



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

300

300TH EDITION OF SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER, FEATURING A FEW OF THE SOCIETY AND BLUE MOUNTAINS MILESTONES REACHED DURING THE 300 ISSUES.

TAKE A ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY

Our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 27th March, when members will elect a Management Committee for the year to 31 March 2014. At the AGM, all management committee positions will fall vacant. The Publicity and Bushcare positions are presently unfilled, and some members of the present committee will not be standing again. Or you might like to come on the committee as a project officer with a specific project in mind or are willing to take on a project. You can volunteer as much or as little of your time as you are able.

Serving on the Management Committee can be immensely rewarding. No prior experience is needed, just a commitment to serve the environment and a determination to "make a difference".

Our Society has been working for the Blue Mountains environment for 52 years and is the largest regional environmental group in NSW. It enjoys respect from the community and from the agencies with which it deals.

With this newsletter are details of all Management Committee positions. You can obtain more information from the President or other members of this year's committee (contact details are on page 2) and you can come along as an observer to a management committee meeting on Saturday 23 February at Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson, or 23 March at Lawson Library, 9.15 am to 12 noon.

Wanted: a new President for the Society

Lachlan Garland has been fulfilling the positions of both President and Membership Secretary. He intends to continue as Membership Secretary if re-elected. However after two years serving as President he has decided to give somebody else the opportunity of taking on this important role and will not stand for the position.

The role taken on by the President can be flexible. It is a leadership role, and the ability to delegate is important. It is not necessary for the president to have hands on involvement with subcommittees, but the opportunity is there if the incumbent has time available.

Please phone Lachlan on 0415 317 078 to discuss.

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GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS LISTED AS WORLD HERITAGE DUE TO EUCALYPT BIODIVERSITY—OTHER POINTS OF QUALIFICATION ARE ADDED LATER.

MONTHLY MEETING

7.30 pm, Thursday, 28 February, 2013

at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls

"Glamping and other unearthly delights"

Guest speaker: Peter Prineas

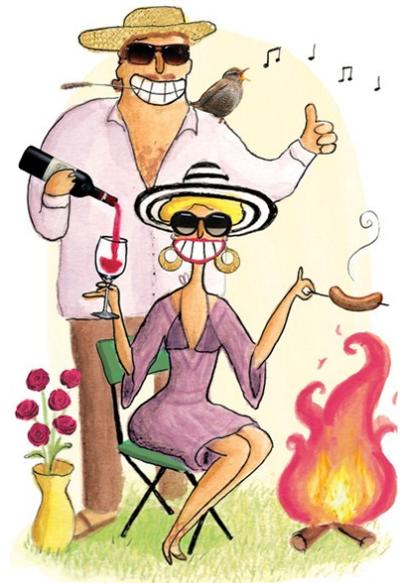
Peter defines "glamping" (glamour camping) as "getting people to pay a lot of money to spend a night in a tent in a national park". In his presentation he will look at the history and current developments of tourism in our national parks.

Moves to encourage tourism developments in parks are, he says, are a sign of depressed government finances, the devaluing of national park principles, and a more extreme political climate. The threat to parks from inappropriate or excessive tourist development should be as much a concern as letting shooters into parks.

Peter has contributed to environmental conservation in Australia for many years as an activist, writer and lawyer, beginning with the campaigns to save Lake Pedder in Tasmania and the native forest of the Boyd Plateau in NSW. Later he helped to secure the passage of the NSW Wilderness Act. He was the first Director of the National Parks Association of NSW and later chaired the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. In the 1990s he was the Convenor of a coalition of environment groups in the first Sydney Water Project. His contribution to Government bodies includes the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Licence Regulator for urban water utilities and the Board of the NSW Environment Protection Authority. In 2012 he was awarded an OAM for his services to conservation and the environment.

Visitors are very welcome.

Wanted: Volunteers to hand out "No Hunting in National Parks" flyers at various tourist locations in the Blue Mountains. Contact Tara 0419 824 974 for more information.



"Hut News", the newsletter of
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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS
20 FEBRUARY 2013**

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CONSOC NURSERY VOLUNTEERS BEGIN PROPAGATING NATIVE
PLANTS IN NATIONAL PARKS COMPOUND, BLACKHEATH.

Nursery News

We finished 2012 on a high note with a profit of \$582 from the Lawson Magpie Markets. Combined with \$507 from the December Blackheath Community Markets and \$419 from general sales until we closed for the holiday break, December proved a very financially successful month.

Wednesday and Saturday mornings sales have now resumed and the markets will begin again in February. We have a good variety of plants in tubes or as advanced specimens in larger pots just waiting for you.

In particular, we are offering two advanced *Dianella* species (from the Greek: *Diana*, goddess of the hunt and *ella*, small but the relevance of this to the genus eludes me). The common name for the genus of "Flax Lily" describes the nature of these strappy, herbaceous plants which lend a natural look to a garden, especially when they grow into clumps which can be divided and planted elsewhere. Alternatively, they can be grown from seed which is the method used by us. We have a new species *Dianella tasmanica* (Tasman Flax Lily) as well as our usual *Dianella caerulea* (Paroo Lily). Both plants bear lovely blue petalled flowers with yellow stamens followed by spectacular blue-purple berries which attract birds. *Dianella tasmanica* was first collected, not surprisingly, in Tasmania in 1839 by Ronald Gunn, a surname well associated with Tasmania. Its range extends into Victoria, along the coast of NSW and into the ranges. The fruits have been described as having a taste like grapes and can be used as a dye. *D. caerulea* has smaller leaves and is much more widespread. Both prefer a semi-shaded situation but will tolerate full sun and are ideal for planting in bare spaces under trees. At just \$4 for advanced plants in 125mm pots, how can you resist?

In this special 300th issue of *Hut News* it is relevant to consider the role the nursery has played in the development and work of the Society. Tens of thousands of dollars have been poured into the Society's coffers, chiefly through contracts with the RTA (now the RMS), Blue Mountains City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney Water and others, which has enabled the Society to fund important projects and campaigns described elsewhere in this issue. Perhaps, just as importantly, the nursery has provided Blue Mountains residents with a quality, cheap, reliable source of local plants for their gardens, enhancing not only the environment but also the profile of the Society. Throughout this year we will endeavour to continue this tradition by offering a big range (see the Society web-site for the species list) of local species at the same bargain prices prepared by our dedicated band of volunteers. Come and join us, if not to work, at least to buy!

Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager, 4787 6436, kevinbell@eftel.net.au



Photo: *Dianella tasmanica*
www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2009/dianella-tasmanica.html

JOIN Blue Mountains
Conservation Society,
or renew your membership
online.
www.bluemountains.org.au

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NIGEL BELL IS ARCHITECT OF THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE
CONSERVATION HUT AT WENTWORTH FALLS. IT OPENS
WITH REINIS ZUSTERS ARTWORKS PROMINENTLY
FEATURED.

Printed on Australian-made 100% Recycled Paper

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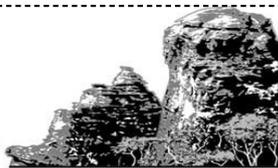
CONSOC APPOINTS A LIAISON PERSON BETWEEN
THE SOCIETY AND THE RURAL FIRE SERVICE.

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Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



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A LANDFORM SOUTH OF LEURA IS NAMED ‘BOWDEN RIDGE’ AFTER PIONEERING CONSERVATIONIST ISOBEL BOWDEN.

Coalpac open cut mine rejected at the first stage of the approval process

Our long running campaign, to stop an open cut coal mine destroying over 900 hectares of Ben Bullen State forest, has had a great boost with the first Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) recommending that the **mine proposal be rejected** (21 December 2012). This is good news. But it is too early to celebrate. The Department of Planning will now comment—then a second Planning Assessment Commission panel will make the final recommendation. Read “A Coalpac reality check!”.

The PAC ‘s executive summary stated that:

- the benefits of the project are substantially outweighed by the breadth and potential magnitude of the impacts
- NSW Health provided the Commission with unequivocal advice that the predicted significant increases in PM10 (dust) levels from the project will lead to **increased morbidity and mortality in the Cullen Bullen community**
- The project cannot meet NSW air quality criteria at all residences and is close to the limit at many others.
- The **pagodas** are considered to be **internationally significant geological features some 250 million years old and worthy of total protection**. No mining induced damage should be permitted to these features
- The project area contains numerous species listed under the State and Commonwealth threatened species legislation and potential exists for many others to be present.
- However, the **real value** of the area from a biodiversity perspective is that it contains a wide diversity of vegetation associations and a **very high species richness**.

We call on the Government to protect Ben Bullen State Forest and the Gardens of Stone now.

The Society is leading other conservation groups in the call for the Minister for Environment to take the necessary steps to declare the Ben Bullen State Forest a State Conservation Area. The forest remains vulnerable to other proposals while this is left undone. **We cannot risk the Coalpac mine being approved at a later stage nor the area being destroyed by other open cut mine proposals.**

PLEASE SIGN A LETTER

This edition of Hut News contains a letter calling on the NSW Government to protect the Ben Bullen State Forest in the Gardens of Stone. Please sign the letter and return it to the office at PO Box 29 Wentworth Falls 2782. We will deliver your letters to the politicians listed.

We need as many letters as possible!

A Coalpac reality check! Brian Marshall

Stage 1 of a complex process introduced by government has, from the Society’s viewpoint, been a resounding success.

The Planning Assessment Commission report (here termed PAC1) has categorically rejected Coalpac’s Environmental Assessment (EA) on both environmental and social grounds. PAC1 stated: “...when the merits of the project are considered as a whole, the benefits of the project are substantially outweighed by the breadth and potential magnitude of the impacts. The Commission therefore recommends that the project should not be approved.”¹ In effect it concluded that the economic gain is not worth the inflicted environmental and social pain!

PAC1 was nevertheless required under its terms of reference (ToR) to recommend appropriate measures to avoid, minimise and/or offset the adverse impacts. This it has done, but in recognition of the cumulative result of discrete impacts, the PAC1 emphasises that the recommendations “...were prepared as each individual issue was considered and before the Commission determined its position on the merits of the project as a whole...”² In other words, although some of the discrete impacts can be reduced in various ways, the cumulative effect was deemed over-riding and unacceptable. Reductionism is thereby rejected in recognizing that the cumulative outcome greatly outweighs the sum of its parts.

Despite this comprehensive rejection of the Coalpac Consolidation Project (CCP), PAC1 noted that: “...this review is only one step in the assessment and determination process for this project”,³ so what are the additional stages?

Under **stage 2**, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) will review Coalpac’s EA in the context of the PAC1 report and **any responses to PAC1** submitted by organizations such as BMCS and Coalpac. Coalpac can dispute and aim to discredit the PAC1 report in terms of its detail and its principal findings, apply pressure through compliant sections of the talk-back media, identify modifications to its proposal, and withdraw the proposal entirely⁴. For its part, BMCS will express support for various findings and recommendations in the PAC1 report and, where feasible, provide supplementary information; this is currently happening

When DoPI receives Coalpac’s response to PAC1, the document will be immediately placed on the DoPI website. BMCS and other organizations will then have a short period (say 5 working days) to comment. DoPI is expediting this part of the process, which could be finished by mid-February, in order to finalise the formal Director-General’s report. (continued on page 7)

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HUT NEWS BEGINS HIGHLIGHTING QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS BY CANDIDATES FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS COUNCIL.

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CONSOC BUSHWALKERS VISIT SIGNIFICANT ABORIGINAL SITE AT YARRAMUNDI.

3000+ signature CSG petition presented to Roza Sage!

A very big thank you to the thousands of people who signed the CSG Petition to Blue Mountains Local Member Roza Sage. A very big thank you also to the many people who put in a good deal of their own time to collect these 3000+ signatures. Well done!

It is worth noting that almost without exception everyone shown the petition was extremely keen to sign up. The Blue Mountains community clearly does not want CSG exploration or production coming to any street, town, national park, or water catchment of this great natural area.

The petition was presented to Mrs Sage on Monday 3rd December 2012. At the time of petition handover, Mrs Sage was not prepared to make any comment on it for the record.

However, after a request from the Blue Mountains Gazette to clarify her position, Mrs Sage said she would "never support any CSG exploration or extraction here in the Blue Mountains due to its unique status as a World Heritage National Park" (BM Gazette 12/12/2012).

This is a small, but very welcome, first step from our local member. But, it is important to recognise that saying you will "never support" something is very different indeed to saying that you will "actively oppose" it; and it is action on CSG that we need from our local member.

We sincerely hope Mrs Sage now converts her words into action, and takes decisive steps to protect not only our Blue Mountains electorate but also the encompassing Greater Blue Mountains area.

Just prior to Christmas, the Society also presented a copy of the petition to Mr Stuart Ayres, Member for Penrith, as his electorate covers some of the lower Blue Mountains. In response Mr Ayres has agreed to provide the Society with a statement of his position on CSG. His office has indicated that we will receive this statement in the week beginning 28th January.

Over the coming months the Conservation Society will keep you informed of Mrs Sage's and Mr Ayres' actions (or lack there of) in relation to CSG and the Blue Mountains. For updates, please check the CSG Box on the Society's website homepage: <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/>

Craig Linn, BMCS Project Officer (Food and Environment)

The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

\$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage. Buy the map online (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.



Left to Right: Jan O'Leary from Stop CSG Blue Mountains, Lachlan Garland President Blue Mountains Conservation Society, and Dr Brian Marshall retired Professor of Geology and the Society's National Parks and World Heritage Officer. Note: Mrs Sage was invited to be part of the photograph but declined the offer.



As an aside, and for those interested in physical measurements, the presented petition weighed in at 1.8 kilograms and was 5.6 centimetres thick!

You can see a copy of the petition and its wording at: http://www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/campaigns/csg_petition_to_roza_sage_24oct12.pdf

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CONSOC MEMBERS LABOUR FOR YEARS TO GUIDE COUNCIL IN ESTABLISHING LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLANS (LEPS) THAT MEET BLUE MOUNTAINS' SPECIAL NEEDS (SADLY NOW UNDER THREAT).

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

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SATISFACTORY (SO FAR) RESOLUTION TO CONSOC COURT ACTION TO STOP ELECTRICITY GENERATOR FROM POLLUTING COX'S RIVER.

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“National parks are areas of land protected for their unspoiled landscapes, outstanding or representative ecosystems, native plant and animal species and places of natural or cultural significance.”

“In addition to their role in conservation, national parks provide opportunities for public appreciation and enjoyment, sustainable visitor use and scientific research.”

*http://
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/
nationalparks/parktypes.aspx?
type=nationalpark*

Safety concerns for NSW National Parks

Volunteer hunting programs begin in March 2013 in up to 79 NSW national parks and reserves. The NSW Game Council has negotiated that hunting areas will not be closed off to the public despite risks to other park users.

NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker said that: “Safety will be paramount ... Participants will operate under strict conditions set by the NPWS and administered jointly by NPWS and the NSW Game Council” (21 December 2012). No funding is forthcoming for NPWS to administer this scheme.

A Department of Environment document (10 December 2012), leaked to the NSW Opposition, shows serious safety concerns. It identifies a high risk of bullets or arrows causing death or serious injury to park users, warns of reduced visitor numbers and environmental damage. A summary of the Office of Environment and Heritage’s risk assessment can be viewed at <http://nohunting.wildwalks.com/node/157>

There were three incidents of park users being shot and killed as a result of being mistaken for deer in New Zealand during 2012. In Italy 13 people were killed in hunting accidents and 33 wounded in the first six weeks of the 2012 shooting season.

The National Parks Association warns that people should steer clear of national parks and reserves where amateur hunting will be allowed.

Help call on the NSW Government to abandon hunting in national parks. Phone the Premier (02 9228 5239) and leave a simple message: “I ask that you withdraw your support for recreational hunting in national parks.” Contact your local MP and call for an end to recreational hunting in national parks. To write a letter to your local MP, fill in NPA’s new petition on this issue at www.nohunting.com.au

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CONSOC BUYS AND DONATES TO NATIONAL PARKS AN INHOLDING (FORMER PASTORAL LAND) ON THE BOYD PLATEAU NEAR OBERON.

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PASSING OF CONSERVATION’S AMAZING ALCORN BROTHERS (GRAHAM AND WILSON) – WHAT WELL-SPENT LIVES!

Milestones during 300 issues of the Society’s newsletter

In compiling these milestones, I relied on my own limited perspective, having been heavily involved with BMCS since 1996. Modern-day Hut News is always filled with excellent articles about the new challenges facing conservationists in the Blue Mountains. The editor would also welcome any brief historical retrospectives from members about the Society’s long-standing role as a participant in the Blue Mountains community and the New South Wales conservation movement.

Don Morison.

In this newsletter are two important inserts:

- Notice of Annual General Meeting and details of proposed changes to our constitution. The reverse side lists Management Committee duties and responsibilities.
- Letter calling on the NSW Government to protect the Ben Bullen State Forest in the Gardens of Stone (see page 3).

Funding cuts to the EDO Peter Green

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) has provided varied and valuable legal office to those in NSW who can't afford to fight corporations and government. In a case relevant to the Blue Mountains the EDO assisted the Blue Mountains Conservation Society with successful legal action against Delta Electricity over Delta's pollution of the Coxs River. The EDO has been successful elsewhere in NSW protecting the people and the environmental health of the state, typically where corporate greed rides roughshod over basic rights and quality of life.

Delta fought tooth and nail, but they had a case to answer. The Conservation Society was only protected by a limited costs order from the Land and Environment Court, and Delta fought that as well.

The mining industry, had it a conscience, would have taken these rejections of their actions with good grace. But to expect such a response would be delusional. Apparently, according to documents just released under freedom of information laws, the NSW Minerals Council and the Australian Coal Association lobbied the Premier to cancel the EDO's \$2.5 million annual public subsidy. It seems that protecting Sydney's drinking water catchment is an unsavoury 'activist' action.

Yet, absurdly, you can be fined tens of thousands of dollars for just bushwalking across parts of the water catchments.

And just what is this 'environment'? Simply, it's the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the soil in which that food is grown, and the web of life on which we depend. Nothing of concern to a mining company or this abominable government. (This letter was published in Blue Mountains Gazette, 23/1/2013)

State of the Environment Report

NSW State of the Environment 2012 report (SoE 2012) was released by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on 24 January 2013. This is the eight such report for NSW.

An electronic version of SoE 2012 is available on the EPA website at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2012 and hard copies may be obtained by phoning the Environment Line on 131 555 or ordering online at www.shop.nsw.gov.au

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).

Blackheath Community Market, 1st Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm.

Magpie Market, 3rd 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

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STATE GOVERNMENT SIGNS CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF NATIVE PLANTS FOR MAJOR ROADWORK LANDSCAPING—WELL DONE, NURSERY VOLUNTEERS!

Great News for Fitzgeralds Creek!

Fitzgeralds Creek runs from Springwood, through Sun Valley and down in to the Nepean River. It is a home to platypus and has been recognized to have a high diversity of macro invertebrates by Council Water Staff. Despite this, back in late 2009, members of the Society learnt that Sydney Water planned to discharge untreated storm water and sewerage down this waterway. Members of the Society got involved, contacted locals in the Long Angle Gulley Bushcare Group and local member Phil Koperberg. A moratorium was placed on the plans.



Eventually, a more extensive community consultation process occurred about ways to handle the discharge and three options were proposed. The Society favoured 'Option 3' which involved discharge down a short unnamed creek at Winmalee which already receives such overflows. This option also had the least impact on residents and was favoured by the community generally (as determined through the consultation process) but was the most expensive.

Happily, it was announced in late November 2012, that a 'modified Option 3' had been selected. In other words, no overflow will be directed down Fitzgeralds Creek! The cost of the modified option had been reduced to be similar to those of the other, less acceptable options (approximately 11 million dollars).

Another beneficial outcome of the consultation process is the continuation of the Fitzgerald's Catchment Group, with the objective of coordinating and supporting bush care projects within the catchment. The CMA is attending the next meeting in early February and the Group is looking at identifying possible projects and applying for grant funding.

The protection of Fitzgeralds Creek would not have been possible without the volunteering efforts of Bob Cantwell, Mike Purtell, Hugh Paterson and other members of the Landuse Subcommittee. Bob Cantwell, who represented the Society throughout the extensive process, publicly complimented SewerFix (the company conducting the option process) on the innovative engineering solutions being put forward. Tara Cameron.

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LINK TO UNDERSTANDING THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE AND COMMUNITY OF THE MOUNTAINS IS LOST WITH THE PASSING OF ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, AUNTIE DAWN COLLESS AND AUNTIE JOAN COOPER.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Follow us on Twitter: [bmcsnsw](https://twitter.com/bmcsnsw)

In the Blue Mountains we are fortunate to live with a bevy of migratory bird species – Cicadabirds, Eastern Koels and Olive-backed Orioles to name a few. The migratory species make annual movements between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. These movements are regular and each species tends to arrive in the Blue Mountains at about the same time each year, but not all species together. Of the spring-summer migrants, early arrivers, such as the Channel-billed Cuckoo, herald the spring. Late arrivers, such as the White-throated Needletail, may not come until summer.

Many studies in the northern hemisphere have reported changes in the timing of migration of birds in recent decades. In particular, these studies have found a trend towards earlier arrival of migrants at their northern hemisphere breeding grounds in spring. This change has been linked to recent climate change, especially global warming. To date, few studies have looked at changes in the timing of migration in Australia.

We have now lived in Blaxland for over 30 years. In that time we have recorded the arrival and departure dates of migratory birds about our home. We have recently analysed our 30+ years of data. We found that, as in the northern hemisphere, migratory birds are now tending to arrive earlier each year at Blaxland than in the 1980s. The 16 species whose arrival dates were analysed have been arriving, on average, 4.4 days earlier per decade. We found that the trend towards earlier arrival at Blaxland was associated with periods of higher temperatures along the migration route.

Our study provides evidence that migratory birds in the southern hemisphere are responding to climate change in a similar way to birds in the northern hemisphere, with



Scarlet Honeyeater, a migratory bird that now arrives about two months earlier at Blaxland than it did 30 years ago. Photo by Peter Smith.

a number of Australian migratory bird species already altering the timing of their migrations.

Long-term effects of climate change may involve not only timing but also the geographical pattern of migration. It is imperative that we work now to conserve potential habitats and habitat linkages for migratory birds over a broad geographical spectrum to give these birds the best chance to adapt and survive in the future.

A full account of our study titled *Climate change and bird migration in south-eastern Australia* has been published in the bird journal *Emu* (*Emu* Vol. 112, No. 4, pp. 333-342, 2012). If you would like an electronic copy of this paper please contact Peter and Judy at smitheco@ozemail.com.au

A Coalpac reality check! (continued from page 3)

Once DoPI places the Director-General's report on the Planning website, there will be a period within which BMCS and others will have an opportunity to comment. **Stage 2** is finished after consideration of such comments.

Stage 3 involves submitting the Director-General's report and the PAC1 report to different members of the Planning Assessment Commission (here termed PAC2) for determination under delegation from Minister Hazzard. The PAC2 will make a determination using guidelines applicable to the Minister under the old Part 3A system. There would seem to be a substantial discretionary component in relation to social, environmental and economic considerations. There is no provision to appeal the decision⁵.

It is hard to believe that PAC2 will disregard the PAC1 findings, but **stage 2** is awash with uncertainty and **stage 3** is subject to what is deemed the State's best interests!

Brian Marshall

¹ *Coalpac Consolidation Project review: Main Report, Executive Summary, pi* – for additional information go to <http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/Projects/tabid/77/ctl/viewreview/mid/462/pac/238/view/readonly/myctl/rev/Default.aspx> and click on PAC Review Main Report.pdf

² *Coalpac Consolidation Project review: Main Report, Section 9.5 p157.*

³ *Coalpac Consolidation Project review: Main Report, Executive Summary, piv.*

⁴ *It may also opt to take legal action.*

⁵ See <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/act+203+1979+FIRST+0+N/Section+23F>.

Book Review

Australian Backyard Naturalist. Peter Macinnis. Published by National Library of Australia, May 2012. RRP \$29.95.

After hearing Peter Macinnis in a recent Radio National interview I purchased this book for my granddaughter Lillian's birthday. The target audience is "For juveniles" and it would appeal to anybody of any age with a love of nature. It is full of interesting nature facts, with wonderful images from the National Library's collections. Christine

"In *Australian Backyard Naturalist*, Peter Macinnis enthusiastically explores the animals that inhabit the places in which we live, from the furry to the slimy, the large to the tiny. He keeps readers entertained with stories about his own adventures with Australia's creepy crawlies and other creatures, as well as collectors' and naturalists' stories from the times of first European settlement to recent times." <http://bookshop.nla.gov.au/book/australian-backyard-naturalist.do>

300 HUT NEWS PUBLICISES CAMPAIGN TO SAVE REMNANT CUMBERLAND PLAINS WOODLAND.

A new 'dark age' is imminent! ¹ Brian Marshall

The economy and even the quality-of-life in material terms are better than in most OECD countries², so why do I believe a 'dark age' is either coming or here? Well, with due deference to the diversity of political persuasions in the Society's membership and acknowledging my natural attraction to hyperbole, I believe that Australia has reached an 'emotional tipping point'. The expression of this tipping point will be seen (and is already apparent) in decisions and voting intentions which will have severe environmental consequences.

I suspect that many will disagree with what I am presenting, not least because aspects might conflict with their personal experiences, but also because the views are inevitably couched in generalizations. I console myself with a quotation attributed to Mark Twain: "*Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect*".

Firstly, the mental state of the people: most are disenchanted with governments and oppositions, both of which have electoral-cycle mentalities, while the media fill us with a diet of inane sound-bites, car accidents, catastrophic events and mindless violence. The media also provide just sufficient financial data to make listeners believe that daily price-movements should be a concern, the 'market' is rational, and the health of the economy is paramount. People on average are spending more hours (including unpaid hours) at work and more time on traveling to and from work, in order to put children through private schools, have the latest electronic-communication systems, eat take-away food several times a week, and spend more on goods in response to the insatiable demands for growth from the retail sector. There seems little doubt that large sections of the community are experiencing stress, feel too busy to think ahead and, particularly with the connected generations, are obsessed with their images on social media. As shown in a recent survey, year 12 students are far more concerned with getting employment, gaining their preferred choices at university, and interpersonal relationships, than with environmental issues.

Secondly, political mayhem and the environment: the last three federal governments have failed to extract sufficient return for all Australians from the resources boom. The Coalition in government squandered revenue on politically targeted hand-outs and tax concessions, while the present Labor government and

its predecessor were rolled by the mining industry such that the mining tax is yielding a too little-too late outcome. The Labor government has to its credit introduced a carbon-pricing system, but Australia, because the carbon emissions from coal are attributed to the country in which the coal is used, is effectively exporting its emissions – seemingly out of sight means out of mind! Yet to pander to big business and exploit the talk-back radio fraternity, the Coalition (should it win government) will remove both the 'carbon tax' and the mining tax – this generous gift to overseas shareholders comes at the expense of Australia's natural-resources heritage. The Coalition state government has broken pre-election promises and made decisions detrimental to the environment³; it has given us hunting in national parks, horse-riding trials in wilderness, planning concessions for billionaires, and a Strategic Regional Land-use Policy which facilitates coal mining and CSG extraction (including fracking) in important agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands. Yet any comfort from the Labor opposition is overshadowed by the current ICAC investigations, and the value of any support for the environment from the Greens is hobbled by the government's deals with the Shooters and Fishers Party.

Is there an answer in sight? Regrettably not, particularly in respect of the bigger environmental issues linked to climate change. Neither the government nor any electable opposition is attempting to confront the population growth to which economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions are linked. Governments stagger along responding, at best, to short-term economic factors, because that is what they and the majority of self-centred voters have been trained to respond to by the media. The belief that we should leave the world in a better state than when we entered it has been consumed on the altar of instant gratification. How can we have so much yet fail to understand that the imminent 'dark age' will hasten our own downfall? What an ironic paradox if so-called Homo sapiens were to destroy its own environment.

Brian Marshall

¹ A period in the 'old world' from the 5th century to the end of the 10th century marked by frequent warfare and cultural desecration.

² Visit <http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/australia> and make some comparisons.

³ Peter W Green, *Nightmare on Gum Street – The O'Farrell Legacy*, 20120907, available from <peter@pwgreen.id.au>

300

WYN JONES HELPS IDENTIFY AS A NEW SPECIES A PLANT FOUND BY DAVID NOBLE IN THE NORTHERN BLUE MOUNTAINS (THIS WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS *WOLLEMIA NOBILIS*—WOLLEMI PINE).

300

FATHER EUGENE STOCKTON DELIVERS A SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATION ON THE ABORIGINAL PRE-HISTORY OF THE MOUNTAINS, "BLUE MOUNTAINS DREAMING".

Loose Feathers, with Carol Probet

There I was, tapping away on my computer keyboard when a sharper "tap tap tap" distracted me. I looked up to see a very agitated White-browed Scrubwren clinging to the windowsill, tapping with its bill on the glass. White-browed Scrubwrens are identifiable by having a white stripe above and another below the eye.



This White-browed Scrub Wren was photographed by Carol on the National Pass track.

Some people think this gives them an "angry" look, especially when looking straight on! It would have been tempting to think that this little bird was trying to get my attention, perhaps hoping for a morsel of food... except that I don't feed the birds. And when I stood up to get a closer look, it flew away.

Going outside and having a look at the same window, it became obvious that the glass was acting as a mirror, and the bird was attacking its own reflection.

This behaviour occurs in many species and is surprisingly common, especially in spring when birds are at their most territorial. A bird's territory is vital for its survival. It's the area where the bird (or pair, or family group) forage, nest and sleep. By defending the territory against others of its own species, the bird's family has sole access to the food and nesting sites within that patch. Intruders are usually kept out by singing. That's right, solving their disputes by singing! The male's song acts as a "Keep Out, Private Property" sign to others of its species, often with aggressive posturing. Only if that fails will the birds resort to physical combat.

So it's no wonder that such a rude and persistent intruder - the reflection in the window who just won't go away - elicits such frenzied attacks.

Species with brightly coloured males seem particularly vulnerable to the lure of the mirror-intruder. Bright blue fairy-wrens and red-breasted robins are amongst those which can almost wear themselves out by this behaviour. Sometimes it can continue for weeks on end. In recent summers I've noticed a Flame Robin at the Govetts Leap carpark moving from car to car, fighting each of the birds it saw in every side mirror and window. The poor bird must have been exhausted!

Solving the problem is a difficult dilemma. Short of externally covering up all the windows and mirrors, there's little we can do to help. Hawk shapes and dangling ornaments have little effect because they don't remove the reflection. Turning a small light on just inside the window, or smearing something dull on the outside of the window might be the only ways to remove the reflection and solve the problem.

I'm now on Twitter, so if you enjoy Loose Feathers, you might also find my Twitter page interesting. I tweet only about nature, on average a couple of times a day. You'll find me at twitter.com/carolprobet

Carol Probet, origma@westnet.com.au

300 NURSERY VOLUNTEERS BEGIN PROPAGATING NATIVE PLANTS AT LAWSON ON LAND GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY THE COSTER FAMILY.

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Membership Application Form

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

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2.
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Address:
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MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student)\$20
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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
or pay online at www.bluemountains.org.au

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CONSERVATIONISTS ARRESTED BEFORE CONSOC COURT ACTION HALTS SHOOTING OF THE MOVIE 'STEALTH' ON HIGHLY SENSITIVE LAND AT MOUNT HAY. AFTER BEING SHOT ELSEWHERE, 'STEALTH' IS FINALLY COMPREHENSIVELY SHOT DOWN AT THE CINEMA BOX OFFICE.

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.

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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.

Welcome to new members

John Lambert, Faulconbridge
Yuri Bolotin, Bilpin
Geoffrey Mg, Church Point
Christopher Brogan and family, Panania
Denis Bainbridge, Glenbrook
Trudy Brogan, Frenchs Forest
Elizabeth Warnock, Katoomba
Ian Collins, Glenbrook
Glenda Layland, Winmalee
Gordon Watson, Hazelbrook
Trish Doyle, Lawson
Patrick Doyle, Lawson
Tom Doyle, Lawson

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

THE VAGABOND EXPLORER

John Wilson was called “a wild idle young man”, a vagabond who, rather than “earning the wages of honest toil”, preferred mixing with “the wood natives” and living off the land. He was a First Fleeter who took to the bush when his seven year sentence for theft expired in the early 1790s and found freedom and perhaps healing in a wandering lifestyle poised between two worlds. Given the name ‘Bun-bo-e’ by the Aborigines, he “formed an intermediate language between his own and theirs”, underwent ritual scarification and amassed a vast store of bush skills and knowledge of the surrounding country.

Wilson played both sides of the culture divide like a true ‘double agent’, on the one hand warning the European settlers of imminent Aboriginal reprisals, on the other being strongly suspected of personally advising and assisting in such raids. By instructing the Aborigines in the opportunities that lay in the ‘dead’ time between discharging and reloading, he diminished their fear of the musket. During an expedition to Port Stephens in February 1795 he saved the life of the surveyor, Charles Grimes, when he shot an Aborigine about to spear him. On return from this same expedition he went feral again and was apprehended with a companion attempting to drag two young white girls into the bush. Locked up, Wilson soon escaped.

Threatened with outlawry, he surrendered himself in January 1798 and agreed to a proposal by Governor Hunter to act as a guide on a curious excursion meant to dissuade the increasing numbers of absconding convicts heading for the Blue Mountains in search of China or some variant Arcadia. When the selected convict representatives appointed to the expedition quickly gave up the venture Wilson, journal keeper John Price and one remaining convict pushed south-west from the Cowpastures to the country around Mittagong and Berrima, recording in the process the first official sightings of the lyrebird and koala. It was an exhausting achievement and it was only Wilson’s skill as a leader and bushman that got the expedition home. A month later, with the loyal Price and another man, Wilson reached almost to the Goulburn Plains, effectively discovering, if not a route *across* the Mountains, then certainly one *around* them.

Wilson was wild but he certainly wasn’t idle! Hints in Price’s journal suggest he may already have been familiar with some of the country he travelled in 1798. In fact, he’d earlier claimed to have explored the interior within a radius of 100 miles and it’s possible that he’d ventured into the Burratorang Valley and even wandered the course of the Cox’s River. He may well have known more about the country around Sydney than any other European at the time. A mercurial and shadowy figure, his wild ways ultimately caught up with him when, returning to the bush, he forcibly “appropriated” an Aboriginal woman “against her inclinations” and was speared to death in 1800. He would have been barely 30 years old.

John Low (grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com)

Further Reading: Quotations come from David Collins’ *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales (2 Vols.)*, first published 1798 & 1802 and re-published in a facsimile edition in 1975 by A.H. & A.W. Reed; Chris Cunningham tells the story of the expeditions of Wilson and Price in his splendid 1996 book, *Blue Mountains Rediscovered: Beyond the Myths of Early Australian Exploration*.

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AN EXCERPT FROM DENIS KEVANS POEM ‘PASSING MIST’ IS INSCRIBED ON A TABLET AT THE REVAMPED ECHO POINT, KATOOMBA. THE WORK OF KEVANS (1939–2005) RANGED FROM THE SATIRICAL TO THE ADULATORY SUCH AS ‘MOSS’S GENTLE FINGERS’ AND ‘BUSHLAND GARDENS’. ‘PASSING MIST’ WAS PUBLISHED FIRST IN HUT NEWS JANUARY 1997.

A clever orchid Christine Davies

I found this little terrestrial orchid in January, growing beside the steps on the way up from the South Lawson Waterfall walk. It is *Cryptostylis erecta*, common names Bonnet or Tartan Tongue Orchid. The “bonnet” has maroon veins. All five Australian species of *Cryptostylis* are pollinated by a wasp known as the orchid dupe wasp (*Lissopimpa excels*). The male wasp mistakes the flower parts for a female wasp and attempts to copulate with it. This was discovered in 1928 by Australian naturalist Edith Coleman. The term pseudocopulation has been coined to describe the phenomenon and the mimicking of flowers to resemble female wasp parts has since been recorded in other orchid genera.



Noisy Neighbours



During an early morning walk to Govett’s Leap in January, I followed the sounds to find a Channel-billed Cuckoo with its much smaller Currawong foster parents unsuccessfully trying to appease its voracious appetite. It was interesting to see one close up as the adult cuckoos are shy and usually stay hidden in the foliage.

The demanding Channel-billed Cuckoo was very loud, but for sheer volume, neighbourhood NPWS helicopter aside, the juvenile Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (photographed), seen

with its parents the next day, would win the prize. It’s always a joy when these beautiful cockatoos are in the neighbourhood.

Mystery caterpillar identified

Thank you Jill Dark who emailed me and identified last month’s mystery caterpillar as the larva of a moth, *Chlenias auctaria*. This caterpillar appears in my garden each November and did not seem to relate to any particular food plant.



Many caterpillars and other insects are restricted to one or a few related food plants—put them on a different plant and they will be unable to feed. This is called “oligophagy”. But *Chlenias auctaria* can feed on a variety of plants (“polyphagy”) including Acacia, Hakea, Eucalyptus and Pinus radiata. I have seen one dangling by a thread from a tea tree (*Leptospermum*), but also on the window sill and deck.

300

CONSOC BUSHWALKING PROGRAM GROWS STEADILY SO THAT THERE ARE WELL ATTENDED WALKS ON SEVERAL DAYS OF THE WEEK.

New concerns over NSW Government Bulletfest Don Morison

Hard on the heels of the bushfires accompanying climate change will be a further threat to activities in New South Wales National Parks. This will occur unless the O’Farrell Government can be dissuaded from its March start date for widespread shooting and use of bows and arrows by amateurs.

At time of writing, Hut News has no information about whether hunting will be permitted close to roads and walking tracks or whether it will be permitted on weekends and school holidays. However, Justin McKee, Campaign Co-ordinator for the National Parks Association of NSW, points to a Game Council Platform Paper position that it intends to “increase the uptake of the sport by families, women and children”.

There is widespread anecdotal evidence of lawlessness on the part of hunting enthusiasts. Chris Jonkers, Lithgow Regional Subcommittee Co-ordinator for BMCS, reports illegal shooting during 2½ hours of darkness in Ben Bullen State Forest. Other reports in the Greater Blue Mountains region come from Newnes State Forest, Thompson’s Creek Dam and Abercrombie River National Park.

The Game Council’s administration of shooting is so badly organised and under-resourced that it will be impossible for members of the public, alarmed by gunfire near them, to know whether it is worth contacting police. Problems include lack of public access to the website where shooters are registered, inadequate staffing of telephones and confusion.

This situation exists despite the fact that the O’Farrell Government is extremely reluctant to provide National Parks or any other government body with sufficient competent, trained staff to deal with the lawless owners of guns or bows and arrows. Premier O’Farrell and his ministers have been avoiding releasing vital information to the public, as well as avoiding comment on the stream of media stories about guns including the story that guns in private hands are returning to the levels seen before Liberal Prime Minister John Howard took decisive action against gun crime in 1996.

The National Parks brand and the New South Wales Regional Tourism brand need time to recover from the bushfire crisis of 2013. The only solution is to cancel or postpone the March bulletfest. Don Morison.

300

BLUE MOUNTAINS COUNCIL HELPS DISTRIBUTE CONSOC’S ‘LIVING NEAR THE BUSH’ GUIDE.

300

SERIES OF GUEST SPEECHES TO CONSOC BY PROLIFIC BLUE MOUNTAINS AUTHORS IAN BROWN, JOHN LOW, ANDY MACQUEEN AND JIM SMITH—BUSHWALKERS VISIT ANOTHER GREAT CONTRIBUTOR, JIM BARRETT.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc: 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. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. If you are a new walker to Saturday walks, before attending ring the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy 4758 6009 or email jp34@tpg.com.au

- Feb 9, **Federal Pass** – Katoomba end – or an alternate walk will be decided on the day dependant on the weather, Leader **Bob** 4757 2694, Meet Wentworth Falls Stockyard CarPark, 8:30am, Approx 6Km, Gr 2/3, Map **Katoomba**
- Feb 16 **Dalpura Gully, a great adventure if the weather is warm** - waste deep wade – (bring swimmers, thermal top, wetshoes and/or change of clothing) – If the day is cool we will not wade and add Jinki Gully (gaiters & gloves). Leader Jim 4758 6009 Meet Mt Vic Station CP 8:30am. Distance 6km. Grade 3. Map Mt Wilson.
- Feb 23 **Mt Solitary** Golden Stairs to Cedar Gap and up onto Mt Solitary as far as Chinaman's Cave and return. There are good views from each side near the Cave. 400 metre ascent (and descent). Leader Warren 47875403. Meet Katoomba Station Carpark 8.15am. Distance 15Kms. Grade 3. Map Katoomba/Jamison.
- Mar 2 **Mt York Historic Tracks - Cox's Road to Lockyers Road.** Leader Eddie 4784 2691. Meet Mt Vic Station CarPark 8.30am. Distance 10Kms. Grade 2/3. Map Mount Wilson/Hartley.
- Mar 9 **Springwood to Faulconbridge** - Sassafras Gully to Sassafras Ridge to Faulconbridge. Leader Diana 4751 3935. Meet Springwood Town Square - enter the carpark below it from Springwood Ave.8.00am. Distance 10Kms. Grade 2/3. Map Springwood.
- Mar 16 **Mt Piddington Area – the highlights.** Leader Liz 4754 4966. Meet Mt Vic Station CarPark 8.40am. Distance 6 - 7Kms. Grade 2/3. Map Mount Wilson

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

- Feb 11 **Bedford Creek, Woodford.** "Follow the Turpentine track". Grade 2. Leader Ken 0423 450 200. Meet Woodford Station (south side) 9.15 am.
- Feb 18 **Prince Henry Clifftop Walk,** Leura to Katoomba. Grade 2. Contact Eddie 4784 2691. Meet Leura Station 8.45 am.
- Feb 25 **Jack Evans Track.** Swim in Erskine Creek. Grade 2. Contact Heather 4739 1493. Meet Glenbrook Rail car park 9.30 am. Car pool. Fare \$5
- Mar 4 **Nature Track,** Wentworth Falls. Grade 2. Contact Kate 4759 1943. Meet Wentworth Falls Rail car park 9.30 am.
- Mar 11 **South Lawson Waterfalls** via old Lawson Golf Course. Grade 2. Contact Annamaria 0420 658 183. Meet Lawson, start of Honour Avenue, 8.30 am.

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

- Feb 14 **Pope's Glen Blackheath.** Walk from Govett's Leap. Car pool. Take lunch. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Barrie 47829235. Grade 2.
- Feb 21 **Bus trip to Jenolan Caves.** Fare \$12. Book and pay Barrie 4782 9235. Take lunch. Meet Council Depot, South Street, North Katoomba, 8am. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.
- Feb 28 **Fairy Bower, Mt Victoria.** Walk through beautiful forest. Take lunch. Meet Mt Victoria Station 9.45 am. Contact Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 2.
- Mar 7 **Little Zigzag, Mt Victoria.** Circuit along bridle trail constructed in 1877 for access to Kanimbla Valley. Take lunch. Meet Mt Victoria Station 9.45 am. Contact Rosemary 6355 2292. Grade 2.
- Mar 14 **Lyrebird Dell, Leura.** Some steep ascents and descents on good track. Car pool. Take lunch. Cnr Megalong Street and the Mall 9.30 am. Contact Chris 4721 4309. Grade 2.

Paradise Lost? Autumn Series of Ben Bullen State Forest Walks

Sat March 9 The amazing rock formations of Poseidon Arena - Part 1:
Find out why Ben Bullen State Forest must be protected for future generations. This walk will take us to another unique and stunningly beautiful part of the Forest – the Poseidon Arena. Park the cars at GR 270 182 on Moffits Trail. Explore the Zeus Ridge of the Poseidon Arena, followed by the Apollo Ridge to the W of it. This area is full of amazing rock formations, magnificent pagodas and spectacular views. Part 2, to be done in the coming months, will explore the adjacent Poseidon and Hades Ridges. If open cut mining is allowed in other parts of the Forest (eg the Coalpac project), it is only a matter of time before the Poseidon Arena too will be destroyed. See it whilst you can. Scrambling and possible exposure. About 6k. **Map: Ben Bullen.**

Sat Apr 13 The incredible pagodas of Hecates Cauldron

Sat May 11 From Heaven to Hell and Back.

Details will be in March Hut News or see website www.bluemountains.org.au

Leaders:

Emanuel Conomos,
emanuelanddi@yahoo.com.au, 0419 773 906

Yuri Bolotin,
yuribolotin@yahoo.com.au, 0413 715 943

These walks are conducted under the auspices of the National Parks Association of NSW