

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow's People"



September General Meeting

Jeff Angel, director of the Total Environment Centre, will be our speaker at the general meeting on Friday 24 September.

Jeff has an outstanding grasp of the major environmental issues confronting Australians. His high profile job has kept him in the public eye for some years and his message is sure to be interesting and relevant to all members.

The meeting will be held at the Conservation Hut, Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls, commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors are very welcome.

NO, Not Even a "Baby" Airport at Badgerys Creek!

Residents should not be lulled into thinking that anything less than the megaport pushed in the EIS at Badgerys Creek is acceptable.

Talk of a 'baby Badgerys', having only one runway and a terminal, or something akin to Labor's original proposal back in the late 1980s, has emerged from cabinet discussions.

We should all remember that babies (unless of the white elephant variety) grow up and that all it would take to grow like the proverbial Topsy is for a Beazley (or worse still, Latham) Government to send in the bulldozers.

Once the site has been dedicated as an airport — of whatever variety — western Sydney's fate is sealed.

So keep on writing, and feel free to register on 4739.0994 or 4739.4374 for a rally in Canberra on 29 September.

— Colin Anderson, MABCA.

St. Columbas Development

Approx 140 people attended a vibrant discussion in relation to possible development on this Winmalee site. The property is one of the last remaining large lots on the Mountains, much of it containing pristine bushland.

Council is at this stage proposing a limited development (approx 30 lots, 1200m² Living Conservation) however there is a sizable area that could still see approx 200 lots developed on the property.

There is no DA before Council at this stage. However the Catholic Authorities have indicated their firm resolve to develop the St Columbas site by their extensive commissioning of expert consultants to present their "proposals" before Dr Mark Carlton

Council Elections 1999

The Blue Mountains City Council elections are on Saturday 11 September.

The Blue Mountains is a special place, a place of great beauty with a unique natural environment and great biodiversity. It is time that environmental protection and management of the Blue Mountains is taken on board by all of our elected representatives.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society has sent out a questionnaire to all candidates seeking to ascertain their attitudes and intending actions on environmental protection for the Blue Mountains.

Candidates' responses are enclosed with this newsletter.

at the public hearing into Councils Draft LEP 1997.

Copies of the Commissioner's Report on the St Columbas site are available at the Library or alternatively ring Luke Nicholls BMCC Planning 47235000 and ask for a copy to be sent.

Just a Dead Old Tree or Somebody's Home?

Bats, possums, gliders, owls, parrots, antechinus, ducks, rosellas, kingfishers, snakes, frogs, skinks — in fact, in south-east Australia, 17% of birds, 42% of mammals, 28% of reptiles — use tree hollows.

And not any old hollow will do! Each animal needs a specifically sized hollow for its nest or shelter, in the right position on the tree, protected from the weather, within reach of food sources, and with an opening just the right size. An opening too big would be too difficult to defend against predators and competitors.

It can take up to 200 years for a suitable hollow to develop in a tree. First the tree has to grow and age. Young healthy trees are resilient to the forces which contribute to form hollows. Storm, or wind, or fire, or other happening breaks off a branch or causes an opening in the trunk or branch. Fungi and insects find their way into the tree to decay and

chew the wood. Wind and rain and weather and animals work away to clean it out, eventually making a hollow.

Quite often the only available hollows are in old dead trees — and some birds and animals prefer and only use hollows in dead trees.

... Not "just a dead old tree", but a home, a habitat, a shelter, and essential for the survival of many of our native animals. (Thanks to Blue Mountains Bushcare newsletter "Gecko" and NPWS for some of the information used in this article.)

No Conflict of Interest

In the Blue Mountains Gazette on 25 August, Clr Duncan Berriman attacked our election survey, claiming "conflict of interest and deception" because some of our members are "actively involved with" a minor political party.

There has been no impropriety. Members who have a direct involvement with a political party disqualified themselves from the sub-committee that prepared the survey. The questionnaire was the work of people entirely uninvolved in the election.

Our purpose in having this questionnaire was to bring environmental matters to the forefront in the campaign, and to give voters an understanding of the views of candidates. With responses received from over 60% of candidates, the survey has been a success.

Now that care of our environmental heritage is on the debating agenda for all candidates to address, we hope that in future elections more candidates will want to participate in this debate.

Meredith Brownhill.

"Hut News", the newsletter of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782. Phone 4757 1872. Fax 4757 1753

Email bmcsc@pnc.com.au Web page: <http://www.pnc.com.au/~bmcsc>

President: Imre Gahl, Ph:4784-3286 Second Vice President: Meredith Brownhill, Ph:4782.4823

First Vice President: Heather Coster, {Ph:Work 4759-1247, Home 4759.1837

Membership Secretary: Ross Coster {Fax 4759-1095, Email: haytech@pnc.com.au

Correspondence Secretary: Anne Merton, Ph:4757-1220 Email amerton@ozemail.com.au

Meetings Secretary: Heather Hull, Ph:4739.1493 Email heatherhull40@hotmail.com

Land Use: Robin Mosman, Ph. 4757.1354; Treasurer: Ivica Buc

Bushwalks: Jim Wallace, Ph:4784-3305 Plant Nursery Manager: David Coleby, Ph/Fax:4784-1395

Projects: Marion Hawley, Ph:4784-1933; Kathy Gott, Ph:4739-8124;

Helga Esamie, Ph:4787.7690, Email: platypus@pnc.com.au

Publicity: Les Coyne, Ph:4757.3327, Fax:4757.2820, Email: coyne@pnc.com.au

Bushcare: Laura Hays Ph:4782.7692, Email: laurah@percival.com.au

Education: Catriona Gillies Ph:4782-1235, Email: echoecho@hermes.net.au

Bushfire Rep: Hugh Paterson, Ph:4751-2303, Email: goodbush@pnc.com.au

Newsletter: Christine Davies, Phone 4787-7246 Fax 4787-7777 Email: hutnews@pnc.com.au

**THE DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS
WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1999**



Be Your Own Companion?

\$600 for a quoll ... \$150 for a pair of rosellas ... These prices can be displayed legally in Victorian pet shops, underscoring how different their laws are on keeping native animals as pets.

At a recent Society workshop, Jill Dark, a prominent member of Blue Mountains WIRES, strongly criticised the idea of keeping native species as pets. Jill does not believe native animals can receive the respect and treatment they deserve when kept as 'companion' animals.

Of course, the alternative companions — dogs and cats — create severe problems for native species also. And some people do believe they have formed successful companion animal relationships with native species. From a purely conservationist viewpoint, one option is not to have any companion animals at our homes at all. It makes sense. But it is a choice some of us find very difficult to make.

Accuracy in the Wilderness

In a previous column, I suggested that the political interests of the Outdoor Recreation Party (represented by Mr Malcolm Jones) were confined to gaining access to currently restricted areas for off-road vehicles and horses.

Although similar allegations have been repeated by the tabloid press, Mr Jones' Research Officer has stated (and I accept) that the Party's interests include Hunting, Fishing, Bushwalking and Outdoor Education. *Don Morison.*

Horses in Kuring-gai N.P.

National Parks Association is asking friends of National Parks to write to support the Draft Plan of Management for Kuring-gai Chase National Park.

This Draft Plan is being attacked by horse riding groups who claim to be fighting for the "rights" of other minority recreational users, by which they mean unrestricted access to all National Parks regardless of environmental damage and loss of amenity to other park visitors. They have the support of some radio talkback hosts, the Outdoor Recreation Party and One Nation.

You can help to protect Kuring-gai Chase and other National Parks by writing to the Planning Officer, Kuring-

gai Chase National Park, PO Box 834, Hornsby 2077. Tell him that you support the National Parks Association policy that horses should be banned from all National Parks. The easily eroded sandstone country makes Kuring-gai Chase especially vulnerable to damage.

The Draft Plan proposes to close certain horse trails and walking tracks because of severe environmental damage; control access for rock climbing which defaces rock formations and damages rare plants; reclaim encroachments by adjoining landowners; replace private boat moorings with public moorings; prevent power boat usage of Smiths Creek which is a quiet natural waterway.

Cohabiting with our Wildlife

In this workshop Jill Dark said that we have moved into wildlife territory and need to learn ways of respecting wildlife needs and habitat.

The meeting agreed that we need to change attitudes from considering animals as nuisances to thinking we are lucky to live amongst them.

We also agreed that our culture needs to question our human need to own and possess animals. Animals have a right to live their natural lives and follow their instincts in the wild — wildlife are not for trading and being domestic pets.

A brain-storm at the conclusion recommended that Blue Mountains Conservation Society promote awareness of the needs of our wildlife; encourage the protection of vegetation on housing blocks; protect and create corridors of land for animals to move along in suburbia; erect signs where animals cross roads.

Ideas on how this can be done will be followed up by the Society.

October Workshop:

A Living Relationship with the Land.
Saturday 9 October, 2-4 pm, at Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson.

This workshop, in the spirit of reconciliation, will discuss a living relationship with the land.

There will be more details next month.

Welcome to New Members

Susan Johnston, Blackheath
Valda Cooper, Strathfield
Pam and Philip White, Harbord
Dianne Monson, Lawson
Warren Jolly, Blaxland East
Annette Woods, Wentworth Falls
Peter Morison, Springwood
Rose Barbaro, Glenmore Park
June Tobin, Bullaburra
J Poulson, Springwood
Lee Oneill, Terrey Hills
Helen Yoxall, Springwood
Ruth Liou, Drummoyne
Lynne Duguid, Lawson

A Busy Season for WIRES

Spring is a busy time for Blue Mountains WIRES. Baby birds fall out of trees and get themselves lost from mum whilst exploring their new world; blue-tongue lizards bask in the sun and are attacked by dogs and cats or hit by cars;

snakes make their presence known as things warm up.

If you find an injured or orphaned animal, put it in a cardboard box in a quiet part of the house and phone Blue Mountains WIRES.

If there is a snake sun-baking on your garden path, leave it alone — it will probably go away. If it doesn't, phone WIRES for advice.

The WIRES rescue number is 4754.2946.

Sustainable Development

Public disquiet over the ruinous social and ecological consequences of current development policies throughout the Third World has led the development industry, on several occasions, to announce new strategies which, it is claimed, will minimize the destructiveness of the development process. Unfortunately, few of these strategies have ever come to anything.

The current buzz word is "sustainable development" which has been talked about since the early 1970s.

The World Conservation Strategy argues that, for development to be sustainable, it must not interfere with the functioning of critical ecological processes and life support systems.

This means, above all, that food cropland must be used for growing crops rather than for cattle ranching, that crops must be managed in an ecologically sound manner, that watershed forests must be protected, and that genetic diversity must be preserved.

Though the rhetoric has changed, however, development policies have not. Large dams continue to be built, vast plantations and livestock-rearing projects continue to occur in virgin forests — all undertakings which are known to be highly destructive and totally unsustainable in tropical conditions.

By putting pressure on the Third World to export crops, ore and timber, moreover, the First World deprives peasants of the land they need for subsistence, forcing them to clear forests and swell city slums. Yet few governments or international agencies advocating "sustainable development" seriously address the First World lifestyles causing such suffering.

It is not certain that sustainable development is even possible.

To begin with, in the competitive world in which we live, only those development projects are undertaken that maximize political advantages and short-term economic returns; socially benign projects rarely satisfy such conditions. In addition, economic development means increased consumption and production.

Inevitably, the impact of human activities on already highly degraded ecosystems must also increase. Sustainability and development thus appear contradictory.

(The Earth Report 3, An A-Z Guide to Environmental Issues. General editors Goldsmith & Hildyard. Mitchell Beazley Publishers 1992.)

Membership Enquiries

Contact Ross Coster
(Phone - Work) 02 4759.1247
(Phone - Home) 02 4759.1837
(Fax) 02 4759.1095
(Email) haytech@pnc.com.au
(Post) PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls

Looking Back

(from Newsletter No 6, September 1971)
Spring Brings Feathered Migrants

Spring is in the air and the lovely migrant birds are starting to arrive: Yellow Faced and White Naped Honeyeaters, who travel North in tens of thousands in the winter, are quietly drifting back in small parties.

Silvereyes "peep" in the shrubs and occasionally sing beautiful whisper-songs. Spotted Pardalotes gleam in the tree-tops — black, white, gold, and red jewels — repeating their bell-like double note: "Be quick, be quick"!

From the large family of Flycatchers, the Flame Robins are already here, seeking out nesting territories in the more open woodland areas — a flame indeed with their orange-red breasts noticeably different from the resident Scarlet Robin.

There are many exciting Flycatchers yet to come:

Grey Fantails — plain, but very friendly and cheerful;

Rufous Fantails - like huge orange butterflies;

Willie Wagtails; Leaden Flycatchers — croaking like frogs and wagging their tails from side to side;

Black Faced Flycatchers — pearl-grey, black and cinnamon, calling: "Whyawitchew, whyawitchew!"

Rufous Whistler — surely one of our greatest songsters — and if you are lucky, you may see the magnificent Satin Flycatcher or the unusual Spectacled Flycatcher, both of which Reta Vellenga reports as having been seen in the Blue Mountains.

Then the Cuckoos — the Fantail Cuckoo is here on and off all the year, but increases in number during the spring. The beautiful Golden Bronze Cuckoo is more often heard than seen, a spring migrant. But if you imitate his whistle: "Peeee, Peeee" he will perch above your head, bronzy green back, barred chest.

Also one might see the great Channel Bill Cuckoo, large as a Black Cockatoo

Melody of Hope

A tall young girl with fingers slender
 Played us a tune when all was still:
 Haunting, wistful, serene and tender,
 We all just listened and took our fill.

Perhaps years ago, that tune was heard
 By some whose backs were lashed by hate,
 And gave them hope anew that stirred
 A sense of freedom beyond their fate.

This land, so unlike their mother shore,
 Was theirs to till and toil and tame;
 But now we stand, with hate no more
 To love our land and forget the shame.

Others too, since those early days,
 Have come to make it their home to be,
 With all to find their peace of place
 And strike together a rich harmony.

Jim Wallace, 30/5/99.

(This poem was inspired by a pupil of Cobbity Farm Public School playing the 150 year-old harmonium in the convict-built Catholic Church at Hartley.)

with a hoarse, screaming cry. They came the year before last for the great cicada hatch, after 50 years absence; an exciting prospect! *Graham Alcorn*

Feathered Soccer Fans

At Brownstown (Mount Victoria) oval in early July, I was excited to see a pair of robins, one with a bright red breast and the other paler, sitting on the fence and then feeding on the grass of the oval.

On 31 July at Marjory Jackson Oval at Lithgow, a short time after an Under 10 soccer game had finished, I looked over towards the goal post and saw a number of small birds. There were 20 or more, well spaced out, feeding on the grass at the end of the field, at least half with bright red breasts.

That night I saw David Attenborough talking about robins (in other countries) and how they have adapted and found ways of benefiting from cohabitation with humans.

Could twenty 9-year old children running around for an hour, wearing soccer boots with rubber studs, have disturbed the ground to uncover concealed insects?

Obviously the robins at Lithgow have adapted very well! *Christine Davies.*

Bushcare at Deane Reserve

Deane Reserve Landcare Group

The Deane Reserve (13ha) is located in Springwood at the head of the Fitzgerald Creek catchment.

The Reserve supports a rich forest of Mountain Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus deanei*) and supports a large diversity of native plants and animals in ridge, slope and creekline habitats. The Reserve contains one of the last remaining areas in Springwood of the Mountain Blue Gum Shalecap Forest.

The Landcare Group has been working to restore the Reserve for over five years and their efforts together with several government grants has seen the Reserve restored to its former glory.

It wasn't long ago the reserve was nearly totally dominated by honeysuckle and privet. Much work is still to be done.

This is a great site to become involved in Bushcare. The Landcare Group works in the reserve from 9.30 to 12.30 on the fourth Saturday of the month and they meet at the bottom of Eucalypt Place, Springwood.

The bushcare Group are really anxious to attract new people. If you have any interest in conserving local bushland then the Deane Reserve is the place to start.

Why not come down and share some friendship and a cuppa and we might even remove some weeds. The group's bushcare officer Nathan Somers is also extremely interesting in showing the native bush foods available on the site. Council supplies all tools & training.

For further enquiries contact Rob Agars 4754.3351 or Council's Bushcare Officer Chris Dewhurst 4723 5623

Greenhouse Corner

Electricity Generation is a pet subject of mine.

The massive coal-burners at Mt Piper and Wallerawang together burn 6 million tonnes of coal each year, all ripped from under magnificent places like the Upper Grose, Baal Bone State Forest, and Mt Airly.

We need a way out of the coal burner powered electricity system to a greener alternative.

This month's Greenhouse Corner was extracted from a Web Site belonging to SEDA (Sustainable Energy Development Authority) (www.seda.nsw.gov.au) (Ph: (02) 9291 5260).

Did you know?

- A recent European report showed that 1996 was the fourth warmest year since record keeping began in 1866. The 13 warmest years have all occurred since 1979, and the four warmest have been during the 1990s.

- Global warming, if left unchecked, could lead to excessive weather conditions such as droughts and hurricanes, dramatically impacting on our food supplies and threatening low-lying cities such as Bangkok and New York with flooding.

- The increasing demand from businesses and consumers for electricity is a major factor in global warming.

- Traditional electricity generators, which burn fossil fuels such as coal and produce carbon dioxide, account for about one quarter of the greenhouse gas production in the developed world.

- Corporate Australia consumes around 100 000 gigawatt hours of electricity every year, producing 100 million tonnes of greenhouse gas.

Is Nuclear the Answer?

I am personally opposed to Nuclear Power, in Australia or anywhere. I don't agree with liberating radioactivity into the global ecosystem.

Regardless of your personal view, consider this. Each gram of Uranium used in a breeder reactor generates 3800kwh of electricity in its useful life, before becoming dangerous nuclear waste. Each gram of silicon used to build a solar panel generates 3300kwh of electricity in its useful life (25 years), and silicon is the most common element on Earth!

Solar not Nuclear electricity is the way forward.

Green Electricity

Contributions to Green Power schemes with your electricity retailer will be invested in renewable energy, such as Australia's biggest grid-connected wind farm at Crookwell, and the largest solar photovoltaic power station in the southern hemisphere at Singleton.

Much of the electricity is bought from existing and new Hydro systems (493,000kw), followed by Biomass (33,000 kw), Wind (15,160kw) and Solar (600kw). All of these system are better than coal-burning power stations and produce no net greenhouse gases.

Hydro systems offer no way forward, as we 'greenies' will fight any new dams that flood more of our beautiful country.

Biomass has limited potential, using waste from other industries, unless we start farming crops specifically to burn them!

Wind and Solar generation capacity must be dramatically increased if the electricity retailers are to meet their greenhouse gas targets.

Ross Coster, Membership Secretary.



Walk in Kanimbla Valley

Saturday, 11 September

A special walk on private properties snuggled in under the Camel's Back and the cliffs of Mount Victoria, hosted by member Charles Johnson.

Charles always organises interesting and enjoyable walks, provides tea and coffee for morning tea, and offers lunch-time shelter on his verandah if it is raining.

I have fond memories of previous walks when we have seen masses of wild-flowers, including orchids, many birds, and bounding kangaroos. CD.

(Details of this bushwalk and others are in 'Dates for your Diary'.)

Mount Annan Bus Excursion

Book early for a seat on the bus to Mount Annan Botanical Gardens on Sunday 19 September. The gardens extend over 450 hectares with a huge variety of Australian plants. Those flowering in Spring will be at their best at this time of the year. Nice morning teas are available at the cafe.

A "Behind the Scenes" tour has been arranged, to see nursery, seed store and research area. It was here the Wollemi Pine was cultivated from the wild.

Cost of \$9 covers hire of bus, fuel, gardens entry and special tour. Contact Christine 4787.7246 or Jim 4784.3305.

WANTED: We need back-up drivers for some of our bus excursions. Please contact Christine or Jim if you have a Blue Mountains City Council 'green slip' to drive BMCC's Access Bus, or have a 1B (LR) class licence which will enable you to obtain a 'green slip'.

Walk with WEPA

On Sunday 17 October I plan to lead a walk for members of Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA). As last year, BMCS members are welcome to take part.

This will be an easy, slow walk on fire and service trails for people interested in our native flora.

We will meet at Wentworth Falls commuter car park and plan to drive off at about 9.30 a.m. We shall drive to Anderson's Fire Trail track head on Kings Tableland. We shall walk to Sally Wattle Waterhole and back. Then we shall drive to the head of Battleship Tops service trail and walk to above Kedumba Walls and back to the cars. Contact Imre Gahl 4784.3286.

Bushwalks have been graded:

Easy — Relatively easy grades and good surfaces. Suited to most people.

Medium — Mostly good surfaces, but some rough or steep sections. Suited to people of average fitness.

Medium/Hard — includes rough or steep sections some of which may require clambering over natural obstacles.

Hard — Strenuous walks involving steep ascents or descents over rougher terrain. Suited to fit and experienced walkers.

If this is your first walk, or you are in any doubt, contact the leader or Bushwalks Convenor Jim Wallace 4784.3305.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| SEPT | | | | | 4 Bushwalk | |
| 6 LeisWalk | | | | | 11 Bushwalk | |
| | | | | | 11 KidsClub | |
| 13 LeisWalk | | 15 Bushcare | | | 18 MCMet | 19 Excursion |
| 20 LeisWalk | 21 Bushcare | | | 24 GenMeet | 25 Bushwalk | |
| 27 LeisWalk | | | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | 2 Macquarie | Marshes |
| | | | | | 9 Bushwalk | |
| | | | | | 9 Workshop | |
| 11 LeisWalk | | | | | | 17 Bushwalk |
| 18 LeisWalk | 19 Bushcare | 20 Bushcare | | | 23 MCMet | 24 Bushwalk |
| 25 LeisWalk | | | | 29 GenMeet | | 31 Bushwalk |

SEPTEMBER

18 (Sat) **Management Committee**, 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre.

24 (Fri) **General Meeting**, 7.30 pm, at the Conservation Hut. Guest speaker: Jeff Angel from the Total Environment Centre. (see page 1)

OCTOBER

09 (Sat) **A Living Relationship with the Land**. Workshop at Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson, 2-4 pm.

23 (Sat) **Management Committee**, 9 am, Mid Mountains Community Centre.

29 (Fri) **General Meeting**. Guest speaker will be Bob Debus, local member and Minister for the Environment.

KIDS' CLUB

11 Sept (Sat) **Find out about Animals of the Night**. Contact Jessica 4757.2783.

BUSHCARE (Tools provided — bring morning tea and gloves.)

SEPTEMBER

15 (Wed) **Digger Cooper Reserve Bushcare Group**. Meet 9 am at the Reserve (GWH, West of Sorenson Bridge). Contact Ross Coster 4759.1247.

21 (Tues) **Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group**. Contact Jessica 4757.2783 for meeting place. (following Tuesday if wet).

BUSHWALKS (Usually day walks — bring lunch and minimum 1 litre water.)

SEPTEMBER

04 (Sat) **Grand Canyon (one of the oldest — and still a treasure)**. Meet Blackheath commuter car park 9.30. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958. **Medium**. (Steep climb at end of walk.)

11 (Sat) **Kanimbla Valley Walk**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.30. Contact Jim Wallace 4784.3305. **Easy/Medium**. (Drive to valley). Bring lunch, morning tea supplied. (See adjacent column for more information).

19 (Sun) **Bus Excursion to Mount Annan Botanic Gardens**. Contact Christine Davies 4787.7246 to book a seat on the bus. Cost \$9 each. (See adjacent column for more information.)

25 (Sat) **Faulconbridge Point**. Meet Faulconbridge Railway Station 9.30. Contact Liz Stark 4754.4966. Good time for flowers; excellent view of Grose Valley. **Easy**, but fairly long.

OCTOBER

02 (Sat) **Weekend Trip to Macquarie Marshes**. Contact Jan Craney 4787.1734. ****If you are interested in going on this trip, please contact Jan as soon as possible.**

09 (Sat) **Terrace Falls**. Meet Hazelbrook Station carpark (south side) 9.30. Contact Bill Tocher 4758.8454. **Medium**.

17 (Sun) **Mystery Walk, Lower Mountains**. Meet Springwood Railway Station 9.30 am. Contact Mike Purtell 4751.2143. **Easy/Medium**.

24 (Sun) **Wattle Tree Reserve**. Meet Cnr Wattle Tree Road and Third Avenue, North Katoomba, 9.30 am. Contact Lyndal Sullival 4782.1635. **Easy/Medium. Half-day walk.**

31 (Sun) **Gladstone Pass**. Meet Leura Railway carpark 9.30 am. Contact Jim Wallace 4784.3305. **Hard — steep sections, many steps.**

LEISURE WALKS (Usually morning walks — bring a drink and morning tea.)

****Slippery and uneven surfaces. Please wear shoes with a good tread.**

If this is your first Leisure walk with the Society please contact the leader.

SEPTEMBER

06 (Mon) **Grand Canyon**. Meet Blackheath N/hood Centre 9 am, Lee Tredennick 4757.4030. (4 hour walk, steep climb). Bring lunch.

13 (Mon) **Lockley's Pylon**. Meet Leura Station carpark 9 am. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958. **Bring Lunch.**

20 (Mon) **Rachel's Track**. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9 am. Contact Mervyn Bird 4787.7959.

27 (Mon) **Pope's Glen**. Meet Blackheath N/hood Centre 9 am. Don Hart 4787.6447.

OCTOBER

11 (Mon) **Leura Forest**. Many steps going down, ride up Scenic Railway (cost \$3). Meet 9 am Leura Station. Contact Kees Putting 4759.1958. Barbeque afterwards.

18 (Mon) **Dargin's Creek**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9 am. **Easy**. Contact Gillian Janus 4787.6181.