



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

A threatened wonderland



the Gardens  
of Stone

## MONTHLY MEETING

7.30 pm, Thursday, 27 September, 2012  
at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls

A threatened wonderland—The Gardens of Stone. A coffee table book and a slideshow set to music.

A book on a spectacular part of the Gardens of Stone was launched on 15 August by Ian Brown, editor and contributing photographer, at Parliament House, Sydney. A packed audience enjoyed an outstanding presentation of spectacular images from the book accompanied by a new work "The Gardens of Stone" by the noted composer Amanda Handel.

We will present the book and slideshow at our September monthly meeting. Special guests will be Ian Brown and Amanda Handel. Visitors are very welcome.

### Concert launches musical works inspired by Gardens of Stone

Amanda Handel (piano), Michael Jackson (didjeridu)  
and Justin McKee (BMCS, guest speaker)

If you attended the recent launch of our book, "A threatened wonderland - the Gardens of Stone" you were the first to hear one of the fourteen compositions from the new album "Gardens of Stone". The music was written by Amanda Handel, in collaboration with Michael Jackson.

A concert will be held to launch the album on **Sunday 23 September in the Blackheath Uniting Church, Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath, at 4pm**. The event is part of the Sydney Sacred Music Festival. Tickets \$30 (\$25 concession/\$20 school students). Tickets can be purchased at Megalong Books, Leura, or [www.sydneyssacredmusicfestival.org](http://www.sydneyssacredmusicfestival.org)

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society wishes to thank Amanda Handel and Michael Jackson for their in-kind contribution. Each CD purchase at this event will see \$1 donated to our campaign: "Protect the Gardens of Stone".

Printed on Australian-made 100% Recycled Paper

## Remembering Reg Toseland

Reg Toseland passed away on 20 August at Albion Park, at the age of 87. Reg and Dulcie Toseland are fondly remembered by older members of the Society. They were both very active in the Society during the days when the old Conservation Hut was the headquarters of the Society and were among the volunteers who helped to operate it as a tea room at weekends, providing light refreshments, information and environmental education to the public.

Reg was President of the Society in 1986. Then in 1987-1989 Dulcie was President and Reg had the job of Secretary. In 1990 Reg filled the position of "Hut Supplies Officer".

Following the opening of the new Conservation Hut, Reg became an "Elder Statesman" of the Society, and was an invaluable source of information and guidance to new members of the Management Committee. At this time, Reg became the Society's Public Officer, a position he held until 2010.

*There are too few people like Reg Toseland in this world. One of the most positive people that I have met, a conservator of our heritage in the Blue Mountains.*

*A troubled body but an endless optimist, a far thinking and all embracing friend. The last time I saw him he called me back to the house as we were leaving to give me some petrol discount vouchers.*

*A pleasure to hear him and Mick Dark reminisce about 'The Old times of the Conservation Society'. Deirdre remembers his almost weekly battle with the vandals that broke into the Old Hut. He might have been a Pom but he was a real Aussie!*

*Life got away with our friendship and we missed Him and Dulcie when they moved, but they keep a warm spot in our hearts.*

Ivor and Deirdre Morton.

## BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

**Lawson Nursery** –Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am to noon. The nursery is located in the Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets, opposite Federation Building Materials (see the map on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)).

**Blackheath Community Market**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm.

**Magpie Market**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm.

Tube stock \$2.50 each. Larger pots available.

Enquiries Kevin Bell 4787 6436, [kevinbell@eftel.net.au](mailto:kevinbell@eftel.net.au)

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
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21 SEPTEMBER 2012

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## Nursery News

**Cultural Centre:** As mentioned in previous reports, the nursery secured the contract to supply 2,300 plants for the roof-top garden at the Cultural Centre in Katoomba. Although we have not seen the landscape plan for the garden, it seems there will be a mix of an aquatic feature as we will be supplying plants such as *Schoenus melanostachys* (Black Bog-rush), *Gahnia sieberiana* (Red-fruited saw-sedge), *Bauera rubioides* (River Rose), *Isolepis nodosa* (Knobby Club-rush), *Grevillea acanthifolia* as well as other grasses (eg *Themeda australis*, Kangaroo Grass); *Joycea pallida*, (Red-anther Wallaby Grass) and shrubs (eg. *Boronia pinnata*, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Lomatia silaifolia*) for drier areas. Altogether, there will be a total of 30 species which should provide a feast of interest and colour throughout the year while enjoying your coffee and cake and what should be a splendid view.

**Another Genus:** In previous issues of *Hut News* we have described numerous members of the Daisy family (*Asteraceae*), which has the largest number of species of flowering plants in the world. These included popular members such as *Brachycome*, *Rhodanthe*, *Helichrysum*, *Bracteantha*, *Podolepis* etc, all of which are small, herbaceous plants. Now we introduce *Olearia* which is a genus of shrubs totalling over 100 species confined to Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand. Currently, we offer two local species for sale: *Olearia elliptica* (Sticky Daisy Bush) and *Olearia myrsinoides* (Silky Daisy Bush). The former is an attractive shrub to 2m tall with elliptic, glossy, viscid green leaves which prefers a sheltered, even slightly damp, position. It bears lovely white flowers with a yellow centre (the true flower) in late spring/early summer. It is widespread north from Berry in NSW and extends into Queensland. In the Blue Mountains it is more common at lower altitudes and the highest I have seen it is in Sutton Reserve in Blackheath but I would be interested in hearing from anybody who has seen it further into the Upper Mountains.

The latter is a small (to 60cm) spreading shrub with silky young branches. The ovate leaves are minutely toothed, green above and white below because of a covering of fine hairs. The flowers are smaller than *Olearia elliptica* but very attractive in clusters. It makes an excellent rockery plant and tolerates semi-shade. Both the above attract bees and other insects and we have them available now and are planning to add more local species including *O. microphylla* (extensive stands of this are by the fire-trail near the former *Packsaddlers* in the Megalong Valley), *O. quercifolia* (Oak-leaved Daisy-bush; regarded as "at risk" because of limited range from Wentworth Falls to Newnes, including near Gooch's Crater) and others (*O. Phlogopappa*, *asterotricha*). We will let you know if we are successful and when we will have these for sale.

In the meantime, drop into the Blackheath or Lawson weekend markets or our nursery at Lawson on either Wednesday or Saturday mornings to look at our extensive range of plants, both in tubes and larger pots. And for that hard-to-buy-for person, why not a Gift Certificate, redeemable at any time, at \$10 or \$20.

Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager.  
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*Olearia myrsinoides*  
New South Wales Flora Online  
<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au>





## Get up! Stand up! Public Hearings for Coalpac Consolidation Project

Brad Hazzard has written to those objecting to the Coalpac Consolidation Project proposal inviting them to speak at the public hearings on the project.

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Lithgow District Workmen's Club, Lithgow**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sept. Cullen Bullen Progress Assn Hall, Cullen Bullen.**

After reading the submissions from NSW Health, it was clear that the people of Cullen Bullen and the children who go to its Public School are definitely in need of our continued help to stop this proposal.

**We encourage everyone who can to register to speak at the hearing.**

It is typical that people speak for 5-10 minutes each, and it is OK to deliver the same key points you wrote about in your submission. Speak from the heart and base your info on facts!

**To register** simply call Greyce Fernandes on 02 9383 2112 or email [pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au) by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Didn't write a submission but still want to speak?** You can! Simply write a submission and note in it that you want to speak at which hearing location and which date. Send this by email by 5pm, 12<sup>th</sup> September to Ms Sera Taschner: [pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au)

**Why is this happening?** After receiving an unprecedented 920 submissions on the Coalpac Consolidation Project, the NSW Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard has delegated the review for the Project to the Planning and Assessment Commission. The Minister delegates his authority when 25 or more submissions are received on an old Part 3a matter such as this one.

(It's worth noting that opposition came from 709 individuals and others such as the Environmental Protection Authority, the NSW ALP and the NSW Greens. The Office of Environment and Heritage stated the Ben Bullen State Forest should be reserved as a matter of priority due to its high conservation value.)

## Talking points to consider for the hearing:

⇒ I support the statement in the submission from the Office of Environment and Heritage that the **whole** of the Ben Bullen State Forest has been identified "as being of suitably high conservation value for future reservation under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*."

⇒ I call for a 5kilometre buffer zone for future open cut mines to apply to villages and towns in NSW. This would help to protect the people of Cullen Bullen from serious health risks.

⇒ I support statement from the Environmental Protection Authority that Coalpac's real-time monitoring system "will have no impact on long-term exposure to particulate matter for local residents."

⇒ I support this statement from the Environmental Protection Authority: "The EPA considers that the potential for unacceptable noise impacts upon both rural residents and the residents of Cullen Bullen is too great based on the assumptions in the noise modelling of the proposed 24 hours a day/seven days a week operations."

At Govett's Leap on Saturday 1st September 2012. This was a very special occasion—the 80th Anniversary of the reservation of the Blue Gum Forest, a landmark event for conservation in New South Wales.

The gold in the cliff face faded and in the darkness a light shone from the valley where bushwalkers had gathered near the Forest to celebrate with an overnight camp.

Soon a glorious full moon rose from behind a cloud over the Mount Hay range. Happy birthday, Blue Gum!

BMCS members photographed (left to right) are Liz, Jo, Emanuel, Kate, Lachlan, Heather and Eddy.



## BOOK LAUNCH: "A threatened wonderland—The Gardens of Stone"

A packed audience in the Theatre of NSW Parliament House enjoyed an outstanding presentation of spectacular images from the picture book "A threatened wonderland - the Gardens of Stone" on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

The book launch was hosted and opened by Hon. Catherine Cusack, MLC for the Liberal Party. Following the welcome to country, Catherine told of her personal experiences with the internationally significant Gardens of Stone area conservationists are trying to protect.

"This is truly a special place," Catherine Cusack commented, echoing the sentiments that came from the Shadow Minister for Environment Luke Foley after his weekend visit with guides from the Society during 2011.

Tara Cameron, Vice President of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society spoke of the history of the campaign to protect the area, including the 40,000 hectare 'Gardens of Stone Stage 2' reserve proposal that seeks to protect the remaining land unprotected from development proposals.

"This book reveals the richness and beauty of the forested, pagoda landscape in Ben Bullen State Forest that is threatened by open cut-coal mining. A campaign to protect this same area has been ongoing for more than 25 years," Tara said.

Images were screened during the event to new music scored for piano and didgeridu, *Gardens of Stone*, by Australian composer Amanda Handel, in collaboration with Michael Jackson.

"The photos in this book show off how stunning the Ben Bullen State Forest is and consequently, what a tragedy it would be for anyone to rip it up and shred it," said Ian Brown, editor and contributing photographer.

"People could enjoy the superb forest and woodlands and masses of internationally significant and scenic pagodas for eternity if our reserve proposal got the go ahead."

The Ben Bullen State Forest is at risk from the Coalpac and Pinedale open cut coal mining applications. The state forest is the lynchpin to the Stage 2 proposal.

Troy Grant, NSW Parliamentary Secretary; Luke Foley, MLC for the ALP and Roza Sage, Member for the Blue Mountains were also in attendance.

Dedicated campaigner, Justin McKee spoke briefly and concluded the evening with this statement: "The alternative to mining is a magnificent conservation reserve that would provide sustainable and valuable benefits to public recreation and the local economy for centuries."



(Left to right) Justin McKee, Catherine Cusack MLC, Ian Brown, Tara Cameron, Karen McLaughlin, Amanda Handel, Keith Muir

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society would like to thank the generosity of wonderful photographers such as Ian Brown, Julie Favell, John Harris, Chris Jonkers, Akos Lumnitzer, Greg Oakley, Tun Pin Ong, Julian Robinson, Sonja Ross, L&M Turton and Andrew Valja, who kindly donated images for this publication.

### Bushwalking series through the Gardens of Stone

Join Yuri Bolotin on one of the series walks through the Ben Bullen State Forest. This unique and precious public forest is under serious threat from open-cut and highwall coal mining from developers.

Ben Bullen is west of the Great Dividing Range and encapsulates, in a relatively small area, everything that is exciting and interesting about bushwalking - incredible rock sculptures, tall pagodas, narrow slot canyons, magnificent caves, verdant forests and more.

Explore this amazing wonderland while you can!

Contact the leader Yuri Bolotin, [yuribolotin@yahoo.com.au](mailto:yuribolotin@yahoo.com.au), 0413 715 943 for more information.

**Walk 2 - Sep 29.** Highlights include: The Venus of Ben Bullen Rock, the Three Level Cliff Walk, Arwens Pathway, The Hall of Celebrian double cave.

**Walk 3 - Oct 20.** Highlights include: The Letter T Slot, the Four Storey Cave, the Sticky Slot, the Cascades, the Pagoda Valley

**Walk 4 - Nov 24.** Highlights include: Explore the magnificent slots and pagodas of this area.

#### BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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## Environmentalism and tobacco

by Don Morison

I became an environmentalist out of respect for all of the living things on earth, plant or animal. Some greens are accused of caring more about other living things than we do about humans. The issue is that our species is uniquely capable of protecting both itself and the other species and can therefore be expected to earn respect for itself rather than be automatically accorded it.

Hope that such a scenario might be realised is boosted by our Federal Government confronting the tobacco industry and scoring victories against it. There can be few activities more disrespectful of life than the peddling of highly addictive toxic substances. It is even more objectionable that, in many countries, the victims of this peddling are predominantly children.

The Australian Government's High Court victory for its plain packaging proposals is by no means the last episode in this very long war. But it does encourage those of us who believe that all living things, human or non-human, have the right to a healthy life.

This is a very significant moral choice about harming or avoiding harm to vulnerable living entities. Governments and the international community must take responsibility for this moral choice because individual corporations have failed in their responsibilities. I commend the Australian Prime Minister, the relevant Ministers and back-bench parliamentarians who have ensured that this reform has been taken this far, even though much more is needed.

## Late August by the lake

by Brendan Doyle

Winter, won't you linger?  
Pushy Spring's already in the mix  
with its precocious azalea and cherry-blossom.  
One measly snowfall is all you gave us  
and the odd morning mantle of frost.  
Your pastel palette of reeds and heather  
too soon's replaced by gaudy pinks and reds.  
I look into the lake's mirror  
and see no regrets.  
It's been a cold one, the locals say.  
I'm not convinced.  
Winter's also in the mind.  
Don't let these chirpy water-hens  
chase you away.  
Not yet.  
Winter, won't you linger?

## NSW Government releases Green Paper on planning reforms

The NSW Government has recently released its *Green Paper* outlining proposals for a new planning system in NSW. The Government's vision for planning in NSW presents a real threat for the environment and communities.

Developers have been quick to claim that the Green Paper delivers everything they have asked for:

*"The Urban Taskforce listed 10 key ideas for a better planning system in our submission to the planning review, and the Government's Green Paper delivers on every one of these"* (Urban Taskforce, Media Release, dated 15 July 2012).

The NSW Government is proposing:

- a shift towards public participation at the strategic planning phase, with reduced public participation at the development application assessment stage;
- expanding the types of development that can be assessed without environmental assessment and community input (to be known as 'code complying development');
- a presumption in favour of a right to develop if a proposals meet code-based requirements;
- removing the important role of the Office of Environment and Heritage, Office of Water, and Environmental Protection Agency in assessing and agreeing to development proposals.

Despite suggestions that the environment will be protected, the Green Paper gives no clear indication of what environmental matters, if any, will need to be considered in developing planning policies or assessing development applications.

Further, proposals to review and consolidate important environment protections currently in State Environmental Planning Policies and other key State environmental policies means that there is a real risk that existing environmental protections (for example, protections relating to coastal wetlands, littoral rain forests and koala habitat) will be significantly weakened.

It is important that developers do not dominate this important reform process. The Government needs to hear the strong message that NSW needs a planning system that protects the environment and our communities.

### **The Green Paper is open for public comment until 14 September 2012.**

To make a submission, or post a comment on the online forum, visit the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/a-new-planning-system-for-nsw>

Submissions do not need to be detailed or lengthy documents. A one page letter with dot points is enough to get your message across. You can [download](#) the *Submission Guide* prepared by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Total Environment Centre to assist you in preparing a submission.

**For further information** visit the NCC campaign website [www.nccnsw.org.au/campaigns/planning](http://www.nccnsw.org.au/campaigns/planning) or contact the Nature Conservation Council on (02) 9516 1488 or [policy@nccnsw.org.au](mailto:policy@nccnsw.org.au)

# Downgrading the Upgrade!

## Mt Vic-Lithgow Concept Design and Road Boundaries

Brian Marshall

The chequered history of the Mt Vic-Lithgow Great Western Highway (GWH) upgrade started in 2008. It is now 2012 and the RMS (formerly RTA) has produced its concept design for information and discussion at public meetings, and for formal comment (deadline – Friday 26 October 2012)<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately the public meetings (on August 1 and 9) will long be over by the time you read this article; a regrettable combination of bad timing (for Hut News deadlines) and a new-found urgency at RMS. But let's step back a stage.

In September 2011, the O'Farrell Government, in its 'new broom' 'can do' mode, commissioned Evans & Peck to evaluate the RTA's proposal for upgrading the Great Western Highway (GWH) between **Katoomba** (not just Mt Vic) and Lithgow. Evans & Peck sought the views of the Society (amongst many others) in terms of whether the proposal offered the 'best value for money'. **The Society's answer was that it did not!**

The Society emphasised its commitment to the best environmental outcomes in terms of: (a) investment in rail being preferable to investing in 'highways' when Australia and the World are facing 'peak oil' and human-induced climate change; (b) the Mt Vic-Lithgow upgrade being restricted to essential safety requirements such that excess funds could be transferred to rail infrastructure improvements; (c) strongly opposing any attempts to re-ignite interest in the Newnes Plateau-Darling Causeway corridor; (d) totally rejecting any moves (beyond limited safety measures) to upgrade the Bells Line of Road (BLoR) to a viable freight-route standard; (e) implacably opposing 26m B-doubles and even longer truck-combos crossing the 'sandstone curtain', irrespective of current and envisaged improvements to the GWH.

The Federal and State Governments responded to the Evans & Peck Independent Review<sup>2</sup> by allocating the committed \$250 million<sup>3</sup> to: (1) finalising the concept design and road boundaries (this being the basis for the current exercise); (2) implementing a three-lane upgrade of the GWH at Forty Bends; and (3) applying any remaining funds (improbable!) to envisaged upgrades **between Mt Victoria and Katoomba**<sup>4</sup>. This creates an anomaly in that item 1 relates to Mt Vic-Lithgow (including the Soldiers Pinch region), item 2 is a component of the concept design in item 1, whereas **item 3 was never part of the Mt Vic-Lithgow upgrade** (i.e., the subject of item 1).

The obvious implications of items 1-3 are that: the RMS **has not** abandoned its grandiose (ridiculously expensive) scheme for by-passing Mt Vic and having four lanes through to Lithgow, even though funding for such a scheme was never likely and has now vanished into the 'never-never'<sup>5</sup>; diversion of 'remaining' funds to much-needed rail improvements will never happen; and, thankfully, diversion of 'remaining' funds to BLoR improvements was rejected<sup>6</sup>.

Once the RMS, as per item 1, has considered feedback from the community in the process of refining the concept design and confirming the road boundaries, the latter will go to BMCC and LCC for inclusion in their

respective Local Environment Plans.

The Society's response to the RMS in relation to the concept design and road boundaries is presented here in general terms<sup>7</sup>. Much of what the RMS proposes is disappointing and is criticised accordingly.

First, under the 'enhanced safety works' program, there will **be ongoing work** on Victoria Pass, and soon to start work within the Mt Victoria township. **These works are essential** because the long-term improvements, which form the Mt Victoria by-pass and comprise deep cuttings, extensive viaducts and much tunnelling, are far too expensive to be implemented; they are the product of an interesting design exercise. Unfortunately, the RMS has elected to reserve the route in terms of its road boundaries. It could be argued that this is strategically sensible, but with a 2011 cost substantially exceeding \$1 billion and a benefit/cost ratio of 0.1 (E&P p4), this would not be built even if the 2030 Olympics were to be held in Lithgow. The Society therefore feels that 'government' should bite the bullet and announce that the by-pass will 'never' be built. **This would enable the potentially impacted residents of Mt Victoria to get on with their lives rather than suffering ongoing worry through the reservation of road boundaries.**

Second, although acknowledging funding limitations, the Society believes that, because the GWH is the only significant road-freight route between the Central West and the Greater Sydney region, any upgrade should aim for the safe and efficient movement of traffic. This cannot be said for the following design inadequacies which create accident risks and have potential to impede traffic flow.

- From the outskirts of Lithgow (Magpie Hollow Rd at South Bowenfels) to the start of Forty Bends (McKanes Falls Rd) the design is for two lanes (one each way) with a 'median' but no barrier, whilst from McKanes Falls Road to the top of River Lett Hill (where the four-lane configuration starts) the design is for three lanes (two in one direction and one in the other) with a 'median' and barrier. None of this is deemed acceptable. In the two-lane section, one or both lanes could easily be blocked by an overturned truck or multi-car accident; in the three-lane section a significant accident on the single lane could similarly impede traffic. In both cases the capacity to divert around the accident is limited.
- Other than in the River Lett Hill and Hartley sections<sup>8</sup>, the majority of intersections and feed-ins have safety issues. Vehicles entering or exiting the carriageway on the far side of the highway from a side-road must cross the near-side carriageway; this classically causes high-impact T-bone smashes. Conversely, vehicles entering the carriageway on the near-side of the highway have short feed-ins; this causes glancing impacts and/or emergency lane-changes

The speed limit from the bottom of Victoria Pass to the bottom of River Lett Hill on the **existing GWH** has been changed from 90 to 80 km/h as part of an RMS speed-limit review. If that speed limit is retained for the

*(continued on page 7)*

**upgraded GWH**, the above-identified risks would be lessened but not removed. Given that the Mt Victoria to Lithgow concept design involves an upgrade of a highly dangerous portion of the GWH, the objective should be to aim high with the design, rather than to aim low to meet a price. This would avoid the need for further changes such as traffic lights at major intersections, grafting on extra lanes, and extending feed-ins as accidents and delays mount. **Such a piecemeal approach compromises safety and does not give value for money!**

1 *Concept design and road boundaries, Invitation to comment*, RMS, July 2012; this is available on the RMS website at [http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western\\_region/mt\\_victoria\\_lithgow/documents/great\\_western\\_highway\\_revisedpackage\\_july2012.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western_region/mt_victoria_lithgow/documents/great_western_highway_revisedpackage_july2012.pdf)

2 E&P Report dated January 19, 2012 and available on the RTA website at [http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western\\_region/mt\\_victoria\\_lithgow/documents/gwh\\_upgrades\\_west\\_katoomba\\_independent\\_review.pdf](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/western_region/mt_victoria_lithgow/documents/gwh_upgrades_west_katoomba_independent_review.pdf)

3 Federal \$200 million and State \$50 million

4 Whether this involves the Katoomba-Medlow Bath tract, or has implications for Blackheath is unclear – the

5 E&P endorsed the view of previous reports that the traffic volumes envisaged through to 2033 do not justify such expenditure. In effect, forget about it for the next 15-20 years unless some unforeseen happening radically alters the picture.

6 This is despite E&P p3 recommending such a disbursement!

7 The full document entitled *MtVicToLithgowConceptPlan\_BMCSResponse\_120813.pdf* is available to members on request from 'Admin' <[bmcs@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au)>, or by phoning 4757 1872.

8 Suitable maps are in the RMS document (see footnote 1) – space in Hut News precludes presenting such maps at the appropriate scale.

### **BUSHCARE GROUP**

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

Phone Karen 4757 1929.

## **Horrific wildlife shooting in NSW National Park**

From a report by Bill Brown, 15 August 2012  
(<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/>)

During the recent school holidays a horrified family were confronted by a group of hunters driving into a camping ground in a south east National Park randomly shooting kangaroos. In front of the distressed family camped in the remote but popular National Park they shot a number of kangaroos and loaded some onto a vehicle before driving off, leaving dead and maimed animals behind.

One of the campers photographed one of the vehicles and contacted the NPWS office. The investigating NPWS Ranger was required to euthanase one of the maimed animals left behind by the shooters. The incident is being investigated.

The shooting occurred as the NSW Parliament was introducing a controversial Bill allowing hunting in National Parks. Since the media coverage that has followed the new Bill there have been a number of illegal shooting incidents in National Parks, leading to speculation that hunters are under the impression that it is now 'open season' in National Parks. However, while the Bill has been passed it has yet to be enacted, and when it is enacted hunters will be required to apply for a specific licence and adhere to regulations overseen by Game Council NSW.

Two people found earlier this week bogged in the South East Forests National Park are being investigated regarding: carrying a firearm in a national park; driving off formal tracks in a national park; and damaging vegetation in a National Park. There have been reports of wombats being shot in National Parks and stories of shooters targeting kangaroos and wallabies on remote properties adjoining National Parks.

The Public Service Association of NSW is compiling an audit of incidents from rangers and park staff across the state. "Reports of an alleged kangaroo shooting in a national park in the state's South East is consistent with what we're hearing from our rangers about incidents where shooters are entering our parks under the impression they are now open for hunting," said Geo Papas from the PSA. "We are concerned members of the public are jumping the gun and are creating a dangerous situation for rangers, other park users and wildlife. The State Government should come clean about whether there has been a spate of illegal shooting taking place in our national parks and what the Minister will do to stop it."

The PSA has directed its members not to assist with any activity involved with establishing recreational hunting in National Parks. PSA General Secretary, John Cahill, said "Our park rangers should not have to work in fear for their own safety ... Our members have expressed serious concerns about the danger to themselves and the community when shooting is allowed in bushland popular with walkers and picnickers."

Game Council NSW Chairman John Mumford said that the Council, which will be responsible for overseeing hunting in National Parks, has already established a successful system for hunting in State Forests. "We have proven that this system works over six years, with strict licensing and accreditation, the Written Permission system, and a State-wide field network of Game Managers," said Mr Mumford.

Greens MLC David Shoebridge says that in answers provided to the Greens in Parliament, Game Council NSW confirmed that it employs only 4.2 full time equivalent staff to police the hunting in State Forests across the state and they will now have to police National Parks as well. He claims that Game Council policing of hunting in forests and parks is clearly inadequate.

## The mystery of the Gymea lily and 'Our Lady of the Way'

By Ian Baird

A couple of years ago, heading south along the walking track along Blue Gum Swamp Creek at Winmalee with a friend I was surprised to find a mature Gymea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) growing amongst the shrubby-fern understorey below blue gums on the valley floor. The plant comprised what appeared to be two offsets with two flower spikes about to open, suggesting that it was at least a second-generation flowering. It was located on the west side of the creek and north of what is now the walking track that heads back up to the St Columba's School site on Springwood Ridge to the south-west. Immediately west of the plant, at the base of the slope, is a small grotto in the exposed sandstone rock-face, with remains of stonework.

Gymea lilies are not known to naturally occur in the Blue Mountains, suggesting that it was either the result of long distance dispersal of a plant that typically occurs naturally on sandstone closer to the coast, natural recruitment from seed dispersed from garden plants in the nearby urban area, or intentionally planted. The first option cannot be totally discounted, but seems unlikely. The second option also appears somewhat unlikely since the plant appeared to be a mature second generation offset, which would have required quite a few years to reach such an age. Although this species is now very popular in landscaping and many may be found in gardens along the nearby ridges from Winmalee to Springwood, the age of the plant suggests that its establishment probably pre-dates the more recent popularity of the species as a landscape feature in the locality. That left the last option as most likely.

Occurring so close to the track and the grotto, with its evidence of historical human activity, I was interested to find out something of the history of the grotto and whether that might shed light on the origin of the plant. I contacted local historian, John Low, but John was unable to resolve my quandary. Being close to St Columba's School I contacted Mike Purtell who has a strong interest in the area. Although he provided some interesting background, Mike did not know anything about the plant and suggested Jim Barrett and Chris Watson, members of the Catholic Bushwalking Club (CBC). Chris was a fount of information and following up on my query, he placed an article in the January-February 2012 issue of *The Waysider*, the magazine of the CBC, inquiring as to whether anybody had information on the origin of the Gymea lily, but with no response. He also sent me a copy of part of *The Catholic Bushwalker, Fifty Years* (CBC 1983, pp. 36-41), which provided much interesting material. It turned out that in addition to a grotto known as the Lourdes Grotto, which was established to the west of the former St Columba's seminary site; a second grotto was also established in what was known by students of the seminary at the time as St Joseph's Bower. This is the site adjacent to the Gymea lily.

The patron of the CBC is Mary, under the title 'Our Lady

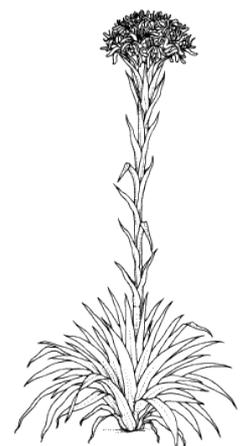


Photograph of the Gymea lily (right) adjacent to the track along Blue Gum Swamp Creek, with the abandoned grotto at rear left.

of the Way'. From its earliest days, the Club fostered the idea of a shrine to 'Our Lady'. With the intention of establishing a shrine site in the Blue Mountains, a statue of Mary modelled on the fresco Madonna Della Strada in Rome was completed in October 1951, sculpted from imported Italian marble. The grotto on Blue Gum Swamp Creek at the outer edge of the seminary property was selected and on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1952 the statue was placed in position by members of the CBC. It was officially blessed on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1953 by Monsignor Dunne. Every year from then until 1983, the Club honoured 'Our Lady' with Mass and a picnic at the site. Due to concerns about the safety of the statue, it was removed on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1983 and relocated to another property. Unfortunately, and while the story of the shrine is of much interest, the only information on any plantings is of two willows planted by members of the Club in 1967 to strengthen the bank next to a small bridge they had constructed across Blue Gum Swamp Creek to permit easier access to the shrine. The small bridge was destroyed by fire in 1968 and the willows are no longer present. I had thought that perhaps a member or members of the Club may have planted the Gymea lily to embellish the site or for some commemorative purpose, but unfortunately no further information emerged to clarify the mystery. If anybody does know the origin of the plant, please let me know ([ianbaird@mountains.net.au](mailto:ianbaird@mountains.net.au)).

Images of the shrine and statue can be found at <http://bmlocalstudies.blogspot.com.au/2011/12/catholic-bushwalkers-club-memorial.html>.

Gymea Lily Diagram (right) from Australian National Botanic Gardens <http://www.anbg.gov.au/>



## Loose Feathers, with Carol Probet

It's a sensible birdwatcher's maxim never to go anywhere without binoculars - even to the backyard to hang out the washing. If you do, you're sure to see something interesting, or rather, *almost* see something.... This week for me it was a Rose Robin passing through, giving its soft nasal "neep" contact call.

After a couple of good years of above average rainfall, this spring is shaping up to be one in which bird numbers are relatively high. In the past week more than 40 Regent Honeyeaters have been seen in the Capertee Valley, some nesting. This is the best count we've had there for a few years, no doubt helped by the good flowering of the White Box west of the mountains. Those who came along to the tree planting weekend had the chance to see some of these sensational but critically endangered birds on the very property where we were planting. A just reward for worthy effort! (For those interested, next year's planting weekends will be on 3-5 May and 16-18 August.)

There's plenty to see here in the mountains, too. Flocks of Red-browed Finches are taking advantage of the many seeding grasses. Yellow-faced Honeyeaters are travelling south on their return migration. Tiny Spotted Pardalotes are nesting in their burrows - their loud, bell-like 3-note phrases repeatedly stating the obvious "I'm sing-ing..." which explains but does not justify their unkind nickname of "headache bird".

Male fairy-wrens have now coloured up. These are the familiar "blue wrens", many people's favourite with their long upright tails and jaunty movements. Most of the males moult twice a year - changing from blue to the brown "eclipse" plumage in autumn, and back into their blue breeding finery in spring. They live in family groups consisting of a breeding male and female and a number of young helpers (not a male and his harem as is commonly supposed). But all is not as it seems, and I'll write about their lives of intrigue and infidelity in a coming issue.

Wherever conditions are good, the predators inevitably follow. How many of you have noticed Wedge-tailed Eagles over the mountains? There have been a few of these majestic raptors around recently. And early in August I saw a beautiful Grey Goshawk perched beside the highway between Blackheath and Medlow Bath. Luckily I had my binoculars with me!

"Carol Probet, [origma@westnet.com.au](mailto:origma@westnet.com.au)



Photo: Red-browed Finches. (Photographer Carol Probet)

## 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](mailto: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**  
**or pay online at [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)**

## Welcome to new members

Genine Bowen, Woodford  
Jenny Hill, Katoomba  
Melissa Bell, Hartley Vale  
M Butler, Kandos  
Luisa Riccobono, Katoomba  
Ingrid Thomas, St Marys  
John Tweedie, Willoughby  
Pamela Nash, Willoughby  
Katherine Tweedie, Willoughby  
Peter Surgeon, Mosman  
Elizabeth Surgeon, Mosman

## 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.

## 2012 Blue Mountains City Council Election

Prior to the election we asked the candidates a few questions – concerning bushcare, wildlife, sustainability, pollution and planning. We also asked each candidate to tell us of their “personal conservation values”.

You can read the responses to our questionnaire on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au).

Down the Wallaby Track: a backward glance, with John Low

## GRAFFITI ROMANCE

On a spring day in 1914, with war declared and Australia indulging an excess of patriotic fervour, offering Britain its last man and shilling, a young couple paused on their walk to Copelands Lookout and scratched on a rock face a declaration of the bond that had formed between them. It has weathered and faded but remains a simple reminder of a moment of sanity and optimism in a time of fermenting hatreds and madness.

Words and images have been written or carved on public surfaces since ancient times and while generally considered today as socially and environmentally unacceptable, can with age take on a degree of respectability and even become of interest to the historian. In the Blue Mountains there is an abundance of these ‘historical inscriptions’ along walking tracks and at popular picnic spots, some bearing simple witness to the author’s presence in the form of an initial or two, others fully named and dated. Many also, as instanced above, express a couple’s mutual commitment as well as their presence together at a particular place. Such inscribed memorials offer fascinating small windows into the lives of visitors and places that were special to them.

It was Keith Painter’s little Pocket Pal guidebook to the Prince Henry Cliff Walk that sparked my interest in the stories behind these inscriptions. In his notes on the side track to Copelands Lookout he describes a rock he named ‘Abbott Rock’ because on it was carved “TRIX. CHEERS 20.9.14 C. E. ABBOTT”. “I wonder”, wrote Keith, “if Trix and C. E. survived the war? Well, yes, they did! Just over a year later, on 13 November 1915, Clarence Edwin Abbott (b. Braidwood 1888) and Beatrice (‘Trix’) Cheers (b. London 1887) were married in St. John’s, Darlinghurst. They settled in Mosman where they lived for many years, had children and celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with a renewal of their vows in 1940. I like to imagine that occasionally they returned to their special place in the Mountains. Clarence died in 1956 and Beatrice in 1972.

By way of contrast, not far from Abbott Rock, in at least two spots on the Fern Bower track, the names F. W. PENTECOST and N. G. EYRE appear together, once in association with a group from the “S. M. HERALD OFFICE” and dated 22.2.14 and once as a pair with the date 1915. Though Frederick William Pentecost (b. Paddington 1893) and Noel Gwendolyn Eyre (b. Granville 1894) were married at Paddington in September 1916 and were together for over a decade, the story of their marriage had a less happy outcome and in 1936 Noel was granted a divorce on the grounds of desertion.

For over a century the Blue Mountains has been seen and promoted extensively as a place of romance and the graffiti of the tracks, lookouts and picnic places holds traces of this mystique. Though frowned upon now, I observed recently that some modern romantics are practicing a new, less destructive method of leaving their mark. At Leura’s Olympian Lookout there are half a dozen gold padlocks engraved with paired names and attached to the protective wire fencing.

I am keen to hear of others’ interesting graffiti observations.

**John Low** ([grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com](mailto:grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com))

JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society,  
or renew your membership online.  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

## Feeding Birds - why not? *Peter Foster. WIRES volunteer*

From time to time I hear or read comments from Mountains residents about feeding their local birds. This seems like a harmless exercise that allows you to view local birds up close. This practice is not recommended by National Parks and Wildlife Service or by WIRES. There are three valid reasons for this - dietary deficiency, local population and zoonosis.

Birds in the Blue Mountains can be categorized into four feeding guilds. They can be carnivores (meat eaters); insectivores (insect eaters); nectarivores (nectar eaters) or granivores (seed eaters). Some birds vary their diets e.g. honeyeaters which are mainly nectarivores will occasionally eat insects. Indeed, the parent birds will feed only insects to their chicks.

A healthy diet, in all animals, consists of several essential food ingredients. These are proteins (the building blocks of living matter), carbohydrates (for energy), vitamins (organic ingredients essential for various metabolic functions) and minerals (compounds of metals also essential for metabolism).

One of the essential minerals is calcium. This is not only used for building bones but is essential for blood chemistry. When a creature is low in calcium the body will take the calcium from the bones and use it for blood processes. The bones become brittle, and eventually blood and nerve functions break down. This condition is known as *hypocalcaemia*. Meat alone contains no calcium. I once had a bird handed to WIRES that had been fed over the school holidays for six weeks on minced meat. It couldn't stand, its bones were brittle (legs easily broke) and its claws were clenched tight (*tetany*). When carnivores eat lizards and mice they consume the whole body which includes the skeleton - a rich source of calcium. Likewise the exoskeleton of insects consists of a substance called chitin (pronounced ky-tin) which contains minerals such as magnesium and calcium. Whole body foods, as we call them in WIRES, are best. Minced meat is fairly useless.

Granivores eat a variety of seeds, both in species of plants and their condition. Green seeds are higher in protein than dry seeds which contain more carbohydrates. Sunflower seeds are high in fat. They are the lollies of the parrot world and like lollies should be eaten sparingly. Like children with sweets, cockatoos just love sunflower seeds.

Most Australian animals will breed in good times and have less offspring (one way or another) in lean times. This is called "feed-and-breed". By feeding wildlife we encourage breeding and local over-population. This can have devastating effects when nest-robbing and/or predatory species are fed, as this may have a heavy impact on the local prey animals.

Feeders, whether seed or nectar, are usually monopolised by aggressive species. Smaller birds are often bullied out of the way by aggressive species such as Rainbow Lorikeets. Sick birds unable to forage will often hang around feeders waiting for hand-outs. Their close contact with others of their species makes feeders a focal point of infection. Fortunately in Australia animal diseases which can be caught by humans (*zoonosis*) are rare. Avian flu virus and West Nile fever are (so far)

unknown in this country. There is, however, one disease that is not uncommon in the Blue Mountains i.e. *psittacosis*. This illness is caused by a bacterium. It causes flu-like symptoms in parrots and humans. The bacteria are spread in the bird's bodily fluids such as sneezing (yes, birds sneeze) and in its droppings. A study by the NSW Dept. of Health in the 1990s found that several Blue Mountains residents contracted psittacosis. Although WIRES members will infrequently contract it (we use face masks and gloves when handling sick parrots), the most common category of person to contract it was gardeners. People will suspend seed trays from trees, hanging over lawns. The parrots' droppings fall onto the grass. When the grass is mowed or whippersnipped the disturbance creates aerial particles which are breathed in.

If you wish to encourage birds coming into your garden, then plant indigenous native plants and provide a bird bath (which cats can't reach). Enjoy your visitors knowing that you are not causing disease or upsetting the local natural balance.

(Reprinted from Blue Mountains Bird Observers newsletter with permission of the author.)

### WHAT IS IT?



Bushwalkers sometimes come across these objects, attached to the stem of a shrub. The Thursday Interpretive Bushwalkers saw this one and several others during a walk at Muogamarra Nature Reserve at Cowan on 23 August and again on Faulconbridge Ridge on 30 August. These were very noticeable because they were new and white.

It is the egg case of a Praying Mantid. There are three Praying Mantid families in Australia—most common is the Family Mantidae which contains 80% of the Praying Mantids species found in Australia. The female lays its eggs into a foamy protein which hardens and forms a protective case, the ootheco. The ootheco is characteristic of the species and can hold 10 to 400 eggs. The nymphs hatch, 3-6 months later, looking like tiny versions of their parents.

Praying mantids, named for their typical prayer-like stance are powerful predators and eat mainly insects, useful to have in your garden. I could fill up a page with what I've found on the internet. They are fascinating creatures. Christine.

## 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](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricekerkham@hotmail.com) or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

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

- Sep 15 **Kanooka Brook and Red Hands Cave.** Delightful creek with lots of surprises. Leader: Karen 4751 9695. Meet at Glenbrook Station CP, 9am. 7 km. Grade 2/3. Penrith map.
- Sep 22 **Lawson Long Swamp then Lawson Ridge FT and side track to Urella Lookdown and return** (expect scrub on the side track—gloves). Leader: Eliz 4754 4966. Meet Lawson Station CP, north side, 8.30 am. 8 km. Grade 2/3. Katoomba map.
- Sep 29 **Pipeline Track, Wolgan Valley.** Start Newnes picnic area, walk via lower Petries Gully and up the Pipeline Track to pagoda views of Wolgan River. Return to Newnes. Leader: Meredith 4782 4823. Meet Katoomba Station car park, 8.30am. 8 km. Grade 3. Ascent 300 m. Ben Bullen/Mt Morgan maps.
- Oct 6 **Springwood Creek to the Grose River.** White Cross Road to Yarramundi, 250m ascent, 350m short descent (some rough track). Leaders Lucy and Karen 4751 9695. Meet Springwood Station car park (go past the covered carpark), 8.30 am. 11 km. Grade 3. Springwood/Kurrajong maps.
- Oct 13 **Heaven and Hell—the devil is in the detail.** Leader: Emanuel 4757 1090 after 7pm, email [emanuelanddi@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emanuelanddi@yahoo.com.au). Contact leader by phone or email for more detail.
- Oct 13 **ALTERNATE WALK. Six Foot Track from Megalong Crossing to Coxs River and return.** This historic track was opened before 1887 as a horse track from Katoomba to Jenolan. Leader: Annemarie 4759 2172. Meet Blackheath Station car park, 8am. Car pool to Megalong Crossing. 9 km. Grade 2/3. Hampton map.

### FORWARD NOTICES:

- Oct 22-25 **Barren Grounds and area.** Draft program: Mon—Minnamurra Falls; Tues—Barren Grounds; Wed—Kiama coastal walk; Thur—Jamberoo LO and Carrington Falls. Leader Lucy 4751 5347. Accommodation at Jamberoo Pub. Contact Karen 4751 9695 for details as Lucy may be away. Grades 2 and 3. Kangaroo Valley and sketch maps.
- 14 -20 Jan, 2013. Cooma Ski Club Lodge in Perisher Valley.** Space is limited so book early. Leader: **Warwick 4757 1354, [rwmosman@bigpond.com](mailto:rwmosman@bigpond.com)**. More details are available at <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/snowy.pdf> Copy and paste into your web browser, or click as a link if reading the online copy. For members without web access contact the leader for a hard copy.

### Have YOU thought about leading a walk?

Is there a walk you would like to see on the program, then we can help. **BMCS needs your help!** We need all types of walks from easy to medium. Or do you know someone else who might be interested in leading a walk? There is help available for new leaders to plan and check out a walk. We need introductory walks and this is a great way for new leaders to start leading. Contact Jim Percy 4758 6009,

**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 Maurice Kerkham, 4739 4942, [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricekerkham@hotmail.com)

- Sep 17-19 **KIAMA.** Several walks in the area. Further details to be advised. Leader Judith 4758 6310. Grade 2.
- Sep 24 **Blue Mountain and Long Swamp. Option: Amphitheatre Falls.** Meet Hazelbrook Rail Station 9.15 am. Leader: Kate 4759 1943. Grade 2
- Oct 1 **Federal Pass.** Exit via Scenic Railway or Furber Steps. Meet Solitary Restaurant, Cliff Drive, Katoomba, at 9.30. Car shuffle. Leader: Eddie 4784 2691. Grade 3.
- Oct 8 **Castle Head.** Magnificent views to Mount Solitary and beyond. Meet Katoomba Rail Station 9.30 am. Car pool. Fare \$5. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 2.
- Oct 15 **Parramatta to Ermington.** Walk along Parramatta River, approx. 8 km. Meet Parramatta Rail Station (Westmead end) 9.30 am. Contact Judith 4758 6310. Grade 2.

**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 Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076, [roybev12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:roybev12@bigpond.net.au)

- Sep 13 **Nepean River walk, Emu Plains.** Easy walk around the river. Lunch at O'Donohue's Pub. Meet Emu Plains Station, south side, 9.45am. Leader Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 1.
- Sep 20 **Moya Point, Leura.** Bush track to lookout. Car pool. Take lunch. Meet Cnr Leura Mall and Megalong Street, Leura, 9.30 am. Leader: Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 2.
- Sep 27 **Glenbrook Lagoon and Mount Sion, Glenbrook.** Local history walk. Meet Glenbrook commuter car park 9.30 am. Leader: Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.
- Oct 4 **Sir Henry Parkes history walk, Faulconbridge.** Explore area associated with Sir Henry. Meet Faulconbridge Station, south side, at 10 am. Leader: Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.
- Oct 11 **Evans Crown.** Climb up to granite summit with spectacular views. Lunch at Tarana pub or take your own. Car pool \$5. Meet Mount Victoria Station at 9.45 am. Leader: Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 2.

### The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

\$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage. Buy the map online ([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)), write to BMCS, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 with your cheque or money order, or ask for a copy at our monthly meeting.

The Greater Blue Mountains  
World Heritage Experience  
[www.worldheritage.org.au](http://www.worldheritage.org.au)