



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

## MONTHLY MEETING

7.30 pm, Thursday 26 July, 2012

Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls

***The NSW Planning Act, Green Tape, Guns and Landclearing ... Dave Burgess gives an update after two decades of work for the environment.***

David Burgess is Natural Areas Campaigner at Total Environment Centre, Sydney. Over the past 20 years he has traversed the various workings of the NSW environment movement from the forest blockades of the late 1980's and 1990's to the more conventional roles of lobbying and research. His work in forest conservation has also briefly taken him to Papua New Guinea and West Africa. Depending on who you talk to he gained fame or infamy with his painting of 'No war' on the sails of the Sydney Opera House on the day Australia went to war with Iraq in 2003.

Dave grew up on the northern edges of Sydney in a 'playground' that ran through sandstone country, blue gum and turpentine forests down to mangroves and the Hawkesbury. So while riding bikes, sorting out childhood disputes and hiding from parents, the natural environment was being stamped into his programming. Over that time he saw much of that land turn into housing and industrial estates and its creeks become polluted. He first came across TEC in 1989 when looking at what the woodchip industry was getting away with in the forests around Eden. It was meeting people who valued the environment and were prepared to make personal sacrifices to protect it that inspired him to join an environment group.

Visitors are very welcome.

## Towards a clean energy economy

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 Australia took an historic step on the path to a clean energy economy, by placing a price on carbon emissions from our country's biggest polluters. Putting a price on pollution will drive unprecedented investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and creating new employment opportunities.

At [100percentready.org.au](http://100percentready.org.au) you'll hear from workers, farmers, small businesses, big businesses, inventors, investors and community leaders; all of whom are seeing big benefits for themselves, their communities and Australia from the work that's going on around the country.

When you listen to these people, the message is clear: clean energy creates installation, assembly and maintenance jobs in regional areas, it offsets energy price rises, it gives farmers income without damaging the land, it provides returns to investors, and creates a new sector that diversifies our economy and keeps the money right here in Australia. And, unlike coal seam gas, it does all these things without polluting our environment or contributing to climate change.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW.



Blue Gum Forest 80th Anniversary Celebrations  
Saturday/Sunday 1st/2nd September (See page 6)

## NOT HAPPY, ROZA! NO HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS

Come to a rally organised by  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society at  
**CARRINGTON PLACE, KATOOMBA**  
(Katoomba Town Square, Katoomba Street  
in front of Carrington Hotel)

**SUNDAY 15th JULY—11 am**

**Tell our local member Roza Sage and  
Premier Barry O'Farrell that we want  
NO recreational hunting in ANY  
of our National Parks**

Speakers: to be advised—check our website  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

Wear a highly visible orange shirt or vest  
or other bright clothing

Opening our national parks to armed hunters  
will threaten the safety of bushwalkers,  
campers and other park users, will endanger  
our native flora and fauna and will NOT help  
to control feral animals

## Environmental Art Competition for Blue Mountains Schools

### URGENT APPEAL

After some delay, the NSW Department of Education has given permission for Blue Mountains Conservation Society to run the Environmental Art Competition throughout schools in the Mountains which was announced last year.

Gary Humble, Enviro Education officer is busy preparing presentations for students and teachers to encourage participation in this important event.

- If you are an artist, or know one who'd be interested in running a workshop or demonstrating techniques or ideas in schools to students &/or teachers;
- if you have images of any art work on an environmental theme, especially children's works;
- if you have the time, energy or expertise to help organise this .....

please contact Gary 4784 1648, 0427 841 078, or  
[gaz.humble@gmail.com](mailto:gaz.humble@gmail.com)

"Hut News", the newsletter of  
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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS  
21 JULY 2012**

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## MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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## Nursery News

**Re-opening:** As the Blackheath Community Markets on Sunday 5th August will precede the postal distribution of August *Hut News* I'm putting in this early reminder now. General sales will resume at Lawson on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August. Start preparing your garden beds now as we will have lots of lovely plants to tempt you.

**Genus of the Month:** This is *Hibbertia*, commonly known as Guinea Flower of which there are about 150 species worldwide (Pacific Islands, Madagascar) with about 120 found in all states of Australia. *Hibbertias* are small to large shrubs, trailing shrubs or climbers and are most conspicuous in the bush through their buttercup-like, brilliant yellow, five petalled flowers, although some species in South and Western Australia have orange flowers.

The genus name honours the English merchant, politician, ship-owner, book collector and amateur botanist, George Hibbert (1757-1837). All his pursuits were typical of the rich merchant classes of the time but Hibbert had a thirst for knowledge and became engrossed with the cultivation of exotic plants for his large garden and some reports suggest that, at the time, it even exceeded the collection at the famous Kew gardens. With this interest in plants he funded numerous botanical expeditions and assisted other botanists, including Sir Joseph Banks, with the transportation of specimens through his shipping connections and his knowledge of mercantile networks. At the time he was a joint principal of the West India Dock Company and owned several ships, some of which were used for the transportation of convicts to Australia.

Hibbert was very much the polymath showing fluency in English, French, Italian, Latin and Greek and a working knowledge of German and Dutch. He entered parliament as member for Seaford, Sussex in 1806, was a member of numerous clubs and Societies including the Linnaeus Society, the Royal Society and the Antiquarian Society, a Master of the Cloth Workers Company ... the list goes on ... but he still found time to marry Elizabeth Margaret Fonnereau in 1784 and father 14 children! On his darker side, he was a strong proponent of the slave trade and violently opposed the aims of Wilberforce and the Abolitionists arguing that it was necessary for successful commerce in a pamphlet *The Slave Trade Indispensable*. At one time he lived on the opposite side of Clapham Common to Wilberforce and they worshipped in the same church on Sundays. The atmosphere there must have been electric.

We currently offer five species of *Hibbertia*, but the genus is undergoing revision so the names may change. *H. saligna* (*saligna*, Greek = willow-like) is a medium (1-1.5m) shrub with long, thin velvety leaves and large (3-4cm) yellow flowers in spring. It is endemic in the Blue Mountains and particularly common around Mts. Wilson and Irvine. *H. obtusifolia* (Hoary Guinea Flower) is a widespread, diffuse shrub to about 50cm high with oblanceolate leaves and forms extensive mats. Striking displays of solitary yellow flowers in spring make this an attractive rockery plant. *H. sepyllifolia* is a decumbent shrub with small (3-5mm) thin (1mm) leaves and again lovely yellow flowers in summer and a good rockery plant. Similar to the latter in habit is *H. diffusa* but the leaves are spoon-shaped. *H. empetrifolia* (Trailing or Tangled Guinea Flower) is a decumbent, sprawling, summer-flowering plant and a specimen in the Australian National Botanical Gardens in Canberra has grown to about 3.5m across.

Together with these we are planning to grow other species including *H. scandens* (Climbing Guinea Flower) and we will advise when these are available. We propagate all by cuttings which strike fairly easily. So, come and see us when we re-open and purchase some of these exciting plants. **Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager, [kevinbell@eftel.net.au](mailto:kevinbell@eftel.net.au)**



Photo: *Hibbertia scandens*, ([www.friendsoflanecovenationalpark.org.au/](http://www.friendsoflanecovenationalpark.org.au/))

## We say **NO** to hunting in National Parks! Tara Cameron

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell announced on 30 May that he would allow recreational hunting in 79 National Parks, Nature Reserves and Conservation Areas—a deal made with the minority NSW Shooters and Fishers Party so that he can sell off the State's electricity generators.

During his first week in office, the Premier made a strong promise to environment groups and the people of New South Wales that he would **NOT** allow shooting in National Parks. Tara Cameron attended a meeting in November 2010 when Barry O'Farrell stated this promise to her in person.

The full list includes places like Kosciuszo, the Warrumbungles, Morton NP, Oxley Wild Rivers, the Watagans, Myall Lakes, Goulburn River NP, Gibraltar Range NP and Brindabella NP. These areas have incredible environmental value, not to mention the tourism value with their amazing scenic vistas that have for decades drawn visitors from far and wide.

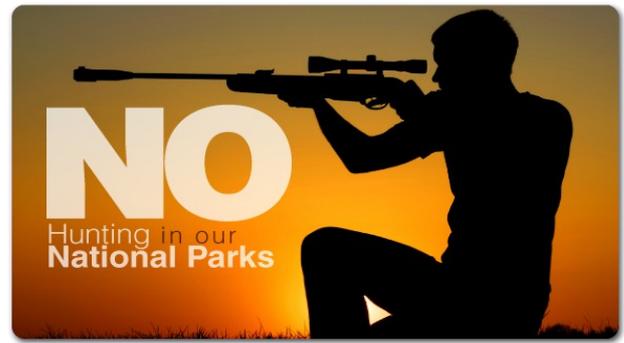
The Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill 2012, introduced on 14 June, passed both Houses and came in to being on 21 June 2012. The new Act will take effect six months from this date. **Only 48 reserves CANNOT be declared for hunting. ANY of our other 751 reserves may be opened up, at the whim of the Minister, "for the hunting of game animals by persons who hold a game hunting licence"**. The Act prohibits anyone from interfering with a licensed hunter or their activities, and specifically excludes licensed hunters from abiding by NPW Act stop work orders or interim protection orders—which are issued when an action or activity may significantly affect protected plants/animals/their environment, aboriginal objects/places, or other items of cultural heritage.

**There is no environmental benefit from recreational hunting.** Genuine reductions in feral populations can only be achieved by sustained and carefully planned programs. For some species, such as pigs, recreational shooting can be counterproductive, making animals more wary and dispersing them into remote areas. The Invasive Species Council's essay, "Is recreational hunting effective for feral animal control", concludes:

*To date, it is likely that greater harm than good has resulted from recreational hunting of feral animals, with most species having expanded in range and numbers despite hunting and, in some cases, because of hunting. The evidence indicates that recreational hunting is not effective as a major or primary method of feral animal control.*

NSW Parliamentary discussion paper produced in 2010, includes the following assessment:

*Studies indicate that professional, targeted feral animal control is much more successful than recreational hunting; Game Council data indicates that the kill rate of feral animals by recreational hunters is very low (less than two feral animals per licensed hunter and less than one animal per hunting day in 2007- 2008); Recreational hunters have a vested interest in retaining a sustainable population of feral animals to facilitate future hunting; Feral animal populations were, in some instances, established by hunters to facilitate hunting; There are*



*safety issues associated with hunting in national parks and hunting conflicts with other recreational uses.*

Further reading: Invasive Species Council's Fact Sheet: Recreational Hunting NSW—claims v facts ([http://www.invasives.org.au/documents/file/fs\\_rechuntNSWvfacts.pdf](http://www.invasives.org.au/documents/file/fs_rechuntNSWvfacts.pdf))

**Recreational hunters are not free.** The Invasive Species Council's essay "Is Hunting Conservation" revealed that the NSW Government massively subsidises the Game Council and each animal shot cost the tax payer \$453 (2007-2008). This money should go to the Parks service directly for proper scientifically based programs.

**There is also the serious issue of workplace safety for NPWS employees which has been taken up by the NSW Public Service Assn.**

**Loss of revenue from tourism** is another likely cost of this program. Visitation to NSW Parks was estimated at around 38 million visits in 2010. In 2007-2008, the government received over \$34.8 million in revenue from park entry passes and other services.

**Are there public safety concerns?** YES, accidents happen! For example, there are periodic deaths and injuries in New Zealand forests and national parks, where hunting is allowed. Google "hunting accidents new zealand": You will see that most of the accidents are hunters shooting other hunters, but not always ...

In October 2010, 25 year old Ms Rose Ives was shot and killed while camping with friends in a Department of Conservation campground near Turangi. She was brushing her teeth late at night when a hunter, shooting from the road, mistook her for a deer.

**It is not over!**

**We need to take strong action:**

- Attend a public rally. Sign a petition.
- Write to or call your local member and tell them how you feel about this decision. Write letters to newspapers and call talkback radio about this issue.
- Visit the National Parks Association (NPA) website [www.npansw.org.au](http://www.npansw.org.au) and send an online letter to key politicians.
- Check the NPA Website for updates on the campaign. (You can donate to NPA online or by calling 02 9299 0000 to help fund this campaign.)

# Some Thoughts on Mining Peter Green

At a recent rally in Sydney against coal seam gas, I noted some placards proclaiming "Stop Mining" or something similar. I found this to be an extraordinarily obtuse attitude, and one that detracted from the more focussed campaign against coal seam gas and coal mining in general. We have always needed to differentiate the battles that we can win from those that just exhaust us (physically, and our financial resources) and yet are ultimately unwinnable. But we also need to keep our campaigns sensible.

## Do We Need Mining?

Essentially we must differentiate between mining that underpins our society's technology from that which damages our life support systems but for which we have alternatives. For example, coal is not a simple material. Many ranks and qualities of coal, from peat, lignite, sub-bituminous, bituminous to anthracite, can be combusted as a heat source, the thermal coals. Unlike petroleum, they produce grid power and, as such, are replaceable by the array of renewable energy sources. The same cannot be said for metallurgical (coking coal). If we want steel, we either accept the exploitation of coking coal or we find a replacement for the blast furnace (and direct reduced iron).

Over thousands of years mankind has developed a sophisticated society, utterly dependent on fuel, mineral and rock exploitation. At present it is unimaginable to cease this dependence. To do so would drive us to a prehistoric lifestyle, with proportional impact on a supportable level of population, quality of life and longevity. Conservationists typically have smaller footprints than the rest of the population, but the difference is not great. So we must accept that mining underpins our lives. That is not to say, however, that all mining is non-negotiable.

The range of uses of mined commodities would astound most people, with mineral products incorporated into an amazing number of products used daily in a typical western lifestyle. Technology (applied science) continues to develop new industrial processes, providing hope that some applications can be adjusted. For example, asbestos. It has been superbly effective in its many uses, but we have found the downside too great to accept. Consequently we accept less efficient or more costly technologies.

Other products are non-essential. Take gold. Although some gold (10%) is used industrially, such as in electronics, its main uses are in currency, hoarding and jewellery, none of which could be considered essential. Mineable deposits have low gold concentrations, either as the main component of an ore-body, or as a secondary component. Where the extraction method is via open cuts, this low concentration requires the excavation of large pits, with the consumption of massive amounts of fuels, particularly diesel. In Australian mines, miners are encouraged to burn this polluting material, and are intent on retaining that rebate, despite peak oil being past and the resource being depleted.

## Mine Where It Is

Mining tends to be localised, but enormously disruptive when by open cut method. That damage can be

temporary, or more permanent where aquifers are disrupted. We have choices on where we place our homes and most infrastructure. However, dams are very site-specific, not just for the topography and rainfall, and mining is even more so. Simply, you can only mine where the deposit is.

## Grade vs Destruction

Most of the near surface, highest grade deposits have generally already been mined. Being small, the remaining ones lie hidden deep in the crust. Through the exhaustion of the small rich deposits, and through the development and application of better exploration, mining and processing technology, the average size of defined resources (and mines) has grown. But their exploitation has invariably been on the back of petroleum consumption. There don't seem to be any real depletion protocols for post-peak oil, so the next few decades will see the growing petroleum shortage translate into more expensive and rarer mineral output, and a concomitant effect on western lifestyles.

## Where To?

Eventually the exhaustion of natural concentrations of desired elements (ore bodies) will be effectively complete. Perhaps we can devise methods of extracting the various elements that exist in incredibly low concentrations in sea water, or devise ways of exploiting sub-sea metallic concentrations around hydrothermal vents or sea floor nodules, but I wouldn't want to be dependent on that being the case. Much is possible, but the cost is usually the killer.

That leaves two alternatives in a mineral / petroleum depleted world. We either learn to accept a quality of life inexorably reducing (lower per-capita consumption of resources), or we have less consumers. The choice is stark, even more so because this all revolves around exploitation of resources that, unlike foodstuffs and newer forms of energy, are non-renewable. Realistically, only by reducing both the per-capita consumption of mining output and the number of consumers can we even consider achieving a remotely manageable transition to whatever life lies in wait for future generations.

## For Us

The implications for conservation are significant. Conservation requires the preservation of tracts of land that can support endangered fauna and flora. Areas are not selected with any reference to, or reliance on, the subsurface mineral content. Consequently, one would expect there to be further mineral deposits under reserved land. Yet, the more people there are, and the more they consume, the more pressure there will be to mine these conservation areas. The growth god must be appeased.

## The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

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

## Rally in anger at shooters

Don Morison

A rally outside State Parliament on June 14 was responding to an O'Farrell Government bill to allow hunting in most NSW National Parks and make it a crime to protest against it.

Under the heading, "Public face ban from parts of parks" the Sydney Morning Herald of June 15 reported that parts of National Parks will be closed to the public to allow hunters to shoot feral birds and animals once the bill is law and it will be an offence to "interfere" with their activities (whatever that may mean).

More than 500 people, including numerous BMCS members, heard six speakers oppose the bill.

NSW Labor leader John Robertson vowed that any Government he led would attempt to repeal the Law. Mr Robertson said that, as Christina Keneally's Environment Minister, he listened politely to the Shooters and Fishers' Party demands, but gave them a firm NO!

Greens Upper House MP Cate Faehrmann said that the bill was entirely against the spirit of National Parks.

Animal Liberation's Lynda Stoner spoke for the animals. She saw the bill as yet another wrong turn in our long history of mismanaging introduced species.

Blue Mountains National Park ranger and Public Service Association delegate, Kim de Govrik tore up a list of 79 parks and reserves initially targeted in the Shooters' propaganda. The list is irrelevant because, with the bill passed, the vast majority of NSW parks could be closed and turned over to shooting without further legislation.

Field Officer Garth Toner informed the rally of the intricate existing arrangements for pest control. As described in the article on page 3, recreational shooters would be a major hindrance to genuine reduction of feral animals.

National Parks Association CEO Kevin Evans drew attention to the criminalisation of protest and free speech contained in this bill.

Several speakers noted that the true motives for these changes were to spread a gun culture in the NSW community and benefit private entrepreneurs who profit from large-scale recreational shooting. An American-style gun culture would not only imperil sensible management of ecosystems, but would worsen domestic violence and detract from the quality of life of everyone who has to share a home with a firearm.

## Landmark marine park decision welcomed

The Federal Government has announced that Australia will have the largest system of protected marine reserves in the world. The new parks will include 20 areas stretching from the Kimberley to the South Coast of Western Australia.



The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) has welcomed the announcement as an historic occasion for Australia. NCC CEO Pepe Clarke said the new reserves, covering more than three million square kilometres, provide protection for extraordinary marine habitats around the country. "Four new marine sanctuaries will be declared in deep waters offshore from New South Wales, protecting unique marine features like the Derwent Hunter seamount", Mr Clarke said.

However, closer to shore, the marine conservation outcomes for New South Wales fail to meet national conservation criteria. Within a week of coming to office the O'Farrell Government called a halt to the creation of any new marine parks in the state and then supported the Shooters and Fishers Party Marine Parks Amendment Bill which placed a moratorium on new marine parks and sanctuary zones "1) for the next five years; or 2) until the Ministers for Fisheries and Environment decide to lift the moratorium".

**The Nature Conservation Council of NSW calls on the state government to lift the moratorium of new marine parks, and implement a marine conservation strategy based on science, not politics.**

The Independent Scientific Audit Report into Marine Parks in NSW, released on 14 June 2012, reaffirms the crucial role that marine parks and sanctuaries play in protecting the unique marine life of NSW. "The audit report recognises that a 'very significant body of research, both international and national, supports an increase in size and abundance of most marine species following the cessation of fishing' Mr Clarke said. The report finds that our current system of marine parks should be maintained and recommends increased protection for marine life in two regions that currently contain no marine parks: the Hawkesbury (Newcastle to Wollongong) and Twofold Shelf (Far South Coast) marine bioregions.

Photo: Green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, (David Harasti)

There are only seven species of marine turtles in the world, and six of these are found in Australian Waters. Unfortunately the populations of all species of sea turtle are on the decline.

### BUSHCARE GROUP

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

Phone Karen 4757 1929.

# The real cost of coal is quickly adding up

(First published in the Newcastle Herald, 21 May 2012)

**We are paying the price for cheap energy, write  
Linda Connor and Stuart Rosewarne.**

"Cheap coal" is a myth. And like all myths, we accept its wisdom without thinking.

On a recent ABC Q&A show, Senator Nick Minchin said Australians "are blessed with hundreds of years of coal and gas resources" that give us "a comparative advantage in cheap energy" providing jobs for "thousands upon thousands of Australians."

The NSW government and the Minerals Council praise the benefits of coal: besides employment, it is the source of huge company profits as well as mining royalty payments (\$1.17 billion in 2010-11). Burning coal generates most of the state's electricity and coal is the state's largest export revenue earner.

But, what is the story behind coal? The number of people directly employed in mining in NSW is currently 47,600 or 1.36 percent of a 3.5 million workforce, with about 19,000 in the Hunter (6 percent of the region's workforce).

The benefits must be weighed against many hidden costs, including government subsidies to the industry; the damage to people's health and the environment; and lost opportunities because of failure to develop other industries, including "clean" energy.

Both state and federal governments provide subsidies to the coal industry. Direct subsidies include coal terminal lease fees and providing infrastructure so that coal can be transported to electricity generators or to port loading facilities.

Recent federal government funding for the Hunter Valley Corridor Capacity Strategy rail upgrade totals almost \$700 million, with further funding in the pipeline.

The whole mining industry receives a subsidy in the form of a tax credit on the diesel that fuels the trucks and machinery. Unlike the rest of us, mining companies do not pay the federal government tax on fuel. This subsidy currently amounts to \$2 billion a year or an \$87 annual contribution from every Australian.

NSW residents subsidise the price of coal to power stations as well as pay higher electricity prices. The previous Labor government undertook to supply coal from the NSW government owned Cobbora mine to electricity generators at a third of the price that coal could sell for in export markets, in order to secure the viability of state generators prior to privatisation. As a result, the government (and the people of NSW) will forego \$2.7 billion in revenue, based on current export prices, through to 2020.

The coal industry will receive compensation once the carbon tax commences in July 2012. In NSW, instead of closing the "gassy mines" that produce high levels of greenhouse gases from methane gas leakage, NSW coal owners can draw on the \$1300 million allocated to the Coal Sector Jobs Package over six years. We also need to consider the health costs from increased air pollution from mining, transport and loading of coal, and coal-fired power generation in the Hunter Region. Air

pollution's harm to human health is well documented, leading to a range of illnesses and reductions in life expectancy. The 2010-2011 National Pollution Inventory for Singleton and Muswellbrook reports that particulates (PM10) from mines and power stations have increased to 62,600 tonnes (45 per cent of NSW total). Power stations emit more than 100,000 tonnes of the harmful gas SO<sub>2</sub>, 40 per cent of NSW's emissions. The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE, 2009) estimated the total healthcare bill from coal-fired power stations in Australia at \$2.6 billion a year.

The costs to the natural environment and farming land are hard to estimate in dollar values. While the NSW Minerals Council says "coalmining is a temporary use of land," in fact, coalmining leaves large tracts of sterile landscape, punctuated by former open-cut voids filled with toxic fluid. Creek beds and aquifers are punctured and cracked. Contaminated mine water is released into river systems, which adds to salinity and harms native species. The expansion of mining threatens rural enterprises such as agriculture, viticulture and horse breeding, and the communities these industries sustain.

On a global scale, coal is the main industrial source of climate change. The burning of coal for electricity has grown faster than any other source of greenhouse gas emissions, and accounts for more than half of world emissions from stationary sources.

The time has arrived to leave behind the myth of "cheap coal". Added together, the hidden costs are unaffordable, for Australians and the planet.

**Linda Connor is a professor of anthropology and  
Stuart Rosewarne is a senior lecturer of political  
economy, both in the Faculty of Arts and Social  
Sciences at the University of Sydney.**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Blue Gum Forest

#### 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday/Sunday 1st/2nd September 2012

There will be an overnight camp in the Grose Valley at Acacia Flat from 4pm—limited to 100 people. Relaxed campout with a ceremonial campfire, a chance to record your story, guest speakers, and more.

Contact Vanessa Richardson ([vanessa.richardson@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vanessa.richardson@environment.nsw.gov.au), phone 4787 3112) to book your campsite.

**OR ...** Come along to Govetts Leap at 4 pm on Saturday 1st September. There will be songs and poetry, and a birthday cake. Bring family and friends and finger food to share and stay to see the full moon rise over the Mount Hay Range at 6.22 pm. (Sunset is at 5.37 pm)

Andy McQueen, author of *Back from the Brink*, will tell the history of Blue Gum and the Grose Valley at our monthly meeting at the Conservation Hut on Thursday 30 August at 7.30 pm.

COMING SOON ...

## HUNTING IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS

INTRODUCED BY:

**BARRY O'FARRELL, Premier of NSW** "*(My Government) won't be doing any deals with any of the minor parties or independents on our election commitments*" (April 2011).

Mr O'Farrell repeatedly ruled out granting the Shooters and Fishers Party the item on top of their list of demands: allowing recreational shooters into national parks to shoot feral animals.

**ROBYN PARKER, Minister for the Environment:** "*shooting in national parks is not government policy*" (Aug 2011)

**ROZA SAGE, Member for Blue Mountains:** "*The protection given to the National Parks is of great importance to not only myself but also for the Blue Mountains community. During my time as Member for Blue Mountains I will always take this responsibility with the utmost importance*" Rosa Sage, *Hut News*, June 2012.

AND THE STAR OF THE SHOW ...



**ROBERT BORSAK, MLC, Shooters & Fishers Party:** *killing elephants is "awesome", shooting geese is "fantastic fun" and "If it flies it dies, if you can hunt it, I'll do it".*

BORSAK went to northern Zimbabwe to hunt elephants. On a two-week trip he killed several, including a bull elephant he shot in the head from a distance of six paces. "*My reflexes took over as the rifle fired ... he went down, as if in slow motion. It was awesome. He did not know what had hit him.*"

"*I hunt because I like to hunt; it is part of my genetic make-up.*" (Inaugural Parliamentary Speech - The Hon Robert Borsak MLC). In the speech Mr Borsak suggested that we should encourage the management of native birds and "certain native species" as game, to better "conserve" them.

In an online video, shot at a gun expo, Shooters and Fishers MP Robert Borsak said hunting would "eventually" be declared in 751 of the 799 national parks in NSW. (Ben Cubby, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 June 2012)

"*I can't envisage any circumstance in which more parks will be added.*" Mr O'Farrell said .....

## Duck-Shooten' Season

Words and music by Denis Kevans, copyright 1991.

Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
I think I shot a water hen,  
Maybe it was a swan, but, oh, now it is gone,  
It flew beneath a star,  
Maybe it was a lark, I wish it wasn't dark,  
Does anybody know where we are?

Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
What's happened to your young mate, Den?  
He was over in the tea-tree, just haven' a wee-wee,  
When Billy says – There goes one!,  
Now the fish that got up early, are feeden' on his burley,  
Geeze, duck-shooten' season is fun.

Bang-Bang! Urrooh-Urrooh! Bang-Bang! Urrooh-Urrooh!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! Urrooh-Urrooh! Bang-Bang! Urrooh-Urrooh!  
I just shot our best dog, Ben,  
He was a good retriever, now he's gone to the Great Receiver,  
With buck-shot in his side,  
He didn't have no luck, 'cause we thought he was a duck,  
Now, he's crossed over the Great Divide.

Bang-Bang! You Bastard! Bang-Bang! You Bastard!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! You Bastard! Bang-Bang! You Bastard!  
We just lost another of our men,  
Jimmy's glasses got blurry, he saw somethen' furry,  
It was only the beanie of his mate,  
So he blasted away, at the dawning of the day,  
And another duck-shooter met his fate.

Bang-Bang! Moo-Moo! Bang-Bang! Moo-Moo!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! Moo-Moo! Bang-Bang! Moo-Moo!  
What's that in the reeds there, Ken?  
Do not tell me how, we shot the farmer's jersey cow,  
I see four legs up in the air,  
So early in the dawn, on the day the ducks were born,  
Geez, there's ducks round here everywhere.

Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
It's duck-shooten' season again.  
Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack! Bang-Bang! Quack-Quack!  
I think I shot the dog again,  
Maybe it was a swan, but, oh, now it is gone,  
It flew beneath a star,  
Maybe it was a brolga, or my little cousin Olga,  
Does anybody know where we are?

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

## Crucial court decision over bushfire

Don Morison

A Supreme Court case over homes and businesses affected by a 2001 bushfire reached an important juncture during June. Acting Judge Stephen Walmsley dismissed an action that attempted to hold the New South Wales Government to blame for a fire that started near Mount Hall in Blue Mountains National Park days before Christmas and eventually burned through populated areas of Warragamba, Silverdale and Mulgoa.

Further hearings will decide on costs. Acting Judge Walmsley believed that the way Government agencies allocated fire fighting resources and the amount of warnings given publicly were reasonable in view of the total threats to lives and property across New South Wales during that December.

National Parks are managed with a finite quantity of resources. Especially in the era of global warming, conditions can arise that lead to wildfires beyond the capacity of Government agencies to control. The proximity of National Parks to populated areas in New South Wales is an asset for environmental education, passive recreation, biodiversity, air quality and tourism.

Unfortunately, this places a very heavy responsibility on property owners near National Parks to take precautions in the event of a major wildfire. Local councils, responsible environmental organisations and other relevant bodies support reasonable programs of hazard reduction burning outside bushfire risk periods. But to completely eliminate the risk of a fire crossing out of a National Park and causing damage is beyond the limits of feasibly available resources.

The ecology of the Sydney basin has co-existed with regular wildfire for many centuries but it is important to curb global warming so that the interaction of fire and land uses surrounding National Parks does not cause many distressing incidents over coming decades.

### Tracing biodiversity-implicated products through supply chains

<http://worldmrio.com/biodivmap/>

Human activities are causing the globe's sixth major extinction event — an accelerating decline of the world's stocks of biological diversity at rates 100–1000 times pre-human levels.

One-third of species threats can be directly linked to first-world consumption, which drives third-world export of goods such as timber, coffee, cocoa, and seafood, and thus directly causes threats to species in biodiversity hotspots.

The site uses a [new global trade database](#) to follow the products implicated in species threats right through to the final consumers. It links 25,000 Animalia species threat records from the [IUCN Red List](#) of endangered species to over 15,000 commodities produced in 187 countries. It then uses the trade database to evaluate over 5 billion supply chains in terms of their biodiversity impacts.

## EcoExpo 2012 Brendan Doyle

Those who braved the rain and cold on Saturday June 16 at Lawson were treated to a great variety of activities centred around living sustainably in our unique bioregion. This was EcoExpo, a World Environment Day event. Hosted by several Blue Mountains community organisations including Blue Mountains Conservation Society, the event aims to promote sustainable living in the mountains.

Haydn Washington, co-author of *Climate Change Denial*, took us through the psychological steps from denial to acceptance to action in local communities. Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon looked at the mantra of economic growth and imagined an alternative steady-state economy based on social justice, sustainability and “the commons”. Then Alison Winn gave an impressive account of how BM City Council is reducing its energy usage in innovative ways, a major challenge still being the need to heat several local pools with gas.

The Interfaith Forum, whose theme was “Climate Change, Inner Change” was launched with a short film showing local indigenous women who gather discarded garments from tip sites and hold fashion shows with the message “No waste on country”. Other speakers from the Muslim Community and Brahma Kumaris agreed that a shift in consciousness is needed to save the planet from human greed and apathy, and spiritual and religious practices can help in this.

In the afternoon, Professor Stuart Hill conducted a session where members of a panel, then the audience, were invited to “lie” about what they had achieved in sustainability in the Blue Mountains up to the year 2030. Stuart's theory is that lying shuts off the natural self-censorship that comes into play when we are asked to “imagine” an ideal future scenario.

The Upper Blue Mountains Photography Group impressed with the superb quality of their nature photography. Stall holders included a wide range of community groups, Blue Mountains City Council and eco businesses demonstrating the latest ideas and technology to make for a more sustainable home and environment.

Workshops held in the afternoon included: Transitioning the Blue Mountains to respond to a changing environment and economy; Coal Seam Gas mining and exploration; storing surplus food by preserving; how to attract native bees to your garden; community renewable energy; sustainable transport and carpooling.

It was a good feeling to experience the wide range of positive activities that people lucky enough to live in the Blue Mountains are involved in, and how principles of ecological sustainability are being put into practice all around us every day.

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

## Loose Feathers, with Carol Probeta

"What is the bird that sounds like a truck reversing?" Every year I hear this question from some puzzled mountains resident, and the answer is easy - it's a Wonga Pigeon heard from a distance. And of course, it's the beeping signal of a reversing truck they are referring to - not the engine noise! Up close, the call of this large native pigeon is a loud, monotonous 'woop woop woop woop....' that continues uninterrupted, at the rate of about two notes a second, sometimes for hours on end. It makes you wonder when they take a breath.

The purpose of this far-carrying call is to attract a mate and to advertise ownership of territory. Wonga Pigeons are recognisable by their distinctive grey and white markings, with spotted flanks and a bold white V across the breast. They feed on the ground, taking seeds, fallen fruit and insects from the forest floor, preferring rainforest and moist eucalypt forest. Like many species of pigeon, if disturbed they will take off with a sudden clatter of wings, startling any unsuspecting bushwalker. The Wonga is plump and reputedly tasty, so it's no wonder they are shy! Despite this, they are often seen in gardens across the mountains and it still surprises me to see this strikingly attractive forest-dweller living so close to houses. They are undoubtedly vulnerable to foxes and cats.

The Wonga Pigeon is one of eight native species of pigeon or dove regularly found in the Blue Mountains. Two of the others are fruit-eating rainforest species which appear to have increased their foothold in the mountains in recent years. Unlike the Wonga, these two are not ground-feeders but obtain their food while it's still on the tree. The White-headed Pigeon (a species closely related to the introduced feral pigeon or Rock Dove) has adapted to the introduction of plants like the Camphor Laurel, now a favourite part of its diet. As a result, you'll often see them in groups around Springwood and Valley Heights when the Camphor Laurel is fruiting. Their white head and breast makes them easy to spot when they perch along the power lines.

The second is the Brown Cuckoo-Dove, which is not at all related to cuckoos but named thus because of its long tapered tail. It's a beautiful bird bedecked in many shades of lustrous brown, and can be found wherever there are fruiting native and introduced plants. Its favoured plants include many rainforest trees, native raspberries, figs and the introduced wild tobacco and lantana.

Pigeons and doves are all members of the family Columbidae, with the larger species tending to be called pigeons and the smaller ones doves. They are a surprisingly diverse, colourful and interesting group. It's heartening to know that some, at least, have adapted to urban life.

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



Wonga Pigeon, photographed by Carol Probeta at Wentworth Falls

Printed on Australian-made 100% Recycled Paper

## Membership Application Form

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

Address: .....  
.....PC .....

Phone(s) .....

Email .....

MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student)\$20  
Household \$35 Concession (Senior/Student)\$25  
Corporate (open to negotiation) \$100

Bushwalkers only:  
(\$20 per walker per annum) \$.....

Donation (tax-deductible) \$.....

Send my copy of Hut News by  
Please tick box  mail  internet only

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$.....

Note: All fees include GST at the relevant rate.

Would you like to be involved in any of the following activities or working groups? (Please underline): Land use/development issues; Environmental Education; Threatened species issues; Web or database management; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Society administration.

**I/We agree to support the aims and objectives of the Society as set out on reverse side of this membership application:**

Please sign if named above.

Signature(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

ENQUIRIES: Phone (02 4757 1872  
Email: [membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

Please cut out and forward this form with your cheque or money order to:

**Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.**  
**PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782**  
**or pay online at [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)**

## Welcome to new members

Greta Adams, Armidale  
Richard Landon, Bullaburra  
Marilyn Hawkett, Bullaburra  
Sue Richards, Leura  
Josephine Truman, Wentworth Falls  
Alison Foster, Warrimoo  
Aaron Greenville, Warrimoo  
Diane Macfarlane, Leura  
Paul Redman, Blaxland  
Mitchell, Bronwen, Emily, Victoria and  
Georgina Browne, Blaxland  
Noni McDevitt, Leura

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Blue Mountains Conservation Society is a community organisation working to achieve the preservation and regeneration of the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains.

The Society believes that World Heritage status provides an opportunity for local community members to become custodians of the unique biodiversity and scenery of the Blue Mountains.

The Mission of the Society is to help conserve the natural environment of the Blue Mountains.

The Aims and Objectives of the Society are to:

- Disseminate and foster an understanding of the ideals of Conservation.
- Promote the need for ecological sustainability.
- Protect the natural environment—flora, fauna, habitat, water, land and air.
- Actively oppose those human activities which degrade or destroy the natural environment.
- Repair the adverse effects of human activities upon the environment.
- Encourage the love of the natural environment by conducting a regular program of bushwalks.
- Increase the pool of expert knowledge about the natural environment, through meetings, excursions, research and other activities.
- Provide information to the public on matters of Conservation, especially through the Conservation Hut at the Valley of the Waters, Wentworth Falls.
- Maintain close and friendly relations with like-minded groups.

John Low has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (General Division) in the June 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours.

John is a revered member of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and is best known to most of us for his *Down The Wallaby Track* column.

He is very warmly regarded and sought out for his vast knowledge of the history of the Blue Mountains.

The Society's Thursday Interpretive bushwalkers learn about Blue Mountains history during walks led by John—the most recent to Dante's Glen in Lawson.

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

## UNDERGROUND RADIO

Though an earlier transmission from Jenolan Caves had been successfully accomplished, when the pioneer Sydney wireless station Broadcasters Ltd. (2BL) announced in August 1926 that it was planning to broadcast a program from inside the recently re-opened coalmine at Katoomba it raised a few eyebrows. Consequently, thousands were expected to tune in to hear this "novel entertainment" which would include children's, documentary and musical segments and end with a bang when the miners fired a charge at the coalface deep in the heart of the mountain.

On Saturday evening, 21 August, storm clouds were settling over Katoomba as the concert party arrived at the top of the incline (now the Scenic Railway). Undaunted, 'Uncle George' Saunders, the rising star of children's broadcasting, took the microphone amid lightning flashes and the rumble of thunder and wove his bedtime magic through stories of the Three Sisters, Orphan Rock and the coal fairies living in the valley below the falls. To a fanfare of song, the party and their equipment were then, according to the *Blue Mountain Echo*, "truck by truck ... dropped over the edge of the cliff", a searchlight picking out the 'sights' as the thrills of the descent were conveyed to the distant and invisible audience. In the mine itself "a length of railway and about half a mile of a semi-crawl" took them finally, muscles sore and fine clothes soiled, to the 'face' and a lively greeting from a shift of working miners.

In the cramped space, seated on heaps of coal, a soiree of sorts – a mixture of song, formal talk and conversational patter - ensued as the broadcast drew its listeners into this strangely surreal, underground world. The visiting singers were joined by a favourite of the local music scene, a Welshman no less with mining and music in his blood. Eddie Thomas had come to the Mountains for the healthy air and sang under the name of 'Eddie Willie'. A chemist by profession (the Thomas in the partnership of 'Greenwell & Thomas') his fine tenor voice was augmented by a keen sense of humour and a talent for story-telling. Deep underground, on that wet August night, the darkness glowed warmly as he sang in his native tongue the traditional Welsh song 'Y Deryn Pur' ('The Gentle Dove').

When the order was given to fire the charge, a shuddering blast "shook the very mountain". It was meant to be a memorable finale to an unusual experiment, reverberating down the landline and into the homes of thousands of listeners. Unhappily, however, the equipment that had otherwise transmitted with clarity and volume proved unequal to the occasion. All that arrived in those far away homes was a vague 'ping' and this colourful and dramatic depiction of coal mining in Katoomba ended instead in a 'whimper'. A portent, perhaps! For, within a few years, Katoomba Colliery Ltd. was struggling in the economic mire of depression and its skips were soon carrying more visitors and bushwalkers than coal.

**John Low** ([johnlow@iprimus.com.au](mailto:johnlow@iprimus.com.au))

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

'Like' us on Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
Follow us on Twitter: bmcnsnw

*At a minute after midnight I was driving my taxi through Tony Abbott's electorate. A woman hailed me. She launched into a rave about how the carbon tax was ruining her life. There was probably more than a ton of carbon in what she'd had to drink. Don Morison, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.*

In response to John Low's history of the so-called Marked Tree (Hut News May 2012), Don Morison submits this verse about the plastic-shrouded local icon.

### LAMENT OF THE EXPLORERS' MARKED TREE

© Don Morison 2012

Those three white blokes did not mark me  
I had no part in his-ter-ee  
I just became the mar-ke-d tree  
To help the tourist in-dus-tree.

In Blue Mountains' rich tap-es-tree  
I'd always been the toi-let-tree  
Beside the traffic ar-ter-ee  
I'd never sought cel-leb-brit-tree.

But though those blokes did not mark me  
Though worshipped with ide-doll-at-tree  
I got killed with con-creet-ter-ree  
I'm in a ghost-lee purg-a-tree.

I'm in their bi-cen-ten-a-tree  
All plastic wrapped as you can see  
Could give a plant in-san-i-tree  
Is this act con-dom-na-tree?

I fear changed road geo-am-mat-tree  
Or vandal acts in-flam-mat-tree  
Or conditions un-san-i-tree  
That might spread plague or dys-sen-tree.

Can't bough to breezes blus-ter-ee  
No unremarked tree envies me.



The Explorers' Marked Tree, 2012.  
Photo by Christine Davies.

### Nature delights! Christine Davies

In May Hut News I told you about a day at Taronga Zoo and my excitement at seeing, for the very first time and close-up, a Feathertail Glider, walking on the upright glass wall of its enclosure in the Nocturnal House. Blue Mountains Conservation Society sponsors a Feathertail Glider at Taronga and we receive regular emails with news about what's going on there.

You can't imagine my delight to receive, in among all the spam and depressing environmental news that regularly pops onto my computer, Taronga Conservation Society's June E-news, with this wonderful photo. Christine.



**Taronga Conservation Society, June E-news**

**Miniature Joeys Monday 4th June 2012**

**Keepers in our Australian Walkabout section are celebrating the breeding success of 12 Feathertail Glider joeys, the smallest gliding mammals in the world.**

*Australian Fauna keeper Rob was delighted to discover 12 infants so far as he carefully checked the nest boxes last week. The young ranged from hairless joeys, what the keepers call pinkies, to individuals that were furred.*

*Rob said that he's really proud of these little gliders as Taronga is the only Zoo to consistently breed feathertails.*

*The keepers were very successful last year in breeding the gliders, but this year's young are extra special as the two fathers have introduced new genetics to the group. Both the fathers arrived via Taronga's Wild Life Hospital and were unable to be released, but are now playing an invaluable role by being a part of the conservation breeding program.*

*When fully grown, the newborns will be about the size of a small mouse and weigh approximately the same as two to three teaspoons of water.*

*Feathertail Gliders are found across the eastern seaboard of Australia. They are often mistaken for mice, but a closer inspection reveals they have a special membrane which stretches from wrist to ankle that helps them glide up to 20 meters. They also have a delicate feathered tail that they use as a rudder during flight from which they get their name.*

*Although one of the lesser known Australian animals, the Feathertail Glider used to feature on the one cent coin before it was taken out of circulation.*

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The BMCS Bushwalking Guide which explains the numbered grades can be found on the Society's website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricekerkham@hotmail.com) or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

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

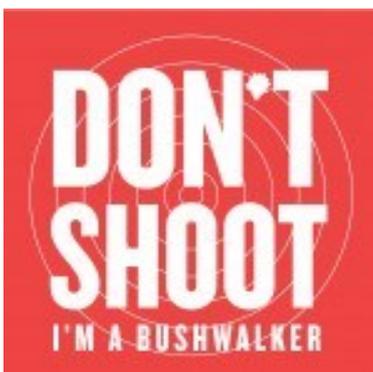
- July 14 **Wollangambe River via Bell.** Lots of pagoda's and great views. Leader **Bob** 4757 2694. Meet Wentworth Falls Stockyard CarPark 8.30. 10 km, all on track. Grade 3. Wollangambe map.
- July 21 **Pinnacles Track to Yardleys Cave and return via Lycon Rill as it becomes Rocky Points Ravine.** Leader Jim 4758 6009. Meet Leura School Mt Hay Road 8.30 am. Approx 9km. Grade 3. Katoomba/Mt Wilson maps.
- July 28 **Upper Bungleboori Creek.** Explore some of the many pagodas in the area with great views over Bungleboori. Limit of 12 so ring early. Contact leader Emanuel [emanuelnddi@yahoo.com.au](mailto:emanuelnddi@yahoo.com.au) 4757 1090 after 7pm. Approx 9 km. Grade 3. Wollangambe map
- Aug 4 **Bungleboori Creek.** Great views into Bungleboori Creek, visit historic Dam and pump house and climb to an outstanding Pagoda for lunch. Leader **Bob** 4757 2694. Meet Wentworth Falls Stockyard carpark 8.30am. . Ring leader for other pickup spots. 6 km. Grade 3. Wollangambe map.
- Aug 11 **Finches Line of Road.** Car pool to Wiseman's Ferry. Beautiful scenery, majestic flora and downhill to finish the walk. Leader Annemarie 4759 2172. Meet Spring Station carpark 8.15 am. Ring leader to ensure carpool. 11 km. Grade 2/3. Lower Portland/St Albans map.

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

- July 9 **Porter's Pass.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am. Grade 3. Leader Phil 4787 5560. Car pool.
- July 16 **Horseshoe Falls Reserve.** Round walk, 3 waterfalls. Grade 2. Contact Judith 4758 6310. Meet Hazelbrook Rail Station 9.15 am.
- July 23 **Castle Head.** Views to Solitary and Lake Burragorang. Grade 2. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Meet Katoomba Rail Station 9.30 am. Car pool—fare \$5.
- July 30 **Christmas in July.** Lunch and entertainment \$35. Contact Judith 4758 6310. Book and pay by 16 July. Meet Hazelbrook Bowling Club, Bonnie View Avenue, from 12.30 pm.
- Aug 6 **Rhodes to Cabarita.** Includes Kokoda Memorial Track. Grade 1. Contact Ros 4733 3880. Meet Strathfield Station 9.13am. Then train to Rhodes.
- Aug 13 **Bald Head.** Spectacular upper Grose views. Contact Phil 4787 5560. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Car pool.

**THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS:** Walks of 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. Group Co-ordinator is Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076,

- July 12 **South Lawson Falls.** Waterfalls and bush track. Barbecue lunch in North Lawson Park. Bring meat and salad or dessert to share. Car pool Meet Lawson Bowling Club car park 10am. Leader Narelle 4751 2467. Grade 2.
- July 19 **Christmas in July,** Alexander Hotel, Leura. Details in July Hut News. Meet at the pub, 12 noon. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 1.
- July 26 **Minni-Ha-Ha Falls, Katoomba.** Creek-side walk to lookouts, with short descent to base of waterfall. Car pool. Take lunch. Meet Katoomba Station Car Park 10.30am. Contact Joan c/o 47572076. Grade 2.
- Aug 2 **Nature Trail, Wentworth Falls.** Interesting level terrain at first, then lots of steps back to the Hut. Car pool. Take lunch Meet Stockyard Car Park, Wentworth Falls Station 9.30am. Contact Chris 4757 2864. Grade 2.
- Aug 9 **Mt Blackheath.** Easy walk on ridge top with spectacular views. Car pool. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.
- Aug 16 **Kings Table and Little Switzerland Drive Lookout,** Wentworth Falls. Car pool Meet Stockyard Car Park, Wentworth Falls Station, 9.30am. Contact Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 1..



### BUSHWALKERS, JOIN THE CAMPAIGN ...

**“Don't Shoot! I'm a bushwalker”**

Recreational hunters could be in some of our most loved National Parks by the end of the year—places like Kosciuszo, the Warrumbungles, Myall Lakes ... We all have favourite places we have visited or would like to visit. All our National Parks have been set aside because they have special values that are worth preserving—not for the benefit of a special interest group with guns!

Add your voice and tell the Premier: **“Don't Shoot! I'm a bushwalker”** by uploading a photo of you holding this sign (or a handmade sign of your choosing). Send your photos in to Cate Faehrmann, share them on Facebook and Twitter (#dontshoot). Find our more and download the sign at <http://catefaehrmann.org/2012/06/dont-shoot-im-a-bushwalker/>

**MAKE SOME SIGNS AND BRING THEM TO THE RALLY AT KATOOMBA ON SUNDAY 15th JULY.**