

HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa



Site of the Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa development.

The NSW Government recently gave the go-ahead for the development of the Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa on the western boundary of the Wollemi National Park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Brian Marshall wrote about the Modified Concept Plan and the BMCS's views on it in the April *Hut News* but now's your chance to hear what it's all about straight from the horse's mouth.

The guest speaker at our next monthly meeting will be Joost Heymeijer, Manager of Hotel Projects for the developers, Emirates Hotels (Australia) Pty Ltd. Joost has extensive experience in the field of international hospitality, having spent 25 years working in the Netherlands, United States, United Arab Emirates and Australia.

He will describe the resort concept, facilities and wildlife conservancy before taking us through the bureaucratic, compliance and public consultation

procedures that were part of the approval process.

However, the major controversy arose over the agreement to exchange some land currently within the National Park for land owned by the Emirates. Whilst the exchange is favourable to the environment, with 39.5 hectares of degraded grazing land in the National Park being exchanged for 114.5 hectares of previously unprotected high conservation value land, it has caused some divisions within the environment movement.

With the ink now drying on the Wolgan Valley Resort agreement, it's time to look at the wider implications of the exchange, for example: Are the risks of allowing developments in National Parks acceptable? Does the environment movement need to present a united front? Are there sufficient safeguards in the planning process?

7.30pm, Friday 29th June

The Conservation Hut, western end of Fletcher St, Wentworth Falls

VISITORS WELCOME

MINING WRECKS RIVERS:

~~ Save our Catchments from Longwall Coal Mining ~~

WARATAH RIVULET PROTEST RALLY

The coal industry is not only taking us down the path to dangerous climate change—it is destroying our most precious resources.

If you came to our January meeting, you will be aware of the damage being caused to our rivers by longwall coal mining, and of Rivers SOS, the coalition of environmental groups (including BMCS) that is trying to stop the damage.

The areas affected are extensive. Rivers in the southern coalfields are being cracked, drained and polluted and rare swamps on the Newnes Plateau in the western coalfield are being undermined and are slowly drying up. New mining proposals threaten drinking catchments on the Central Coast and the vital aquifers of the Liverpool Plain near Gunnedah.

The most recent stream to be damaged is the Waratah Rivulet which makes up 30% of the catchment of Woronora Dam. Extensive subsidence and cracking of the streambed is draining and polluting this part of Sydney's water supply system, disrupting both aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

When: 11am, Saturday 17th June 2007

Where: Outside the Sydney Catchment Authority gate on the Old Princes Highway, 3 km south of the Helensburgh exit from the F6 Freeway. The location will be marked with red ribbons and signs.

What: There will be speakers, music, workshops on coal mining in the Illawarra and southern catchments, and other entertainment. At this stage the SCA have agreed to allow a small number of people to enter the Special Area to inspect the damage. (*No-one is allowed into a water supply catchment Special Area without permission—big fines apply.*)

What to bring: * Props, banners, musical instruments, etc.
* Food and water (*N.B. no water or toilets on site so plan ahead*)
* Good shoes, a hat, and wear something red!

RSVP: If you are coming please email daveb@tec.org.au or call 9261 3437, 0409 447 913 or 0418 278 753. Please mention if you will be coming by train (the 9.28am from Central reaches Helensburgh at 10.21am) so that transport can be organised to and from the station.

HUT NEWS

"Hut News" is the newsletter of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.
P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782
Phone: 4757 1872 Fax: 4757 1753
Email: bmcs@bluemountains.org.au

President: Brian Marshall

4784 1148, marabeni@optusnet.com.au

Senior Vice President: Heather Hull

4739 1493, hhull001@bigpond.net.au

Second Vice President/Walks Convenor:

Christine Davies 4787 7246,

davica@bigpond.net.au

Membership Secretary: Ian Salbe

4759 2372,

membership@bluemountains.org.au

Treasurer: Bart Beech

4739 9947, bbeech@invensys.com.au

Administration Officer: VACANT

Meetings Secretary: VACANT

Meetings Convenor: David Brazil

4784 3496, david@dbrazil.com

Plant Nursery Manager: Kevin Bell

(ph/fax) 4787 6436, khsbell@pnc.com.au

Environmental Education Officer:

Chris Yates 4784 3407,

christopher.yates@education.nsw.gov.au

Land Use Officer: Phillip Morrison

4757 1393, pmorrison@yahoo.com.au

National Parks Officer:

Karen McLaughlin 6355 2835,

karen.mclaughlin@ozemail.com.au

Threatened Species/Bushcare Officer:

Clive Heywood-Barker 4782 3345,

ozbundu@hotmail.com

World Heritage Officer: John Haydon

0421 479 146,

jhaydonmc@optusnet.com.au

Bushfire Officer: Hugh Paterson

4751 2303, goodbush@pnc.com.au

Lithgow Regional Sub-committee

Coordinator: Chris Jonkers 6355 1179,

cjonkers@ozemail.com.au

Website/Technical Officer: David Bowskill

4757 3416, davidbow@tpg.com.au

Publicity/Publications Officer: VACANT

Project Officers:

Hilary Hughes (Climate Change)

4787 6240, hilary@auzzie.biz

Don & Tara Cameron

4751 1130, dontara@ozemail.com.au

Susan Girard

4782 5810, Pest.asides@bigpond.com.au

Newsletter Editor: Juli Boddy

4759 2372, hutnews@bluemountains.org.au

BMCS Stall for Winter Magic

BMCS will have a stall at the Winter Magic Festival on Saturday 23rd June. We're seeking ideas for conservation issues to present on the stall.

Volunteers are also needed to assemble or disassemble the stall or to spend time on the stall during the day.

If you are interested, please ring Naomi on 4782 1242.



Letter of the Month—June 2007

Mr Koperberg, Refuse Anvil Hill

You may remember articles in *Hut News* September 2006 about the proposed coal mine at Anvil Hill in the Hunter Valley. The NSW Government's decision on this development is expected very soon.

Please send your message this month to the Hon. Phillip Koperberg, our local Member and the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water:

Let him know that you are a resident in the Blue Mountains electorate, and that you are writing to him because of your particular concern about the impact of climate change on the Blue Mountains with its susceptibility to increased and more frequent bushfires.

- The NSW Greenhouse Plan states that "in NSW and across the planet a concerted effort is required to slow and reverse the projected growth in emissions and to avoid dangerous climate change". How does the NSW government plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NSW to 2000 levels by 2025 if coal mining is allowed to expand? The proposed Anvil Hill coal mine, currently awaiting approval by your government, would produce up to 10.5 million tonnes of coal a year.
- Australia is the driest continent on Earth, yet in approving and subsidising coal mining your government is allowing foreign-owned mining companies to squander our most precious resource – water – while at the same time producing greenhouse gases which will increase the likelihood of further extreme droughts.
- Coal is marketed as a cheap resource, yet the long-term impacts on scarce water resources are not costed into the production.
- Rivers SOS, a coalition of 13 major community and environmental groups, reports that 8 major river systems and numerous creeks in NSW have been permanently damaged by mining operations. The proposed Anvil Hill mine would disturb 4 stream beds and use between one and four million litres of water per day to wash coal.
- I call on the NSW government to call a moratorium on all 21 new mining proposals, extensions or variations of existing operations currently under consideration, including Anvil Hill.
- I call on the NSW Labor government to plan for an energy future for NSW with diminishing reliance on coal power and greater investment in renewable energy.

Contact Details:

Post to: PO Box A 290, Sydney South NSW 1232.

Email to: office@koperberg.minister.nsw.gov.au.

Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman

Capertee Valley Heliflights

In December 2005, Lithgow City Council rejected the original development application for helicopter joy-flights from Capertee over regions such as the Gardens of Stone National Park and Airly-Genowlan Mesa. This followed a protracted campaign by the Capertee Valley Environmental Group (CVEG), strongly supported by BMCS. Rejection was largely based on the noise from helicopter flights compromising the amenity of the rural lifestyle and disrupting the enjoyment of the national parks for the benefit of the passengers and applicant's economic gain.

Hut News welcomed the decision of LCC, but warned that the applicant might appeal. Although this did not happen, some heliflights took place through 2006; they were the subject of well-documented complaints to LCC.

A new DA (319/06) was lodged with LCC in late 2006 and advertised by LCC in January 2007. It differed little from the

2005 submission, although, in an apparent attempt to reduce opposition, it avoided overflying the Emirates Wolgan Valley region. CVEG, BMCS, the Colo Committee and the Emirates made opposing submissions on the basis of environmental and rural amenity arguments.

The proponent of DA 319/06 has now claimed that the DA has been with LCC in excess of 42 days. This apparently enables him to treat it as a "Refused Development Consent by Lithgow City Council" and appeal directly to the Land and Environment Court (L&EC). Apparently, LCC will refer submissions relating to DA 319/06 to the L&EC. A hearing will take place on the 15th June 2007, but it is probable that the L&EC will seek additional information before handing down a decision.

Keep your fingers crossed!

Brian Marshall

Visit the BMCS website at: www.bluemountains.org.au

Cats or Wildlife? by Meredith Brownhill

Arriving back home from drought stricken NSW, Vic and South Australia, I rejoiced in my native garden and its wildlife. Then a friend told me she had found a dead possum – “a headless possum”, to be exact, in my driveway while I was away.

This summer five birds, a possum and two frogs have been killed in my garden. Neighbours have had birds and a possum killed too. How much wildlife are we losing to predatory domestic animals, namely cats, in the mountains?

Do we have to make a choice between cats and wildlife, or can we be smart enough to have both?

How can we protect our wildlife?

Keeping cats indoors overnight offers protection to nocturnal animals, such as possums, gliders, micro bats, bush rats and antechinus marsupials, but birds, reptiles and amphibians have no protection during daylight hours when cats are outdoors and active.

In recent years dog owners have become very responsible for their animals, keeping them on their property, walking them on leashes etc.

Cat owners can exercise greater responsibility by voluntarily:

- Keeping cats in at night
- Training cats to live indoors
 - See the Humane Society's Fact Sheet “Helping an outdoor cat adjust to life indoors” at http://www.hsi.org.au/protection_animals/a_intro.htm (or contact me and I will post or email you a copy, Ed.- contact details on p2)
- Building a cat enclosure (e.g. put a cat trap in the floor of your deck, place a log so the cat can run down into an enclosed area below the deck)
- Building inward sloping fences to inhibit roaming
- Confining cats 24 hours a day to the property
- Desexing and micro-chipping all cats

Other Council areas are asking cat owners to undertake these actions to protect wildlife. The ACT has areas defined by law where a 24 hour cat curfew exists.

Newcastle City Council has a Companion Animal Management Plan that encourages cat owners to voluntarily undertake the above actions. Newcastle Council may also implement prohibition zones for all companion animals, next to High Conservation Areas. The Newcastle Animal Management Plan is on their website at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au.

Help save our wildlife by being a responsible cat owner. Talk to your friends and neighbours about this issue and pass on the cat Fact Sheet.



www.dse.vic.gov.au

* The Victorian Dept. of Sustainability and Environment also has information on keeping both your cat and the local wildlife safe and happy (go to www.dse.vic.gov.au and search for “cats”).

* The Responsible Pet Ownership website (www.pets.info.vic.gov.au) has a very detailed booklet entitled “How to build cat-proof fencing and cat enclosures” - Ed.

BMCS Bushcare

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare group works in the Blue Mountains National Park at Wentworth Falls on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tools are provided but bring morning tea, gloves and drinking water.

Contact Karen on 4757 1929.

Nursery News Kevin Bell

Plant Bargains

Our Blackheath and Lawson nurseries will close during June and July. If you missed out on our \$1 plant specials in May, don't despair; we will be at the Lawson Magpie Markets in June (17th) and July (15th) with the same bargains. The Markets are held in the Lawson Public School grounds adjacent to the Great Western Highway. Be early, as we sold most of our stock by mid-morning on our last attendance in May. Again there will be a good selection of Mountains plants.

A Symbol of Blackheath

On a monument near the Great Western Highway in Blackheath there is a plaque stating: "This locality, named Hounslow by Governor Macquarie on his way to the newly discovered country westward of the Blue Mountains was renamed by him Black-heath on May 15, 1815 during his return journey to Sydney."

What inspired Macquarie to change his mind and give Blackheath its current name? It may be that he simply forgot that he had named it on the outward journey and nobody was game to remind him but almost certainly the second name, particularly if it was nearing dusk, came from the sight of extensive dark-

green stands of the Stunted or Dwarf She-oak (*Allocasuarina nana*) which cover the heaths in the area. The common term, "She-oak" arose from a similarity of the timber of the genus to that of European Oaks. The scientific name derives from Greek *Allo*, meaning foreign or strange, Latin *Casuarinus* refers to the resemblance of the foliage to the drooping feathers of the Cassowary bird and *nana* means dwarf. The *Allocasuarinas* were separated from the *Casuarinas* and reclassified on the basis of small differences in the cones. The latter differs from the former in having cones without protruberances and seed-like winged fruits which are pale and dull, not dark and shining.

Allocasuarina nana usually has separate male and female plants. During the flowering season, rich deep-tan male spikes form and wind-pollinate the pretty red flowers on the female plants. *A. nana* likes a sunny position, rarely grows above 1m and is ideal for filling in spaces under taller plants. We have plenty of this plant and suggest you buy several to ensure you get both sexes. Blackheathens should find special appeal in a plant which gave their village its name.

We also have others in this genus, namely *A. littoralis* (Black She-oak, a tree to 10-12m), *A. torulosa* (Forest She-oak, a graceful tree to 15-20m) and *A. distyla* (Scrub She-oak, a tough shrub

to 3m, found on cliff-tops). In your garden you can capture that typical Australian humming, whistling sound of the bush when the wind blows through the branchlets of these lovely trees.



Female flower of the Stunted or Dwarf She-oak, *Allocasuarina nana*. (Photo: M.Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens)

The granite solution

by Brian Marshall

Power down below

Poor Australia! Peak oil is nigh, coal-based power stations face their environmental 'use-by' date, nuclear power is too expensive (even disregarding current and future environmental costs), hydroelectric power faces climate change and water shortages, and geothermal power (as in New Zealand) is lacking. So the future of Australia's energy needs lies in renewable wind and solar power. Or does it?

Well, yes, you (un)hesitatingly say. After all, Australia has an abundance of sunshine, space for wind farms, ethanol and biodiesel production can eke out dwindling oil reserves, and there are the more way out initiatives involving the capture of tidal power and ocean currents.

But aren't these too expensive and/or in their research infancy, and do they have the capacity to supply base-load power?

This depends on how you define base load and which article you read. In any case, Australia is investing in clean coal technology and, over the 10 to 20 year lead time (if the technology ever proves economically viable), Australia can continue using dirty coal and remain an environmental vandal. And isn't the PM committed to carbon emissions trading (CET) provided that the economy doesn't suffer and jobs aren't lost?

Sure, but how effective will CET be if it has no adverse impact on our coal-based power system and coal exports?

Well, things are changing: Brazil has committed to ethanol and biodiesel production, Germany, Denmark, Holland and some US States are pushing ahead with renewable energy programmes, France, Finland and India are part of the nuclear solution (for better or worse!), and many countries (and some US States) participate in CET schemes, have set emissions' reduction targets by 2050, have signed the Kyoto protocol, and are demonstrating real commitment to combating climate change.

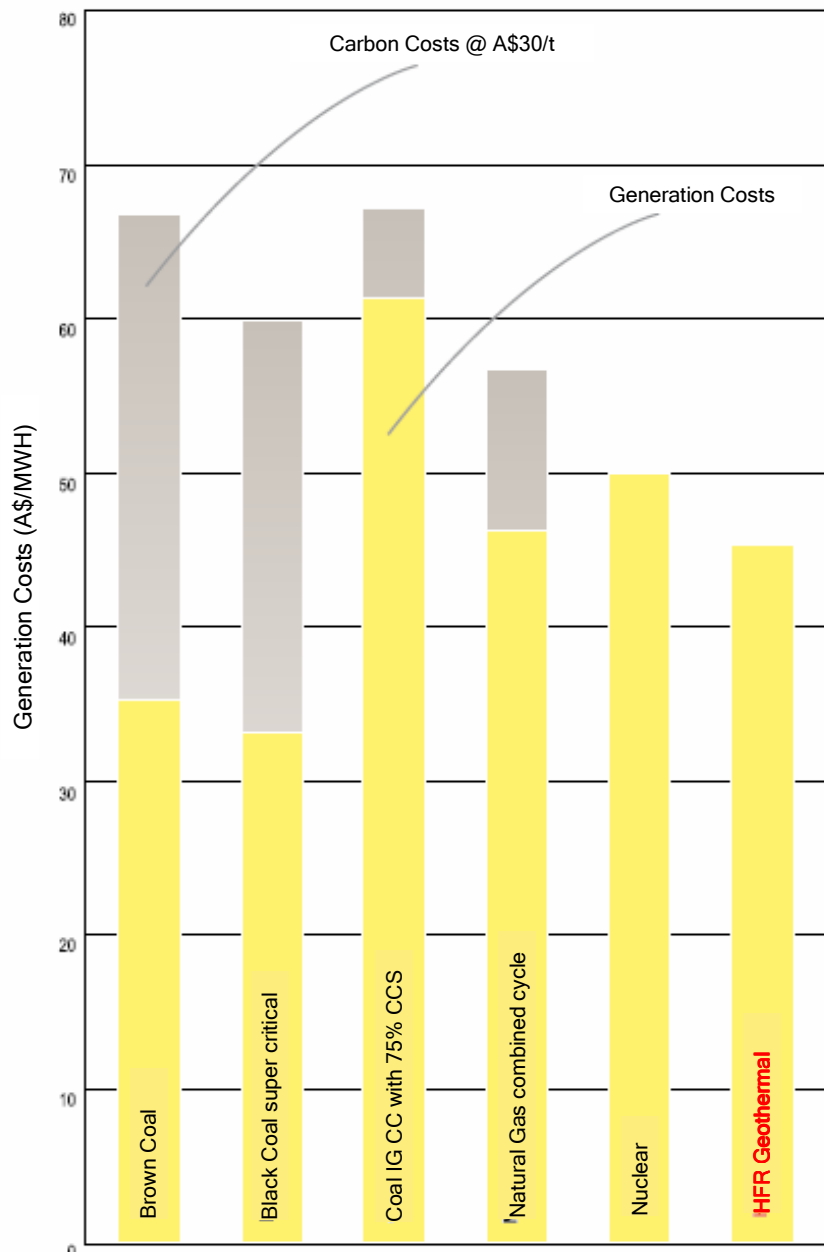
True, but what about Australia? Don't you see that Australia is procrastinating through incompetence at best? At worst, through a policy of shameless self-interest, it is deliberately pursuing inaction and damage limitation for its perceived short-term economic advantage. It is practising environmental rape!

OK, but apart from introducing rigorous CET, promoting solar and wind power, and committing to high-level emissions targets, what other options exist if we reject nuclear power and progressively phase out dirty coal-based power?

Now we are getting to the crux of this article!

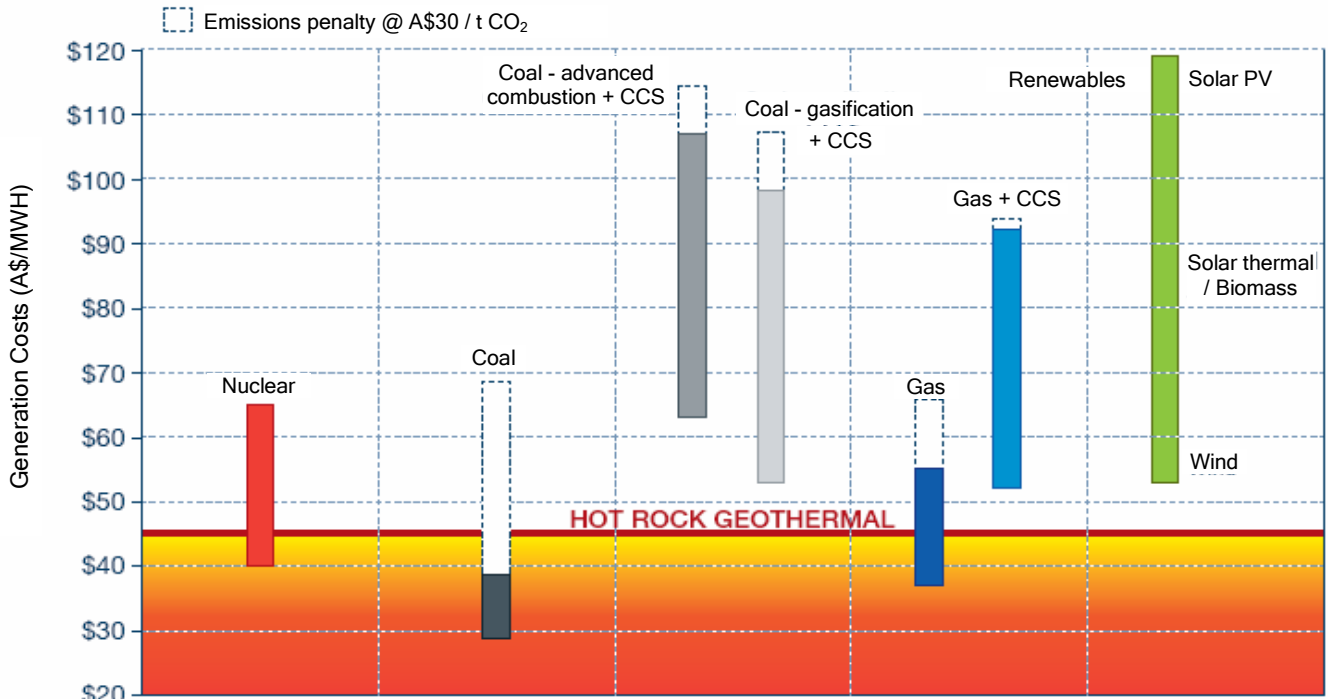
Capturing thermal energy from sheet-like bodies of hot fractured granitic rocks several kilometres below surface is one possibility. It involves hot fractured rock (HFR) technology. The research was initiated at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico in 1970-73, but HFR research and development programmes are now underway in the USA, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary and Australia. It differs from 'conventional' more shallowly sourced geothermal energy in porous volcanic terrains (e.g. New Zealand and Iceland), where hot groundwater is tapped. The granite's heat results from the radiogenic decay of uranium-thorium bearing minerals, whereas 'conventional' terrains reflect temperature elevations linked to magmatism.

The technology involves high-pressure injection of water down a well (~3-4 km deep) into the fractured granite. It dilates and circulates through the fracturing while reaching superheated temperatures of 200+ oC, before returning to surface via the recovery well. At surface, the water imparts heat, via a heat exchanger, to a low boiling point liquid that drives a turbine. The system is closed such that the heat-stripped water is recycled down the injection well and the condensed turbine fluid returns to the heat exchanger. Australia is richly endowed with shallowly emplaced radiogenic granites that favour this technology.



Comparative costs for generating large amounts of base-load electricity. (Costs are in 2005 dollars for HFR and in 2003/04 dollars for the other methods.)

Australia's Power Options



CCS = carbon capture & sequestration (75%); MWh = megawatt hours; PV = photovoltaic

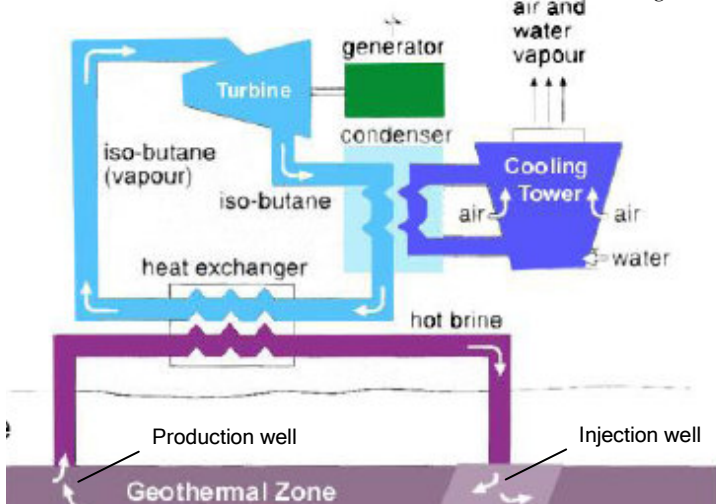
Granite-sourced power exploitation reflects current geological knowledge and available technology (unlike clean coal and safe nuclear power). It is a sustainable closed system that provides renewable emission-free power. Several Australian companies are attempting to exploit the heat resource and one (Geodynamics) is particularly well advanced. Geodynamics intends building a 2 megawatt (MW) pilot plant, followed by a 40 MW module (as a demonstration plant) that will be upsized to a 280 MW production plant.

With 'subsidised' coal-based power at \$30-35 per megawatt-hour (MWh), natural gas power at \$50-60 per MWh, nuclear (excluding waste disposal aspects) at \$45-65 per MWh, wind at \$55-80 per MWh and solar up to about \$115 MWh, the expected cost of granite-sourced renewable HFR power at \$40-50 per MWh is attractive. And it can meet base load requirements. The introduction of a carbon tax and/or a sensible CET policy would remove the advantage of dirty coal technology and greatly enhance the attractiveness of HFR power.

Geodynamics' site at Innamincka (SA) contains sufficient thermal energy to supply Australia's current annual electricity consumption for at least the next 50 years.

One frequently hears of the power of love and the power up above, but this is truly renewable power beneath your feet. Could this be another case of the 'lucky' but ungrateful country?

Sources of data: Energy on the rocks. David Kay, Cosmos, Issue 11, pp40-41
<http://pangea.stanford.edu/ERE/pdf/IGAstandard/SGW/2007/voros.pdf>
www.abc.net.au/rn/science/ockham/stories/s1440622.htm
www.geodynamics.com.au/IRM/Company/ShowPage.aspx?CPID=1219
www.greenrock.com.au/theCompany/overview.php - 22 May 2007
[www.greenrock.com.au/media/AGM%20Presentation%20Nov%202005\(v2\).pdf](http://www.greenrock.com.au/media/AGM%20Presentation%20Nov%202005(v2).pdf)
www.science.org.au/nova/046/046print.htm



How a geothermal power station works.

Simplified version of diagram from the Australian Greenhouse Office (www.greenhouse.gov.au/renewable/recp/hotdryrock/index.html).

(Based on data from Final report: Uranium Mining, Processing and Nuclear Energy—Opportunities for Australia? Chapters 1-10, pg59. Source: EPRI study [74] and Geodynamics Limited)

Blue Mountains Forum on Climate Change Local Action for Sustainability

A forum to recognise and inspire local action on climate change, organized by the Blue Mountains City Council

Hear a variety of speakers talk on what's happening in the Blue Mountains and what other communities are doing to address climate change. Then have an opportunity for questions and discussion with a panel of the speakers.

There will also be an exhibition by local community groups who are already involved in action to address climate change.

Saturday 30 June 2007

1:00pm - 5:00pm

(exhibits from 12:30pm)

Mid-Mountains Community Centre, New Street, Lawson

Afternoon tea is provided & childcare can be arranged if advised when registering.

Registration essential:

Phone 4780 5000 or email rtempest@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING GROUP

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. **Cost of insurance and affiliation fees is \$15 per member.**
For further information, contact the Walks Convenor, Christine Davies (4787 7246, davica@bigpond.net.au).

BEFORE ATTENDING, PLEASE DISCUSS THE WALK WITH THE LEADER (listed below)

- THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST WALK OR YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION.

MONDAY LEISURE WALKS

Usually 'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Grade 2 (Easy/Medium) or Grade 3 (Medium), which may include short sections off track. Bring morning tea & lunch. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

Jun-18	Bus trip to Noble Canyon, W'gambe (2)	Birgitta	4784 3191	Bookings required	
	<i>Magnificent dry canyon- don't miss it! BBQ lunch.</i>				
Jun-25	Cox's Rd, Lockyers Line of Rd, Mt York (2)	Ros	4733 3880	Mt Victoria Station	9.00am
	<i>Historic convict-built roads.</i>				
Jul-2	Glastonbell, private sanctuary (2)	Phil	4787 5560	Mt Victoria Station	9.45 am
	<i>Wide range of mountain terrain. Suggested donation \$5.</i>				
Jul-9	Sun Valley, Valley Heights (2)	Ron	4757 1526	Valley Heights commuter carpark	9.00 am
	<i>Ancient volcanic crater.</i>				
Jul-16	Porters Pass, Walls Ledge (3)	Phil	4787 5560	Blackheath commuter carpark	9.30 am
	<i>Majestic views over Kanimbla Valley.</i>				

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS

Grade 2 (Easy/Medium) walks conducted to suit walkers on the day. Slower walkers catered for; on longer walks there may be an option for a slower group to complete only part of the walk. Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

Jun-14	South Lawson waterfalls (2)	John	4757 1558	Cnr GWH & Honour Ave, Lawson	10.00am
	<i>Circuit bush track past waterfalls, some steps.</i>				
Jun-21	Castlehead, Narroineck (2)	Joan c/o	4757 3416	Gearins Hotel Katoomba	9.30am
	<i>Walk along ridge to lookout, via firetrail and bush track, possible exploratory walk. Take lunch.</i>				
Jun-28	Fairy Bower, Cox's Cave, Grotto, Mt Vic (3)	Phil	4787 5560	Mt Victoria Station	10.00am
	<i>Walk through beautiful forest, side trip to Cox's cave. Step climb via the Grotto.</i>				
Jul-5	Darwins Walk, Wentworth Falls (2)	John	4757 1558	Went. Falls carpark, near clock	9.45am
	<i>Car shuffle, to start at Falls Road end. Gradual incline back to Wilson Park.</i>				
Jul-12	Lennox Bridge Blaxland (2)	Heather	4739 1493	Blaxland Station, north side	10.00am
	<i>Round walk via historic Lennox Bridge and lookouts.</i>				

WEEKEND WALKS

Grade 3 (Medium) or Grade 4 (Medium/Hard). Before attending, please discuss the walk with the leader or the Weekend Walks organiser, Jim Percy (4758 6009). Carry at least 1 litre of WATER, 2 litres on warm days.

Jun-9	Blaxland to Springwood (4)	Now to be lead by Bill	4758 8545	Springwood - 9.05am train to Blaxland	
	<i>13km on track, some fairly rough, 2 crossings of Glenbrook Ck. Possible side trip to Lost World Lookout.</i>				
Jun-16	Urella Lookdown & Jim's Creek Circuit (4)	Jim	4758 6009	Lawson Station carpark (N side)	9.00am
	<i>Extensive views over Wentworth Creek to the Mt Hay ridge then descend to a pristine, hanging swamp-fed creek. 15 km with 5km off track, steep, good navigational opportunities.</i>				
Jun-23	Camels Hump and Rainbow Ravine (4)	Bob	4757 2694	Mt Victoria Station	8.30am
	<i>Interesting walk in this land of Caley the explorer and the canyoners of today. Bob will just show us the sights. 8km.</i>				
Jun-30	Mailes Ridge (3)	Meredith	4782 4823	Mt Victorai Station carpark	8:30am
	<i>Interesting walk along a ridge overlooking the Colo River Gorge. 12km.</i>				
Jul-7	Mt Vic, Berghofers Pass, Sugarloaf Ridge (4)	Kate	9939 2624 or 4782 3122	Mt Vic Station	8.30am
	<i>Lovely views down the ridge to the Valley. 12km, steep at times.</i>				
Jul-14	Blaxland to Lapstone via Glenbrook Ck (4)	David	4757 3416	Blaxland Stn, bottom of stairs, S side	8.30am
	<i>12km, reasonably steep with some scrambling off-track and some rock-hopping.</i>				

Lawson to Linden Overnight Walk, 12-13 June. Call Jim on 4758 6009 if you are interested as there may still be vacancies. (See last month's Hut News, the Winter Bushwalkers Newsletter or our website for details.)

Just a little bit about Lyrebirds

This is the time of year when lyrebirds begin their concerted push to mate. How irresistible could the males be? First of all they are divine singers and imitators, of any sound they care to reproduce: a flute, another bird, an engine....

Over and over
the lyrebird calls, sings out
for a lady mate

Then they are builders and dancers. First they make their stage by scratching up loose leaf litter into a squarish shape and this is the club where they'll dance, sing, display their lyre-shaped tail and attract a female. The mound is about four feet square. I once got

very bothered about one of these up the track where I often go for a walk. There was a disturbed piece of ground, looking like something had been buried and then overlaid with leaves to camouflage it. I thought it might be a body - though it was oddly small. Who had buried it? What should I do? Then I went for a Thursday walk out past Hat Hill and we passed a mound. Christine explained what it was - my Crimestoppers burden fell away.

We stopped for morning tea at a pagoda, and it had rained the day before, leaving small bowls of water and softening the little bits of dirt collected in the crevices.

Lyrebird footprints
just for a little while
written in the mud

Diana Levy

Welcome to our new members

Sylvia Paklayan, *Blackheath*
Gordon McClatchie,
Wentworth Falls
Kay Edwards, *Katoomba*
Ramsay Macfarlane,
Wentworth Falls
Peter Bauer, *Blackheath*
Michelle & Mark Ellerton,
Hazelbrook
Lyn & Rob Baigent, *Bullaburra*

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Ilan Salbe 4759 2372

membership@bluemountains.org.au
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782