



*"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"*

## Pass It On - Membership Drive

This month we have printed extra copies of Hut News and posted them to everyone, even those of you who choose 'e-mail only' (don't panic, the paper and envelopes are 100% recycled).

Our data tells us that most new members hear about us 'from a friend'.

So when you are finished reading Hut News this month, pass it on to a friend or neighbour who is not a member.

Perhaps you could forward the 'Hut News is ready for download' e-mail to your friends too.

Maybe they will join, maybe not, but at least another few hundred people will hear about us and learn what we do.

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

## Leave Radiata Plateau Wild: Campaign Update

The community, for nearly 35 years, has been campaigning for permanent protection of Radiata Plateau at Katoomba and its inclusion in the national park. Blue Mountains Conservation Society is continuing the effort to protect this outstanding landscape.

Prior to the state election, the then Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton visited the Plateau accompanied by Society representatives and local residents. At the meeting she made a commitment to request National Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake a review and to consider possible acquisition. Since then the Society has met with senior national parks staff and presented a lengthy and comprehensive document outlining the significant natural and cultural heritage values of the Plateau. This includes nationally listed endangered species and ecological communities, including Blue Mountain Swamps, as well as the state listed heritage site "Blacks Ladder".

We understand that NPWS has undertaken a conservation assessment of the Plateau and is providing advice to the new NSW Minister for the Environment Matt Kean. As a consequence the Society has also written to the new Minister requesting a meeting on-site to discuss purchase by the NSW Government. Member for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle, committed a Labor Government, if it was elected, to purchase the Plateau. Trish Doyle continues to support the Leave Radiata Plateau Wild campaign and has also recently written to Matt Kean, on behalf of local residents, seeking purchase of the Plateau.



## WE GIVE A DAM!

On Sunday 9th June, a tide of people flowed from the Carrington Park, down Katoomba Street, along Lurline Street and to Kingsford Smith Park.

According to some reports, more than 900 people took part in the Give a Dam march. It is likely to have been over a thousand participants during the day as some only joined in the beginning or end. To take part felt like being part of a massive friendly but very purposeful throng.

There has been some very constructive discussion in the media about the reasons for not raising the dam wall. It was this event in Katoomba that truly gave the issue a human face. (More photos on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au))



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The **DEADLINE** for the next issue  
 of HUT NEWS is  
**20 JULY 2019**

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## What is an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value?

Judy Smith, Threatened Species Officer

In August 2017, the **NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016** (BC Act) came into effect and replaced the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**. The BC Act has brought many changes to the way we in NSW attempt to protect biodiversity, regulate development and manage the impacts of development on the natural environment. Time will tell if "changes" equate to "improvements".

One change brought by the BC Act is the provision it gives the NSW Minister for the Environment (currently Minister Kean) to declare **Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Value**. Such areas are "special areas that contain irreplaceable biodiversity values that are important to the whole of NSW, Australia or globally". **Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity** are to include the most valuable sites for biodiversity conservation across NSW, including on private lands, and as such will be afforded legal protection.

To date, just on two years after the BC Act came into effect, the **Register of Declared Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity** contains only four listings. These are the four areas of declared critical habitat previously listed under the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**: critical habitats for the Gould's Petrel, Little Penguin population in Sydney's North Harbour, Mitchell's Rainforest Snail in Stotts Island Nature Reserve and Wollemi Pine.

The Wollemi Pine is one of our iconic Blue Mountains species. Its limited area of natural habitat in remote Wollemi National Park within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is special. However, only four declared **Areas of Outstanding Biodiversity**? Surely we have more? Over a year ago, a comprehensive, well researched nomination<sup>1</sup> was submitted to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage seeking declaration of the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area as an **Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value**. One year on, a decision re Mount Canobolas is still pending. It appears that some touted measures to protect the natural environment are currently moving at snail's pace, if at all. It also appears that environmental agencies within NSW might be woefully resourced at the moment.

<sup>1</sup>Medd RW and Bower CC (2018). *Nomination of Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area as an Area of Outstanding Biodiversity Value. Submission to Office of Environment and Heritage, Unpublished 63pp.*

## Zombie DA: Flora and Fauna Park Wentworth Falls

Many Society members and concerned residents have contacted the Society after seeing the extensive clearing adjacent to the Great Western Highway at Boddington Hill Wentworth Falls. Last month's Hut News included an article which explained that the clearing was undertaken using a development consent which is over thirty years old. The consent is for a fauna and flora park, locally known as the crocodile park as the original proposal include a crocodile exhibit. Highly controversial and widely opposed by the community when it was approved thirty years ago, this back-from-the-dead "zombie" development consent remains valid despite thirty years passing and the site changing hands a number of times. The continuing validity of the original consent has been confirmed by the Department of Planning.

The Society has written to Blue Mountains City Council with concerns that the current activities on the site, including the vegetation clearing, may not be consistent with the original development consent. This includes whether the clearing was undertaken consistent with the approved development footprint and whether development conditions, designed to minimise environmental harm including to nearby waterways and swamps, were met. We understand Council has required the owner to install sediment controls on site to minimise potential soil erosion into nearby waterways.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



# KATOOMBA AIRFIELD UPDATE



## Some suggested points you could make in your submission are:

Object to any COMMERCIAL LEASE

- Commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens its integrity
- Object to giving away public land for private profit
- Object to what may be possible in future leases negotiated behind closed doors

PUT IT IN THE NATIONAL PARK -

- Transfer this land to the National Park.
- Protect the World Heritage Area by eliminating this threat of commercial development on an inholding.
- Safeguard native animals & people from impacts of frequent helicopters

Keep it for EMERGENCY PURPOSES ONLY, managed by NPWS

## Environmental Impacts

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study undertaken adjacent to this site was that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains and on the many other bird species inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the airfield (BMRM Ecological Surveys).

For more information on these impacts go to - <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews/hut-news-1907-impact-of-helicopters.pdf> There is also more background information on the complex history of this site on the webpage.

## Where to send your submission:

- To look up the online "exhibition" go to:  
<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition/proposed-lease-of-katoomba-airfield>
- Submissions must be in by midnight **4th August 2019** and **quote ref number 602686** in subject line:
- Email submissions to :  
[airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au)  
Or write to Department of Industry, Crown Lands, PO Box 2155 DANGAR NSW 2309.
- Send a copy to your local state MP – in the Blue Mountains it is Trish Doyle:  
[bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or 132 Macquarie Rd Springwood NSW 2777.
- If you wish, you can also write directly to Hon Melinda Pavey MP, Minister for Water, Property & Housing (Crown Land), and Hon Matt Kean MP, Minister for Energy & Environment (NPWS), both at GPO Box 5341, Sydney 2001.

**If you have already sent in a submission, before the exhibition period, you will need to resend it or it won't be considered!**

## SPEAK UP NOW—Put it in the Park!

The NSW government is proposing commercial private development on our public land within Blue Mountains World Heritage Area – it is another threat along with the raising of Warragamba Dam wall and Western Sydney Airport. **Please add your voice.**

Katoomba airfield is a public land inholding in the Blue Mountains National Park sitting near the Grand Canyon and Grose Valley. There is a long history of agreement from Blue Mountains City Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Lands that the airfield should be **incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park with continued use for emergency purposes**. Instead, the Department of Industry is considering granting a **commercial lease over the airfield to a private aviation tourism company** for activities including helicopter scenic flights.

## Now is an opportunity to Have Your Say!

The NSW Department of Industry (DoI) Crown Lands, is currently promoting a commercial lease application on their website, under their Public Exhibition page! It presents what appears to be a good case for one commercial aviation company, however a little critical thinking and reading between the lines is needed. A few examples of statements made that require some questioning are, that this commercial development will:

- *"Open up ....the site for bushwalking and other community activities"*. What is meant by this? The Grose Valley and surrounds are already popular bushwalking areas with access from various parts of the Blue Mountains ridges and towns. The noise of helicopters would detract from this experience.
- *"not permit short cycle/short duration joy flights"* – please define 'short'? and how many and how often? Maybe this lease won't have short joy flights, what about inevitable future leases once the infrastructure is established?
- have *"strict environment controls to prevent excessive noise"* - There is no regulatory authority that can monitor and enforce the Fly Neighbourly Agreement - it is industry self-regulation, a guideline only. Will the community again need to beg the EPA to take action on helicopter noise that reverberates around the valleys, as we did in the early 1990s.

The **core issue** that the community hasn't been asked to comment on is: **SHOULD THERE BE A COMMERCIAL LEASE AT ALL?**



## Aboriginal Heritage of the Blue Mountains – Recent Research and Reflections

An important new book, *Aboriginal Heritage of the Blue Mountains – Recent Research and Reflections* was launched at Lawson recently by Blue Mountain Educational and Research Trust. Edited by Kelvin Knox and Eugene Stockton, the publication brings together the reports of surveys and excavations in key areas of the Blue Mountains by a group of local archaeologists. It points out that many Aboriginal sites will be lost if the Warragamba Dam wall is raised, as intended by the NSW Government. The book makes a plea for the Greater Blue Mountains to be formally declared as an Aboriginal Place, included on the National Heritage List.

The book is authored by Kelvin Knox, Evan Yanna Muru Gallard, Jim Smith, Bruce Cameron, Wayne Brennan, Grace Karskens, Michael Jackson and Eugene Stockton. A foreword written by Dr Val Attenbrow of the Australian Museum mentions that the book is for those interested in the Blue Mountains Aboriginal people, their culture, their environment and the archaeological evidence for their activities – whether an Aboriginal Australian, a local resident, an academic researcher or visitor, the chapters in this book have much of great interest.

State Member for the Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle spoke of this book with a speech to Parliament. She said that she was honoured to be asked to address attendees at the recent launch of this publication and that she spoke of the requirement for compassion, respect and protection to be central to our acknowledgement of indigenous heritage, particularly in a political climate in

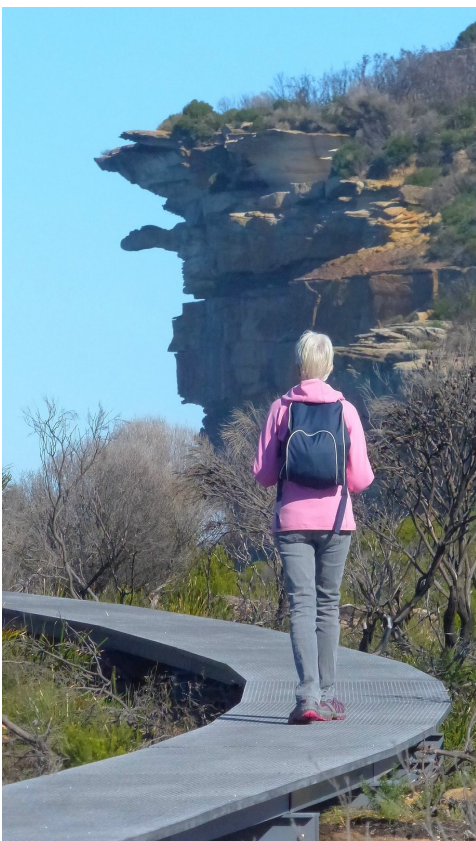


State Member for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle, at the recent book launch.

which legislation is passed for the flooding of wild rivers and the destruction of Aboriginal heritage without conferring with Aboriginal peoples. She noted the deep concern and distress felt by Aboriginal people at the present Government's lack of consultation with the Aboriginal community about protecting heritage in the Burratorang Valley.

The book, published by Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, is available in local bookshops or at [www.bmert.org](http://www.bmert.org)

See the flyer: <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews/hut-news-1907-aboriginal-heritage-books.pdf>



## Natural area foot traffic—What is the future?

Higher numbers of visitors from near and far ... Crumbling and braiding old walking tracks ... Hundreds of runners pounding already eroding paths during organised mass events ... People straying from poorly defined tracks to take “selfies” near dangerous cliffs ... plant diseases such as root fungus being rapidly spread by footwear.

All of the above have helped encourage a major upgrade of the high profile Coast Walking Track in Royal National Park. Will some Blue Mountains walking tracks go through a similar process? Attention is focusing on connecting the existing sections of the Grand Cliff-top Walk, the route around Sublime Point championed by Conservation Society members Norm and Laurel Harris and some of the heavily used tracks along the Grose Valley escarpment.

How are State Government and Council going to achieve the fine balance between sensitive ecosystems, fragile landforms and the growing number of people who want to spend time with them?



Conservation Society bushwalker Anne Brunton trying reconstructed sections of the Royal National Park walk between Wattamolla and Garie. (Photos by Geoff Dernee)



## A DOLLAR THIS WEEK, NO CENTS AFTERWARDS

Opinion piece by Don Morison

Another economically marginal megaproject seemingly approved with huge risks to the environment. Adani's Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland Galilee Basin has common qualities with the proposed Western Sydney airport. It will take many years to provide significant returns to its backers, if it ever does. It is seriously vulnerable to changes in the World economy and the World's preferences over what level of fossil fuel consumption is tolerable. And its supporters continually spruik that it is a significant contributor to ordinary people's incomes and employment stability.

The decision makers who support these megaprojects are living in the past. Environmentally friendly job creation projects can be up and running more quickly. They can respond more readily to cycles of supply and demand and to long term changes in the kinds of products and services that consumers favour.

Belatedly, leaders such as Construction, Forestry, Mining, Maritime and Energy unionists as well as the Queensland Premier have lectured Adani. They have invited the corporation to repeat promises to provide massive numbers of jobs that won't suddenly go away once they have been created. Admonishing the coal miner in a strict tone of voice will do nothing to ensure that actually happens. No individuals or companies control the price of coal. Like the Western Sydney airport, the project is massively environmentally dangerous and massively exposed to economic uncertainty. Anyone who makes a dollar out of such a project next week has no guarantee of making a cent the week after.

### BUS TRIP WITH PLANT STUDY GROUP

The Plant Study Group of Blue Mountains Conservation Society invites members of The Society who are interested in native flora to join us on our 14 July 2019 bus trip to Scheyville National Park near Windsor.

Scheyville National Park has a good remnant of Cumberland Plains Woodland, which is a Critically Endangered Ecological Community, and a Fresh-water Wetland with plenty of birds. There will be lots of interesting things to see.

We will be going in the Community Bus which will depart at 8.45 AM from the carpark at Springwood Railway Station. The approximate time of return to Springwood is 4:00 PM. You will need lunch, drinks, field guides, a plant lens and binoculars.

There is a \$15 fee, and bookings are essential. Phone Meredith 0401 955 354 to make a booking.

### BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Our nursery is closed during the colder months. We will reopen in August and volunteers will be selling plants at the Blackheath Community Market on the 1st Sunday in August and the Magpie Markets, Lawson, on the third Sunday in August.

[nursery@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:nursery@bluemountains.org.au)

Steve Tredinnick In For The Kill - Wedge-tailed Eagle, watercolour, 57 x 37cm



### STEVE TREDINNICK

Out of the Blueys (bird paintings)

AND

### ROD JULIAN

Australian Birds: Lucky Captures  
(bird photography)

11 JULY to 4 AUGUST 2019

at BRAEMAR GALLERY

104 Macquarie Road, Springwood

(Open: Thursday to Sunday, 10 am to 4pm)

Braemar Gallery and the artists warmly invite you to the launch, to be opened by Dr Graham Cam PhD

Saturday 13 July, 2 pm—4 pm

### Volunteers help to make a difference

Volunteering to help the environment can involve a range of activities from taking on a management committee or subcommittee role to helping out at an event, attending a rally or meeting, writing a letter, helping at nursery or bushcare. You can do as much or as little as you are able. If we care, we can help to make a difference.

Our **Bushcare Officer, Paul Vale**, calls his job one of the 'easier' Society roles, although his monthly reports appear to contradict this: "I get to spend a lot of time out in the bush, from edges of residential areas to walking up creeks looking for weeds. Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group is the Society's group, working around the edges of the area under guidance from National Parks rangers. I also spend a lot of time talking to rangers and Council Bushcare and Urban Weeds Teams officers, liaising on a variety of matters. All very rewarding! A recent chore was to write a submission to Council on their Draft Weed Management Strategic Plan."

Our **Webmaster, Alan Page**, keeps our website current and engaging which is sometimes a challenge with the endless campaigns we mount in our goal to conserve the Greater Blue Mountains. Sometimes those running the campaigns don't find time to provide updates. Alan is helpful to other members of the management committee in many ways.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY** [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

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## Vox Pop – Climate change and sustainability Clare Power

**This month I asked five different people to share their reflections on climate change and sustainability. Learning to listen and to be curious about each other's worldviews, I suggest is vital in these challenging times. I invited them to frame this as Blue Mountains residents if they chose to.**

### Climate Change

B: I see climate change as an incredible opportunity for humans to change the way they do things, to recognise that the way we do things is harmful and we have the capacity to change this. I see it as a signal from nature that we need to change our ways.

A: In terms of the Blue Mountains, I don't believe we should be doing hazard reductions in the way that we currently are, because those regulations, rules and laws that enforce hazard reduction and burning were made a long time ago and they aren't being updated with the continually changing environment. I think we are damaging what we have left. I've lived here since the late 80s and it concerns me that the rain patterns aren't there, the ground is drier and the regrowth isn't as quick as it was 10 years ago. We need to re-think how property protection in the Mountains can be managed in the future.

E: I'm really conscious that in the Blue Mountains we have incredible stretches of land with really healthy ecological communities and as we are entering this period of climate change they are an incredible resource; it's what's going to carry us into the future. We need to think about how we look after this, in a way that is not managing it but letting it be what it is and do what it does, and that presents huge challenges for us socially.

J: We should be on a war footing at this point in time; there's been so much delusion and misunderstanding about the situation we are in; that there are so many interconnected systems that are on the brink of collapse. And because they are interconnected, it's not just one simple thing of putting solar panels on my roof, or taking my recycling to a place that doesn't even recycle any more. There has to be an entire cultural shift ... it has to be a whole systems switch; we have the technology, we have the tools to do it. It's only human willpower and denialism that gets in the way. It's not a question of economics or environment. We could be sailing through climate change, making a liveable society for everyone. Also, I think one area that people are hesitant to speak about is population growth, and it's a huge question.

R: I immediately feel incredibly sad and a sense of shame that I'm a part of the species that has done this, that has behaved so foolishly; and a little bit panicked and a little bit hoping that it will all go away and feeling totally responsible for it while at the same time feeling helpless. All of my life impacts on climate change; if I use my car, if I buy concrete etc, I'm responsible for climate change, and there's an incredible sense of sorrow that I'm doing this to this planet.

### Sustainability

B: Sustainability I struggle with, as it's a bit about keeping flawed systems going. Do we want to keep doing these things that we are doing, or grasp an opportunity to transform? I like regeneration and restoration, of actually nurturing life, starting again from the ground up and creating a new way, instead of putting

bandages on a flawed system.

A: To me living in a sustainable way includes things like recycling, being mindful of water usage, minimising or banning plastics in the home. The council seems to be working towards sustainability, and lots of people are trying, but we can all do a lot better. Shopping sustainably is hard with the environmental concern of decreasing plastics. I wish that as a country we did our recycling more responsibly. Maybe that's where local councils need to be more involved.

E: I feel that we need to move into the phase of understanding that our biggest crisis is actually a social, psychological and cultural crisis that it's driving our failure to deal with environmental issues. And it's our ability to be able to care for ourselves, those around us and everything around us which requires quite incredible levels of collaboration and healthy interdependence. For me sustainability is about being able to learn and collaborate and work together and we need a much more sophisticated set of skills than we have now, and which we've probably lost over time, over many generations, but we need to rediscover them and discover new skills.

J: Sustainability to me has to do with biological intelligence, with our understanding of ourselves as part of this entire living organism which is called earth. It makes me anxious that politicians have no understanding of what is real, in terms of sustaining our, and the life on this planet, into the future. The basis of our entire society doesn't acknowledge water, air, soil, soil organisms, animals, plants, us as living creatures. If we took that into account, that to me would be sustainability.

R: Sustainability is a slightly more proactive word. When I think about sustainability it makes me think I have a little bit more control, I can buy my clothes at the op shop, I can have my veggie garden – all tiny but hardly very effective ways, but at least it's a word that helps guide me in how I respond to climate change.

### Zombie DA: Flora and Fauna Park Wentworth Falls

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

Councillors also moved a motion to write to the Hon. Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning, raising concerns that a development consent thirty years old can still remain valid.

The Society has also written to the Commonwealth Environment agency questioning whether the development requires separate approval by Commonwealth government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. A number of nationally listed threatened flora and fauna species have been recorded on or near the site.

The current owner has publicly stated via the Blue Mountains Gazette that he intends to develop not only a fauna and flora park on the site (as originally approved) but also high end resort accommodation. Council has confirmed that any development variation, not included in the original development consent, will require new development assessment and approval.





## WILD LIFE IN KANIMBLA VALLEY Christine Davies

As we drove from the mountains we admired a rainbow which stretched across the Kanimbla Valley (photo top right). We stopped to look at a mob of kangaroos who turned to look at us.

Hot drinks and scones with jam and cream were waiting for us at our destination. Then, back in the cars for a short walk beside the Coxs River. This stretch of the river has been damaged by many years of pastoral activity and introduced weeds. The banks of the river are lined with huge River Oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), some of their roots exposed by floods. We had to watch our step as the ground had been excavated by wombats and also, unfortunately, turned over by feral pigs.

After lunch (pumpkin soup from Rosemary's bumper crop of butternut pumpkins), Rosemary took us to look at the spiders in her greenhouse. The photo (top left), taken by Rosemary in the summer, shows the female St Andrews Cross Spider with the smaller male in attendance. The photo (top centre), taken in June, shows one of the spider's green silk egg sacs attached to a now dry leaf. Nearby were other broken and dried egg sacs and, next to one of them, numerous little spiderlings gathered together. It was fascinating to read about them at [http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane\\_orbweavers/StAndrew.htm](http://www.brisbaneinsects.com/brisbane_orbweavers/StAndrew.htm) - described just as we had seen them. The little spiders separate and climb higher and are dispersed by the wind.



### AN ANT HIGHWAY (photo above)

We observed that there was a cleared pathway between two ant hills, with ants travelling along it in both directions. I wondered how the vegetation was cleared—purposefully, or worn away by a constant procession of ants, or perhaps a chemical in their bodies which kills the grass? Does anybody know?

## Call for Volunteers: Ecological Monitoring Citizen Science Project

The Wentworth Falls group of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI) Citizen Science Project is now up and running and three months of photographic data have been loaded onto the BMWHI database.

Sponsored by Scenic World, the aim of the project is to provide an ongoing photographic record of the fauna and flora of the local area using camera traps at fixed locations and weekly photographing at selected flora sites. The data will be used to quantify the long-term environmental change to our local area.

Similar monitoring groups are up and running at Blackheath and Scenic World, and the combined data set will provide essential background data for assessing the impacts of changing climate and urban infrastructure projects on the Blue Mountains environment.

To date the camera traps have recorded the presence of ambling foxes, stalking cats, off-leash dogs, an amorous pair of lyre birds and the occasional possum.

Documenting changes in flora is a more long-term project, probably several years. The data is being codified, analysed and uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia by Alicia Harb-Larkins of Western Sydney University under the supervision of Dr. Ricky Spencer.

The Wentworth Falls group meets every Thursday

morning at 11am at the Conservation Hut, to photograph the flora sites and service the camera traps. We are still at the learning stage of finding lost flora sites, remembering to switch the cameras back on after changing the batteries, coping with rechargeable batteries that lose their charge when it snows, and downloading the data, but the cup of coffee afterwards at the Conservation Hut makes it all worthwhile.

We would welcome the addition of a few more volunteers to either help in the regular servicing of the sites or cover those times when the regulars are on holiday or have family commitments. So far, the majority of volunteers have been from Bushcare and the Blue Mountains Conservation Society, which makes sense and works very well for group dynamics.

No expertise is required, this is truly a Citizen's Science project. Simply turn up at the Conservation Hut at 11am on Thursdays and look for a motley crew of laid-back locals who don't quite fit the description of tourists, gung-ho bush walkers, or adventure tour groups.

If you would like further information about joining either the Wentworth Falls group or the Blackheath group, please contact Sarah Terkes, at [s.terkes@bmwhi.org.au](mailto:s.terkes@bmwhi.org.au), who helps coordinate the project at the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute.

## Join the campaign— GIVE A DAM!

The wild rivers and landscape of the southern Blue Mountains are largely untouched by modern society. The area is home to 48 threatened plant and animal species, ancient river valleys, rare dry rainforests and hundreds of indigenous cultural sites. It is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and a Declared Wilderness Area.

If the NSW State Government raises the Warragamba Dam wall by 14 metres, as it plans to do, all this will be threatened.

Go to <https://www.giveadam.org.au/>

## Running wild in natural areas

6000 horses are estimated to inhabit Kosciuszko National Park ... 23 native plant species are threatened by feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park ... 11 native animal species are threatened by feral horse habitat destruction in Kosciuszko National Park.

Wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park, given protection by NSW State Government as **heritage**, continue to destroy habitat, multiply, starve, and present a danger to park visitors. People with a genuine love of animals (including horses) would not want this to happen.

Call on the NSW Government to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 and put in place effective and humane feral horse control.

Find out more: [reclaimkosci.org.au/](http://reclaimkosci.org.au/)

In recent years, unwanted horses have been released on Newnes Plateau in the Blue Mountains. The Newnes Plateau is not a horse paddock. This area deserves the protection the Society and others are campaigning for, reserved in a State Conservation Area.

Meanwhile, a recent report from Tasmania: The Tasmanian State Government is trying to balance the numbers of feral deer between the needs to protect the environment and provide live targets for amateur hunters.

## Gardens of Stone Stage 2

The Gardens of Stone Alliance (Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Lithgow Environment Group) is campaigning for the wonderful pagoda country of the Gardens of Stone to be reserved as a State Conservation Area. Destination Pagoda Visitor Plan and its accompanying Gardens of Stone documentary is being presented at various locations. ([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) for more information.)

The unprotected Gardens of Stone stage 2 area includes the declared Maiyngu Marragu Aboriginal Place near Lidsdale. It contains a large rock face overhang with Aboriginal art (hand and tool stencils) in conjunction with significant cultural sites amidst large rocks. This overhang was part of the reason for the Aboriginal Place declaration. It is currently and officially called "Blackfellows Hands Rock". Blue Mountains Conservation Society has made a submission supporting NSW Geographical Names Board's proposal to change the name of the overhang with Aboriginal artwork to Maiyngu Marragu.

## Warragamba Dam wall raising Upper House Enquiry

On 21 June 2019 it was announced that a NSW Upper House committee will be established to examine the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam wall. The committee will have a Labor-Independent majority, with One Nation already voicing their opposition to the dam proposal in the NSW Parliament. The committee will be examining the many question marks that surround development interests on the western Sydney floodplain, as well as the serious environmental destruction the proposed dam would cause to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

**Blue Mountains Conservation Society supports the Give a Dam campaign to stop the raising of Warragamba Dam.**

## AUTUMN TO WINTER

Still, the golden glow on sandstone walls.

Parrots chatter overhead.

Those distant hues of blues and greens.  
Gumleaf trails to tread.

But there comes a certain softness now.

Greening dampness after rain.

A mellowing of light and shade.

Mountains mildness once regained.

That cooling breeze marks season's change.

Such relief from summer heat.

A lighter spirit in the bush

With summertime's retreat.

Ross Bridle, June 2019



## Footsteps in the snow

"Rain, hail or snow  
The lyre bird is on the go!"

John Turner,  
June 2019

"Or 2 lyrebirds. Walking in  
the same direction but not  
quite in tandem. A bit like  
bushwalkers."

Karen Taylor



## 2040: hope and action in the climate crisis

John Wiseman, Professional Fellow, University of Melbourne,  
23rd May 2019

It was framed as “the climate election”, but Australia returned a government with climate policies that make the task of building a zero-emissions, safe climate Australia even harder.

This result comes at a time when international studies are raising the real and imminent spectre of a mass extinction crisis and many communities are already struggling with the consequences of the climate emergency now unfolding around us.

Amid the growing strength of movements like Extinction Rebellion and climate activist Greta Thunberg’s advice to “act as you would in a crisis”, Australian film-maker Damon Gameau’s new climate change solutions film **2040** focuses on highlighting the huge range of climate action opportunities being explored and accelerated, not just in Australia but around the world.

Structured as a visual letter to Gameau’s four-year-old daughter, **2040** takes us on an engaging, upbeat journey, introducing us to a wide array of climate and energy solutions already underway. The film then fast-forwards 20 years to help us imagine how a zero-emissions world might unfold.

The film and accompanying book showcase a rich tapestry of climate action stories from around the world, from renewable energy microgrids in Bangladesh, to autonomous electric vehicles in Singapore and regenerative agriculture in Shepparton, Victoria. ...

While **2040** doesn’t avoid hard truths about the rapidly escalating risks and dangers of the climate emergency, Gameau has made a clear choice to focus his narrative of “fact based dreaming” on stories of hope and action rather than just chaos and catastrophe.

The goal is to offer viewers a refreshing and energising change from yet more images of burning forests and melting glaciers. ...

None of us know exactly how our journey into a harsh climate future will evolve. We can however be sure that the journey will be far tougher if we close our eyes and fail to act with honesty and imagination; wisdom and courage. **2040** makes an important contribution to this urgent and essential work.

**Source: The Conversation.**

Read the full article at <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews/hutnews-1906-2040-hope-and-action-in-the-climate-crisis.pdf>

### Hut News: behind the scenes

We have a new volunteer to proof read Hut News. Thaïs Turner will join Sue Nicol and Brendan Doyle in this very necessary job each month. Thank you all. .

Ross Coster and Phoebe Coster together distribute 800 hard copies of Hut News. They address and envelope around 420 copies during a pleasant evening together over a good bottle of wine. The next day Ross takes the envelopes and spare newsletters to Wentworth Falls. This involves having lunch with an old friend and former secretary and treasurer of the Society, Les Coyne, who volunteers to maintain the supply of newsletters at the Hut. Christine Davies.

### Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

The Visitors Map is full of suggested walks and trips. It is in full colour, 60 by 85 cm in size, and covers the entire Gardens of Stone region at a 1:100,000 scale, making it ideal for planning your next trip to the area. You can buy a map on the society’s website at [www.bluemountains.org.au/GoS\\_VisitorsMap.htm](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/GoS_VisitorsMap.htm)

### 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 \$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](mailto:membership@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 - noon. Tools and gloves are available. Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**  
Phone Karen 4757 1929

## 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.

## CLIMATE CHANGE: Australia pretends it doesn't exist, while UK races ahead ...

Robin Mosman

The UK set a goal in 2003 of reducing its greenhouse emissions by 60 percent from 1990 levels by 2050. In 2008, it passed the Climate Change Act and increased its emissions-reduction target to 80 percent, on the understanding that attaining its goal should cost no more than between 0.5 and 2 per cent of GDP. It established a strong, independent body, the Climate Change Committee, to help guide this project.

On Wednesday 12 June this year the British Prime Minister announced that the UK would abandon the 80 percent by 2050 target and replace it instead with a target of zero emissions by the same year. "Now is the time to go further and faster to safeguard the environment for our children" she said. "Reaching net zero is an ambitious target, but it is crucial that we achieve it to ensure we protect our planet for future generations. Standing by is not an option".

Ms May's target has been backed by the Labour opposition and all the MPs competing to replace her when she leaves office next month. The Confederation of British Industries released a statement saying that UK businesses "stood squarely behind the government's commitment. This legislation is the right response to the global climate crisis, and firms are ready to play their part in combating it. Climate leadership can drive UK competitiveness and secure long-term prosperity. This legislation must be followed by a commitment to long-term policies that support decarbonisation across the economy".

Within hours the government announced the creation of a Net Zero Task Force, under the patronage of Prince Charles, to help businesses adopt sustainable practises.

The government has already achieved a 43 percent reduction on 1990 levels, and the benefits of the policy extend far beyond simply emission reduction. An example has been the experience of UK's offshore wind energy sector, which between 2015 and 2017 reduced the cost of power it generated by half, because the industry was able to take advantage of government subsidies predicated on cost reduction to improve technology and scale up production.

The UK is benefiting from a government acting as it should - recognising a problem, pursuing expert advice and acting on it. The Australian government has refused to even acknowledge that there is a problem, has scrapped the Climate Change Council, and channelled funding to projects linked to the fossil-fuel interests. Its emission-reduction target is 26-28 percent of 2005 emissions, supported by no science. And Australia's greenhouse emissions continue to rise, up 0.4 percent in 2018 from 2017.



Photos: Birdlife Australia (from top left clockwise)  
<http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/brown-headed-honeyeater>  
<http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/Grey-Shrike-thrush>  
<http://birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/Brown-Thornbill>

## Wild Life in Blackheath

In late June we came across a mixed flock of birds, down by the old quarry. Without binoculars we were unable to identify them all, but the flock included thornbills, Brown-headed Honeyeaters and a Grey Shrike-thrush.

They paid no attention to us, each absorbed in finding its chosen food, happily travelling together for winter companionship and safety in numbers.

Christine Davies



## 60. HARTLEY VALE CEMETERY

Cemeteries are much concerned with matters underground, as was the wombat who dug this impressive burrow along the entrance path to one of the most picturesque final resting places in the Greater Blue Mountains.

The ecological quirkiness of the Blue Mountains particularly suits the colourful assortment of characters in repose at this location. Nils Hertzberg Larsen lived only 58 years but had time to marry one of Australia's early feminists, Louisa Albury, with whom he parented Henry Lawson, arguably Australia's finest English-language poet. Larsen had been working as a builder in the Mount Victoria area at the time he died.

Time, weathering and lichens display their intriguing patterns on the pair of headstones honouring Pierce and Mary Collits, the couple who founded the first inn west of the Nepean River. Today, Collits Inn still stands and is a wedding reception and function centre a few hundred metres from the cemetery.

The loneliness of Tambo's grave suggests he was not a baptised Christian. His master was Thomas Henry Neale who acted as magistrate of the Hartley Court House from 1883 to 1887. Neale probably had to argue to ensure Tambo was interred even in this remote section of the consecrated ground.

Mary Sherringham and Jane Collits both died much too young but are commemorated with examples of the four-line verses which used to adorn headstones of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Jane's last line was obliterated in an attempt to restore their shared headstone. Her full poem used to read:

*Happy soul, thy days have ended.  
All thy morning days below.  
Now by angel guards attended  
To the flights of angels go.*

The charming bushland setting of the graveyard has not always been respected but this is still one of the mountains' most interesting locations. Regenerate in peace, native vegetation of Hartley Vale cemetery! (The text refers to the pictures clockwise from top)



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.

Sections of the Blue Trail featuring the western Blue Mountains can be found in past issues of Hut News: [www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews.shtml) The full Blue Trail is being added at [www.simplyaustralia.com.au/category/blue-trail/](http://www.simplyaustralia.com.au/category/blue-trail/)



## 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 Harold Thompson [harold.thompson@bigpond.com](mailto: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](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) Saturday Walks page for details)

- Jul 6 **Devils Hole.** Leader **Mike 47573660** Meet Wentworth Falls CP 8.30am. 8.5k, Gr 3, Map Katoomba.  
Jul 13 **Grose South Head Trig.** Leader, **Mike 47573660.** Meet Springwood Stn. CP, 8.30am. 15k, Gr3. Map, Springwood.  
Jul 20 **Mount Banks.** Leader **Harold 0409010737** Ring Leader for details and to book in. 9k, Gr3, Map, Mount Wilson.  
July 27 **Mount Victoria, Western Ridges off track.** Leader **Emanuel 0419773906.** Contact leader for details and to book in. 4k GR 4, Map Hartley  
Aug 3 **Darks Cave and Fortress Ridge.** Leader **Eddie 47842691** Meet, Wentworth Falls Stn Car Park, 8.30am, 11k. Grd 3. Map, Katoomba.  
**Aug 10 Megalong Cemetery to Swing Bridge along the 6ft Track Leader.** Alice 47393086 or 0425738766. Meet Wentworth Falls Stn. CP 8.30am. 15k, Gr 3, Map Hampton.

**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](mailto:keithdor53@hotmail.com)

- Jul 8 **Megalong Valley walk from the Megalong Rd along the 6ft track to the Coss River and Return.** Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8-40am Car Pool Fare \$5-00. Wayne Read Ph 0429 021 296. Grade 3.  
Jul 15 **Mt Banks Summit from Bells line of Rd.** Approximately 5Km with steep start and a bit of exploring at the top. Mt Victoria Station 9-50 am. Car Pool Fare \$5-00. Lindy Edwards 0434 829 690. Grade 3.  
Jul 22 **Valley of the Waters Wentworth Falls.** Walk from the station via Darwin and Under-Over Tracks and reopened Wentworth Pass. Return via Slack Stairs and Grand Stairway 11Km. Ascents/Descents 400m. Wentworth Falls Station Car Park 9.30am. Freda: [fredanarr@outlook.com](mailto:fredanarr@outlook.com) Grade 3.  
Jul 29 **Faulconbridge Point.** 13km. Easy ridge walk to Lookout with view of Grose Valley. Faulconbridge Rail Station Car Park (North side) 9-00 am Car Pool. Ros 0417 261 465. Grade 2.  
Aug 5 **Baltzer Lookout/Hanging Rock Blackheath,** via Hat Hill Fire Trail and return through Rhodo Gardens. Approx 16km. Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre at 8.40am car shuttle. Barbara Crighton 0428 962 460. Grade 3.  
Aug 12 **Porters Pass Blackheath.** Circuit walk from Blackheath Station. 8 kms Approx. Blackheath Station Car Park 8-45am. Ros 0417 261 465. 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, [denfenella12@bigpond.com](mailto:denfenella12@bigpond.com)

- Jul 11 **Evans Crown.** Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Keith 0411 162 345. Car pool. \$7. Lunch at Tarana Pub. Grade 2  
Jul 18 **Lockyer Track Head, Mount Victoria.** Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2  
Jul 25 **Christmas in July.** Wentworth Falls Country Club 206-220 Blaxland Road, Wentworth Falls. Contact Beverley on 4757 2076 to book and if you need a lift from Wentworth Falls Station. Pay Maurice \$30. Meet at club at noon.  
Aug 1 **South Lawson Falls.** Meet Honour Ave near shops 8.45am. Leader Keith 0411 162 345. Carpool. Take lunch. Grade 2  
Aug 8 **Lake Parramatta.** Meet bottom of steps leading to Darcy St 9.30am. Leader Dinia 0412 879 295. Take lunch. Grade 2  
Aug 15 **La Perouse Walk.** Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.30am. Leaders Keith 0411 162 345 and Tracy 0434 362 611. Take lunch. Grade 2  
Aug 22 **Darwins Walk, Wentworth Falls.** Meet Stockyard Carpark 9.30am. Leader Keith 0411 162 345. Take lunch. Grade 2

Society bushwalks on facebook: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/bmcslongerbushwalks/>

### Welcome to new members

Danilo Del Rio  
Brendan O'Reilly  
Sarah Lestal  
Daniel Braid  
Dylan Lestal  
Jakob Lestal  
Lilah Lestal  
Lolah Lestal  
Tim Vollmer  
Bronya Cruickshank  
Lesley-Ann Angus  
David McGill

### For information about PLANT STUDY GROUP and TING (Thursday Interpretive Nature Group)

Go to our website  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) and  
click on "Activities"

### BMCS Planning & 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)

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

The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording: "I bequeath the sum ofplf \$..... 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 Blue Mountains Conservation Society".