of this series were published in April/May/June/July/August 2016 Hut News and can be found on our website: <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews-archive.shtml>

Dunphy's names become official

It was not until 1964-65 that the full suite of Dunphy dog names appeared on official maps. The 2 inches to 1 mile (1:31,680) Jenolan and Jamison sheets included nearly all the names on Dunphy's 'Gangerang, Wild Dog Mountains' map. Myles Dunphy was known for his quiet and persistent tactics in breaking down bureaucratic resistance. In this case it had taken him 32 years (since the 1932 tourist map) to get all of his names officially recognised. Brindle Dog survived on the 'Blue Mountains Burratorang Tourist Map' between 1932 and 1965 but was gone on the 1972 edition. Another difference between the 1965 and 1972 editions was the first appearance of Little Dingo Hill in 1972³⁰.

The Geographical Names Act was passed in 1966. It made provision for a Geographical Names Board of eight members who could accept advice from a group of Counsellors appointed by the Minister. Dunphy became one of the first seven Counsellors, appointed in April 1967³¹. He was now in a strong position to argue for the adoption of his names. The Counsellors had to adjudicate on many hundreds of placenames each year and some may have felt that Dunphy tended to monopolise the time of the Board. The Board was obliged to implement departmental policy on the standardisation of names of geographical features. One result of this was that some of Dunphy's 'Ranges' such as the Yellow Dog Range became ridges and some ridges became spurs. Dunphy kept modifying successive editions of the 'Gangerang, Wild Dog Mountains' map to reflect the Board's decisions so that, by the time of the 1969 edition, there were quite a few names crossed out and symbols indicating: "old and existing names approved", "old and existing names not approved" and "names partly altered, or wholly altered and new names assigned instead, marked by a cross"³². Most of Dunphy's names also appeared on the 1:100,000 Katoomba sheet published in 1975 by the Commonwealth Division of National Mapping.

Jim Barrett commented in 1957:

*I suppose Nomenclature Boards have a purpose and must use some logic, but I find it regrettable that many bush walking names of the Fifties have been superseded or have disappeared. Why have some of the Pup Ridges been obscured by such prosaic definitions as Blue Dog's Spur or Spotted Dog Ridge... why was the fine Purple Dog Ridge... changed to Black Horse Ridge.*³³

Suggested name changes for the Wild Dog Mountains

The area bounded by the Cox River on the south and west, Breakfast Creek to the north and Cedar Creek to the east, covered by Dunphy's map of the Wild Dog Mountains, has very few names of local Aboriginal or early settler origin. Only Mouin and Medlow are names known to the Gundungurra people. Black Dog, White Dog and Davys Camp are the only names surviving from the settler era. Nearly all the placenames on Dunphy's map originated from his imagination. Below are a few

suggestions for redressing this imbalance.

1. A dual name for the Wild Dog Mountains.

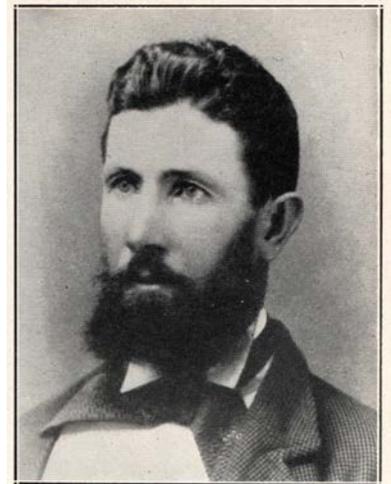
It is the policy of the Geographical Names Board to allow for dual naming of geographical features where there is evidence of an Aboriginal placename that preceded the European one. Under this policy the dual name 'Wild Dog Mountains--Me-oo-wun' could be adopted after consultation with Gundungurra descendants.

2. Restoration of Peter O'Reilly's name.

I do not endorse the suggestion made by Wilf Hilder that "the watershed range of mountains that commences with Narrow Neck near Katoomba and ends with Yellow Dog Ridge on the Cox's River" be named the Peter O'Reilly Range³⁴. This was based on an opinion related to Father Richard Coughlan, but other sources seem to indicate the name was restricted to either the Yellow Dog Ridge, Yellow Pup Spur or Yellow Dog Mountain. Bert Carlon (1924-1997) wrote to the Geographical Names Board that "Yellow Dog Ridge was always Peter O'Reilly Range"³⁵. This was confirmed by Jack Tolhurst, whose family owned the Green Gully property before the Carlons.³⁶

People who have read Bernard O'Reilly's books *Green Mountains* and *Cullenbenbong* usually find that the character of Peter O'Reilly, as portrayed by Bernard, is memorable, and possibly typical of the 19th century Australian 'battler' on the land. Peter O'Reilly was later mythologised in the 1949 Charles Chauvel film *Sons of Matthew*. As so few of the early settlers' names along the Cox River were recorded on maps, it is my view that it would be appropriate to restore Peter O'Reilly's name to the Yellow Dog Ridge. The fact that Dunphy named another peak, five km away, Mount O'Reilly is no compensation for removing his name from the place where it was recognised to belong by the local Megalong Valley community.

Continued on page 9 - Endnotes



Peter O'Reilly. From *Green Mountains* by Bernard O'Reilly

Poets' Corner

Our Poetry editor is away this month. Readers of Hut News are invited to send a poem inspired by the Blue Mountains, maximum of 20 lines. Poems can be emailed to Brendan Doyle brendan049@gmail.com or posted to Poets' Corner at 5 Lurline Street, Wentworth Falls 2782.

Naming the Wild Dog Mountains (Part 6 of 7) -

Continued from page 8

Endnotes:

³⁰ Editions of the Blue Mountains Burratorang Tourist Map were published in 1932, 1937, 1939, 1955, 1965 (termed the "second edition"), 1971, 1972, 1979, 1981, 1988 and the ninth and final edition in that format in 2002.

Dunphy's 'coloured dog' names were unchanged after the 1972 edition.

³¹ Other Counsellors included Department of Lands employee Wilf Hilder, anthropologist Professor Elkin and Alec Chisholm, editor of the *Australian Encyclopaedia*. 'Experts help on names', *Sun*, 3 April 1967.

³² Editions of the 'Gangerang, Wild Dog Mountains Map' were published in 1953, 1954, 1957, February and December 1962, 1967, 1969 and 1974.

³³ Jim Barrett, 'Letter to the Editor', *The Waysider*, Jan-Feb 1976, p.6.

³⁴ Michael Keats, *Day Walks in Therabulat Country*, Keats Holdings, Marrickville, 2006, pp.172-3.

³⁵ Bert Carlon, Letter to Geographical Names Board, 1968 quoted in Patrick Thompson (ed), *Myles Dunphy Selected Writings*, Ballagrin, Sydney, 1986, p.58.

³⁶ Personal communication to Jim Smith.

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL Margaret Collings

I have a passion for the Australian native bushland. Over the years this has been enhanced by having to regenerate an urban block in the Blue Mountains, deemed by Council as Residential Conservation.



Initially daunted by the onerous task of removing 56 plus identified types of noxious weeds, other weeds and exotics, the experience offered me a closer look. I discovered a myriad of "hidden" and so often breathtaking insects - I was now wedded to native gardening.

After removing non-native plants, numbers and varieties of native insects visibly flourished and during each spring and summer a new insect paraded across my veranda: - a tiny whirling orange fluorescent spider, exquisite mauve and purple jewel beetles, sparkling blue ants and the prehistoric looking creature in the photo. Now I was baffled.

The Conservation Society and Australian Museum solved the mystery. It is a sawfly in a stage of metamorphosis, the larvae of the Bramble Sawfly, *Philomastix xanthophilus*. (Sawflies are closely related to wasps, bees and ants). I would never have guessed. I look forward to the spring and summer again and another mystery to solve.

You can find more about sawflies at http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_sawflies/index.html and <http://www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/9473/sightings?view=details&sort=z-a>

MICK DARK TALK FOR THE FUTURE 2016 SPEAKER INFORMATION

Claire Dunn worked for many years as a campaigner for The Wilderness Society and is now a freelance journalist. Claire is a passionate advocate for "rewilding" our inner and outer landscapes. In 2010 Claire spent a year living off the grid and learning wilderness survival skills. She wrote about this experience in her memoir *My Year Without Matches: Escaping the City in Search of the Wild* which was published by Black Inc in 2014. More information about Claire and her work at: www.naturesapprentice.com.au/

Jane Gleeson White is an internationally acclaimed writer with degrees in economics and literature and is the author of *Six Capitals: The Revolution capitalism has to have*. In *Six Capitals* Jane urges us to rethink our idea of capital by extending the familiar concepts of financial and manufactured capital to include four new categories of wealth: intellectual, human, social relationship, and natural capital. Just two years ago this revolution seemed unlikely. Today it is unfolding at speed. More information about Jane and her work at <https://janeogleesonwhite.com/>

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

(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 \$35 Concession (Senior/Student) \$25

Household \$40 Household Concession \$30

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

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.

Welcome to new members

Deloraine Friend
Paul Dubbelaar
Mary Morison
Ava Emdin
Chris Hudson
Emila Salgado
Lucia Salgado
Zarah Salgado
Salvador Hudson

CAN YOU HELP ORGANISE OUR EVENTS?

The Society needs a volunteer who can help plan our general meetings and events—currently about 5 to 6 a year—book venues, communicate with other organisations and individuals and guest speakers, coordinate publicity and volunteers and all the other things which need to be done to plan and hold an event. Contact Don Morison 8230 2116 president@bluemountains.org.au

The Little Skink *By Louise Bennett*



The word 'skink' originates from the Greek 'skinkos' to the Latin 'scincus' and finally the French 'scinc' (16th century). It's not the most flattering of names, which doesn't help to elevate the status of our gentle, endangered lizard.

The Blue Mountains Water Skink (*Eulamprus leuraensis*) keeps a low

profile at high altitude (between 560-1060 metres), and lives an almost hermit-like existence in two major areas: Newnes Plateau region and an area south of Hazelbrook, as well as many more fragmented sites in the Blue Mountains (approximately 40). Research indicates that there are genetic differences between individual populations.

The shy skink lives in isolated splendour, in sedge and shrub swamps that are permanently boggy. It is classed as a medium-sized lizard and can grow to 200 mm in length (and weigh up to 10 g). Upon closer examination, the retiring, plain old skink suddenly becomes an exotic beauty ... "dark, dorsal stripes bordered by yellow lines, bronze streaks, black-flecked head with creamy golden underside" ... wow, where's my camera!

The daily life of a skink is still a bit of a mystery. It is semi-aquatic and likes to sunbathe on warm sunny days (don't we all?), and from skink scats it has been observed that it enjoys feasting on grasshoppers, flies, moths, weevils and wasps. When disturbed, a skink will scurry off to hide in dense grass tussocks or down holes. Females give birth to live young (ovoviviparous¹) in late December.

Conserving swamp habitat is the key to saving the skink

The highland swamps of the Blue Mountains and Newnes Plateau are a unique habitat for the skink and are under threat from urbanisation, weed invasion, introduced animals, forestry, mining and fires.

Sarsha Gorissen (of the University of Sydney) has done extensive PhD research into the Blue Mountains Water Skink, with the aim of producing effective guidelines to help manage the endangered swamp ecosystem and thus protect the skink from extinction.

Rather than targeting the lizards themselves, there needs to be a focus on conserving the swamp habitat – if this can be achieved, then the lizards are unlikely to face extinction. And due to the high amount of divergent populations, as many swamps as possible need to be maintained.

Further strategies to help the endangered skink include requests for:

More surveys; Public education programs; Monitoring of skink populations (including research into the life history, population dynamics, home range and movement patterns, habitat requirements and response to disturbance).

¹ Producing young by means of eggs which are hatched within the body of the parent.

Photo: Blue Mountains Water Skink within its swamp habitat (Credit: S. Dubey) used with kind permission

Sources: <https://www.environment.gov.au> <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp> <http://www.hsi.org.au> <https://site.emrprojectsummaries.org/2016/05/02/conservation-of-an-endangered-swamp-lizard>



25. RAILWAY RELICS, Strathaird and Oberon
 Enjoyable experiences for tourists to New Zealand or the state of Victoria include following “rail trails”, wonderful relatively level pathways for walkers and bicycle riders to follow the formations of disused railways through the countryside. Of the many opportunities for such installations in New South Wales, dedicated activists have brought just a few to fruition.

Between Oberon and Hazelgrove, the rail trail is a delightful stroll adorned with native Eucalypts and excellent for bird watching. It is designed with rails intact – preservationists hope to one day have tourist trains share the corridor with pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

In and near the Greater Blue Mountains are many further rail trail opportunities. Just over the Abercrombie River, disused lines such as Crookwell to Goulburn have sparked debate over whether rail trails could intrude on other land uses such as grazing. It is to be hoped that these concerns find solutions. Other local opportunities include the Newnes Junction to Newnes shale tramway, and the 1867 zig zag and 1892 (ex-mushroom) tunnel at Glenbrook, as well as various disused deviations of the main western line.



26. BOWTELLS BRIDGE, Lower Coxs Catchment

On 13 August 2016 a service was held at Lawson marking the return to Australia of the remains of Corporal Robert Bowtell and Private Ronald Field. Recalling the sacrifices of soldiers in war has always been important to the Blue Mountains community. Both of these men will now be remembered by plaques but Bob Bowtell already has another memorial. It is the swing bridge over Coxs River on the Six Foot Track which is also a tribute to the ingenuity and commitment of the army personnel who constructed it.

The moodiness of Blue Mountains waterways has long been cause for alarm and fascination. Two of our local writers, Eleanor Dark in “The Timeless Land” trilogy and Bernard O’Reilly in “Cullenbenbong”, provide graphic descriptions. There are various accounts of the tragic death of horse rider Oonagh Kennedy in a flood on the lower Coxs River in 1967. The Bowtells Bridge is a very worthwhile innovation to discourage bushwalkers from trying to wade through the river at inappropriate times. It is fitting that everyone using it should reflect on Bob Bowtell and the contributions of our defence forces.

Images:

1. Culvert viewed from the Taralga-Laggan road (Christine Davies);
2. View from Strathaird Lane of the rail platform in the paddock (Paul Cardow)
3. Even if trains returned to Hazelgrove-Oberon railway track, our president would try to save the fare. (CD)
4. Bowtells swing bridge across the Coxs River. (Neil Saunders, www.flickr.com/photos/nsaunders/3613956636)
5. A crowd gathers at Honour Mall, Lawson, marking the return of the remains of Corporal Bowtell and Private Field to Australia (CD)

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.



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 or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942, mobile 04024 02783, email 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 Harold Thompson harold.thompson@bigpond.com 6355 1762 or mobile 0409 010 737

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 Saturday Walks page for details)

- Sep 10 **The Barnacles** – off track. Harold 0409 010 737. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.30 am. 8 km. Grade 3-4. Map Mt Wilson, Wollongambe.
- Sep 17 **Gardens of Stone** – off track – part exploratory. Contact leader for more detail. Leader Hugh 0423 309 854 hue.s@optusnet.com.au
- Sep 24 **Mt Solitary.** Iconic popular walk along well worn trail. Leader **Mike Honey** 47573660. Meet Katoomba Station 8.30. 16km Gr3 map **Katoomba & Jamison**
- Oct 1 **Mt Airly Historic ruins** Torbane, Airly Villanes. Some off-track. Leader **Bob** 47589300. Meet Wentworth Falls Station 8.00. 9km Gr 3 Map **Glen Alice**.
Alternate off-Track walk. Contact **Hugh** 0423309854 or email hue.s@optusnet.com.au for details
- Oct 8 **Yarramundi Grose River** to gauging station and beyond. **Diana Levy** 47513935 or diana.r.levy@gmail.com Meet Springwood station 8.00. 10km Gr3 map **Springwood & Kurrajong**
- Oct 15 **Narrow Neck.** Fire tower and beyond. Leader Eddie 47842691. Meet Katoomba Station 8.30. 19km Gr 3 map Katoomba & Jamison.
Alternate off-Track walk. Contact **Hugh** 0423309854 or email hue.s@optusnet.com.au for details
- Oct 22 **Gemini Cave & Rain Cave.** Spectacular Scenery off-track walk. Leader **Emanuel** 47571090 or emanuelnddi@yahoo.com.au for further details. Map **Cullen Bullen**

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, 04111 62345, keithdor53@hotmail.com

- Sep 12 **Taronga to Balmoral Beach.** 8km. Water views, beautiful trees, some steps, opportunity to swim at end. Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.30 am. Judith 4758 6310 or M 0419 780 640. Grade 2.
- Sep 19 **Evans Crown, Tarana.** Ramble and explore granite rocks and views. Walk along wallaby tracks. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50 am. Car pool fare \$5. Meredith 4782 4823. Grade 2.
- Sep 26 **Grand Canyon, Blackheath.** Experience the new track through the Canyon. Ascent 300M. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.40 am. Car pool. Chris Smith 4787 6979. Grade 3.
- Oct 3 **Coxs Road, Mount Victoria.** Walk on historic roads. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.50 am. Car pool. Eddie 4784 2691. Grade 3.
- Oct 10 **Wollangambe Wanderings.** Walk from Bell to upper Wollangambe River and return, 10km. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.50 am. Warren 4787 5403. Grade 3.

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

- Sep 8 **Transit of Venus, Woodford.** Meet cnr Woodford Ave and Great Western Hwy, Woodford 10am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Sep 15 **Bus trip to Dunn's Swamp.** Book and pay Tracy \$12 0434 362 611. Meet Springwood Car Park behind Westpac Bank, 8.00am sharp. Pick up along highway. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Sep 22 **Part of Six Foot Track from Old Ford Reserve.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool \$5. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Sep 29 **Duck Hole, Glenbrook.** Meet Glenbrook Station 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Car pool \$5. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Oct 6 **Historic Walk, Lithgow.** Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool \$5. Take lunch or eat at Lithgow Workers' Club. Grade 1
- Oct 13 **Historic walk, Paddington.** Meet top of escalators, Central Station 9.30am. Leader Rose 9420 2103. Take lunch. Grade 1

Read about our bushwalkers' exploits on Facebook—with lots of wonderful photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/BmcsBushwalking> and <https://www.facebook.com/bmcslongerbushwalks>

VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE

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

Tools and gloves are available.

Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

Phone Karen 4757 1929.

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