

# HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



Tara with representatives of Tread Lightly Tours and the Zig Zag Railway at a workshop on Climate Change and Tourism in the Blue Mountains organised by researchers from the University of Canberra on 29 October.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Thank you for taking the time to read *Hut News* and support the many worthwhile things our Society is doing.

Our concerns about increased development in National Parks are still alive and well with the much anticipated 'Taskforce on Tourism and National Parks' yet to release its report. There seem to be plans to change sections of the State's National Parks and Wildlife Act and Wilderness Act to include tourism as well as conservation and protection of cultural values. This may not sound like a big deal but under existing national park laws, developments are only allowed if they support the main purpose of parks, which is conservation, and low-impact visitor activities. Changes are being pushed to make new development easier and open up wilderness areas to use for commercial purposes.

We are going to join with the National Parks Association and loudly voice our view that Parks are for nature and appropriate recreation. A large meeting in Sydney is being planned. I'll be in touch when details are available as I would love to have a bus or train load of people from the Blue Mountains travel down and support the cause.

As Christmas approaches, I would like to wish you all the best and thank you for your involvement this year. A particular thank you to our nursery volunteers. Their beautiful plants are going to help make my shopping easier.

Tara Cameron

## Wilderness – Nature's Masterpiece

Twenty-five years ago, the Franklin and Gordon Rivers were saved, together with the wilderness through which they flow wild and free. Histories of the struggle are available to us, well known and illustrious names remembered. There are myriad stories of dauntless courage, heroism, passionate commitment and sacrifice of ordinary people, mostly unknown and unsung. The one thing we can be sure of is that all those who participated agreed with Wallace Stegner, when he wrote: "We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

The fight to stop the damming of the Franklin was preceded by the tragedy that saw Lake Pedder inundated; conservationists were determined to save the Franklin. The exceptionally gifted photographer, environmentalist and explorer Olegas Truchanas, whose name has already passed into legend, left a collection of images of Lake Pedder that can only be described as awe-inspiring. He tragically lost his life in the river he was trying to save and it was left to his young protégé, Peter Dombrovskis, to take his place, providing images of remote wild places with their 'air of myth and unreality' whose beauty had so deeply affected him. Who could ever forget the moment in March 1983 on opening the newspaper to see revealed 'Morning Mist, Rock Island Bend' with the caption "Could you vote for a party that would destroy this?"

Peter Dombrovskis's name together with his photograph of almost unearthly beauty, spread rapidly from Australia to the world. It brought a new dimension to the struggle where the appeal of beauty could not be denied. In the opinion of many it was a crucial turning point, and the photograph has become an icon. Dombrovskis went on to become as equally well known and loved as his tutor had been. He also tragically lost his life photographing the wilderness he loved so well. In 2003 he was inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame, the first and still the only Australian photographer to be accorded that honour.

If we have learned anything from the Franklin campaign it is that as humankind we should look at the natural world with greater humility. We must realise that in these large tracts of untouched country there is no room for roads or mines or buildings; indeed these would be a desecration. Wilderness needs no justification for its existence; it should be free of commercial exploitation or as Sir Mark Oliphant put it, "so-called development of greedy men".

*Enid Gilbert – read by Wyn Jones at our Monthly Meeting in October. The speaker was Keith Muir, the topic – Wilderness!*

## Start the BMCS New Year...

In November 2006, Al Gore travelled to Australia to train a team of Australians to present the slide show made famous in the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. In the first 17 months 250 diverse individuals made 125,000 presentations throughout the country.

Each person who volunteered as a climate change presenter has his or her unique story. THIS IS A FILM WHICH DOCUMENTS SEVEN.

## Telling The Truth



7 Climate Project presenters speak

Monthly Meeting 7.30pm, Friday, January 30, 2009  
Conservation Hut, Fletcher St, (far western end)  
Wentworth Falls

## HUT NEWS

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*Julie Favell and Chris Jonkers carrying out water tests in the headwaters of Cox's River, Ben Bullen State Forest during November.*

## LETTER OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2008

### Time for a Tough Target

**T**he Australia's Low Pollution Future report, released recently by the Australian Government, appears to lay the groundwork for the Rudd government to avoid a tough 2020 target to cut Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate scientists argue that unless the world can stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations at 450ppm, it risks warming the planet above 2.5 degrees, yet the Treasury modelling appears to tilt towards cuts in global emissions that will at best stabilise emissions at 510 - 550ppm, risking dangerous consequences.

Treasury presented a number of options for cutting emissions by 2020, the most "realistic" ones being 5% or 15%. These are based on the assumption that developed economies would join the emissions market in 2010, and developing countries by 2025.

This is far less than the 25% to 40% the European Union is expecting from developed countries in a new global agreement, and far less than Australia should aim for, according to the UN's top economist **Dr Rajendra Pachauri**.

Senator Wong says the target will be announced by December when she heads for the next round of negotiations on a global climate agreement. If Australia offers a target of 15% or lower, Senator Wong will face stiff criticism at the negotiations, according to Tony Mohr of the Australian Conservation Foundation, and risks being sidelined by the European nations in Copenhagen next year.

The Australian business community is concerned that an early start in 2010 could result in transfer of production overseas. However, the Treasury points out that caution could have a price too: the cost of catching up later with global emissions standards could be much higher.

Professor Ross Garnaut stated in his report that investment in carbon reduction will itself be an economic stimulus. Trade unions and conservationists, not always in the same camp, see it creating new green industries and jobs.

(This information from articles in *The Sydney Morning Herald* 31.10.08)

**Send a short message to Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Climate Change and Water, making some or all of the following points:**

- When setting Australia's target for emissions reduction, I urge you to think with a longer vision, beyond the current short-term financial situation, and set an ambitious target of 25% by 2020.
- A 25% target would give Australia a much stronger position at the next round of international climate negotiations, and minimise the potentially much higher cost of catching up with global emissions standards at a later date.
- Professor Ross Garnaut has stated in his report that investment in carbon reduction will itself be an economic stimulus. A significant investment in renewable energy and green technology could assist Australia to avoid economic recession, at the same time as lowering our carbon emissions to meet a 25% target.

**Contact Details: Parliament House Canberra 2600**

**Email by going to Senator Wong's website,**

[www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators/homepages/contact.asp?id=00AOU](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/senators/homepages/contact.asp?id=00AOU)

(This is the only way you can send an email to Senator Wong)

*Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman*

### Alarming water quality issues in the Upper Cox's River

**S**ince September 2006 the Lithgow Region Subcommittee (LRS) has been monitoring water quality at some thirty sites in the upper Cox's River catchment. Volunteers have identified some alarming water quality issues in various waterways, including:

**Salinity** levels 80 times higher than natural background levels; **Phosphate** levels 125 times higher than natural background levels; **pH** levels 1000 times higher than natural background levels; **Turbidity** levels 400 times higher than natural background levels; **Water Temperature** in industrial discharges 15 degrees higher than natural background levels, and **Dissolved Oxygen** levels as low as 5%, which is lethal for aquatic life.

These results have been reported to and verified by the relevant government agency. However, it appears that to date no action has been taken to address the issues.

Breaches of ANZECC (2000) Drinking Water Quality and Ecosystem Protection Guideline upper limits for metals including Zinc, Boron, Cadmium, Copper, Manganese and Iron in various waterways in the Upper Cox's River catchment have been reported.

The LRS is concerned that the degraded water quality may be impacting upon fish communities and other fauna in the Upper Cox's catchment.

BMCS has subsequently engaged an independent consultant to undertake further water testing, whose results were consistent with the water testing results obtained by the Lithgow Region Subcommittee. The Society is considering taking legal action in relation to these matters.

*Chris Jonkers*

**Latest on Canyon Colliery**

Brian Marshall has received this encouraging letter from Carmel Tebbutt in reply to his letter to the former Minister.

“As you would be aware, Canyon Colliery discharges groundwater from two disused mine portals in a remote location between Mt Victoria and the Bells Line of Road. The Colliery ceased mining in 1997 after many years of operation. The Government is aware of elevated levels of zinc and nickel in the groundwater discharges, which come from natural geological formations in the area.

“In early 2008, water sampling was carried out by the DPI and the DECC which confirmed the presence of elevated zinc levels in the groundwater flowing from the Colliery.

“I am advised that the zinc levels in the discharge have fallen in the last ten to fifteen years, and are expected to continue to fall as the exposed surfaces of the mine age. **Nevertheless, the Government has engaged an independent expert to review all geotechnical, engineering and environmental issues, and advise on management options for the groundwater from Canyon Colliery.**

“I understand that the DPI is working with the mine owners to progress the pit top rehabilitation. This process is running parallel with the investigation mentioned above.

“I also confirm that Sydney Water has now diverted sewage from the Blackheath Sewage Treatment Plant to the Winmalee Plant at Springwood. This will stop treated effluent from the Blackheath plant being discharged to the Grose River, and is a positive environmental outcome.”

**Mt Victoria Bypass**

See the update report on Page 4.

**Those Nature Strip Gardens?**

The report in November *Hut News*, ‘Sustainability Revealed as Nature Strips’ was presented for its innovative and curiosity value. Somewhat tongue-in-cheek, I suggested that we plant out our BM nature strips. **Kerrie Seddens**, a member of our Groundwater Subcommittee, has responded quite correctly with a warning:—

‘Although I notionally enthusiastically support the idea of using median strips and verges for growing edible plants I would urge caution to those who wish to embrace the idea locally. Our ridgetop soils are acidic and nutrient-poor, conditions with which local plants, waterways and ecosystems have evolved. As such, all who try to grow veggies or fruit trees are only too aware of the need to enhance these soils with the addition of organic material, trace

elements and so on. These extra nutrients pose a very real threat to our waterways and aquatic ecosystems which are already impacted upon by the nutrient load picked up from road surfaces and domestic gardens and washed into them with stormwater. The installation of vegetable gardens along median strips and verges can only exacerbate the impact.’

**HCC shuts down a sand mine!**

At its Council Meeting on 11 November, 2008, Hawkesbury City Council voted 13-0 on the officer’s recommendation **to shut down a sand mine** at Lot 2, 6102 Singleton Road, Mellong, due to non-compliance with DA, Condition of Consent 4, “Erosion and sedimentation control devices shall be installed and maintained during construction and ongoing operations. Details shall be submitted and approved by Department of Land and Water Conservation prior to any works commencing.”

The public interest has been served in this latest chapter of a long-running issue, which has been supported by a range of environmental groups and the EPO. Of major concerns now are the fine silt tailings in the 11ha window lake which reduces Tinda Creek flow by 37% to 54%, the minimal \$50,000 in rehabilitation bond available after 20 years of operation, and especially the very risky silt fines/quicksand only one to four metres below the water surface.

It is encouraging to see an authority enforcing its conditions, particularly in the area of erosion and sediment control and groundwater protection, so often those facets where abuse occurs. But there is still no formal plan of how to close the sand mine. Promising, but tricky!

**Clive Barker, our Threatened Species Officer, comments:**

“This vote is excellent as the Mellong Sands area is unique ecologically, important for many threatened birds and other animals that while not listed as threatened are basically at the southern extent of their known ranges in this area.”

**GWHY Planting Specification**

The Society has lobbied the RTA vigorously over the course of the successive stages of the Great Western Highway upgrade to be able to input comment on the final landscape design, specifically on the choice of species for planting. Members may remember the great agapanthus disaster at Shell Corner! Accordingly we were gratified to be invited in mid-November to comment on the plans for Leura/Katoomba Section 2.

Clive Barker has applauded the selection of *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *E. oreades*, *E sieberi*, the *Banksias*: *B. cunninghamii*, *B.*

*ericifolia*, *B. serrata*, *B. spinulosa*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Hakea propinqua*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium* and *L. trinervium*. All are native to the area and should thrive if grown from local seed. Clive has slunk the slipper into invader weeds or sleeper weeds such as Bhutan cypress, golden ash, Taiwan flowering cherry, swamp wattle, and some hybrids or cultivars of bottlebrush, flax lily and Lomandra.

Essentially Consoc believes that the RTA should not be contributing to acclimatisation of foreign plants within the BM landscape, but if some are to be used then they must be easily recognisable as weeds if they start to spread.

**Rivers SOS Umbrella Network**

As reported regularly in *Hut News*, supported by periodic presentations at the Consoc Monthly Meetings, **Rivers SOS** has been campaigning for many years against damage to rivers caused by coal mining. The **Sydney Water Alliance (SWA)**, has been working with Rivers SOS for about three years, to oppose long-wall mining, which is destroying streams and rivers in the Sydney Catchment. Plans are advanced to long-wall mine under 92% of the Southern Catchment – posing a clear and present danger to some 30% of Sydney’s drinking water supply – but the general media are totally uninterested.

Rivers SOS recently sponsored a visit by **Maude Barlow, Founder and Chair of the Council of Canadians**, to speak in Australia. She advocated the formation of an Australian national lobby group, the **Australian Water Network (AWN)**, on the Canadian model. In October Bernard Eddy from the Save Water Alliance took on the establishment work, and Rivers SOS is to become part of it. **The Society has been invited to join.** In the long term, the aim is to have a key group of nationally recognised persons to do public lobbying. It is intended that AWN remain strictly a non-party political, group providing an urgently needed platform for the large number of environment groups dealing with water issues around Australia. Maude will return to Australia in April 2009 to address the first **AWN National Conference. RW**

**THE BLUE MOUNTAINS REALLY NEED YOU... on our Land Use Sub-Committee** to ensure that every land development takes place under legitimate environmental scrutiny and regulation. **WORK COMMITMENTS CONTINUE TO ROB THIS IMPORTANT SUBCOMMITTEE OF VALUED MEMBERS. IT IS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY OF THE SOCIETY THAT NEW MEMBERS ARE QUICKLY ENLISTED...**  
Please ring Tara Cameron on 4751 1130 to discuss a role you may play.

## Mt Victoria Bypass — Questions now posed directly to the RTA

Last month we provided a summary of questions raised in meetings held by Keith Muir with RTA consultants, Cardno and SKM. On 11 November Brian Marshall consolidated our ongoing queries on the route assessment process with this letter to the RTA Project Manager and the Communications Manager, copies to Bob Debus and Phil Koperberg. A partial reply has been received, but the Society is still looking for clear answers.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society continues to be concerned about the processes involved in selecting a Newnes corridor and assessing its viability. And then, if determined that such a route is feasible, how it will be considered within the context of the SKM investigations of possible Hartley Vale corridors. We are also concerned about the interaction of your investigations with the CWATN Study being managed by Mark Ozinga.

Following the Lithgow meeting attended by Cardno, it has become clear that Cardno has selected a preferred route across Newnes Plateau and is evaluating its viability. In view of the enormous amount of data that was supplied to Cardno at the meeting and subsequently by representatives of the Society, the Colong Foundation and others, we ask the following and hope that you will also direct the questions to your consultants (where appropriate):

**1. What is the alignment of the corridor across Newnes Plateau that has been selected by Cardno?**

Descriptions have been provided infor-

mally, but it is about time for a formal corridor to be presented on a map. This should not be kept 'secret'. Only when the corridor is properly delineated will it be possible for the community to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts.

**2. What weightings will be assigned to the various environmental, economic and social factors in Cardno's assessment of feasibility?**

Despite assurances that the process will be conducted with integrity, the selected weightings can make or break any project. Despite questions addressed to Cardno at the Lithgow meeting and despite subsequent representation by organisations with similar concerns, data on weightings and iterative modelling processes have not been made available. This inevitably breeds suspicion that the 'preferred' finding will control the weightings within a process that has too many degrees of freedom and lacks transparency.

**3. How will the work by Cardno be evaluated in the context of the Hartley Vale corridors being delineated by SKM?** [Assuming Cardno decides that the Newnes route is feasible; and, in view of the terms of reference, any other decision seems wildly improbable!]

At the Lithgow meeting you suggested that Cardno's findings would be evaluated in relation to a 'base case'. The nature of this base case was not made clear and you will appreciate that, in any meeting involving a range of conflicting interests that need to be heard, it was too difficult to ask sufficient questions to elicit a detailed response.

Again at the Lithgow meeting we were told that the terms of reference and the depth of the investigations by the two consulting groups would differ, yet in at least one version of what will happen, SKM will need to rate the NP route against less well investigated HV corridors. The role of a base-case comparison in such deliberations was not made clear.

**4. What is your (RTA's) role in this confusing process?**

You indicated that RTA (= you) would be interacting with the consultants at all times as the process progressively unfolds, yet no-one has provided a flowsheet of the full process. It remains unclear whether the same weightings will be employed throughout the investigation at NP, HV and even in relation to the existing corridor.

Are you (RTA) satisfied that the consultants' treatment of constraints is in all cases adequate and consistent? (e.g. Is the buffer zone for a NPSS and watercourse adequate? What is the envisaged noise buffer for a HV household? Have any constraints in relation to sand and coal been imposed by the DPI?) Are you (RTA) engaged with determining the final weightings [once all the constraints are considered/'managed'] and the environmental, heritage and social values are traded against technical and cost factors? Or are you really only involved with dealing with community groups and conveying the findings to the Minister?

**5. What interaction is envisaged with the report by SKM relating to the CWATN Study?**

Cardno seems to feel that there is no linkage, whereas SKM apparently feels

## TAPPING INTO BMCS MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES – Part 3

Although progress on most of the Objectives is effectively covered in reports in *Hut News*, the Committee feels an obligation to let members know in a more structured sense just how we are going against our formalised aims. This month the focus shifts to progress on **Objective 3, the BM Western Escarpment. Not surprisingly, the emphasis in the Objective is the ongoing Campaign for the Gardens of Stone, Stage 2.**

**a./b. Incorporation of Newnes Plateau, Western Escarpment and Mt Airie into National Parks or SCAs (GoS2 Proposal) including work against DEC Assessment Report.** The Society and the Colong Foundation for Wilderness have commissioned the services of consultant, Ian Brown, to investigate and report on potential recreational use of the Gardens

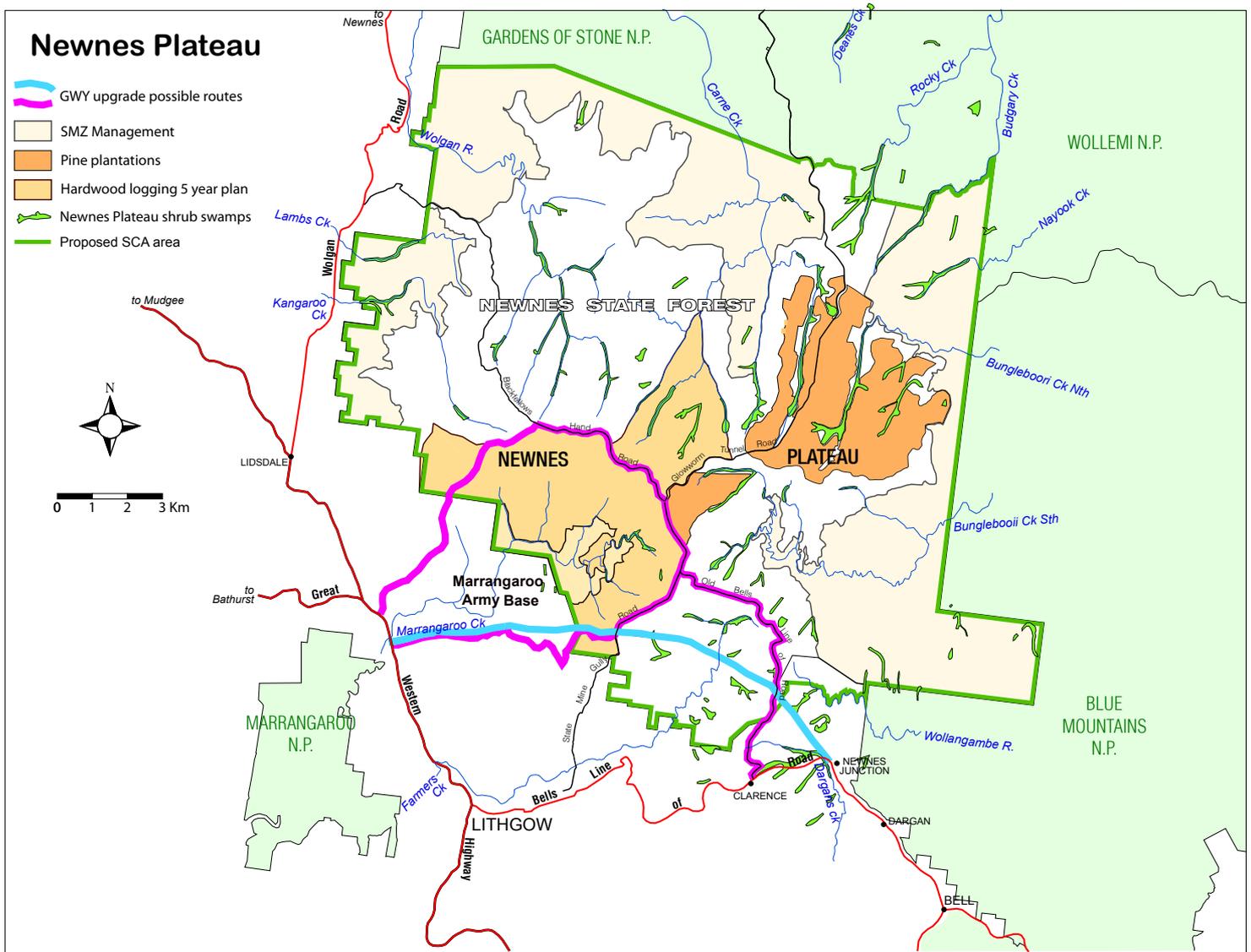
of Stone Park Proposal Stage 2, to recommend a recreation plan for the area and to assess and estimate the associated economic benefits that might accrue if the plan was implemented. The report is due in November 2008.

Other initiatives have been taken. We have taken aerial photographs across the Plateau of both damaged and scenic areas. We plan to use this material in presentations to a range of bushwalking clubs. A website handout map for DIY visits is being prepared. We are obtaining medical statistics on accidents and Medivac callouts on Newnes Plateau. We are evaluating conducting 'local walks' for Lithgow residents. We are attempting to liaise with the aboriginal community in relation to SCA protection in the context of aboriginal heritage. We are attempting to get more poli-

ticians on our conducted tour of the area. We are looking at funding a new report on the ecological values of the Plateau.

**c. Work against DoP and DPI-MR proposals for Newnes Plateau.** We need to discuss with DPI-MR the 'footprint' used to identify portions of Newnes Plateau prospective for sand mining. We also plan to contact Sydney Construction Materials to determine the status of planning for sand mining at Newnes. DPI-Minerals remains a stumbling block to the reservation of Newnes Plateau!

**d. Oppose Bells Line of Road Expressway and investigate plans for Mt Victoria Bypass.** This task has of necessity devolved into a lengthy but vital campaign opposing the Bypass through what has become known as the Newnes Plateau Corridor. The latest report is set out above.



that the CWATN study will have bearing on the selected option. Obviously the CWATN will be considered at Ministerial level. But can you assure us that the RTA covering report and those of its consultants specific to the Mt Vic bypass will not carry

a 'CWATN' weighting factor?

The Society hopes that enough concerns have been raised on limitations in the current communication processes for you to ensure that a considered response is forthcoming.

**NOTE: The above map has been prepared by Newnes expert, Karen McLaughlin, to assist in arguing our case. You will see that it shows the possible routes in relation to the proposed SCA areas which constitute the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal.**

Little is likely to be heard on the BLOR expressway in the near future.

**e. Monitor BMCC and LCC Council's performance re management of their Western Escarpment Lands.** This is ongoing. The declaration by the two Councils in October that they will work jointly on the restoration of degraded Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps, Montane Peatlands and Blue Mountains Swamp communities came as a possible bright light for the future.

**f. Monitor Helicopter Joy Flights from Capertee.** The aim here is to monitor that joy flights are maintained within the approval conditions imposed by the Land and Environment Court, after the ban on flights was overturned. Measurements of noise from helicopter and aircraft movements east of Capertee may provide data for opposing an extension to the DA in four years time. This is a co-operative

endeavour with both the Lithgow and Capertee Valley Environment Groups.

**g. Participate in Environmental Advisory Group for Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort.** No Advisory Group Meeting has been called. It is probable that the need for this group has abated. Construction proceeds apace. Consoc bushwalkers have taken to regular climbs up Donkey Mountain, overlooking the site!

**h. Work with State Forests on Newnes Plateau current land use.** The main thrust here has been to work towards a roundtable with Forests and Lithgow Police to restrict illegal trail bike riding. This has been supported by the acceptance of our invitation of a tour of the Plateau by the State members for Bathurst, Penrith and Blue Mountains. We are also seeking to influence, by way of the need for an Environmental Impact Statement, renewal licences for logging in the Newnes State Forest.

**i. Canyon Colliery Rehabilitation.** Continual pressure on successive Government Ministers has produced undertakings in respect of both groundwater Zinc contamination and site rehabilitation. (See page 3 of this issue.)

**j. React to SMP Reports for the Centennial and Xtrata Collieries** There have been discussions in relation to specific instances of mine water discharges and subsidence. A further meeting is set down for December.

**k. Dargan/Clarence Issues.** We have been monitoring sale of land at Dargan in order to oppose any sand mining DAs, and seek to evaluate management plans for Dargan Dams area. Lands Dept has been asked to comment on the threat to *Acacia meiantha*.

**l. Lithgow Regional Subcommittee Activities.** We have continued to respond to the declared needs of the LRS, particularly in respect of its enquiries into stream contamination due to various industrial operations in the area. (see page 2) RW

# CLIMATE CHANGE

## A Forum and a Roundtable. Dual Reports by Helen Deane

### DECC Community Forum and Specialist Workshop, Nov. 2008

The purpose of this forum was for the NSW Government through the DECC to consult with local government, natural resource management and business representatives across the State. The information gathered at these forums is to be used in developing the new Climate Change Action Plan, which is an update of the 2005 Greenhouse Plan.

#### DECC is taking a three-pronged approach to its plan for the state:

**1) Mitigation** – NSW produces 160 million tonnes/year of Greenhouse gases, this represents ¼ of Australia's total emissions. The emphasis here was to implement a strategy that would complement rather than double up on the Federal Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the Carbon-Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The area for State focus on emission reductions was in energy efficiency in public and residential sites, transport, urban planning, agriculture/land use and waste management

**2) Adaptation** – there were a number of different areas that were covered in this section including the threat of sea level rise and the projected increase of up to 50% in summer rainfall and a significant decrease in overall rainfall in the south of the State. Migration of populations around the State is expected to occur with many coastal dwellers moving westward and those in the drought-affected south moving north. As the Blue Mountains is seen as being an area that will fare better in some respects to the risks of Climate Change there was some indication that we can expect an increase in our population. The emphasis for the State's adaptation strategy was risk management. This included a need to better prepare for the increased demands on health and emergency services, serious environmental pressures on vital infrastructure and the need for better urban planning.

**3) Future Prosperity** – the final and weakest of the Government initiatives was ensuring the future prosperity of the State. It was suggested that if the State can work in tandem with the Commonwealth on Climate Change issues, recognise the need for serious reform in energy efficiency standards and take advantage of the 'green jobs' boom then the future prosperity of the State could be salvaged. This was the least convincing part of the plan.

**Comments:** This forum placed a much greater emphasis on adaptation than any I have attended over the last few years. It appeared to me that the Government might have finally experienced a much-needed



**AT THE BMCS  
FAMILY PICNIC**

Hard to say what the focus was: sack races or sausages, botany or beverages was great fun at Sun Valley with President Tara clearly in the thick of things



reality check with just how dire the situation has become. It was recognised that the Blue Mountains is an unusually well informed and active area in regard to these issues and they reported that the uptake of rebates and schemes was particularly high in our LGA.

This community forum was the twelfth of thirteen of its kind across the State. From here there will be consultations with peak stakeholders between Nov and Feb. The draft Climate Change Action Plan is due for release in April with the final version expected for release mid- 2009.

**Blue Mountains City Council Roundtable on Climate Change Risks Assessment by Climate Risk Pty Ltd, Oct 2008**

The purpose of this forum was to convene chosen stakeholders in the Blue Mountains LGA to discuss projected climate risks specific to the Blue Mountains. The stakeholders chosen included representatives from environmental, social and economic corners. This was an information gathering process for both the hosts and those attending. There was an opportunity for all those present to contribute and identify the most pressing implications that Climate Change poses for their given area. Here is an outline of some of the main points of the discussion.

**IMPACTS**

**Primary:** direct impacts – increased intensity and frequency of bushfires, more frequent storm events, 1 in 5 year hail events, changed rainfall patterns with similar annual rainfalls but concentrated in heavier bursts.

**Secondary:** regulatory impacts – the ETS and the CPRS.

**Tertiary:** How people will have to change – efficiency regulations and personal strategies for adaptation, eg uptake of Greenpower, retrofitting etc.

**Confluence:**

Many impacts from the same problem, eg. increased summer rains effect, stormwater velocity, erosion, home flooding, insurance etc as a combined effect.

**Climate Change impacts identified as specific problems for the Blue Mountains:**

- **Bushfires:** increased intensity and frequency.
- **Storms:** extremes of winds and rain resulting in increased failure of stormwater and other infrastructure. Increased hail damage resulting in roof damage, house flooding and increased strain on SES.
- **Population:** possible increase of population because of cooler climate of the mountains, particularly upper mountains, resulting in further habitat loss from development and squeeze on affordable housing.

ages, rounders or rambling, tug-o'-war or talkfest, sunbaking or *Sun Herald*, but on 9 October it was, and delighted to meet with and applaud the role of our walks 'leader legends' present on the day.

Sensational slides surfing a serendipitous sound track opened the show – a sparking exposition of scenic gems across the entire area which comprises the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Proposal – compiled from shots by Andrew, Karen, David and Keith:

- Pagodas, dramatically coloured escarpments, narrow canyons, cave overhangs, rock arches, lonely sandstone peninsulas and wind-formed but now well vegetated sand dunes that are remnants from the last ice age;
- Ancient windswept montane heathlands, nationally endangered shrub swamps, a unique subspecies of snowgum and other grassy high plateau woodlands, including poorly conserved grassy white box woodlands.
- The nationally significant first passes to inland Australia – the Coxs, Lawsons, and Lockyers roads at Mount York;
- Some the State's best preserved and Heritage Listed oil shale ruins in Australia in a spectacular setting;
- An important scientific reference area near Gooches Crater that has yielded important fire history data that may inform future fire management practices.

Tara Cameron re-introduced us to the existing Gardens of Stone National Park and went on to describe the components of the 40,000ha proposed Stage 2 extension – its six individual areas – Genowlan Mountain, Airly Mountain, Wollangambe Wilderness, Newnes Plateau, Baal Bone and Long Swamp and the Western Escarpment, presently all either crown land or state forest.

David Brazil then screened a selection of aerial photos reinforcing the value of the areas. He drew attention to the

Endangered Ecological Community, the tiny 10ha Genowlan Point *Allocasuarina nana* dwarf heathland, and in particular to *Pultenaea sp Genowlan Point*, of which only 18 plants remain. David was one of an NPA/BMCS/ Colo Committee group which went in transporting 200 litres of water to give the plants a drink during the recent drought and to stake them against feral goats and feral folks.

Unfortunately we then, from these same aerials, had to see some of the threats the area faces, mine-induced subsidence and landslide, illegal trail bike damage, water pollution, neglected sand mining rehabilitation random four-wheel driving tracks and rubbish dumping.

Our spirits were again lifted by images of the flora and fauna of the area, before we were once more brought down to earth confronting the possible threat posed to Newnes Plateau by the Mt Victoria Bypass Road. A roller coaster evening, and the job still to be done... **RW**



*Pagoda country from in high – our challenge to the Bungle Bungles?*

## Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Saving Energy on Hot Water Heating

**David Bowskill has been asked to share his system with members...**

As an alternative to the use of solar hot water panels, you can effectively eliminate your greenhouse gas emissions caused by use of electricity by switching over to 100% accredited green electricity supply. Note that the electricity supplier is audited to ensure that they buy or supply as much renewable energy as they supply to you.

Unfortunately, at present there is a cost premium in buying 100% green electricity, although with time this will be reduced if not eliminated. By buying green electricity, you will help to increase the demand for it, its use will become more common and the cost premium should reduce.

Although the green electricity is more

expensive, this can be offset by savings generated from the use of off-peak supply plus the installation of a 'heat-pump' type electrical hot water heater.

The heat-pump hot water heater I use is a Quantum Heater, model 270-11AC3-134. This contains 270 litres of hot water – enough for a household of four persons or so.

A heat-pump electrical hot water heater operates in the same way as does a split-cycle air-conditioner when heating in winter – except in reverse. Heat is taken from the outside air and pumped into the water. This action works the most effectively when the air is at its warmest, that is, in the early afternoon.

The ratio of the amount (energy) of heat pumped into the water compared to the energy used from the electricity supply can be, when the air is warm, as high as three to one. This means one get three times as much hot water for a given amount of electricity from a heat-pump system as one would get from a normal storage system. Thus the hot water electricity consumption is effectively reduced by that same three times. When the air is cooler the gains are not so much, going down to only one and a half times in winter.

To get the most from a heat-pump hot water storage system it is very important to make sure that:

1) The heat-pump storage heater is situated in a sunny position. The warmer, the better the heat pump operates.

2) The heater ONLY operates in the early afternoon. To achieve this a time switch needs to be installed on the electricity distribution board on the circuit which supplies the heater.

Fortunately one can buy off-peak electricity on the Off-Peak 2 tariff which is available in the middle of the day but not at peak consumption times (early/mid-morning and late afternoon/mid-evening). This tariff rate is about half of the normal (continuous) rate. The time switch and Off-Peak Tariff 2 metering need to be installed by a licensed electrician.

An issue to be aware of is that time switches are mechanical in operation and when the power fails (as it does from time to time) the time switch will stop running. When the power is restored, it will lag in time by the outage time and consequently will need re-adjusting.

If you have any queries please contact **David Bowskill on 4757 3416, or at [davidbow@tpg.com.au](mailto:davidbow@tpg.com.au)**



# Nursery Report

*Of trees, tubes, pots and a passing year...*



**Trees for Your Garden:** Australian trees are so full of character that every garden should have at least one. Eucalypts are the most dominant species in our country and have been described as "the Icons of the Australian bush".

It was primarily the variety of Eucalypts in our area that led to World Heritage declaration for our nearby National Parks. They have much more individuality than Northern hemisphere pines and our nurseries have over 15 local species available to suit all soil types and conditions. From giants like *Eucalyptus deanii* and *Eucalyptus oreades* to smaller species like the mallee *Eucalyptus stricta* we have at least one to suit any sized property. Use the Council's Carbon Offsets free offer to collect two now. If you miss out, remember that the the cost per tree to members is only \$2.00!

**Recycling Tubes and Pots:** You will have noticed in Council's recycling documents that garden pots and tubes are not recycled and will end up as landfill if you put them in your bins. This is a terrible waste as we can re-use them after sterilization and washing, over and over again. So, please return them to us and as an incentive we will give you 10 cents off your next plant purchase for every intact tube or pot returned. It's good for you, good for us, and good for the environment.

**Season Closure:** Even our enthusiastic volunteers welcome a short break and our nurseries will close after trading on 16 and 17 December at Blackheath and Lawson respectively and re-open on 13 and 14 January, 2009. In the meantime, on behalf of our wonderful volunteers, I would like to thank you for your patronage and wish you an enjoyable holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**Kevin Bell, BMCS Nursery Manager, 4787 6436, kevinbell@efstel.net.au**



**ABOVE:**  
*The Blackheath Nursery Team with pots and tubes for recycling.*

**BELOW:**  
*Kevin Bell & Damien Drew launching the co-operative carbon offsets scheme at our Lawson Nursery. That's BMCC Green Team Co-ordinator, Chris Dewhurst, behind the table of Angophora Costata.*

## **A canny co-operative carbon offsets scheme**

**C**limate change, driven in part by the burning of fossil fuels, is having a significant effect on Australia. The Blue Mountains is not immune, with the potential for hotter summers, increasing bushfires, and prolonged droughts into the future.

**In another effort to combat the effects of climate change, the Blue Mountains City Council is conducting a community-based program to offset the carbon emissions of its maintenance vehicle fleet.**

**Damien Drew, Manager, Operations, at Blue Mountains City Council, said that the initial program involves the distribution and planting of local native tree species. Up to 2000 trees have been made available free of charge to interested residents and community groups through a voucher system in conjunction with the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.**

Vouchers are available from:

- Blaxland Library
- Springwood Council Office
- Lawson Library
- Wentworth Falls Library
- Katoomba Council Office
- Blackheath Library

and may be redeemed at Council's Springwood Depot, Lawson St off Hawkesbury Road or at the Society's Nurseries, Govett's Leap Road Blackheath, or Cataract St, off Livingstone St, Lawson. The Blackheath Nursery opens 9.00am to 12.00pm Tuesdays. The Lawson Nursery opens for the same hours on Wednesdays.

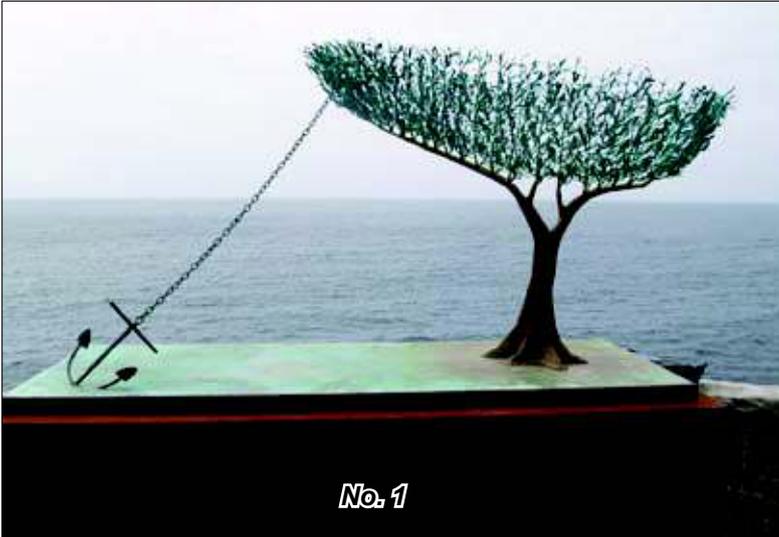
Private residents are entitled to two trees and not-for-profit groups up to 20 on a first-come-first-served basis.

"This is an excellent scheme which has the full support of the Society and we are privileged to be part of it," said Consoc Nursery Manager, Kevin Bell. "You play a part in safely absorbing carbon dioxide and storing it in such an attractive feature as a lovely Eucalypt, Angophora, bloodwood, Banksia, wattle or turpentine tree.

"In the first week of operation, the response has been overwhelming with large numbers of residents coming to the three outlets to collect their trees."

For further information, you may contact Council on 4780 5000 or visit Council's website at [bmcc.nsw.gov.au](http://bmcc.nsw.gov.au)

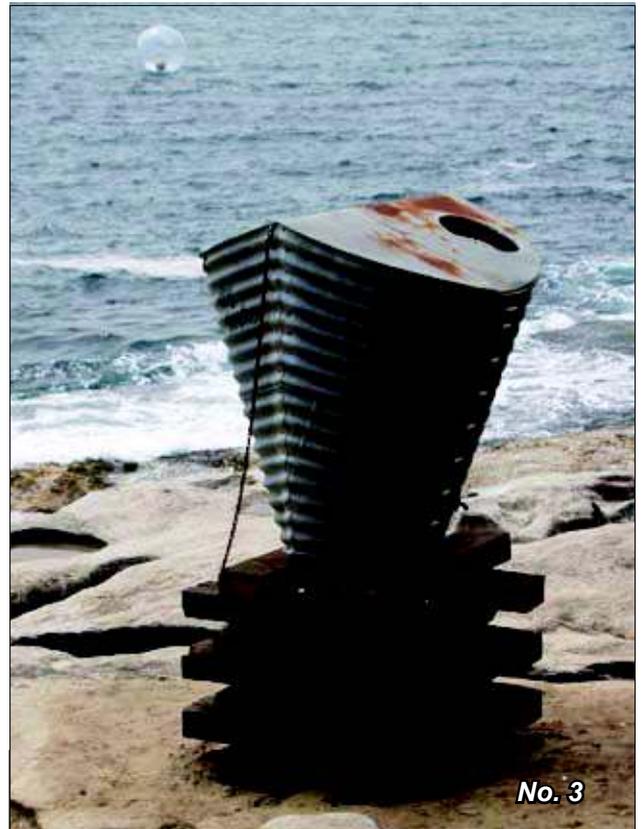
## SOME MESSAGES FOUND AT SCULPTURE BY THE SEA



No. 1



No. 2



No. 3

Each year at 'Sculpture by the Sea', when I take the winding promenade along the foreshore between Bondi and Tamarama Beaches in company with thousands of others, I can be sure that among the works of sculptors from around the globe I will find many images that provide an especially poignant commentary on the modern nexus between man and his environment. Of course the sublime seaside siting of the exhibition is a major contributor to that effect.

SxS in October 2008 was no exception, and here are three images, all by Australians, which had such particular appeal to me. I hope they strike a chord with Consoc members, many of whom I know spent a day down at the beach.

No. 1 is a bronze tabloid by Alex Kosmas (not Cosmos!) and in fact is titled 'nexus', representing our anchor or lifeboat in a fast-paced world that every day seems to be forgetting more of its connection to and reliance upon the natural world.

No. 2 in salt casting compound (whatever that is?) by Sally Kidall has the rather demanding title of 'plug-in', creating, she states, "the tension implied by placing these electric plugs out of context, challenged by the vulnerability of their material, evoking a desire for harmonious relationships." Well I am allowed to transpose my own interpretation. I see a commentary on the emerging energy crisis, when such common objects will become as useless as they appear here, disconnected, struggling to be relevant, while around them all the while are the options that will restore them to function, wind power, wave power and the energy of the sun.

In No. 3 by Alexandra Byrne, we can all recognise the components, corrugated iron, steel and timber in the composition titled 'dry docs: they're shipping it in'. Here I return to the sculptor's interpretation, a perception of Australia's water crisis and those means being implemented to assuage it – rainwater tanks, transportation by ship, platforms for wells or water bore drilling with a locational hint of desalination.

In the background you have a bonus sculpture, a big pvc floating bubble, a moving installation, whose interpretation is beyond me, except that it resembles the evil balloon in the 1960s TV sci-fi show,

'The Prisoner' with Patrick McGoohan. Maybe that's it – a nasty foreboding of rising sea levels!

These artists can see so far and so deeply: if only they were the decision makers in respect of our daily conservation objectives...

Well there were of course 103 other sculptures at SxS. I do not expect any of my selections to take out the People's Choice Award. That will probably go to one of the big shiny stainless steel kinetic jobs, spinning or wafting silently in wind. Just not my thing at all.

RW

### Consoc support for BM Bushcare

BMCS VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon.

Karen Hising is our volunteer leader, providing instruction. Tools and gloves are made available by Council.

You bring a drink, a snack, a hat and the whistle while you work...

New members always welcome! Please ring Karen on 4757 1929.

But if you can't make it to our site please find a Bushcare Group nearer to your home. See the website:

[www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/bushcare\\_groups.asp](http://www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/bushcare_groups.asp) or phone Lyndal Sullivan at: BMCC 4780 5528

## Newnes Plateau: a botanists' paradise...

**Christine Davies provides another insight into why the Society is working so diligently to have Newnes Plateau incorporated in the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 National Park.**

The Newnes Plateau is a special place. It is truly a botanists' paradise. The Plateau provides a habitat for many rare and uncommon plants, including some which can be found nowhere else. Then there are the creeks and canyons, sandstone cliffs, pagodas, eucalypt forests, a rich fauna population, and in October/November a fantastic display of wildflowers.

On Thursday 30 October 2008 the Interpretive Bushwalkers drove off from Mount Victoria in thick mist. The road out past Bungleboori picnic area was dry and recently graded, with signs warning of logging trucks. A Gang Gang Cockatoo was feeding on the fruit of a Geebung shrub.

The mist thinned and eventually dissolved, leaving sparkling droplets of moisture on plants and spider webs. Beneath the Eucalypts was a garden of wildflowers, dominated from afar by the conspicuous Waratahs, close up by masses of *Boronia microphylla*. Little white Caladenia orchids were plentiful, and the finding of a species of Diuris (Tiger Orchid) caused some excitement. There were so many other wildflowers that we would be there yet trying to list them all. Kangaroos fled among the trees. Our leader Karen showed us an endangered Geebung, *Persoonia hindii*.

This species was discovered in 1989 and all known locations occur within the area of the Newnes State Forest.

Our next stop was for morning tea and a stroll beside a swamp. There were wombat scats and again lots of the little Caladenia orchids. The Newnes Shrub Swamp has been listed as an ecologically endangered community. These swamps are threatened by forestry activities and trail bike riders. Flowering in profusion across the swamp was *Boronia deanii*, a plant with limited distribution. Hidden unnoticed among the other vegetation for most of the year, on this day the Boronias were lovely. Growing in the swamp was *Grevillea acanthifolia* and on dry land masses of the groundcover *Grevillea laurifolia*. We looked for the natural hybrid which occurs between these two species, *Grevillea X gaudichaudii*, but were unable to find any. These *Grevillea* species are endemic to the upper Blue Mountains.

Another drive and after a short walk we had our lunch on a tall pagoda high above Carne Creek. By then the sun was shining. The cliffs and pagodas were magnificent. A falcon hovered and dived for food and then soared across the valley to hover again beyond the pagodas on the opposite cliffs. The most conspicuous flowers around us were *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe myrtle). Also growing there was *Darwinia taxifolia* ssp *taxifolia*, another plant which is endemic to the upper Blue Mountains. Returning to the cars, Sue identified *Gompholobium*



*The rare Persoonia hindii. The succulent leaves are alternate, linear-oblong, the fruit shown here is an oval fleshy drupe, dull green turning yellow, about 15mm in length.*

*uncinatum* with orange-red flowers. An otherwise coastal species, this plant has been recorded in the upper mountains at Mount Victoria and Newnes Plateau.

Some roads were closed for logging activities and logs were stacked waiting to be carted away. Compared to other pine forests the Newnes Plateau forests are poor, with thin straggly pines spreading their seedlings into natural bushland. It seems to me so much damage for so little reward, when the natural forests, endangered swamps and rare plants which the pines replace are so very precious.

*Christine Davies*

## Newnes Plateau and surrounds: a butterfly's abode

**And here's yet another reason to value Newnes Plateau and to keep working towards Gardens of Stone Stage 2 — this time adapted and expanded from a minute of a recent meeting of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW:**

Bushwalkers and the community in the Lithgow region are part of a call by the National Parks & Wildlife Service to look for the breeding sites of the **Purple Copper Butterfly** (*Paralucia spinifera*) endangered in NSW and vulnerable nationally. It occurs on the Central Tablelands of NSW in an area approximately bounded by Oberon, Hartley and Bathurst. It is found at 35 locations, all within the Greater Lithgow, Bathurst Regional and Oberon local government areas.

It is one of Australia's rarest butterfly species. Its habitat is restricted to elevations above 900m. The butterfly's life cycle relies on a 'mutualistic' relationship with the ant *Anonychomyrma itinerans*, and on the presence of blackthorn, *Bursaria spinosa* subspecies *lasiophylla*, which is familiar to

most bushwalkers with its strong perfume and sweet nectar that can be sucked out of its numerous flowers

After mating, the female lays her eggs on blackthorn bushes or adjacent debris near nests of the attendant ants. During the 14 to 17 days they take to hatch, the ants constantly patrol the blackthorn. As the larvae hatch and mature, the ants keep them underground in their nest during the day, shepherding them out at night to continue grazing on the blackthorn leaves. The ants' efforts are rewarded with a sugary honeydew from a gland on the larvae's backs.

When fully grown, the larvae return to the ants' nest to pupate from January until the butterflies emerge between August and November (later at high altitudes).

You really do need to access the colour photos on the website version of this *Hut News* to pick up the amazingly subtle 'copperiness' of the insect.

Oh, yes, if you do find one please contact Tiffany Mason on 6332 7643 with the location details.

*Ron Withington*



## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The *BMCS Bushwalkers' Guide*, which explains the numbered Grades, can be found on the Society's website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au), or will be posted on request. For more information: Liz van Reyswood, on 4757 2694, [bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bushwalks@bluemountains.org.au), or PO Box 29, W/Falls 2782. **Before attending a walk, please discuss the walk with the contact person or group co-ordinator (see below)**

### SATURDAY WALKS (NOTE : No Walk on Dec-27)

Usually a full-day, longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Before attending ring the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy, 4758 6009 or email [jp34@tpg.com.au](mailto:jp34@tpg.com.au)

|        |  |          |           |                 |                                |        |
|--------|--|----------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Dec-20 | Little Zig Zag and Rienets Pass (3)  | Ros      | 4733 3880 | Map: Mt W/Hart. | Meet: Mt Victoria Stn Car Park | 9.45am |
|        | 5km. Steep descent and ascent.   |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Jan-03 | National Pass (2/3)  | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Katoomba   | Meet: Wentworth Falls Stn CP   | 8.30am |
|        | 3km. One of the Blue Mountains oldest and most popular walking tracks.                                   |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Jan-10 | Wentworth Pass (3)   | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Katoomba   | Meet: Wentworth Falls Stn CP   | 8.30am |
|        | 5km. Includes steps and a ladder or two. Slacks Stairs.  |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Jan-17 | Federal Pass, Leura end (2/3)  | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Katoomba   | Meet: Leura Station Car Park   | 8.30am |
|        | 3.5km. Completed 1900 to connect Katoomba Falls to Leura Falls.  |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Jan-24 | Federal Pass, Katoomba end (2/3)   | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Katoomba   | Meet: Gearins Hotel Car Park   | 8.30am |
|        | 5km. Completed 1900 to connect Katoomba Falls to Leura Falls.  |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Jan-31 | Porters Pass (2/3)   | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Katoomba   | Meet: Blackheath Stn Car Park  | 8.30am |
|        | 4km. Historic track (1886) as a way down from Blackheath to Kanimbla Valley                              |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Feb-07 | Great Zig Zag, Clarence (2/3)  | Bob      | 4757 2694 | Map: Local      | Meet: Mt Victoria Station CP   | 8.30am |
|        | 3km each way. Walk down and back admiring the viaducts and tunnels of this historic engineering project. |          |           |                 |                                |        |
| Feb-14 | Wollangambe Canyon (2)   | Meredith | 4782 4823 | Map: Woll/gambe | Meet: Blackheath Stn Car Park  | 9.45am |
|        | Short walk to a swim in the cool canyon waters surrounded by sandstone cliffs.                           |          |           |                 |                                |        |

### MONDAY LEISURE WALKS (NOTE : No Walk on Dec-22 or Dec-29)

'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Maurice Kerkham, 4739 4942, or email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricekerkham@hotmail.com)

|        |   |          |           |   |        |
|--------|---|----------|-----------|---|--------|
| Dec-15 | Christmas Party at Watsons Bay  | Birgitta | 4784 3191 | Meet: Top of escalators at Central Station        | 9.30am |
|        | Grade 1. Bring salad or sweets to share. <b>NOTE the change of venue: it was to have been at Lawson Pool.</b> |          |           |   |        |
| Jan-05 | Castle Head/Narrow Neck (2)   | Norm     | 4784 1554 | Meet: Gearins Hotel Katoomba                      | 8.30am |
|        | Views over Jamison Valley. Bring lunch. Car Shuffle   |          |           |   |        |
| Jan-12 | Darwins Walk (2)  | Judith   | 4758 6310 | Meet: Wentworth Falls Station Car Park            | 8.30am |
|        | Heritage Walk.  |          |           |   |        |
| Jan-19 | West Head/Mackrell Beach (2)  | Norm     | 4784 1554 | Meet: Council Depot, South Street, North Katoomba | 8.00am |
|        | Views over Pittwater. Swimming. BBQ Lunch. Bus Trip. Fare \$12. Book and pay Birgitta 4784 3191.              |          |           |   |        |
| Jan-26 | National Pass, Wentworth Falls (3)  | Bob      | 4739 4942 | Meet: Wentworth Falls Station Car Park            | 8.30am |
|        | Sydney Views, Bring lunch.  |          |           |   |        |
| Feb-02 | Wollangambe Canyon (2)  | Maurice  | 4739 4942 | Meet: Mt Victoria Station Car Park                | 9.00am |
|        | Wilderness walk. Bring Lunch. Swimming.   |          |           |   |        |
| Feb-09 | River Lett, Hartley (2)   | Marie    | 4787 1257 | Meet: Mt Victoria Station Car Park                | 9.00am |
|        | Car Pool. Swimming. Bring gourmet food to share.  |          |           |   |        |

### THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS (NOTE : No Walk on Dec-25, Jan-01 or Jan-08)

The walks are of 2-3 hours length conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. The Group Co-ordinator is Simone Bowskill, 4757 3416, email [simbow@tpg.com.au](mailto:simbow@tpg.com.au)

|        |  |         |           |                                       |         |
|--------|--|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Dec-18 | Christmas Party (1)  | Simone  | 4757 3416 | Meet: Linden Station                  | 11.00am |
|        | Celebrate at Kings Cave, Linden. Bring a plate and a chair. Dress: Colonial style. |         |           |                                       |         |
| Jan-15 | South Lawson Waterfalls (2)  | David   | 4757 3416 | Meet: Cnr Honour Ave & GWH Lawson     | 10.00am |
|        | Circuit bush track past waterfalls. Some steps.                                    |         |           |                                       |         |
| Jan-22 | Anvil Rock & Windblown Cave (2)  | Maurice | 4739 4942 | Meet: Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre | 9.45am  |
|        | Blackheath area. Short walk to classic view point                                  |         |           |                                       |         |
| Jan-29 | Mermaids Cave/Coachwood Glen (2)   | Marie   | 4787 1257 | Meet: Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre | 9.45am  |
|        | A cool walk followed by picnic lunch at Megalong Creek.                            |         |           |                                       |         |
| Feb-05 | Pope's Glen, Blackheath (2)  | David   | 4757 3416 | Meet: Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre | 9.45am  |
|        | Walk up the Glen from Govetts Leap. Car shuffle to return.                         |         |           |                                       |         |
| Feb-12 | North Hazelbrook Waterfalls (2)  | Maurice | 4739 4942 | Meet: Rear of Hazelbrook shops.       | 10.00am |
|        | Cool walk, with few steps, to three waterfalls.                                    |         |           |                                       |         |

## MEMBERS' MEMORANDA

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jenny Hitchcock | Mt Victoria |
| Sue Holz        | Katoomba    |
| Paul Maddock    | Mt Victoria |
| Peter Ridgeway  | Bullaburra  |
| Richard Stiles  | Lithgow     |
| Kati Watson     | Bronte      |
| Shaun Watson    | Bronte      |
| Shasrie Wu      | Lithgow     |

### BMCS MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Ilan Salbe 4759 2372  
[membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

## TRADING LEATHER FOR LYCRA?

Several bushwalkers are interested in setting up a cycling group – occasional bike rides on well-defined fire trails – not hard. If this rings your bell please contact Bill on 4758 8545 or Liz on 4757 2694.

Liz advises that as from 1 March 2009, the BMCS annual bushwalking fee will increase from \$15 to \$20 cover admin costs and first aid training for leaders.

Hut News is hanging up the boots for a while, just like this guy did with his mouldy moccasins at *Battleship Tops* – no edition in January 2009. But as you can see our Walks Program barely misses a stride!

Merry Christmas to all!

