

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

# HUT NEWS

February 2022



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Darug and Gundungurra people, and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

## Tell us what you think about Hut News?

A few years have passed since we conducted a survey of members and there has been much water under the bridge since then. Hut News has changed and we would like your feedback.

Include in the printed version of this issue is a very simple survey that should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete. A digital version will be sent via Eblast. To reward you for completing and returning the survey we are offering the chance to win one of three prizes:

1. **First prize.** \$100 voucher for use at a restaurant of your choice
2. **Second prize.** \$70 voucher from 'Macpac', Katoomba
3. **Third prize.** \$50 voucher for your choice of a book from either 'Turning Page' in Springwood or 'Megalong Books' in Leura.

If you would like to be included in the draw for a prize, please make sure your name and contact details are added to the end of the survey in the space provided.

The draw will be held at the Sunset Gathering (see details in this issue) on Friday 25 February unless COVID prevents the Gathering from going ahead. In that case it would be drawn by the President at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March.

Winners will be notified by email or phone call, depending on the details you have provided. Management Committee members will not be eligible for the draw. Your details will not be published or used for any other purpose and will not be published anywhere without your permission.

**Please return your completed survey in the addressed postage paid envelope enclosed.**

**Tara Cameron, President**



*Above: Kunzea capitata in Minnehaha Falls Reserve, by Helen Yoxall*

*Banner photo above: A view of Pantoneys Crown from Mount Jamison in the Gardens of Stone. Note the Pagoda Rock Daisies (Leucochrysum graminifolium) in the foreground. Photo. Thanks to Ian Watson*

# Report on the Management Committee meeting of 15 January, 2022

The following matters were discussed or decided:

- Discussions have been held with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) about access to the Conservation Hut since the cafe was closed. NPWS plans some maintenance works there and these will be complete towards the middle of the year. The Society has been given a new key.
- Submission about Bell Quarry has been endorsed.
- The Sunset Gathering will be held, subject to COVID issues, on 25 February at the Hut. The formal nomination document for the World Heritage listing will be exhibited there.
- Grand Clifftop Walk and the need for its completion away from streets. The possibility of writing to Council about rezoning for this purpose is to be investigated.
- The AGM and a method of nominating online were discussed.
- Survey to be finalised following comments. It will be enclosed in Hut News and sent out by Eblast. Confidentiality will be assured.
- Madi Maclean reported on submissions to the Planning Minister and the Environment Minister about subsidence at Mugii Murum-ban SCA due to mining. Both have been endorsed by the Committee. She also reported on another to NSW EPA about Clarence Colliery.
- Funding for Federal Election campaign and a questionnaire to candidates. Both were supported.
- Ian Wright's documentary, 'Mining in the Blue Mountains' is to be shown at Mount Vic Flicks.

## Welcome to new members

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Melanie Lawson

Tracy Morgan

Chris Dodds

Currently there are 888 active members.

### **Are you concerned about environmental damage or a development activity in your neighbourhood but don't know who to contact?**

The Society's Planning & Development Resource Kit may help you.

<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml>

### **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 at

[www.bluemountains.org.au/GoS\\_VisitorsMap.htm](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/GoS_VisitorsMap.htm)

# Margaret Baker OAM

Margaret Baker has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List for services to conservation and the environment. This is her story.

When Margaret announced at the age of eight that she was going to be a teacher, she never imagined leaving suburban Newcastle for the Blue Mountains and developing a passion for teaching adults. It was from 1984 at the then Katoomba College of TAFE that Margaret, who is an environmental geographer, found increasing opportunities for sharing with others all manner of topics from geological history to fire ecology and native plant identification in a range of training courses that included Outdoor Guiding, Bushland Regeneration, and Conservation and Land Management. To find many former students in environmental occupations brings her much delight.

Margaret can't remember when she wasn't a conservationist and after moving to the Mountains was readily able to contribute to this cause. First, as part of the executive of the Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society from the 1980s to early 1990s, then on retirement by submission writing for the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Margaret says that this is an organisation of paramount importance to the region, and that she has found working with its many dedicated and talented members very rewarding.

Always happy to write articles or give illustrated talks Margaret has spread Blue Mountains environmental messages through the Australian Plants Society, the Blue Mountains Bird Observers and the Bushcare Network. Many in the community are familiar with a number of her publications which include *Native Plants of the Upper Blue Mountains* co-authored with friends Jill Dark and Robin Corringham.

Retirement brought new opportunities and these days Margaret can often be found in the bush with the Blue Mountains Random Meanderers, a special group of women trained in native plant identification and vegetation community surveys. Biodiversity data collected contributes to the records of BioNet (NSW Environment, Energy and



*Photo: Margaret Baker and friend. By Mark Baker*

Science), the Atlas of Living Australia through iNaturalist and the National Herbarium.

Margaret feels that her greatest contribution to conservation has been in education. She considers it to be the foundation of environmental understanding and regards it as a great privilege to have spent more than 40 years fostering knowledge and respect of the environment and its sustainable management. She hopes to continue to do so into the future.

Margaret was rewarded for her environmental contributions by the Blue Mountains City Council when she received the inaugural award of the Environmental Citizen of the Year in 2020.

Society President, Tara Cameron, said that Margaret has been actively involved in the Society and its campaigns since the mid-eighties. Her knowledge of Blue Mountains flora and geology had a substantial effect on the success of the Radiata Plateau, Katoomba Airfield and Gardens of Stone campaigns. Margaret was made a life member of the Society in 2018 (see [March 2018 Hut News](#)). She is much loved and respected.

Sunset Gathering  
The Conservation Hut  
Wentworth Falls  
Friday, 25th February 6:30pm



# Sunset Gathering

All members are invited to our annual Sunset Gathering to be held on Friday 25 February at 6.30

pm at the Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls. Bring a friend and encourage them to join.

Book at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/blue-mountains-conservation-society-sunset-gathering-tickets-250936215977?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

## Introducing the Macquarie Alliance – Climate Action Now.

Clare Power

As the next election looms, it's more important than ever that we keep climate change high on the agenda. We've had years of inaction. Can you believe it's 15 years since the hope that the Kevin 07 election would bring about meaningful change in Australia's response to climate change?

A local coalition of groups and individuals provides a way to becoming involved in holding political candidates to account on climate change in the Macquarie electorate.

The Macquarie Alliance (MA) was launched in late 2021. The alliance represents people and groups in the Hawkesbury and Blue

Mountains who want to see Australia take urgent, meaningful action on climate change. Our local communities are being increasingly ravaged by fire, flood and drought and many of us have already been impacted. Yet Australia's current climate policy is nowhere near good enough to protect our communities from devastation.

The Macquarie Alliance aims to demonstrate to all federal political parties that there is overwhelming support for urgent action on climate in the seat of Macquarie. Macquarie is the most marginal Federal Electorate in Australia and voters' views matter greatly.

The Macquarie Alliance's platform is:

*'We are Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains people who care about the future of our communities, our homes, and the natural world. We are working together for the protection and improvement of these places, through ensuring global temperatures are kept below 1.5 degrees warming. Our vision is for thriving communities within healthy ecosystems, where no one is left behind.'*

*To achieve this we are calling on all Federal candidates to advocate for urgent action on climate change through supporting:*

- *A much stronger 2030 emissions reduction target for Australia*
- *Fast tracking clean energy and ending fossil fuel subsidies*
- *Support for workers and communities transitioning from fossil fuels*
- *Integrity in politics*

Please consider joining the Alliance. There are a number of actions you can take:

- Sign the open letter to candidates. It's crucial our political parties understand just how widespread the support is for urgent climate action.
- Please sign our open letter to the candidates for the Federal seat of Macquarie. The letter includes the text above as well as asking the candidates to consider and respond to the Macquarie Alliance platform. It also requests information about the policies of the

candidate's party and how they believe they will address the four priority actions set out in the MA platform.

- Sign the letter at [https://www.macquariealliance.org/open\\_letter](https://www.macquariealliance.org/open_letter)
- Help out as a volunteer. The MA organising team are really keen to welcome new volunteers from across our community. <https://www.macquariealliance.org/volunteer>
- Share the MA website and social media links with your family and friends [https://www.macquariealliance.org/spread\\_the\\_word](https://www.macquariealliance.org/spread_the_word)
- Donate. Not everyone can volunteer, and donating some money might be your way of contributing. Macquarie Alliance is a not-for-profit community organisation that does not have deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. Your generous donation will not be tax deductible.'

Let's leave no room for doubt - that the people of Macquarie want climate action now!



*Launch of Macquarie Alliance picnic December 2021. Richmond Park. From the Macquarie Alliance website.*

# Agapanthus, the worst weed?

Paul Vale



*Photo: Alan Page*

Agapanthus is a very popular plant, especially in the Upper Mountains. It has a large tuft of dark green shiny leaves and blue to purple or white flowers clustered in a large globular flower head, held high above the leaves on a stout shiny stalk up to 1m high. Individual plants, if left to spread, can quickly form clumps and over time can grow up to two metres or so in diameter and a metre in height.

Agapanthus has an extremely detrimental impact on bushland and hanging swamps and is difficult to eradicate once it is established.

Grown as borders along fences, and on the road edge to define the nature strip in residential areas, agapanthus are very effective as physical barriers, but with disadvantages. They are a very aggressive plant; one soon becomes a dozen. Without constant management, huge clumps quickly eventuate. Root balls soon expand into impenetrable masses, undermining paths, fences and building foundations close by.

Spreading into bushland, the seeds produce new plants very easily, quickly crowding out native habitat and causing major damage to native bushland. The seeds at the top of that long stem are spread by the wind and birds, and those falling to the ground can be carried by rainwater. Seeds can travel long distances and produce many plants, often in remote locations. Seeds carried by

stormwater and creeks into the valleys will damage the national park.

*How can you help?*

## **Deadheading**

Remove the seeds from the plant as the flowers die off, or earlier. Even better, cut stalks long enough to put in a vase to decorate your home with the flowers. Use secateurs to do this or cut the stalk off at the base with loppers or a small sickle. Dispose of flower heads in your green bin when spent.

Deadheading or flower harvest should usually be done at the end of January but this can change due to seasonal weather variation.

## **Minimise expansion:**

- Small plants can be dug out
- Don't plant new ones; choose a native instead
- Talk to your neighbours
- Join a local Council Bushcare group [bushcarebluemountains.org.au/groups/](http://bushcarebluemountains.org.au/groups/) or (02) 4780 5000 Valley of the Waters NPWS [bluemountains.org.au/bushcare.shtml](http://bluemountains.org.au/bushcare.shtml)

Agapanthus is a listed Local Priority Weed and as such, no permission is needed to remove flowers, foliage or complete plants on your own property. Removal of seed heads (spent flowers) from Council public property likewise is quite legal and encouraged, however such plants should not be dug up as there may be other considerations, such as erosion. Take care not to trespass on private property.

Native alternatives to agapanthus include Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*), Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) and Crinkle Bush (*Lomatia silaifolia*). These and other local native plants can be obtained from the Society Nursery [bluemountains.org.au/nursery.shtml](http://bluemountains.org.au/nursery.shtml)

*This article is adapted (with permission) from text written by the Jamison Creek Catchment Community Group. It meets regularly to coordinate environmental actions in the Jamison Creek catchment. Contact the Group at [JCCCG@mail.com](mailto:JCCCG@mail.com).*

# Minnehaha Falls Reserve, a place to care for.

Meredith Brownhill

Minnehaha Falls Reserve is loved and enjoyed by many people. It is now a popular place for locals and their dogs, and visitors to the mountains.

Minnehaha Falls is a lovely place. You will find running creek-water with little beaches to paddle in and wild flowers to admire beside the sandstone track. Lizards and snakes rustle in the sedges beside the muddy sections of track, and birds are abundant in the shrubs and treetops. There is a swimming hole with crisp water for daring folks to jump into from rocky heights.

On warm days, even in this wet summer, 30 or more motor vehicles will fill the parking area and local streets at the end of Minnehaha Road. How many people and how many dogs are there on the narrow track, the little creek beaches and the swimming hole?

Thirty five years ago, when I first visited the water hole, it was surrounded by Tea-trees growing between the rocks and it was difficult to get between them into the base of the Falls. Now, the Tea-trees are gone and the once bottomless water hole periodically fills with urban sand. The walking track is eroded, vegetation is trampled and bits of toilet paper, and dog droppings are in the bushes. This is all rather sad and high visitor numbers are having unfortunate effects upon this lovely place.

Minnehaha Falls Reserve has a long history of use by Indigenous women who are the Traditional Owners of this special place. It is a women's place. It has great cultural value to First Nation's People and is worthy of respect. Sadly, Indigenous culture is not reflected in the name we use.

Its current name has an American origin and was named by an American company who owned land in 1889 in the area, and named it after Hiawatha's great love, *Minnehaha* from Longfellow's poem *The Song of Hiawatha* -

*'From the water-fall he [Hiawatha] named her,  
Minnehaha, Laughing Water'.*

The poem also tells of Minnehaha, Laughing Waters tragic death and Hiawatha's grief.

So this story leads us to the question – How can we respect the Traditional Owner's cultural use and minimise our recreational and urban impacts on this ecologically sensitive and significant place?

How can human visitation be better managed? Should dogs be excluded from Minnehaha? Will consultation with Indigenous Elders and a name change bring respect?

Without a doubt, optimal protection will be achieved if Minnehaha Reserve is included in Blue Mountains National Park and given World Heritage status.

(Note – consultation with Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre and Indigenous Women Elders took place, who agree to the public recognition of this women's place.)

Historical reference: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1170811>



Photo:  
Meredith  
Brownhill,  
2009

# Ramblings

Alan Page

## Pre-ramble

For those who arrived late. Australia moved from pounds, shillings and pence (£sd) to decimal currency in 1966. A pound (£) consisted of 20 shillings and a shilling (s) of 12 pence (d). The new Australian dollar was worth 10 shillings and a shilling was worth 10 cents. This meant several coins became obsolete – namely the halfpenny, penny and threepence. The 'd' used to denote pence came from the Latin word for this coin which was 'denarius'.

## A penny for your thoughts



When I was sorting through my late mother's possessions recently, I came across her collection of coins. There were 160 Australian pennies and halfpennies.

Sadly, there were no 1925, 1930 or 1946 pennies. I noticed a significant change to our coins in 1938 when a kangaroo hopped onto our penny. It still had a British monarch on the obverse side – which all our coins still have.

The halfpenny changed to the kangaroo (although facing the other way) the next year. All our silver coins until then bore our coat of arms. In 1939 the threepence (memories of Christmas puddings) changed to three stalks of wheat and the shilling to a merino ram's head.

Was this the dawning of including more than monarchs and official symbols - and the currency of Australia becoming Australian? It seems like such a small step now.

## Duly noted

I now found myself down a rabbit hole thinking of pre-decimal currency banknotes. This was a more

interesting journey as it included the first native flora and "commoners" on our legal tender.

There were five bank notes in circulation in 1966 when the dollar arrived –

- 10/- ten shillings (half sovereign)
- £1 - one pound
- £5 - five pounds
- £10 -ten pounds.

These bank notes were introduced on or shortly after 1913. Until 1953, they all featured the monarch on the front and an image of engineering, commerce, agriculture or some such, on the back. When Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne in 1953, a bigger shift than in 1938 occurred. The Queen was only featured on the £1 note.

The 10/- note had Matthew Flinders on the front. It also had the coat of arms surrounded by *Hakea* leaves and on the right and left sides of the bank note are Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) flowers. As the note is in shades of brown and orange, it is hard to appreciate this significant change to include our native flora. I can understand how *Hakea* leaves could imitate laurel leaves – but the Sweet Pittosporum flowers puzzle me.

And the *Hakea*? The Reserve Bank of Australia website tells us that it is *Hakea laurina*, (Pin-cushion Hakea). It is found in the coastal south-west of Western Australia.



The £1 note with the Queen on the front and the explorer Sturt and Hume on the reverse, has *Hakea* leaves and flowers on both sides. This bank note has the first Australian born person featured on it –

Hamilton Hume, born in Seven Hills in 1797. He is also the first non-military man to feature on our currency.

The £5 note has Sir John Franklin and the coat of arms, both surrounded by *Hakea* leaves. The back has a mix of agricultural and pastoral industries of Australia surrounding a central motif of Aboriginal artefacts.

The £10 note has Governor Phillip on the front to the left – but on the right is the Darling Pea (*Swainsona galegifolia*). On the back is a depiction of science and industry. A female figure holds a pair of dividers and a sheet of paper, symbolising research. The model was Karina Nartiss, who migrated from Latvia, and she is the first non-royal woman on our bank notes. In the right and left top corners is the Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*).



### The dark horses

Our 20, 50, 100, and 1,000 pound notes were also produced in 1913. According to the RBA calculator, £1,000 in 1913 would be worth \$125,000 today. In 1945 it was declared that all notes above £10 would no longer be legal tender.

The £20 note, which was believed to be mainly used for betting at race tracks, has an image depicting timber cutting on Bruny Island, Tasmania. It shows four men cutting down a giant eucalypt with axes. It's probably a Tasmanian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) which in 1962 became the Tasmanian floral emblem. Ironically, this would



then be the first native flora to appear on our currency.

The images on all of the 1913 bank notes were created by an etching technique called “intaglio” and were taken from photos. The names of the miners featured on the 1913 £1 note and the axemen on the £20 note are cited in the original photograph. So some of the men would no doubt be the first Australians on our bank notes – and not Hamilton Hume.

The £100 note has on its back images of La La Falls in the Upper Yarra Valley and of Leura Falls.

### Sources:

<https://www.therightnote.com.au/>  
<https://www.worldbanknotescoins.com/2009/12/australian-coins-and-banknotes.html>  
<https://www.allcoinvalues.com/index.html>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknotes\\_of\\_the\\_Australian\\_pound](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknotes_of_the_Australian_pound)  
<https://museum.rba.gov.au/exhibitions/pocket-guides/change-and-stability/1950s-series.html>  
<https://museum.rba.gov.au/exhibitions/pocket-guides/australian-panorama/first-series.html>

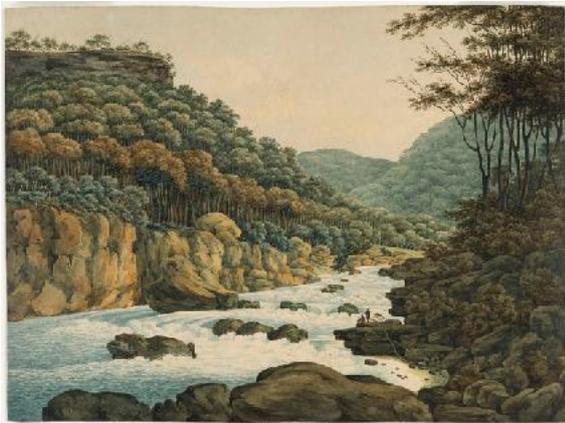
All images courtesy of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

# A Very Special River System

## Dam Debate Highlights the Diversity of Reasons for Valuing the Nepean-Hawkesbury

Don Morison

“Nepean-Hawkesbury, you’re the lifeblood,  
Without you, this city it will cry,  
Death has come into our rivers,  
High-paid polluters crucify.”  
(Cumberland Plains songwriter and artist, Sonia Bennett, from *The Blue Mountains Folkbook* 1996).



*The Grose* by George Evans (1809) could represent any Blue Mountains river.

The fate of the Nepean-Hawkesbury River catchment has been spotlighted during the so-called public consultation about the State Government’s proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall and flood significant sections.

The historical and continuing links between First Australians and this area dominate the reasons why so many Australians from multiple backgrounds have opposed the dam wall raising. The *Sydney Morning Herald* (19/1/22) reports that 1,930 submissions against the dam wall raising have been received with 45 in support. State agencies have called for new consultation.

Among important books published about these rivers are the fictionalised accounts of interaction between settlers and First Australians by Australian novelist Kate Grenville – *The Secret River* and Sarah Thornhill – as well as Grace Karskens’ non-fiction narrative *People of the River*, announced in December 2021 as the winner of the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Australian history.

Grace Karskens is tolerant of Kate Grenville’s simplification of the struggles between settlers and First Australians. She herself relates a complex and nuanced saga. Its themes feature the northern part of the catchment as one of Australia’s finest production areas for food, ideal for indigenous gathering methods for 50,000 years and highly responsive to non-indigenous agricultural methods for the past 200 years.

‘In the novel *The Secret River* and the television series that followed, the single massacre committed by settlers literally wipes out the Aboriginal people of the river ... despite the terror and violence, the determined campaigns, the loss of so many of their kin, the disruption to their food sources and their social and sacred places, the people of Dyarubbin survived, and remained in their Country.’ (Page 175, Grace Karskens, *People of the River – Lost Worlds of Early Australia*, paperback edition Allen and Unwin 2020)

Karskens notes there was cooperation as well as conflict with both indigenous and non-indigenous people gaining their livelihoods in the river catchment and leaving the evidence of their social, cultural and religious practices over the past two centuries. Much of this heritage is now under threat from urbanisation and proposals like the dam wall raising. Indeed, the microclimates that have sustained the diversity of this catchment risk accelerated local climate change. Dr Sebastian Pfautsch, Associate Professor in Urban Studies, Western Sydney University, has noted this 🙌 in a recent ABC Radio National “Blueprint” segment - *The Australian nightmare: western Sydney’s urban heat*. <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/rn-summer-wk-3-0930-western-sydney-heat/13618958>

It is still refreshing to speak to veteran activists of the campaign to save the catchment, like Sonia Bennett, whose exhibition of paintings – *Endangered Plants of the Cumberland Plains* – can be seen at the Blacktown Arts Centre from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February.



Below: An image from the forthcoming Bennett exhibition at Blacktown - *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina*.

# Walks program February 2022

The three month walks program appears on our web page: <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/bushwalking.shtml>.

## Thursday walks

Thursday walks take 2- 3 hours and are conducted at a leisurely pace. Bring morning tea and lunch. Coordinator Beverley Thompson. Phone 4757 2076. Email [denfenella12@bigpond.com](mailto:denfenella12@bigpond.com)

### February 3

Katoomba Cascades and Reid Plateau, round walk. Leader Amanda 4751 5061. Meet Katoomba Station car park at 9.00am. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

### February 10

Cahill's Lookout to Peckman's Plateau, Katoomba. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Meet at Katoomba Station car park at 9.00am. Car pool. Grade 1

### February 17

Loop walk on Yondell Ave Fire Trail to Magdala Gully. Walk upstream to track returning to car park, Springwood. Meet at Springwood car park behind Westpac at 8.45am or 9.10am if trains still running to weekend timetable. Leader Colin 0421 502 954. Take lunch. Grade 2

### February 24

Blue Gum Swamp, Winmalee 9km circuit, all on track with a few minor water crossings. Meet Springwood Station car park north 8.00am or 8.10 am if trains still running to weekend timetable. Leader Angela 0427133 327. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

### March 3

Moya Point, Leura. Bush track to lookout. Meet corner Leura Mall and Megalong Street, Leura 9.30am or 9.50am if trains still running to weekend timetable. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

### March 10

Lockyers Track Head, Mount Victoria. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2

## Saturday walks

Saturday walks are usually a full day, longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Coordinator Harold Thompson. Phone 0409 010737. Email [harold.thompson@bigpond.com](mailto:harold.thompson@bigpond.com)

### February 8 to February 26

Summer program continues, where walkers select walk and leader on the day. Meet at Wentworth Falls Station car park at 8.00am

### March 5

Mount Wilson Circuit, 10km. Map, Mount Wilson and Wollangambe. Leader Diana 0432619305. Meet at Mount Victoria car park at 8.30 am. Grade 3.

### March 12

Bell To December Creek. 10km Map., Mount Wilson and Wollangambe. Leader Harold 0409010737. Meet at Mount Victoria Station car park at 8.30 am. Grade 3.

## Monday walks

Short day walks of 3-5 hours, Suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Group Coordinator is Keith Dorrian 0411 162 345 [keithdor53@hotmail.com](mailto:keithdor53@hotmail.com)

### February 7

Lockers Track Head Walk Mt Victoria Grade 2. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Meet Mt Victoria Station car park south side. 8.50am. Car pool.

### February 14

Norman Lindsay Gallery via Springwood Creek and Birdwood Gully Springwood Grade 3. Leader: Colin Ford 0421 502 954 Meet at Springwood Station north car park 8.50 am. Car pool.

### February 21

Walk long the newly reopened Popes Glen to Govetts Leap track and return. Grade 2. Leader: Barbara Crighton 0428 962 460 Meet at Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre at 8.40 am.

### February 28

Glenbrook - Red Hands Cave Track - Link Track- Exit Track - Euroka Clearing - Euroka Track- Grade 3. Leader: Wayne Read 0429 021 296. Meet at Glenbrook Station car park 9.10 am. Car pool - bring National Parks pass.

### March 7

Lockley's Pylon Leura. Approximately 8km, with 160m ascent / descent. This involves driving up Mt Hay Dirt Rd using your own transport- Grade 3. Leader: Mave Roberts , 4784 2691. Meet at the commuter (Baptist Church) car park, Leura. 8.20am.

## Tuesday walks

Medium day walks of 3-5 hours. Suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Coordinator Susan Nicholls, phone 4754 1516. Email [suerosn@bigpond.net.au](mailto:suerosn@bigpond.net.au)

### February 8

Fitzgerald Creek to Sun Valley. Leader, Colin Ford, 0421 502954 Meet at Valley Heights Station car park. 9.15 am. Easy / medium grade 2, 6 km

### February 15

Batman Park to Perch Ponds. Leader Mike Voris 0401 656848 Meet at Batman Park at end of Farm Road. 8.15 am. Grade 2. Easy / medium, 5 km.

### February 22

Vale Lookout walks, Grose Wold. Leader Ken Robinson 0417 514534. Meet at Springwood car park, rear of Westpac, 8.00 am. Grade 2-3. Medium, 4 km

### March 1

Fagan Park, Galston. Leader Marilyn Savic 0409 924663, John Savic 0400 990444. Meet at Springwood car park, rear of Westpac. 8.00 am. Grade 1, easy, 5 km

### March 8

Crear Hill, Oran Park and Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Leader Margaret Tilden 0416 849506. Marek Bowman 0412 347478. Meet at Glenbrook Station car park, 8.30 am. Easy- medium, 4 km.

# About us

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is an incorporated voluntary group of around 900 members helping to conserve the World Heritage Blue Mountains region. It was originally the Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society in 1961.

We are governed by a management committee and much of our conservation work is undertaken by sub-committees and campaigns. We also have a native plant nursery, several bushwalking groups and a Bushcare group.

## Contact us

- Call the Membership Secretary, Ross Coster on 0418 462576
- By mail at PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782
- By phone at 02 4757 1872 (leave a message)
- By emailing [bmcs@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au)

## Visit us

[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)  
 Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
 Twitter: bmcsnsw  
 Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/blue\\_mts\\_conservation\\_society/](https://www.instagram.com/blue_mts_conservation_society/)

## Become a member

You can become a member by

- Contacting our Membership Secretary, Ross Coster on 0418 462576

Emailing Ross at

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

- <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/joining.shtml> or scan this with your mobile:



## Management Committee Officers

### President

Tara Cameron  
 0419 824 974  
[taracameron4@gmail.com](mailto:taracameron4@gmail.com)

### Senior Vice President

Madi Maclean  
[gos@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:gos@bluemountains.org.au)

### 2nd Vice President

Susan Crick  
 0409 829 635  
[susan@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:susan@bluemountains.org.au)

### Administration Officer

Caroline Druce  
[jatz@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:jatz@bluemountains.org.au)

### Bushcare Officer

Paul Vale  
 0429 014 454  
[bushcare@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bushcare@bluemountains.org.au)

### Climate Change and Sustainability Officer

Clare Power  
[sustain@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:sustain@bluemountains.org.au)

### Environmental Education Officer

Cathy Cavanagh  
[education@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:education@bluemountains.org.au)

### Events Coordinator (vacant)

### Gardens of Stone Officer

Madi Maclean  
 0412 428 202  
[gos@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:gos@bluemountains.org.au)

### Land Use Officer

Angela Langdon  
[landuse@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:landuse@bluemountains.org.au)

### Meetings Secretary

Heather Hull  
 4739 1493  
[hhull001@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hhull001@bigpond.net.au)

### Membership Secretary

Ross Coster  
 0418462576  
[membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

### National Parks and World Heritage Officer

Adam Curry  
 0425 326 842  
[adsycur@gmail.com](mailto:adsycur@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Susan Crick  
 0409 829 635  
[susan@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:susan@bluemountains.org.au)

### Nursery Manager

Paul Irwin  
[plantnurserybmcs@outlook.com](mailto:plantnurserybmcs@outlook.com)

### Publicity Officer

Rebecca Knight  
[publicity@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:publicity@bluemountains.org.au)

### Threatened Species Officer

Gordon Fell  
[mary.fell53@gmail.com](mailto:mary.fell53@gmail.com)

### Treasurer and Public Officer

Elizabeth Howard  
 0414 090 251  
[eh.mistover@bigpond.com](mailto:eh.mistover@bigpond.com)

### Website Officer

Alan Page  
[webmaster@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:webmaster@bluemountains.org.au)

### Committee advisors

#### Bushfire Representative

Hugh Paterson  
 4751 2303  
 0427 512 303  
[fmatter@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fmatter@bigpond.net.au)

#### Bushwalking Convenor

Doug Nicholls  
 0455 850 753  
[dougnicholls@bigpond.com](mailto:dougnicholls@bigpond.com)