



HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

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

Saturday 29 November 2025

25th Anniversary of the inscription of the **Greater Blue Mountains on the UNESCO World Heritage List.** There will be activities for members and the community to celebrate. Watch for news on the Society E-news emails, Facebook and in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Wyn Jones and friends of the Blue Gum Forest are organising an activity which will lead up to **Blue Gum 100.** Admire the view and celebrate the start of Blue Gum100. Read more on page 3.

BMCS Native Plant Nursery

Native plants will be on sale at the **Blackheath Growers Market** on **Sunday 9th November** (8am to 12 noon). Gift Certificates (\$10, \$20 or \$50) are available at the market or by email. Please contact Nursery Manager, Bronwyn Murphy, email plantnurserybmcs@outlook.com to enquire about the nursery, becoming a nursery volunteer or to place an order.

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

Planning reforms risk the environment

A proposed overhaul to the planning system, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025, is being debated in NSW Parliament as Hut News goes to press. The Society believes the Bill, if passed, will lead to increased environmental and corruption risks. It is uncertain when the Bill will be voted on.

Following a meeting with Society representatives, Trish Doyle MP raised the Society's significant concerns with the NSW Minister for Planning, just prior to the parliamentary debate on October 14.

A number of amendments were passed during the initial Lower House debate which reversed some of the Bill's worst aspects, including limiting environmental protection as an object of the Act. The Bill was then referred to the NSW Legislative Council for debate. If the Upper House proposes further amendments, the Bill could still be being debated in November. Society members can keep up to date with the Bill's progress by checking the Society's webpage.

Some of the further amendments we would like to see include:

1. Targeted Development Assessments removed

One of the remaining detrimental changes is the introduction of a fast tracking approval process called "targeted development assessment" where consideration of environmental impacts and the public

interest are **prohibited** from being considered!

Some major projects, such as coal mines, are now excluded from this process (as designated developments). It is still possible however that the Minister could decide on a whim that a major tourist development on the escarpment in the Blue Mountains should be fast tracked and avoid environmental assessment.

2. Climate Change Impacts need to be considered

The Bill does not include any concrete provisions to address the impact of developments on climate change. Only the Objects of the Act will include the vague aim "to promote resilience to climate change and natural disasters".

3. All likely Environmental Impacts should be considered

Environmental impacts considered have been severely limited to those considered "**significant**". There is no legislated definition of significant, so who decides what is significant and what isn't? The developer?

4. Corruption concerns

Under the Bill, the Planning Secretary and the Minister will have broad new powers, with little oversight or accountability. The Centre of Public Integrity has highlighted that the Bill lacks anti-corruption safeguards recommended by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) regarding account-



Society members meet Member for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle MP. (L-R) Lyndal Sullivan, Carolyn Williams, Annette Cam, Trish Doyle.

ability, transparency and probity in the NSW planning system.

To check the progress of the Bill, see the Society's weekly **E-news** or <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/campaigns/New-Planning-Bill.shtml>.

If it is still being debated in November, we suggest you contact Trish Doyle to ask that voting on the Bill be delayed to allow for public scrutiny, given the potential damaging impacts. Contact Trish Doyle MP on 02 4751 3298 or bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

-- **Land Use Subcommittee**
landuse@bluemountains.org.au

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To contact management committee members by phone: Please leave a message with your full contact details and reason for your call on 0490 419 779.

If you are a member of the Society and want to volunteer to help with the work of the Society, in any capacity:
[email bmcs@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au)
* or **phone** 0490 419 779 (leave a message).



From the President

In this 25th anniversary year for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, there is some good news!

Review of status of SCAs

Section 47M of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) requires the status of each State Conservation Area (SCA) to be reviewed every 5 years, to determine if they can be reserved as a national park or nature reserve instead.

In the latest review, it was determined that four SCAs in the Greater Blue Mountains Area can be considered for reservation as a National Park or Nature Reserve: Burragorang (whole 17,643.12ha), Nattai (whole 3,383.00ha), Yengo (part 82.86ha), Yerranderie (whole 12,192ha). Four SCAs in GBMA should remain as SCA: Gardens of Stone, Muggi Murumban, Parr and Wollemi. These areas are subject to exploration or mining titles and cannot be reserved as national park or nature reserve.

Madi Maclean, our National Parks and Heritage Subcommittee chair said: "This is a very welcome decision for the southern SCA group which we have long raised with NSW environment ministers and NPWS. The first two recommended for remaining SCAs have active mining (Springvale, Invincible, Angus Place and Clarence). We will seek more information on the other two (Parr and Wollemi)."

Implementing the actual status change will take some time and if proceeded with will require legislation. The full report (Third and fourth review of state conservation areas) is on the NPWS website <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/third-fourth-5-year-review-state-conservation-areas-report-250228.pdf>

World Heritage celebration events

November 29th 2000 is the date of inscription of world heritage status for the Greater Blue Mountains Area making this year its 25th anniversary. As I write this in mid/Oct we are working with NPWS on celebratory activities for members and community for 29 November 2025. Please watch out on E-news, Facebook and in the Gazette for more information.

Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute symposium on 28 November focuses on the World Heritage area with a range of speakers and relevant topics. Society members are eligible for a 20% discount using the code **BM_ConSoc_25**. Register here: <https://bmwhi.org.au/gbmwhasymposium2025>

—Annette Cam president@bluemountains.org.au

Volunteers for the environment

Thank you to Blue Mountains Conservation Society members, Phoebe Coster and Ross Coster. Ross was a long-term Membership Secretary for the Society and succeeded in increasing our membership to near its present level. Phoebe served terms as Vice President and Events Coordinator and was always willing to help at meetings and other events.

During the past few years, Phoebe has volunteered to retype the old newsletters so that modern technology can access them. Ross has been forwarding the retyped documents to the Society, usually pointing out some of the highlights.

The latest newsletter, soon to be added to the Society's newsletter archives, is Newsletter No 98, January 1995. You can find all the past newsletters and bulletins, going back more than 55 years. Go to the Society website: www.bluemountains.org.au -- Publications -- Hut News archives. Our Society's history is written there. As a member, you can be proud of our achievements.

Members are urged to help with the work of the Society. What are your interests? How much time can you spare? What can you do? Talk to us! Email bmcs@bluemountains.org.au or leave a phone message at 0490 419 779.

JOIN THE SOCIETY: Blue Mountains Conservation Society is an incorporated voluntary group of over 800 members. Our mission is to help protect, conserve and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains. Read more: <https://www.bluemountains.org.au>

Blue Gum100 Project - Celebrating People and our World Heritage

Every year a small group of people gather to celebrate the Saving of Blue Gum Forest. This year there were 24 people at Perrys Lookdown Blackheath on September 2nd to cut the Gumleaf Gumnut Cake and give a rousing cheer for the efforts of people power in saving the Blue Mountains.

Not only did the efforts of a few ensure we now have this great natural place, the Greater Blue Mountains dream of Myles Dunphy, but the few ensured we would have a World Heritage Area.

It was the passion and commitment of the people of nature - wild people, bushwalkers, artists, educators - for the last 110 years, that has enabled this legacy. Indeed it was the Colong Committee of Milo Dunphy through its Director Keith Muir that made World Heritage happen. It was through the community of conservationists that we were able to celebrate World Heritage in 2001.

Every year we should celebrate September 2, 1932, and November 29, 2000, the beginnings of modern conservation and the making of World Heritage for the Greater Blue Mountains.

This is our legacy, our raison d'être. And the young people, some of whom were part of the September 2nd team, are keen to continue the celebration through the Blue Gum100 Project.

The conservation community did a great job in 2001 leading the World Heritage celebration. I created the Gumnut Songlines Walk so the people of the little tents could join with others in carrying the story. This culminated in the art creation of the World Heritage Banner signed and hand stencilled by more than 270 people. Perhaps you know some of them.

This banner will be on display at Govetts Leap on Saturday, November 29th, from 10 a.m. Come where we, you, the community can celebrate the start of Blue Gum100.

—Wyn Jones



93rd Anniversary of the reservation of the Blue Gum Forest.
Perrys Lookdown, 2 September 2025.

Back Rows Left to right: Paul Armstrong, Susie Moodie, Ramsay Moodie, Lowan Turton, Christine Davies, Don Morison, Liz Macqueen, Keith Muir, Andy Macqueen, Ian Brown, N'Gaire Howard, Duncan Cross, Saskya Clarke, Wyn Jones, Sarah Delaney, Richard Delaney, Phil Isaacs
Bottom Row Left to Right: Polona Turton, Marianne Bate, Megan Turton, Jarrah Turton, Eleanor Pilko, Alex Strachan, Rachael Corlett.
Photographer Richard Delaney. Photo was published in October 2025 Hut News.

Come to Govetts Leap on Saturday 29 November. This banner will be on display from 10 a.m. Come where we, you, the community can celebrate the start of Blue Gum100.



The World Heritage Banner depicts a map of the whole World Heritage Area. It was signed and stencilled by more than 270 people. Richard Delaney photographed the banner. The banner is 8 metres long.

State Government responds to Independent Biosecurity Commissioner's call for extensive reform of invasive species management

Since 2023, the NSW Independent Biosecurity Commissioner has been conducting a State Government commissioned inquiry into NSW invasive species management, that is environmental weeds and feral animals. The Society contributed a submission to the Commissioner in early 2025.¹

The Commissioner submitted her report, *Opportunities for the future of pest and weed management in NSW*, to the NSW Minister for Agriculture, in June 2025.² Major findings were:

- overall, co-ordinated management of feral pests and environmental weeds is not being effectively realised,
- a system of robust pest and weed management leadership and coordination is required, led by a new, multi-stakeholder State Invasive Species Group,
- the State Invasive Species Group should determine appropriate levels of invasive species management funding, and
- the roles of public and private landowners and managers are in need of extensive clarification.

Responding to the Biosecurity Commissioner's report and also to the May 2025 Natural Resources Commission's report into NSW invasive species management and a Statutory Review of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW), the NSW Government released its *NSW Biosecurity Action Plan 2025–2026* on 18 September.³ Highlights include:

- updating of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and associated regional pest and weed management plans,
- development of a \$40.7 million four-year Weeds Action Program,
- establishment of a dedicated compliance unit that consistently pursues invasive species management enforcement measures, and
- fostering of management interventions and research programs that effectively utilise Western science and Aboriginal Australian cultural knowledge.

The independent Invasive Species Council has responded optimistically to the Action Plan, praising *commitments to stronger governance, enforcement and long-term planning to tackle escalating invasive species threats across the state*.⁴

However, settler management of invasive species in NSW has consistently prioritised protection of agricultural resources and output, and responsibility for management of the government's new management reforms will continue to rest with the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development. Will protection of our natural ecosystems, for the sake of their intrinsic values and interest, be effectively funded and pursued under the new management regime?

— Peter Ardill, BMCS Bushcare Officer

References: ¹ <https://bluemountains.org.au/submissions/submissions-2025.shtml> ² https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1635185/IBC-Review-Report-Governance-2025.pdf ³ https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1632174/NSW-Biosecurity-Action-Plan.pdf ⁴ <https://invasives.org.au/media-releases/nsw-government-makes-historic-commitment-to-essential-reform-of-invasive-species-management/>

Grounded - An art exhibition that brings a fresh view of our environment

Members and friends of Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) are invited to attend an exhibition of contemporary art mosaic by the *Blue Mountains Mosaics Collective*. The exhibition will be held at Braemar Gallery in Springwood, from 27 November to 21 December 2025. The Gallery is open Thursdays to Sundays, 10 am to 4 pm and admission is free. An artist will be in attendance each open day during the month.

The fourteen experienced mosaic artists have been working intensely throughout the year to present an exciting exhibition of two-dimensional and sculptural work. Tactile, rich with colour and texture, with a hint of sparkle, these unusual artworks have been created from marble, glass, minerals, rocks, found objects, beach finds, recycled materials and natural elements around the theme of "Grounded". The show of some 40 pieces, will feature our birdlife: black cockatoo feathers, magpies depicted as ancient mosaics and multi-coloured parrots; bark that comes alive in exquisite, subtle colour and translucency, or native trees, seeds, flowers and landscapes. Vibrant three-dimensional works comment on deep concerns for our environment and expressions of family and self.

The artists have also made a series of beautiful, smaller roundel artworks. A percentage from the sales of these roundels will be donated to BMCS to mark the 25th Anniversary of the proclamation of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Alan Crooks will give a brief introduction on the aims of BMCS during the opening on Saturday, 29 November, between 2pm and 4pm. Light refreshments will be served on the verandah and enjoyed in the grounds of Braemar Gallery in Macquarie Street in front of the Springwood Library. Everyone is welcome and we would be delighted to see you.

—Christine Stickley



Image: "Snow Gums" by Vicki Jackett. Photo by the artist.

New areas and values being assessed for inclusion in World Heritage Area

The Australian Heritage Council (AHC), in 2022, opened public consultation for the assessment of nationally significant values and areas for addition to the Greater Blue Mountains Area (GBMA) National Heritage listed site. The finalisation of this assessment is a slow process and has not yet been completed. The Society will continue to push for the inclusion of additional areas and values into the GBMA.

Additional Areas

The Greater Blue Mountains Area is comprised of seven national parks: Blue Mountains, Wollemi, Yengo, Nattai, Kanangra-Boyd, Gardens of Stone, and Thirlmere Lakes National Parks—and the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve.

There are 19 other protected areas adjacent to or within the GBMA which are not yet included. These include valuable habitat such as Nullo Mountain State Forest and Coricudgy State Forest which lie near the north-western part of Wollemi National Park, as well as some State Conservation Areas (SCA), such as Burragorang SCA.

Why are these areas important?

These additional areas will add more threatened species and ecological communities to reserves managed for conservation purposes. If added to the GBMA, the threatened species are more likely to survive future impacts from changes in climate and increased fire intensity. The additional land will provide more areas of refuge for species during fires and increase connectivity of protected area enabling plants and animals to move from one reserve to another. If protected the additional higher altitude reserves enable the species which need these tall, higher altitude forests to flourish, to survive in a warming climate.

Additional values

The Society maintains that the following values, which were not part of the original World Heritage inscription, are also important and should be included in any reassessment of values.

Geomorphology

There are numerous geological and geomorphological features within the GBMA such as the cliff line systems, scenic lookout features such as The Three Sisters, the pagodas and slot canyons that have national, and potentially international significance. Currently, these are not listed as GBMA values.

Major limestone karst landscapes, especially at Jenolan and Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve but at other locations are also representative of the geological features. Some examples of sandstone karst are also present.

Aesthetics

The scenic grandeur of the Greater Blue Mountains has been recognized by the Commonwealth as a "National Landscape", and it has inspired many artists, photo-



Storm clouds over Bulgamatta / Grose Wilderness. Christine Davies, 2016.

graphers, authors, filmmakers, writers, musicians and poets. It is one of the main reasons tourists visit the area and is of great significance to the traditional owners of the land.

Another prominent atmospheric quality of the region is the occurrence of frequent mists and changing weather. The location of so many lookouts and walking tracks on the rim of dramatic cliffs above the forested valleys means that swirling mists are readily accessible.

Cultural heritage

Nature and cultural interaction refer to the relationship between people and nature, and the cultural responses and values that result. They represent separate values under National Heritage Criteria.

The GBMA's existence resulted from a wider cultural movement in western countries in the second half of the nineteenth century to recognize and preserve natural beauty and protect it from industrialised society. In Australia this movement resulted in an extensive system of connected parks in the Sydney basin; these parks are close to a large and growing urban area.

There were four phases of community effort which led eventually to the GBMA nomination:

- Health based movement from 1870s, leading to first parks and tracks
- Bushwalker conservation movement of 1930s, leading to large visionary parks and the wilderness reserves
- Conservation revival of 1960s, creating mass public support for implementation of larger park proposals and wilderness systems
- 1990s movement to consolidate environmental values and recognize World Heritage values.

The extent and accomplishments of community effort is of outstanding value to the nation; and the recreational association with conservation, and enjoyment of remote wilderness areas, continues to be prized.

The Society strongly recognises and supports inclusion of Indigenous cultural values into the outstanding universal value of the GBMA.

—Annette Cam

Have your say: BMCC draft Weed Management Strategy 2025-2030!



Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) and its professional staff devote considerable skills and resources to the management of environmental weeds and a major review of current weed management programs is now being undertaken. The draft plan has been placed on exhibition and residents' contributions are welcome.

There certainly are a number of important issues to consider.

- Is weed infestation along local streams being adequately managed?
- How can better management of the monumental GWH and rail corridor weed problem be achieved?
- Can residents be given more help with backyard weed management, for example, via the Bush Backyards program?
- Is early identification of emerging weed species adequate?
- What about funding levels?

Let BMCC know that you care about this issue. To obtain a copy of the draft Weed Management Strategy and lodge constructive comments or a detailed submission, visit "Have Your Say" at <https://yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/draft-weed-management-strategy-2025-2030>.

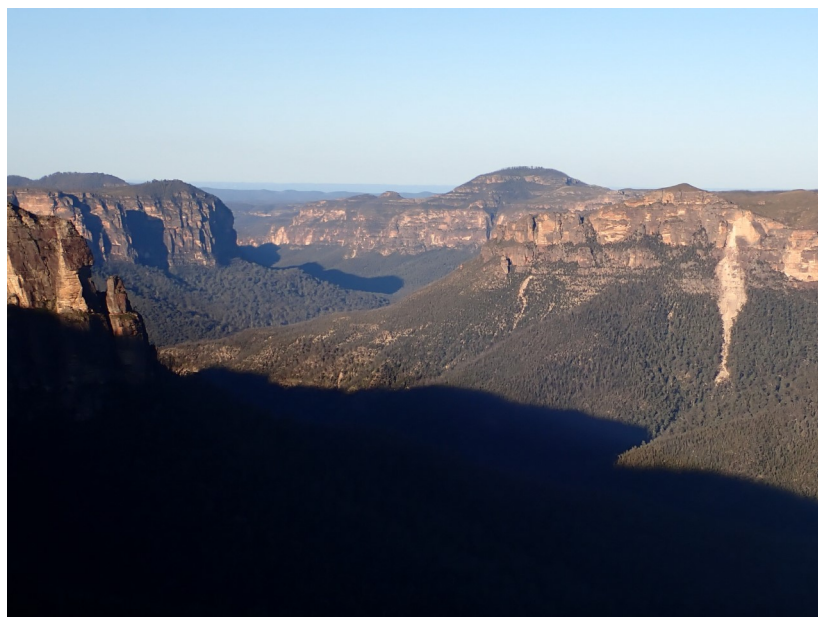
Hard copies of the draft Weed Management Strategy can be viewed at Council's customer service offices in Katoomba and Springwood, and at Council libraries.

Submissions will be accepted until Tuesday, 11 November 2025.

The Society will develop a submission. We are keen to hear about your ideas and suggestions. Please forward them to Peter, BMCS Bushcare Officer bushcare@bluemountains.org.au

—**Bushcare Officer**

Image: Cordyline is becoming a worrying environmental weed. Lawson 2024 (P Ardill)



Bulgamatta / Grose Wilderness, viewed from Govetts Leap. Water is a major architect of the Blue Mountains landscape. After a long period of wet weather, numerous rockslides are visible in this photograph. The closest was dubbed "The Seahorse". Christine Davies, 2021.

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Gardening with Native Plants in the Blue Mountains

Sunday 9th November 10am-4pm
Mid Mountains Community Centre
7 New Street, Lawson.

Gardening with Native Plants is the first-ever event of its kind in the Blue Mountains, bringing together four local native plant nurseries, local experts and our local gardeners to celebrate the beauty of native plants and the potential of native gardens.

Inspiring residents who are interested in planting a native garden - take-home resources to get you started and keep you going - native plant market with (alphabetically) BMCS Nursery, Glenbrook Native Nursery, Lithgow Community Nursery and Wildplant Rescue - speakers include Peter and Judy Smith, Sue Cunningham (BMCC Bush Backyards program), local legend Jill Dark, Peter Mobbs (local nursery specialist).

This is a free event. Check the web site <https://bmcsevents.squarespace.com> for a full list of speakers, topics and the program and register for priority admission to talks. The event is funded by Blue Mountains Conservation Society.



Western Sydney Airport Update

As we all await the first noisy freight planes from WSIA in mid-2026, the fight for social justice against the aviation industry continues.

The resident group **Blue Mountains Demands Airport Curfew** has recently contacted a group of Senators (and others including our silent Federal member!) involved with the 2024 Senate Inquiry into the Impact and Mitigation of Aircraft Noise to see where all that taxpayer money went in drawing the Inquiry together.

The Inquiry made over 18 recommendations regarding particular airports including WSA; the writing of Airport Master Plans; Airport levies; aircraft noise and Air Services Australia. So far, we have not seen any changes to legislation, no changes to the operation of Air Services and crucially no changes to the measurement and impact of aircraft noise on the citizens, fauna and flora of Australia.

This inaction by the Federal Government can only be seen as deliberate. The thrall of politician to the aviation industry is abhorrent to democracy and the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.

—**Jo Carroll.**

Volunteering at Society events

Our Events Subcommittee can encourage people to choose an event activity that they are most comfortable with - community contact street stalls or big and small events in halls and at the Conservation Hut. Please leave a message for Jo Carroll at 0490 419 779 or email bmcs@bluemountains.org.au

Contributions to Hut News

Enquiries to Christine about deadlines and content: hutnews@bluemountains.org.au or leave a message at 0490 419 779. December/January will probably be a 12 page newsletter.

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BUSHWALKING:

Enjoy the bush, learn about the Blue Mountains natural environment and find out why bushwalking has been a popular pastime in the Blue Mountains for more than 100 years. Our bushwalking convenor is Doug Nicholls doughnicholls@bigpond.com, phone 0455 850 753.

Walks are graded and generally suitable for walkers of average fitness but may vary in degree of difficulty. Participants need to be aware of their own capabilities and can discuss with the bushwalking convenor, group coordinator or leader.

Underneath is a brief summary of walks and leaders for this month.

Please check our website for detailed walks program and program changes. <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/bushwalking.shtml>

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS: Short day walks 3-5 hours. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Coordinator: Melanie Lawson 0431 214 687. melanielawson@outlook.com.au.

All walks are Grade 3 unless indicated otherwise.

Nov 10 **Transit of Venus** 6km, ascent/descent 187m. Lyn 0432 352 850

Nov 17 **Erskine Creek via Jack Evans track** 2.6km, 205m ↑↓ Bring swimmers. Wayne and Mary 0407 643 512

Nov 24 **Lockleys Pylon** 7.8 kms return, 160 ascent/descent. Angela 0427 133 327

Dec 1 **Walls Ledge, Porters Pass, Centennial Glen circuit** 5.8km, 429m ascent. Melanie 0431 214 687

Dec 8 **Kanuka Brook and Crayfish Pool** 6.4km, 108m ascent/descent. Bring swimmers. Lyn 0432 352 850.

TUESDAY FITNESS WALKS: 'Medium Day' walks suitable for walkers of average fitness, 3-5 hours. Bring morning tea/lunch/adequate water. Coordinator: Phill Cox (0415 449 174 mrpacox@hotmail.com)

Nov 11 **The Ponds Walk, Carlingford to Rydalmere.** Gr 2-3, Medium, 7kms. Train/light rail. Judith 0419 780 640 & Doug Nicholls 0455 850 753

Nov 18 **North Head & Fairfax Walk.** Grade 2, Easy, 5kms. 80 metres elevation. Train/Ferry/Bus. Margaret 0416 849 506 & Marek 0412 347 478.

Nov 25 **Hangman's Rock & the Convict Trail, Wisemans Ferry.** Grade 1 Easy; 3kms return. Bus trip. Lunch Wisemans Ferry Hotel. Book and pay Maurice 0402 402 783, \$15.

Dec 2 **Darwin's Walk, Undercliff / Overcliff and Nature Track Loop.** Grade 2/3, Medium, 10.3Kms, Elevation (283m ↑↓). Roger Blane: 0449 902 774, Lynne Blane 0407 498 397.

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS are 2-3 hours and are conducted at a leisurely pace. Coordinator: Beverley Thompson (4757 2076 denfenella12@gmail.com)

Nov 6 **Point Pilcher, Medlow Bath.** Beverley 4757 2076.

Grade 2

Nov 13 **Popes Glen, Blackheath.** Carpool. Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2

Nov 20 **Cahills Lookout and Peckmans Plateau, Katoomba.** Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 1

Nov 23 **Pool of Siloam and Lyrebird Dell. Leura.** Ros 0417 261 465. Grade 2

Dec 4 **Darwins Walk, Wentworth Falls (check out reopened section).** Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 2

SATURDAY WALKS: Usually a full day, longer walk at a faster pace. Coordinator Harold Thompson (0409 010 737, Harold.thompson@bigpond.com).

Nov 8 **Jinki to Dalpura Head,** Harold 0409 010 737. Grade 3, 6km. Map Mt Wilson.

Nov 15 **Centennial Glen & Porters Pass.** Harold 0409 010 737. Grade 3, 5km. Map Katoomba.

Nov 22 **Wongarra Ridge to Walls LO.** Harold 0409 010 737. Grade 3, 6km. Map Mt Wilson.

NOTE TO ALL BUSHWALKERS: Meeting places and times are not given because sometimes there are changes to the program. Please check with the walks leader.

Visit the Saturday walks facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/bmcslongerbushwalks?fref=nf>

Inappropriate Development for the Blue Mountains

The NSW Government's new Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) is being used for the first time in the Blue Mountains - to push through a high-density, multi-storey development on Narrow Neck Road, Katoomba. If approved, this proposal would override decades of careful local planning, weaken hard-won environmental protections and set a dangerous precedent for similar inappropriate developments across the Mountains.

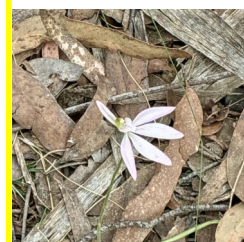
The developer is seeking to rezone land at 142-150 Narrow Neck Road to allow nine four-storey buildings containing 266 apartments, along with commercial outlets including a restaurant. This proposal is being assessed under HDA's "streamlined approval" process - a fast-tracked pathway designed for urban growth areas, not for environmentally sensitive, bushfire-prone landscapes like ours.

Last month, the Society launched a community campaign calling for the Blue Mountains to be excluded from the HDA pathway altogether. We are engaging with state and local representatives, conservation partners and the community to make it clear that this planning shortcut has no place in a World Heritage Region. We recognise that housing is crucial, but it must be appropriate too.

Here's how you can help: Stay informed and sign up for campaign updates, via our campaign page; talk to neighbours, friends and local groups about why the HDA pathway is unsuitable for the Blue Mountains; be ready to make a submission when the Environmental Impact Statement is released early next year (guidelines will be shared prior to Christmas).

Together, we can ensure that the Blue Mountains remains protected. www.bluemountains.org.au/campaigns/Katoomba-SSD.shtml

Wildflowers from "Allendale"

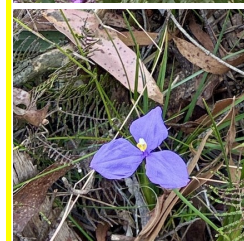


See more on page 8

Caladenia catenata



Prostanthera ovalifolia



Patersonia sericea

Photos by Eva and Bill Johnstone

A page for keen nature observers of all ages ...

What to look for in November in the Blue Mountains



Dear Adelina,

The Ladybird beetles on my roses have been feeding on organic aphids. Today I planted a prickly Acacia and some dahlias as they attract butterflies. I have made a butterfly drinking bowl and placed it in a shady spot near the Daphne. This is a shallow dish with a base of sand. Pebbles or other material provide safe landing places for butterflies (or bees) to land and drink safely. I have experimented with gravel and smooth stones.

—**Roberta Johnston**

Wildlife under the lens

November is a special month in the Blue Mountains. Nature is buzzing with activity. Why not get a closer look at some of the tiny animals that inhabit your garden. How many different creatures can you find?

A simple, inexpensive hand lens with 10x magnification is ideal. This magnification offers a large field of view and the lens can easily be worn around the neck on a lanyard during bushwalks.

—*Adelina*

? What did you see in the Blue Mountains - in your garden or during your favourite bushwalk - in November? Was it something that wasn't there last month? Please tell Hut News!

Send your stories, photos and drawings to Adelina by email to hutnews@bluemountains.org.au or post to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782.

Ladybirds provide natural pest control. With their appetite for harmful insects — especially aphids, a single ladybird can consume up to 50 aphids in a day. Ladybirds serve as essential biodiversity indicators. Their presence in an ecosystem is a sign of a healthy and diverse environment. They also serve as a vital food source for other insects, birds, and small mammals. By maintaining a delicate balance in the ecosystem, ladybirds promote stability and overall well-being.

Spring in a Wildlife Refuge - "Allendale", above Popes Glen, Blackheath

We recently received our latest gate sign from the Wildlife Land Trust, of which we are members, providing a sanctuary for wildlife on our place. We would like to share photos of some of the delightful spring flowers now blooming on our place. As I took these photos, a pair of Eastern Spinebills and a small flock of Thornbills flew into the flowering shrubs - alas they were too quick for my camera snaps!

—**Eva Johnstone**



New gate sign at Allendale; *Banksia ericifolia*; *Eriostemon myoporoides*; *Telopea speciosissima*; *Gompholobium latifolium*. Photographers Eva and Bill Johnstone. More wildflowers from "Allendale" on page 7.