

# AUTUMN MENACE

As we celebrate the Winter solstice, many of us are busy sweeping up the masses of autumn leaves which tourists love displayed around Mountain towns at this time. They make great compost (see Quoll Club News). However they can cause severe environmental problems as Blue Mountains bush regenerator Trish Kidd explains. About two million of the trees, grown from winged seeds which escaped the garden around the 113-year-old Jenolan Caves House have been reclassified as weeds as they smother native



plants, take food from platypus and fish and, according to recent research, are possibly changing the ecosystem in the caves. Capable of growing to 35 metres and

surviving up to 600 years, the descendants of the garden sycamores "are having a good time," said Ms Kidd, who in May taught TAFE conservation course students how to kill them with glyphosate herbicide. "Taking them out at once can make the soil unstable, so only patches can be tackled at a time, making it a 30-year project. "When they drop their leaves, it's in one big go.... they can reduce the amount of available oxygen for aquatic invertebrates" she added. Marc

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The theme for World Environment Day 2009 was 'Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change'. Students around the Mountains wore blue to represent our blue planet. At Katoomba High we used the event to raise money for our Landcare Gondwana project to plant native species which local aboriginal people used for food and medicine. Chris



# CLIMATE RED ALERT

You will note some changes to Strobos. We have decided to go bimonthly since our editors find it difficult to publish when a school holiday falls in the month. For our younger Quoll Club Con Soc members we have introduced



a Quoll Corner. International Composting Awareness Week was from the 3rd to the 9th of May. To mark this Queen tells you how to build a simple compost heap. There are also some exciting events which you can participate in to combat climate change. On June 13th in cities around Australia, including Sydney thousands of people marched to show the government that the Australian public wants strong, swift action to solve the climate crisis. The Sydney march began at Millers Point starting at 10am.on a route through The Rocks and Circular Quay, finishing outside Kevin Rudd's Sydney office on Phillip St at midday. People wore red and to communicate the urgency needed on climate change. I attended the Wollongong march (in between tennis matches at the Wollongong Open) & took a photo (above). Alastair

# POWER SHIFT

On July 11th to 13th will be 'Power Shift', Australia's first National Youth Climate Summit at the University of Western Sydney, Parramatta organized by Australian Youth Climate Coalition ([www.youthclimatecoalition.org/powershift](http://www.youthclimatecoalition.org/powershift)). Go to [Twitter.com/powershift](https://twitter.com/powershift), [Myspace.com/powershift](https://myspace.com/powershift), check out our 'YouTube' or 'Friend' us on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/powershift). Power Shift will have volunteers during the conference who are there to look out for high school students and make sure they have a good experience during the conference. However, they cannot accept duty of care for students. Why not stay in Sydney, or pester a



teacher to take you. Teachers and parents can attend the conference for free accompanying a group of young people. "It's our future, and I want to make it better," was the reason one high school volunteers gave when asked why she started to volunteer with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. "On World Environment Day, normally I would be thinking about writing something about the current politics of climate change but today I'm reflecting on the young people who come into our offices. Even though it's exam time for Uni students and nearly the Trials for HSC students, they're still coming in to volunteer". Thanks to Blue King Brown, the Cat Empire & Regurgitator for publicity videos. Bands on the night so far includes Poetikool Justice & Mr Percival. Fiona

## SLOW FASHINISTAS

Slow Food Blue Mountains and Cittaslow have just launched a Slow Shop Trail for Fashionistas to "highlight our unique style and at the same time support local small businesses, artists, charity shops and the environment". It is designed to be accessed by rail, and then by walking through each village, to promote the use of sustainable transport in Glenbrook, Springwood, Leura, Katoomba and Blackheath. Download the guide in the Autumn edition of Blue Mountains Tourist Newspaper or [www.cittaslow.org.au](http://www.cittaslow.org.au) Don't forget the Cittaslow Cafe at the Katoomba Civic Centre during Winter Magic Jill

Your guide to shopping and eating from Glenbrook to Blackheath and beyond...



## CARBON CAPTURE

60% of the rubbish Australians put in their bins could be put used in the garden as compost and. 5% of our greenhouse gas emissions are caused by organically active waste buried anaerobically (without air) in land fill to produce methane, a gas 25 times worse than carbon dioxide. We could change this by composting it & return carbon to the soil. Queen

## WINTER MAGIC TASTE TEST

Our Drink Tap Water Campaign is again at the Festival.



**DRINK TAP WATER!**  
Bottled 'springwater' takes water from swamps.  
'Springwater' is groundwater that healthy swamps need.  
so...leave the water in the ground to keep endangered swamps alive and healthy!  
**PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF THIS BOTTLE...RE-USE IT!**

Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) ph 02 47571872

have a chat with some of our high school volunteers. Chris

## QUOLL CORNER

This section of the magazine is meant to appeal to younger members. We would prefer if some of you primary kids would send in your own stories but we'll start you off. Since this is the first Quoll Corner, we thought we would tell you about the animal after which it is named. The spotted-tailed quoll is carnivorous which means it eats other animals. It has a pointed snout with many sharp teeth and a long tail. Its fur is brown with white spots. They live here in the Blue Mountains. Quolls eat birds, reptiles and possums. They will even scrounge through rubbish bins for food. Like many Australian animals, the spotted tailed quoll is mainly active at night. This is called nocturnal. They spend most of the daytime in a den, but sometimes like to bask in the sunshine. This large home can be many kilometres long. It takes only 21 days for the tiny babies to be born which then climb into mum's pouch, where they feed until big enough. Animals with pouches are called marsupials. As pups grow, they hang from mum's tummy or on her back. Spotted quolls live for about 5 years. Scott



## Your Project for Winter

Get an adult to help you make a simple compost bin, with: 4 metal or wooden posts, 5 metres of wire mesh, plastic covered wire ties and some cardboard boxes. Choose a site on ground, rather than concrete or paving to allow worms to get in to the compost with some summer shade so it doesn't dry out. Push the wooden posts into the ground to make 4 corners of a square. Wrap the wire mesh around the posts and fasten with the ties. Line the inside with cardboard to stop the compost falling out. Place a tube of wire in the centre to let air in. Put old tennis balls on the tops of the posts to prevent hurting yourself if you like. To make your compost place alternate layers of grass clippings or kitchen waste with dry material like leaves, twigs and straw. Turn the compost regularly & covert with cardboard. Water if it is dry. Thanks Gardening Australia for idea and photo. Queen



## Waste Watch at School

Waste Watch is visiting 13 Mountain schools next month. If yours is one, send us a report and photos for Strobos. [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)