

HUT NEWS

Issue No. 286
October 2011



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



Blue Mountains Conservation Society
50th Anniversary Celebrations
Saturday, 29 October 2011
at the Conservation Hut
Wentworth Falls

3.30 pm. Tree Planting Ceremony at the John Buki Gardens (in the grounds of the Conservation Hut). Long-term members Mick and Jill Dark will plant a tree to celebrate 50 years of conservation work by the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Refreshments will include a birthday cake to share. **ALL WELCOME!**

6 pm. Dinner at the Conservation Hut for members and their guests.

There are only a few places left. If you haven't already booked, please contact Liz van Reyswoud by phone 4757 2694 or email mcreysw@bigpond.net.au

Main course will be choice or a meat or vegetarian dish. Cakes for dessert (cooked by our wonderful volunteers). BYO drinks.

A non-alcoholic punch and nibbles will be provided.

Music, songs, good company! Cost \$35 per person.

You can pay by cheque or money order using the form on page 6 of this newsletter, or online at www.bluemountains.org.au. **But please** contact Liz first to find out if there are any places left.

Some good news for the Kimberley

Earlier this year, the Society hosted a public meeting about concerns for the Kimberley region in Western Australia. Bob Debus and Murray Wilcox spoke about the need for protection and the threat posed by plans for a gas hub at James Price Point.

In a positive development, the Minister for Sustainability, Tony Burke, has accepted the Australian Heritage Council's national heritage assessment of the West Kimberley region. This means that approximately **20 million hectares** have been added to the National Heritage List. This does not include the land upon which the gas hub is proposed, but does incorporate the nearby dinosaur tracks which may not be helpful for gas hub construction. **Importantly, national heritage listing would make widespread future industrial development less likely.**

The Council's report states that "the west Kimberley is a remarkable part of Australia. Along with its people, and ancient and surviving Indigenous cultural traditions, it has a glorious coastline, spectacular gorges and waterfalls, pristine rivers and vine thickets, and is home to varied and unique plants and animals. The listing recognises these outstanding ecological, geological and aesthetic features as also having significance to the Australian people."

The Australian Heritage Council's assessment is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/west-kimberley/>

Lock the Gate Alliance, of which Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a member, is planning a national day of action on Sunday 16th October in capital cities and regional areas throughout Australia.

At the time of writing we have been unable to find out the time and location of the Sydney rally. There will be trackwork on that day and buses will replace trains between Penrith and Central.

Check our website www.bluemountains.org.au for further information and stand united behind the banner.

"Blue Mountains says NO to CSG"

AUSSIES TAKE ACTION!

LOCK THE GATE

DEFEND OUR WATER FROM... COAL AND COAL SEAM GAS!!!

Coal Seam Gas & Coal represent the biggest threat to our precious underground water reserves in our history. On October 16, join with communities across the country to demand a moratorium until the full social & environmental impacts are known.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH
www.lockthegate.org.au

JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society, or renew your membership online. Go to our website: www.bluemountains.org.au

"Hut News", the newsletter of
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HUT NEWS EDITORIALS

The deadline for the next issue of Hut News
is **21 October 2011**

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Lachlan Garland 0415 317 078

membership@bluemountains.org.au

PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

BUSHCARE GROUP

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare
Group meets second Saturday of each
month, 9am till noon. Tools and gloves are
available. Bring a drink, a snack and a hat.
New members are always welcome. Phone
Karen on 4757 1929.

Nursery News

Nursery Manager Kevin Bell is away and has left the nurseries in the capable hands of the volunteer crews at Lawson and Blackheath. They report that with the spring weather things are growing well and there will be a great selection of plants for sale at the next Lawson Magpie Market (3rd Sunday of the month) and Blackheath Community Market (1st Sunday of the month).

NSW Planning System Review: Blue Mountains Community Forums

On 19th September, members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society's Landuse committee attended the two Blue Mountains Community Forums held as part of the NSW Planning System Review. The Review is being undertaken by Tim Moore, former environment minister in the Greiner Liberal government and currently Senior Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court, and Ron Dyer, former minister in the Carr Labor government.

The Review is currently in its consultation phase and the Review Panel is travelling around NSW seeking views on what should be the broad underpinning principles for legislation to replace the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Submissions on the four main areas of consultation can be lodged up to 4th November. The four main areas for consideration are:

- 1) what should be the underpinning objectives and philosophy of the new legislative structure,
- 2) how should plan-making be undertaken,
- 3) how should applications for development proposals be assessed and determined, and
- 4) what should be the avenues of conciliation, mediation, neutral evaluation and review or appeal?

Out of this consultation, an issues paper will be prepared and published in December with feedback accepted up to 17th February 2012. A Green Paper will be then provided to the NSW Government and published by the end of April 2012.

At the Community Forums, Consoc members reported their concerns about the Gateway process for plan making and the Standard Instrument which the Blue Mountains City Council is supposed to adopt at some stage in the next few years. We are concerned that many of the environmental protections in Blue Mountains LEP 2005 will be watered down or disallowed in the Standard Instrument. A demand for greater flexibility of the Standard Instrument to respond sensitively to the unique local circumstances of places like the Blue Mountains is apparently coming through loud and clear in these consultations.

Consoc will be making submissions to the NSW Planning System Review. If you want to have input, contact Ann Cantwell, Landuse Officer, on cantwell@eftel.net.au or phone 4751 3215.

For more details on the four main areas for consideration, submission processes plus all other relevant information, visit the Review's website on www.planningreview.nsw.gov.au

Free Wildlife Posters

Did you know that free posters are available from Dept. of Environment & Heritage? They have posters about wetlands, coasts, biodiversity, rare orchids & invasive species. Just click on this website and you can order up to six per person: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/publications/index-posters.html#airquality>

Coalpac called on to provide better Environmental Assessment

The NSW Department of Planning has deemed the Environmental Assessment for the Coalpac Consolidation Project proposal inadequate for public exhibition.

The Project site is located in the Ben Bullen State Forest, the western gateway to the Gardens of Stone. If the proposal is approved, over 1000 hectares of mainly old-growth forest and the wildlife habitat of at least 32 native animal and 350 native plant species, will disappear.

Coalpac will now have to address the items the Department has deemed inadequate and get that material up to standard before it will be allowed to go on exhibition.

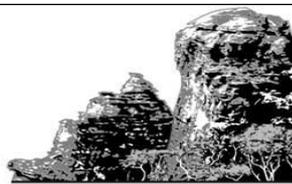
When it does go on display, there is a 28 day window of opportunity for people like you to send in comments. The Blue Mountains Conservation Society will be providing materials to supporters to help get as many comments as possible in on time. This will help immensely to help get this destructive proposal rejected.

Justin McKee, Gardens of Stone Campaigner made these comments on the latest news during interviews on radio ABC Sydney, ABC Western NSW, ABC Sydney and 2LT Lithgow: "The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is not surprised the Department doesn't think Coalpac's material is up to scratch. We recently called for an independent flora assessment into the project due



Protect the Gardens of Stone

"Say NO to open cut mining!"



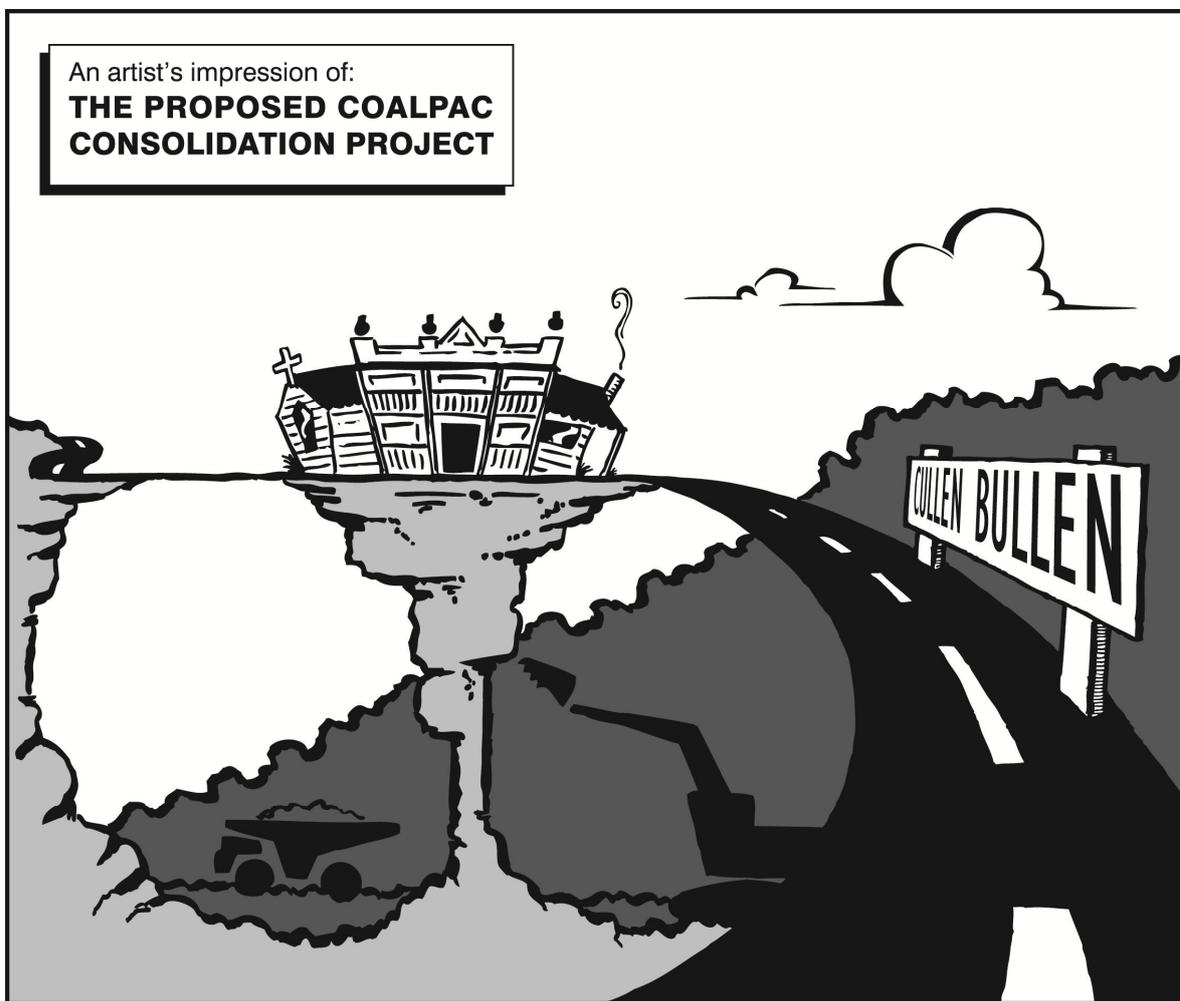
to the company's track record of submitting inadequate reports. In effect, the ecological surveys Coalpac have presented understated the diversity of the area to be open cut.

What is under threat from this project is an iconic, natural area of our state. Environment groups are lobbying to ensure the Ben Bullen State Forest is protected in full. We are not alone. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has also acknowledged its wish to see the forest placed in the conservation reserve system as a matter of priority.

The Ben Bullen State Forest straddles the Great Dividing Range and is a scenically and biologically diverse area of outstanding natural and recreational value. The natural and recreational values of the area have a life span well beyond the 21 years Coalpac would take to destroy it. We are confident the threats to matters of national environmental significance identified within the full assessment process would see the proposal be rejected by the NSW Government."

For more information on this issue and how you can get involved in helping, please log on to:

http://www.bluemountains.org.au/gos_under_threat.html



An artist's impression of:
THE PROPOSED COALPAC CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

The Coxs River Case – Delta fails to get it dismissed!

Members will be aware that back in June 2009 the Society instigated legal action against Delta Electricity over alleged pollution in the upper Coxs River below Wallerawang Power Station. This followed Streamwatch testing by Society members showing salinity, phosphate, turbidity and temperature at levels higher than natural background levels. The water was then independently tested by Dr Ian Wright from UWS, revealing aluminium, arsenic, copper, nickel, zinc, boron and fluoride in the water. His report stated that all results were assessed against the ANZECC (2000) water quality guidelines, particularly using guidelines for protection of aquatic ecosystems. It was determined that salt, copper, boron, and aluminium all exceeded guideline levels for ecosystem protection and were probably toxic to aquatic ecosystems+.

Running such a case had the potential to bankrupt the Society, so our legal team argued for a Protective Costs Order to limit the costs upfront to \$20,000. This was successful and was a precedent for a public interest case in NSW (September 2009). The legal representatives of Delta Electricity lodged an appeal against this decision but their appeal was unsuccessful (October 2010).

Delta then attempted to have the case dismissed. On 2 December 2010, Justice Rachel Pepper of the Land and Environment Court heard an application by Delta to have the case summarily dismissed, under Rule 13.4 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005. That

Are the Murray River Red Gum Forests again at Risk?

In October 2010, following a successful campaign led by the Wilderness Society and National Parks Assn of NSW, the New South Wales Labor Government announced that it will **protect the internationally important River Red Gum Forests**—including the protection of the iconic Millewa Forest. This historic decision would see the creation of over 100,000 hectares of new protected areas and would protect crucial habitat for threatened species such as the superb parrot.

In September 2011, a press release from The Wilderness Society NSW condemns the O'Farrell Government's decision to open up new areas of the iconic River Red Forests of the Murray Valley National Park for firewood collection. This announcement ignores research from government's own scientists, which has identified threatened 13 species in the forests likely to be impacted by firewood collection, including the Gilberts Whistler, Speckled Warbler and Diamond Firetail.+ Wilderness Society National Forest Campaigner Warrick Jordon called for Federal Intervention on any activities that threaten National Parks.

Find our more at <http://www.wilderness.org.au/regions/new-south-wales/is-this-the-start-of-odfarrells-war-on-the-environment>

rule enables the Court to dismiss the proceedings if the proceedings are frivolous or vexatious, or no reasonable cause of action is disclosed, or if the proceedings are an abuse of the process of the court. Delta argued that section 252 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 does not permit civil remedy proceedings to remedy or restrain a contravention of section 120 of the Act (under which it is an offence to pollute waters). Delta argued in the alternative that part of BMCS's summons and points of claim should be summarily dismissed on the basis that they allege past breach and there is no utility in the Court making a declaration or granting remedial orders in respect of past breaches of the Act.

This attempt to dismiss the case was rejected in August 2011. The issue of alleged water pollution and the licenses can now be addressed in the Land and Environment Court. The Society wants the alleged pollution stopped and the EPA to protect the environment by setting limits on the amount of salts and metals in water. Thus far, the EPA response has been to get Delta to monitor amounts of metals but not limit the amount.

BMCS is grateful to the Environmental Defenders Office and our barrister Tom Howard who is acting pro bono.

Contact Tara for more information 0419 824 974 taracameron4@gmail.com

Energymark seeks volunteers

Energymark is a CSIRO initiative offering a kitchen table approach to climate change and energy use and the role that individuals can play in moving toward a new energy future. Community members volunteer their time to facilitate discussion groups.

Do you want to be an energy and climate change leader in your local community?

Volunteer for Energymark and reduce your carbon footprint and power bills

CSIRO and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage are looking for volunteers to lead small group discussions on energy, climate change, water and waste.

You don't need to know a lot about energy and climate change. simply gather a small group of people (family, friends, neighbours, workmates) for discussions using support and discussion material from CSIRO and NSW Government.

To register or for more information visit www.energymark.com.au or call 1300 119 003

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

'Like' us on Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society
Follow us on Twitter: bmcnsnw

Loose Feathers, with Carol Proberts

It's always worth keeping an eye out for something unusual. On 4th September I was sitting quietly in the bush at the start of Darwin's Walk, waiting for a male bowerbird to come to his bower, when my attention was distracted by the soft but unmistakable call of a Regent Honeyeater. At first I didn't believe my ears. The Capertee Valley is one of the last strongholds of this stunningly beautiful, critically endangered bird and they are currently breeding there. But they are definitely not a species of the sandstone plateau. I jumped to my feet and caught sight of the bird high in a eucalypt, before it took off with a Red Wattlebird in pursuit. I never found it again and I suspect it may have been travelling through with the flocks of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters that were moving along Jamison Creek on their spring migration.

The Regent Honeyeater was one of a run of unusual sightings at Wentworth Falls recently. Blue Mountains Bird Observers member Bill Dowling sent me a photo of a Banded Lapwing standing amongst the ducks on the edge of Wentworth Falls Lake in late August. This is a new species for the Blue Mountains. The Banded Lapwing is an extreme claustrophobe - it feels at home on the vast, open grassy plains of the interior, the vaster and flatter the better. Not surprisingly, it had disappeared the next day, perhaps on its way to the Windsor turf farms where a small number are seen every year.

Three weeks later, a Black-fronted Dotterel turned up. A small shorebird which, according to my records, hadn't been seen in the upper Blue Mountains for at least 20 years, they can usually be found along the Coxs River. There has also been a series of Great Crested Grebes at the lake over the past few months. Normally occasional visitors to the mountains, these stately birds, which dive for their food, have been breeding on inland lakes after the floods.

Meanwhile, in the nearby bush we have seen an influx of Fuscous Honeyeaters. "Fuscous" is a word meaning dull, drab and sombre, which I think is an unfair description of this subtly handsome bird. In breeding plumage these birds have a black smudge around the eye, like the kohl used as eye make-up by ancient Egyptians, and a smart yellow accent across the neck. Fuscous Honeyeaters are characteristic of the drier woodlands west of the mountains, but are a sporadic visitor to the sandstone country, especially when the Banksias are flowering. I've never seen as many in the upper mountains as I have this year.

Now, suddenly flocks of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows are appearing in the skies above. Of all the birds, none make my heart leap with joy as much as the woodswallows. I'll write more about these in a future issue.

Anyone lucky enough to see a Regent Honeyeater should report it straight away to the Birds Australia Woodland Birds project on Freecall 1800 621056.

Carol Proberts origma@westnet.com.au

Photo: Black-fronted Dotterel at Wentworth Falls Lake (photo by Carol Proberts)

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Experience
www.worldheritage.org.au

Membership Application Form

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1.
2.
3.

Address:
.....PC

Phone(s)

Email

MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student)\$20
Household \$35 Concession (Senior/Student)\$25
Corporate (open to negotiation) \$100

Bushwalkers only:
(\$20 per walker per annum) \$.....

Donation (tax-deductible) \$.....

Send my copy of Hut News by
Please tick box mail internet only

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$.....

Note: All fees include GST at the relevant rate.

Would you like to be involved in any of the following activities or working groups? (Please underline): Land use/development issues; Environmental Education; Threatened species issues; Web or database management; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Society administration.

I/We agree to support the aims and objectives of the Society as set out on reverse side of this membership application:

Please sign if named above.

Signature(s) 1.
2.
3.

ENQUIRIES: Phone (02 4757 1872)
Email: membership@bluemountains.org.au

Please cut out and forward this form with your cheque or money order to:
Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782



**BLUE MOUNTAINS
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community organisation working to achieve the preservation and regeneration of the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Society believes that World Heritage status provides an opportunity for local community members to become custodians of the unique biodiversity and scenery of the Blue Mountains.

The Mission of the Society is to help conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society are to:

- Disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation.
- Promote the need for ecological sustainability.
- Protect the natural environment—flora, fauna, habitat, water, land and air.
- Actively oppose those human activities which degrade or destroy the natural environment.
- Repair the adverse effects of human activities upon the environment.
- Encourage the love of the natural environment by conducting a regular program of bushwalks.
- Increase the pool of expert knowledge about the natural environment, through meetings, excursions, research and other activities.
- Provide information to the public on matters of Conservation, especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls.
- Maintain close and friendly relations with like-minded groups.

To: 50th Anniversary Dinner
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls. 2782

I am a member of BMCS and wish to make a reservation for _____ people for the 50th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 29 October 2011. (Please print)

Name _____

Address _____

_____ (Postcode) _____

Cost is \$35 per person

Cheque/money order enclosed \$ _____

Please check with Liz (see page 1) before posting.

Down the Wallaby Track · a backward glance, with John Low
A LEAP INTO HISTORY

In May 1908 a group of young men set out to walk from Mount Victoria to the edge of the cliffs overlooking the Kanimbla Valley. Among them was Charles Dunn, a 17 year old boarder at Henry Rienitsprivate school, and his elder brother Arthur. When they arrived at the cliff top and were exploring the mouth of an overhang cave, Charles slipped on the loose surface and fell over the edge, plummeting 181 feet (55m) to the base of the cliff. Perhaps he was distracted by the view of sandstone walls and a sun-filled Kanimbla Valley. Perhaps he was simply skylarking with his mates.

I've just been reading a terrific new book on the caves around Mount Victoria* and, coming upon the entry on Dunn's Leap Cave, was reminded of this episode and of an enjoyable walk I took part in several years ago to mark its centenary. Anyone who has dipped into the history of place names will know what strange and fascinating stories can be found there and the story we were celebrating on that occasion was unusual to say the least for, astonishingly, Charles Dunn escaped uninjured! His headmaster later wrote that: "Beyond a few bruises, the boy was not hurt. He walked home, while his mates were looking for his remains."

The accident and its miraculous outcome aroused such interest in the district that within months the locals had built a track to the bottom of the cliff over which Dunn had fallen. They placed a sign there to memorialize the incident and also strung a wire from the cliff top marking the trajectory of his fall. For a while the site became something of a local tourist attraction until the immediacy of the event faded and the track fell into neglect. One hundred years later the path at the base of the cliff, though restored in 1988 by Jim Smith and the late Wilf Hilder, remained rough and the undergrowth thick but a sign still pointed upwards through the ferns and trees and a wire rope still traced that frightening descent.

The May 2008 centenary was organized by Brian Fox whose research had re-established the story in current memory. It was a sunny, late autumn day and great to be out and about, exploring ground where the past seemed vibrant and alive and discussing what might have happened a century ago. Acutely aware that what took place could just as easily have ended tragically, our reflections were given a particular poignancy by the presence of Charles's daughter-in-law and granddaughter.

Having survived his adventure Charles Dunn went on to complete his education at The School in Mount Victoria and later settled in Sydney where he pursued a career as an estate agent. He married Kathleen in 1925, bought a home in Rose Bay and raised two sons. He died in 1965. An outwardly conventional life, but a life touched by one extraordinary moment!

John Low (johnlow@iprimus.com.au)

*Erik Halbert & Ross Ellis, *Sandstone Caves of Mount Victoria*, Sydney Speleological Society, 2011.

Greater Blue Mountains National Landscape conservation factsheet

Australia's National Landscape program factsheets have been developed to reinforce the environmental significance of Australia's National Landscapes and to encourage visitors to learn about, and contribute to, local and regional conservation efforts.

You can download a copy of the recently launched conservation factsheet for the Greater Blue Mountains National Landscape at <http://www.media.australia.com/en-au/factsheets/3311.aspx>

Footlight Festival

Katoomba North Public School
Barton Street, Katoomba
12 noon to 6pm, Saturday 22 October

The Footlight Festival will promote environmental sustainability through stalls, music, talks, workshops and more. Justin McKee, our Gardens of Stone Campaigner, will be giving a talk about how we can stop the proposed open cut mine in the Gardens of Stone.

The Society will also have a stall and Tara would love some volunteers to help run this.

Can you help? Please call Tara 0419 824 974 or email taracameron4@gmail.com

Walking at Wambool

What and where is Wambool I hear you asking?

Wambool Nature Reserve is approx 20kms east of Bathurst and is accessible from Tarana and the GWH. *Wambool* is a Wiradjuri term and means 'meandering'. Wiradjuri people use *Wambool* when referring to the Macquarie River.

At the end of September, the plant study group had a wonderful walk in this reserve, which is famous for its large number of orchid species.

Steph found the first orchid of the day, *Glossodia Major*, and they all were so beautiful with their vivid purple flowers growing all through the *E. Rossi* and *E. melliodora* Woodlands on the western exposed slopes. Then Robin spotted *Caladenia caerulea* with its blue flowers. However, all the blue *Caladenias* have had a name change, so this orchid is now *Cyanicula caerulea*. Lots of *Caladenia carnea* and the bright yellow *Dris maculata* were scattered through the bush too. Just lovely.

There were many different *Acacias* just finishing flowering and several species of *Leucopogons* with tiny little white hairy petals. *Styphelia laeta*, ssp *laeta* had red flowers fading but still looked very colourful along with the yellow flowering *Daviesia*.

Then we heard gun shots and felt an extra chill in the air, as we saw some kangaroos bounding very fast and in a state of panic as they tried to get back into the Nature Reserve, over a fence with two strands of barbed wire on top.



We cheered up again after morning tea and saw more orchids and several gorgeous Jewel Beetles glittering and shining in a shrub. We found Bandicoot nose shaped holes, possibly Dunnart scats and Sue showed us a lovely Scarlet Robin. A southerly blew and it was freezing cold, so we ate lunch tucked away behind some big tree trunks and then drove past echidnas busily digging on the roadside, to a bowl of hot chips in the Tarana pub!

Meredith Brownhill.

Photo: *Glossodia major* (Robin Murray)

Want to Join a Wildlife Protection Group?

The talk about wildlife protection by Julia McConnell at the September monthly meeting has inspired several of us to start a working group in the Society to protect wildlife. The photos of injured animals which Julia showed revealed the extent of injuries and it was easy to empathise with the suffering of the animals. Sometimes the injuries were caused by garden accidents such as lawn mowers and black netting, and sometimes the injuries were caused by cat and dog attacks, and then there are injuries from cars, and human cruelty.

The working group could look at ways of improving wildlife education in the community around garden activities, responsible pet ownership and also look at Blue Mountains City Council policy on fencing, wildlife protection, responsible cat and dog ownership, the prevention of road-kill, and write to council seeking some changes if needed.

Would you like to get involved in this group?

Caring about our precious native wildlife is enough to join this working group, however if you have some writing or IT skills or like talking to the community about wildlife issues or just quietly doing internet research, that is a bonus.

We could meet once a month and, with a cup of tea in hand, just follow up wildlife issues of our interest, or as they arise locally. Contact Meredith 47824823 mountains@westnet.com.au

THINK TWICE ABOUT MINING COAL-SEAM GAS

Words and music: Denis Rice © 2011 APRA/AMCOS
Music based partly on 'Sound the Pibroch', a 19th century Jacobite song by Mrs Norman MacLeod Snr.

CHORUS:

Think twice about mining coal-seam gas,
Refrain from poisoning precious ground-water;
It's best to leave coal-seam gas in the ground,
And instead go for wind and solar.
Yes. Go for wind and solar.

VERSE:

Scale down the use of fossil fuels,
Power up with clean renewable joules;
Scale down the mining of all that coal.
To care for Planet Earth has to be our goal.

CODA:

Because coal-seam gas wells are 'environment-killers',
Don't drill into that coal seam, o ye drillers.

Denis Rice has been a member of BMCS for nearly 20 years, and since 2008 has been MC of 'Poetry at the Pub', held at Blackburn's Family Hotel in Parke Street, Katoomba on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month from 2.00 to 5.30 pm. This increasingly popular community event features poetry in all its forms, plus some music and storytelling, and is held in honour of Australia's Poet Lorikeet, Denis Kevans (1939-2005).

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The BMCS Bushwalking Guide which explains the numbered grades can be found on the Society's website www.bluemountains.org.au or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email mauricekerkham@hotmail.com or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

SATURDAY WALKS: Usually a full day longer walk at a faster pace. Before attending ring the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy 4758 6009 or email jp34@tpg.com.au

- Oct 15 **'Mount Banks twice' (incl. Windy Knoll).** Some scrambling and difficult undergrowth. **Bring** protective clothing/map/compass/ minimum 2 litres water. Leader: Hugh 4757 3145 after 8pm or 0423 309 854 anytime. Book in early. Parts of the walk are graded 5 as they are exploratory. Party limit of 8. 8 km. Grade 3-5. Map: Mount Wilson.
- Oct 22 **Mt Bedford**—circumnavigation of the mount with views of the area and into Bedford Creek canyon and drop into the Ingar pool area— may be warm enough for a swim? Leader: Liz 4754 4966. Meet at Wentworth Falls Station car park 8.30 am. Approx 8 km. Grade 3. Jamison map.
- Oct 25/26/27 **Barren Grounds Nature Reserve**—delightful conservation area. The heathland plateau of Barren Grounds is loved by both walkers and birdwatchers—particularly in spring when it is a mass of wildflowers. A range of walks offer magnificent views of the Illawarra coastline and surrounding countryside. The reserve is between Robertson and Kiama, on the Jamberoo Pass Road. It's 16 km south-east of Robertson and 8 km east of Carrington Falls turnoff. Leader: Lucy 4751 5347. Contact leader for details. You will need to book your own accommodation at the Jamberoo Hotel for the two nights of Tuesday and Wednesday. Various walks from 1.5 easy to 9 more demanding. Grades 1 to 3. Local sketch maps.
- Oct 29 **Victoria Brook**—maybe some exploratory. Leader: Emanuel 4757 1090 after 7 pm. Meet at Blackheath Station car park at 8 am. Distance—contact leader. Grade 3/4. Mount Wilson map.
- Nov 5 **Thor & Asgard Heads.** Leader: Bob 4757 2694. Meet at Mt Victoria Station car park 8.30 am. 10 km (some off track). Grade 3. Mount Wilson map.
- Nov 12 **Oronga Canyon.** Some scrambling and difficult undergrowth. Wet feed. Bring protective clothing. Priority to those who haven't done it before, but book in early. Leader: Hugh 4757 3145 after 8pm or 0423 309 854 anytime. Party limit of 8—book in early. Grade 3. Mount Wilson map.

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS: Short Day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of an average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Judith Dyer, 4758 6310, judithbushwalker@hotmail.com

- Oct 17 **New city walk in Lavender Bay and option of climbing bridge pylon.** Meet Central Station 9.30. Contact Ros 4733 3880. Grade 1/2.
- Oct 24 **Water Nymph Dell and Lakes.** Meet at Wentworth Falls Station at 9.30 am. Contact Norm 4784 1554. Grade 2.
- Oct 31 **Red Hands Cave.** Aboriginal rock art site. Meet Glenbrook Station carpark at 9.30 am. Contact Ken 0423 450 200. Grade 2.
- Nov 7 **CITY: Two choices. Bondi—Sculptures by the Sea:** Christine 4757 2864, Grade 1, OR **Bondi to Watsons Bay,** 8km. Maurice 4739 4942, Grade 2. Meet Central Station 9.30 am.
- Nov 14 **Baltzers Lookout and blooming Rhodo gardens!** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am. Contact Mary 4757 4569.
- Nov 21 **BUS TRIP. New walk at Mount Wilson—Happy Valley and Waterfall Circuit.** Contact Marion 4759 2575, Grade 2. Book/pay Keith 4736 1010. \$12.

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Walks of 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. Group Co-ordinator is Gail Schwedler 4782 1215 platypusprotected@yahoo.com.au

- Oct 13 **Nature Trail, Wentworth Falls.** Interesting level terrain at first. Lots of steps back to the Hut. Meet Stockyard Car park, Wentworth Falls Station, 9.30 am. Contact Chris 4757 2864. Grade 2.
- Oct 20 **North Parramatta Lake Walk.** Bush track (4.5 km) around lake with little rocky climbs and stepping stones across river. Take lunch or BYO at café. 10 mins bus trip to start of walk. Meet bus interchange outside Parramatta Station, Stand A3. Train arrives 10.05 am. Bus leaves 10.15 am. Contact Jill 4751 6926. Grade 2.
- Oct 27 **Fairfax Track, Blackheath** Easy level walk with magnificent wildflowers on both sides of walk. Waratahs should be blooming. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am. Contact Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 1.
- Nov 3 **BUS TRIP. Western Sydney Regional Park.** Cost \$10, bring lunch. BBQs available. Meet BM Council Depot, South Street, North Katoomba 8.30 am. Contact Simone to book 4757 3416. Grade 1.
- Nov 10 **Tall Timbers to the Lagoon.** An easy walk along a pretty fire trail to a Lagoon. Coffee after an option. Meet behind Springwood Civic Centre 9.15 am. Car pool. Contact Robyn 4751 6328. Grade 2.

Welcome to new members ...

Andrew Hadiwidjaja, Croydon Park
Charis Estoesta, Croydon Park
Jan O'Leary, Springwood
Ian Watson, Springwood
Jed Walker, Katoomba
Tim Bidder, Brookvale
Deidre Olofsson, Camberwell

Kon Kalos, Springwood
John Clarke, Burwood
Holly Manwaring, Mudgee
Frank Lumley, Wentworth Falls
Barbara Lumley, Wentworth Falls
Bronwyn Gahan, Katoomba
John Sharples, Toronto

Phil Donovan, Erskineville
Susan Jalaluddin, Hazelbrook
Ruth Wurcker, Merriwa
Lindsay Johnson, Faulconbridge