



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

MOUNTAINS RALLY REJECTS COAL SEAM GAS

Much of the lower Blue Mountains is covered by a recently renewed exploration licence held by AGL. The prospect of drilling rigs appearing in their environment has frightened many residents. Hundreds turned up at a rally against coal seam gas mining in Glenbrook Park on Saturday 13th October.

Speakers at the rally included geological scientist, Dr Brian Marshall and Greens MLA, Jeremy Buckingham. Dr Marshall talked of the increase in greenhouse gasses caused by coal seam gas extraction and explained the risks to water from surface water to deep aquifers. "The Blue Mountains is right in the thick of a coal belt and wherever there is coal, there is coal seam gas," Dr. Marshall said. "The risks to us are very real ... We are definitely sitting on a gas time bomb."

Following a recent tour of the United States, Greens MP, Jeremy Buckingham described the proliferation of the coal seam gas industry in the United States as the 'largest industrialisation in history'. "From the CBD of Fort Worth, all the way to Canada, the continent of the United States has been pock marked with hundreds of thousands of gas wells," he said. "Wherever this industry touches the ground, it destroys the environment, it pollutes water, it pollutes the air, it drives the community apart."

Greens Ward 2 Councillor, Geordie Williamson will put a motion to Council for BMCC to oppose any coal seam gas exploration and mining practices within its boundaries. Labor Deputy Mayor, Mark Greenhill promised to support Councillor Williamson's motion.

Petition to Roza Sage—
Page 3

Poem by Greg North—
Page 8



MONTHLY MEETING

7.30 pm, Thursday, 29 November, 2012
at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls

NATIVE BEES: Megan Halcroft

Australia has over 1,500 species of native bee, and the Sydney region, including the Blue Mountains, is home to about 200 species. Of these, only one species (*Tetragonula carbonaria*) lives socially, storing honey and pollen in its nest. The others live mostly solitary lives, and nest in hollow stems, old borer holes. Around the home they may nest in small ground holes in the corners of the garden or under house deckings.

At our monthly meeting on Thursday 29th November our guest speaker will be Megan Halcroft who will be talking about some of the bee species found in the Sydney and Blue Mountains region. She will share ideas on how to conserve natural populations and also how to provide additional nesting habitat to help increase populations in your area. Megan will have some artificial nests available to purchase on the night and they are priced at \$50 each. You can also see how to make them yourself at her website www.beesbusiness.com.au

Megan Halcroft: After a career change from nursing, Megan successfully completed her degree in horticultural science in 2004. This included a unit in apiculture (honey bee keeping), one of Megan's favourite subjects. She was fortunate enough to be offered an Honour project in 2006, studying one of our many native bee species, *Austroplebeia australis*. Her love for this bee species, and many others, grew during her studies. In 2008, she commenced her PhD, studying the biology, behaviour and phylogeny of *A. australis*, as a potential alternative crop pollinator. Megan has only recently completed her PhD and is now trying to share her passion for Australian native bees. As a local Blue Mountains resident, her goal is to increase local community awareness about our native bees, and to improve conservation through education.

The meeting at the Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, starts at 7.30 pm. Visitors are very welcome.

"Hut News", the newsletter of
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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
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JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society,
or renew your membership online.
www.bluemountains.org.au

Nursery News

The onset of warmer weather (if you except the snow on the 12th October) has brought a welcome increase in plant growth and sales and just the combined profits from the two markets we attend (Blackheath Community and Lawson Magpie) exceeded \$1,000. Normally, there is no Lawson market in December but, it appears there will be one this year and also the possibility of two at Blackheath prior to Xmas. We will keep you informed of the dates in the December issue of *Hut News*. At the markets in December we will be offering both advanced plants in larger pots and gift certificates which will make ideal presents for that hard-to-buy-for relative or friend.

The earlier allusion to the late snow brings mixed feelings. On the one hand the much-needed dampening of the soil was welcome but the combined effect of heavy Spring blossoms and the weight of the wet snow proved too much for many plants resulting in broken branches and crushed specimens. My garden in Blackheath looks like a giant had stampeded through it and, no doubt, many of you in the Upper Mountains can record similar devastation.

On a happier note we are introducing a new bright species to our list this month, namely the Tufted Bluebell, *Wahlenbergia communis*. This is an inconspicuous multi-stemmed sprawling herb, 15-45cm high, with an extensive rhizome system but when the brilliant blue-bell flowers, 10-15mm wide, appear the effect of massed populations is spectacular. It is a widespread species and we will be offering it in pots for sale later in November. The genus name recognizes the important work of the Swedish botanist Göran Wahlenberg (1780-1851). He began studies at the University of Uppsala, Sweden at the very early age of 12 under the guidance of a tutor. Later he decided to study medicine and botany and gained his medical degree in 1886. He had an interest in homeopathy but his main work thereafter was in botany ultimately attaining the position of Professor of Botany at the same University holding the chair once occupied by the eminent botanist Linnaeus. In his younger years he made many voyages into northern Scandinavia and published scholarly accounts of that flora. From 1811 to 1814 he extended his travels into Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary, studying plants and, especially their geographical and soil associations, so that his reputation was regarded on a par with that of the famous German scientist, Alexander von Humboldt. From accounts of his colleagues he was an odd and very egocentric man, who lived an isolated life and never married. In his last years he avoided all human contact and died alone. It seems quite a contrast with the joyful genus which honours his name.

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

Photo: *Wahlenbergia communis*
Photographer: Fagg, M
ANBG Photo No.: a.21148



Plans to have Tokyo-style “pushers” compress passengers onto trains are only the first sign of what is to come if the O’Farrell Government spends virtually the whole of NSW Infrastructure budget on inner city motorways. A plan has been discussed for many years to build a new passenger railway line northward from Central Station. This would allow a vastly improved system of express trains from the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and outer western Sydney to carry passengers directly to several locations in the Sydney CBD and possibly the lower north without having to change trains at Central. In addition a new lobby group, on which the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils is represented, is seeking to expedite the Parramatta to Epping rail link.

The environmental and economic benefits to the Blue Mountains and outer western Sydney of these rail initiatives would be tremendous as many residents rely for jobs on the areas these trains would serve. Better trains would also help increase visitor numbers to the Greater West.

Unfortunately the O’Farrell Government, fully supported by Tony Abbott, is abandoning such rail improvements. Egged on by the NRMA, they hope to expand inner sections of the M4 and M5, with a highly expensive linking tunnel. Even with high tolls and a “scorched earth” sell-off of publicly owned assets in NSW, massive subsidies by taxpayers will be needed when the project inevitably blows out beyond the currently estimated 13 billion dollars. One of NSW’s most experienced transport planners, Mr Ron Christie, is convinced the project will not cure Sydney’s road traffic problems.



While the motorway extravaganza unravels, rail passengers will be squeezed onto aging trains by the “pushers” who are already needed at Town Hall and Wynyard because train lobbies and platforms are becoming so crowded the train doors cannot be closed leaving all passengers in one piece. A further disaster looms if the O’Farrell government tries to convert Wynyard, Town Hall and Central to driverless metro trains, requiring mountains and outer western Sydney passengers to be disembarked at Redfern and bussed for a period of months or years.

Now is the time for all mountains residents to tell the O’Farrell Government we reject their pro motorway transport plans. Write to your local member, the Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian and the Premier Mr O’Farrell. (Photo: Tokyo train “pushers”).

Unseemly haste with Bill

The O’Farrell Government has introduced a new bill in the NSW Parliament titled the Environment Planning and Assessment Bill 2012. This bill has already passed the Lower House and is now before the Upper House. The Bill proposes to make the existing Development Control Plans (DCPs) effectively worthless. Among other things, the Bill takes away the need for developers to comply with DCP’s if the DCP ‘unreasonably restricts development’ and removes the ability of Councils to take into account the cumulative impact of allowing a type or style of development.

It is outrageous that these changes are being rushed through Parliament without any say by the community. Contact the Premier and your local member and oppose the bill and tell them what you think about this lack of community consultation.

Shooting—evidence disturbing

Two shotgun cartridges were noticed in Newnes State Forest only a short distance from the main tourist route to the Glowworm Tunnel. Not far away, in Wollemi National Park, was an abandoned campsite strewn with empty beer bottles and other rubbish.

Signs like this are a reminder that the O’Farrell Government plans to expand shooting into National Parks with virtually no personnel within either the National Parks & Wildlife Service or the highly biased Game Council available to supervise shooters. Don Morison.

PETITION TO ROZA SAGE

Blue Mountains Conservation Society has initiated a petition to the local member Roza Sage requesting that she publicly declare her opposition to CSG activity in the Blue Mountains. It further asks that she endeavours in Parliament to have the Blue Mountains removed from AGL’s exploration licence which presently covers part of the Blue Mountains. The petition will be presented to Ms Sage in November and her response will be published in the Blue Mountains Gazette.

Download the petition at www.bluemountains.org.au

Some contact details:

The Hon Barry O’Farrell MP
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone 02 9228 5239, Fax 02 9228 3935
Email office@premier.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Level 35 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone 02 9228 5266, Fax 02 9228 3744
Email: office@berejiklian.minister.nsw.gov.au

Mrs Roza Sage MP, Member for Blue Mountains
132 Macquarie Road, Springwood NSW 2777
Phone 4751 3298, Fax 02 4751 1245
Email: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au

TWO NEW BOOKS BY JIM SMITH

A CORRECT & FAITHFUL ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY TO THE "FISH RIVER CAVES" BY THE "PICKWICK CORRESPONDING CLUB" IN 1886 BY ALFRED ALLEN

EDITED BY JIM SMITH

In 1886 seven members of Australia's own "Pickwick Corresponding Club" set out to walk the then uncompleted 46 km bridle track between Katoomba and Jenolan Caves. After a stay of several days they walked back to Katoomba. The track they followed later became well known as the Six Foot Track. The club members adopted the names of their favourite characters from Charles Dickens's *Pickwick Papers*. The three young ladies of the party became the first women to walk the track. Two of them later became prominent feminists.

Alfred Allen, the leader of the group and a well-known and controversial member of the Quakers, styled himself Samuel Pickwick. The family members and friends accompanying him adopted the following names from Dickens's book: Nathaniel Winkle, Tracey Tupman, Samuel Weller, Mrs Bardell, Aunt Rachael, and Arabella Allan.

Alfred Allen's full diary of this trip, illustrated with his many drawings and photographs is published in this book for the first time, together with a detailed commentary by Blue Mountains' historian Dr Jim Smith. The diary includes many humorous references comparing the adventures of the Australian Pickwick Corresponding Club with those of Charles Dickens's characters.

Alfred Allen's photographs were the first to be taken of people walking, picnicking and camping on the Six Foot Track. The interior and exterior photographs of Jenolan Caves are of considerable historical importance. The detailed descriptions of the party's stay at Jenolan Caves house, their cave tours and meetings with the cave guides, including the eccentric Jeremiah Wilson, provide a detailed account of what was like to visit Jenolan Caves 125 years ago.

How to order your books

These are limited edition books, only a few hundred copies will be printed. The cost for 'Pickwick Corresponding Club' is \$30 per copy. The Mulheran book is \$33 per copy. Gungarlook is \$25 per copy. *All prices include postage and GST.*

To ensure that you receive a copy it is necessary to prepay your order within three weeks of the date of distribution of this newsletter.

Payment options:

1. Send a cheque or money order made out to Jim Smith, 65 Fletcher St Wentworth Falls, New South Wales 2782. OR
2. Electronic transfer of funds to Teachers Mutual Bank, BSB 812-170 account of J. L. Smith, number 7437750. If using electronic funds transfer you must write to Jim Smith at the above address with your details and the number of books ordered. (I do not use e-mail).

Note. This is a pre-publication offer. When the number of books ordered is known, they will be printed and posted before mid December, 2012. Receipts issued and books signed on request.

THE TRACK MAKER THE LIFE AND WORKS OF PETER MULHERAN

Peter Mulheran arrived in Wentworth Falls from Ireland in about 1878. During the next 50 years he made by hand about 10 km of walking tracks with unique stone wall lookouts and constructed roads through some of the most rugged terrain in Australia, including the road between Wentworth Falls and the Burratorang Valley and the cedar getting roads used by loggers in the Kowmung River area. He became one of the Blue Mountains' most respected citizens. He was described as "*the good genius of Wentworth Falls*", "*a fine type of big hearted Irishman*" and "*the indefatigable, obliging and painstaking caretaker*" of Wentworth Falls reserve. A visitor to Wentworth Falls in the early 19th century commented "*great credit is due to Mr Mulheran for the pains he has been at to make every spot worth seeing accessible to visitors*".

This book describes how Mulheran displayed "manifest, pluck and perseverance" in creating his beautiful walking tracks, lookouts and bold roads into the Blue Mountains valleys. It includes over 150 historic and contemporary illustrations of Mulheran's creations and of visitors over the last century enjoying them.

Both these books are truly beautiful productions. They are not sold through bookshops.

STILL AVAILABLE – **Gungarlook**. This book contains the memories of Gundungurra Elder Ivy Brookman of her life in the Burratorang Valley together with Jim Smith's research on her family history.

MONDAY LEISURE WALK 3rd December 2012

"In the footsteps of Peter Mulheran"

Peter Mulheran migrated to Australia from Ireland in 1878 and became the first ranger of the Wentworth Falls reserve. He laid down the main network of walking tracks in use today. His stone lookout walls and wells are distinctive features of his work and show the influence of his Irish heritage. Jim Smith will guide this walk showing how the track system evolved and interpreting the historical significance of Mulheran's work, including some now forgotten places.

As an optional extra there will be a short walk to view a couple of Mulheran's homes in the town.

Meet Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, 9.30 am. 4-5 hours.

Paradise Lost?

Since early 2011, Blue Mountains Conservation Society has been running a campaign to stop a proposal to open cut mine 1,088 hectares of Ben Bullen State Forest in the Gardens of Stone. This scale of open-cut mining in a publicly reserved forest, which has outstanding natural values and is proposed for conservation, is overwhelmingly against the public interest. With your support, we have lobbied NSW Government to keep mining in the area underground, to declare the Ben Bullen State Forest as a State Conservation Area and to reject the 'Coalpac Consolidation Project' proposal entirely.

National Parks Association of NSW is offering a series of walks in this iconic area, led by Yuri Bolotin.

Paradise Lost? Ben Bullen State Forest

Saturday 15 December – The Northern Valleys

Saturday 19 January – The Middle Valleys

Saturday 16 February - The Southern Valleys

These walks were heavily booked out when I offered them a few months ago, so I am doing them again, with some variations and improvements.

Ben Bullen State Forest west of the Great Dividing Range encapsulates, in a relatively small area, everything that is exciting and interesting about bushwalking – incredible rock sculptures, tall pagodas, narrow slot canyons, magnificent caves, verdant forests and more. This unique area is currently under serious threat from mining and, if nothing is done, and soon, may be wiped out forever in the next few years.

Join me in a series of 3 walks that explores this amazing wonderland. See it whilst you can! All off track, some rock scrambling and mild/medium exposure. About 8k, Grade 4 (Medium/Hard – not for inexperienced walkers). Map: Cullen Bullen. Yuri Bolotin, yuribolotin@yahoo.com.au, 0413 715 943.

Talking to the Victims of Coal

At our October monthly meeting Sharyn Munro, author of *Rich Land, Wasteland: How Coal is Killing Australia*, gave a feisty and inspiring account of her travels round Australia interviewing the many victims of coal and CSG mining in Australia. She related how talking to people who had become ill, demoralised or furious at mining companies' profound disregard for the effects of their activities on ordinary people frequently brought her to tears. Her resolve to tell their stories and to spread the message that it IS possible to stop the destruction has only increased, she said.

Sharyn asked the question why governments would put the health of people, communities, water and soil at risk, and has concluded that they are in the pockets of the transnational corporations and beholden to them.

She concluded that we have to tell politicians that we want them to protect our land and water, and if that means a total moratorium on CSG exploration and mining, that is what we must demand. Many of those present bought her book, which explains in detail how the mining companies get what they want, and how we cannot trust the major parties to oppose them. Brendan Doyle.

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Loss of Federal Government Protection

The Council of Australian Governments decided in April 2012 to reduce the Federal Government's role in environmental protection under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*.

The proposed changes mean that, as from March 2013, the States will have sole responsibility for most environmental decision-making. This should and does ring alarm bells!

Under the current system, a development application which has the capacity to affect matters of national environment significance such as federally listed threatened species and ecosystems, can be called in by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on behalf of the Federal Minister for the environment. The Minister has the capacity to impose over-riding conditions (with respect to those imposed by a State's department of planning), or even stop the development entirely.

Many big environmental victories result from the Federal Minister effectively over-ruling an approval by a State's planning body. This occurred for example in the case of the Franklin Dam (Tasmania) and grazing in the Alpine National Park (Victoria).

Implementation of the agreed changes in 2013 will vest the power and conditions of approval in the State's planning department and the planning minister. Protection of threatened species and ecosystems would then depend on the strength of the input from the State's department of the environment and the environment minister. One does not need to be a cynic to appreciate that the integrity of this process will be subject to the political needs of the State government and the positions of the various ministers in the ministerial pecking order.

Are you now sufficiently alarmed to take action? If yes, please consider the following:

- Contact the Senator Doug Cameron whose responsibility includes the Blue Mountains [Email senator.cameron@aph.gov.au, Tel (02) 4751 4288, Fax (02) 4751 3288], or your Federal Member [Louise Markus: Tel (02) 4577 2631, Fax (02) 4577 2640] (can't find an email for her); let them know why you are concerned and why the Federal Government should strengthen not weaken its environmental oversight.
- Write to the Gazette and the Sydney-based papers and pursue the issue through social media.
- Speak to friends and relatives about your concerns and ask them to act.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Experience

www.worldheritage.org.au

SNOW

Somewhere in the small hours Ped rolled over in his sleep and took the blankets with him. I woke with cold and retrieved my share of the "nap"; nice and warm and drowsy, sleep was just claiming me again when there was a great crash on the ridge. No doubt about it, a big tree had fallen. It was nothing uncommon to have trees fall in windy weather, but this time there was no wind, the night was even unusually quiet.

It puzzled me for a little while, but drowsiness returned; then, seeming all the more terrifying in the uncanny silence, the rending crash of falling timber came again, this time so close that it must have been one of the box trees by the pigsty ... another rending crash came from the ridge behind the cart shed and then I was yelling blue murder and shaking Ped's shoulder. ... "Wha's matter?" his voice was slurred with sleep and surliness. "The trees are falling," I said in the tone of voice with which I'd have announced the Day of Judgement. Ped wanted to know what trees were falling and even if they were, was that any reason why I should wake him up. Just then there was a distant boom from Marsden's Rock. "There you are," I said. Ped looked doubtful. No one had ever told us that if heavy snow fell without wind, it would just pile heavier on tree tops until great trees were simply split asunder by a power more relentless than lightning or wind.

Ped began to grumble something about going back to sleep, when just then there was an ungodly din which could have meant nothing less than the destruction of a big tree by the cart shed. That settled it – we jumped out of bed and rushed to the window. The view from the boys' room window was partly obscured by the potbellied profile of a tank but it gave a fair prospect to the south and this scene which should have been inky black on such a night was glistening with ghostlight. "Snow," yelled Ped, "tons of it."

(Bernard O'Reilly, "Cullenbenbong")

Snow, tons of it. We don't get enough snow in the Blue Mountains for the novelty to wear off. Usually it falls for a short time and soon melts, sometimes it comes in a blizzard and that's not pleasant. On Friday 12 October this year the snow fall lasted for about eight hours and there was no wind at all.

From my window we could watch the snow falling in the garden and in the National Park behind my house. I saw the Eucalypts with a topping of snow on their sloping branches and on each individual leaf. Snow started building up on the vegetation and I remembered Bernard O'Reilly's story of snow at the family home at Cullenbenbong in the Kanimbla Valley, way back in the early 1900's. A snow fall similar to this one.

At some time during the morning the snow eased just long enough for us to don wet weather gear and walk into the National Park. It was wet and slushy and very cold and we didn't stay long, but oh, the Australian bush is so pretty in the snow.

By early afternoon plants in my garden were bent to the ground under the weight of snow. Then I noticed something I thought was amazing. Even though there was no wind, there was lots of movement in the bush.

The Eucalypts were dancing! Bending and swaying their branches as they do in the strong westerlies that come through this part of Blackheath, they were shaking off the snow—and surviving the storm!

After the snow ... The highway and railway reopened and eventually the power was restored. Not everyone enjoyed the snow as much as the Blackheath school children who had the day off school. The Memorial Park was very pretty, with snow among the Azaleas and Rhododendrons—the flowers undamaged. The weight of snow can demolish a huge tree, but it can sit gently on a flower and not crush it. Children playing in the snow ... a family with a toboggan to ride down the slopes ... a snow man with a carrot nose and a colourful scarf ... snow can be fun! Christine Davies.

An unusual caterpillar

On 15 October I came across an Inch Worm in the garden which camouflaged itself by giving a very good imitation of being a twig. It is the larva of a moth in the Geometridae family. This species is sometimes called Twig Caterpillar. The reason is obvious. Christine.



The short "twig" on the Callistemon is in fact a caterpillar.

Welcome to new members

Geoff Dowsett, Pennant Hills
John Handel, Katoomba
Amanda Handel, Katoomba
Graham Cummings, Springwood
John Dillon, Blackheath
Janne Anderberg, Glenbrook
Vivienne Senn, Glenbrook
Rolf Steinhoff, Glenbrook
Anneliese Senn, Glenbrook
Kevin Clayton, Blaxland
Judy Clayton, Blaxland
Lisa Goehner, Glenbrook
Rob Drewe, Glenbrook.
Kurg Goehner Winter, Glenbrook
Jordan Goehner-Drewe, Glenbrook
Robin Benton, Glenbrook
Suzie Wright, Glenbrook
Karen Fullbrook, Sun Valley
Sean Fullbrook, Sun Valley

6th Wilderness Conference: Tourism and Conservation

Thomas Ebersoll, Newnes Hotel Cabins

I took part at the recent 6th Wilderness Conference in Sydney and I would like to reflect on the perceived conflict between Tourism and Conservation in our National Parks.

The opinions are spread from anywhere between the fundamentalist who views National Parks as the last place where we can totally preserve nature and that of the realist who wants to adapt to new pressures from user groups and accommodate economic pressures.

As a tourism operator I am confronted with both views: I remember being introduced as the operator of the Newnes Hotel Cabins to a fundamentalist who responded: "You shouldn't be there". On the other hand, many guests at Newnes complain about the 'lack of accessibility' and infrastructure in the National Park. I believe the right way lies somewhere in the middle.

Considering the much mentioned 'Democratisation of National Parks' one must respond to the changed expectations of visitors to National Parks. At Newnes, the bush walkers are a minority. I often look sadly at the diminishing numbers of visitors who still enjoy walking and experiencing nature with just their human senses. The vast majority are visitors with a 4WD pulling a trailer with far too much 'stuff'. They too want to escape into the bush and they are just as entitled to do that in their way as all other owners of National Parks who might choose a different way for their bush experience.

Considering the fact that Global Warming is already upon us and the unimaginable changes this will inevitably bring to our natural environment, is it still realistic to fight for the total conservation of National Parks by placing severe limits on access and use?

Is it not more important to fight the increased segregation of the human and the natural world? If we can only entice people out into nature by promoting activities which are in contrast to conservation I believe it would be worth it. Providing they are well managed, activities such as mountain biking could be allowed in localised, high impact areas and could well coexist with conservation in areas which are closed off from those activities.

The benefits will be an increased popularity of National Parks and awareness of the natural world. These visitors would have experienced that spiritual connection to nature which Bob Brown described. The promotion and appreciation of nature might well be the only chance we have to mobilize people and change the fatal way we use this planet. Thomas Ebersoll, 6355 1247.

There is a perennial argument about the impact of tourism on National Parks and the balance between their protection and their use.

While Blue Mountains Conservation Society has a firm stance on the use of wilderness areas, fragile areas and areas that are culturally sensitive, the discussion below is regarding other areas where we encourage people to see for themselves the wonders of Nature. We are also concerned with the preservation of these areas from over use, the spread of dieback, the introduction of weeds, etc.

We invite members to share their considered views on this subject.

Pro-Hunting propaganda to school children

National Parks Association of NSW is calling on the Minister for Education to step in and put a stop to the Game Council of NSW handing out 'pro-hunting' messages to children as young as five in schools.

Free drink bottles are being handed out by the Game Council of NSW around the state. Parents were outraged when children as young as five received them at Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary in Orange, NSW.

The 'Be safe, be seen, always wear blaze orange when hunting' is more than a safety message, it's another attempt to normalize hunting for the future. This kind of activity from the Game Council is disgusting and should be stopped. We call on the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli to step in and put an end to this kind of marketing program occurring in any school in NSW.

We have a clear signal from the pro-hunting master minds of the Game Council and the Fishers and Shooters Party that they haven't dropped their agenda to get children hunting. Keep in mind, a successful marketing campaign to children provides a pro-hunting framework within their thinking. The Fishers and Shooters Party had lobbied the government to have children as young as 12 years old be allowed to hunt unsupervised on public land. The Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2012 was released 31 Aug 2012 and did not include these provisions which had been present in the draft.

Australia is largely protected from the grave consequences of being an actively pro-hunting nation. The Premier's decisions on the hunting issue so far have wronged the people of NSW. There is no positive outcome in advancing hunting further into our communities.

National Parks Association of NSW

www.npanws.org.au

400 members and supporters came to a "No Hunting" rally organised by Blue Mountains Conservation Society at Carrington Place, Katoomba on Sunday 15th July 2012

The message was loud and clear – **WE DON'T WANT RECREATIONAL HUNTING IN ANY OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS!** National Parks are for nature conservation, not blood sports!

Our local member for Blue Mountains, Roza Sage, supports this legislation. Write to Roza Sage again and remind her ... **WE ARE NOT HAPPY, ROZA!** We ask the O'Farrell Government to reverse this legislation.

Frackin' Fricker

© Gregory North, July 2012
www.gregorynorth.com.au

Me name is Philip Fricker – I'm a frackin' engineer.
I frack out coal seam gas reserves – been doin' it a year.
I like me job – I'm gettin' paid a bit more than I'm worth –
so always laugh when people say I'm frackin' up the Earth!
There's way too many people don't know what it, frackin', is,
but frackin' is the next big thing to rock the minin' biz.

Now, frackin's kinda complex (which helps us to get our way –
there's not too many really get the techo things we say).
The way I see it, what I do is frack Earth's belly aches.
See, coal keeps all its fart gas in, that heat and pressure makes,
so I drill straight down into it – a thousand metres deep –
too far for normal mines to go – that makes it, frackin', cheap.

But drillin's not enough to get Earth's fart gas flowin' free,
I've gotta open up some cracks by frackin' rock, you see?
"Hydraulic fracturing" is what geologists'll say,
but forcin' water, chemicals and sand down holes all day
to part the rock, set fart gas free and suck the whole lot back,
is what the boys and me all reckon's frackin' crackerjack!

So frack the Earth for all she's worth, we've gotta do it now!
Get gas to flow and grab the dough before they find out how.
Ignore alarms from towns and farms; the wussy sooks can't hack it.
Where there's a seam, you'll find your dream, so hang the cost,
and frack it!

The stuff that's sucked back out is rank! It's nasty frackin' spew.
It's full o' frackin' chemicals and heavy metals, too.
We leave it in a pond to stew and never get too close,
espheshly since we seen a magpie cark from overdose!
We capture *nearly* all the gas ... well, once we've got the knack
of Earth unleashin' farts with frackin' sand wedged in her crack!

Condensers, pumps, compressors plus the maze of pipes I lay
help keep the nosey farmers and the animals away.
Oh, sure, the cockies own the land, but not our precious gas,
and all they ever wanna do is whinge, or worse, harass.
They whinge about the dust, the trucks, the blokes and me just
yackin',
the water table, air pollution – blamin' it on frackin'!

Then farmers ask where wildlife went, why forests disappeared,
why salt's destroyed their crops, as if it's me that interfered!
They moan 'bout how the value of their property's gone down,
and how their family's all stressed out and wear a full-time frown.
But I know all the cump'ny lines to send 'em packin' quicker.
They sign their lives away then deal with frackin' Philip Fricker!

So frack the Earth for all she's worth, we've gotta do it now!
Get gas to flow and grab the dough before they find out how.
Ignore alarms from towns and farms; the wussy sooks can't hack it.
Where there's a seam, you'll find your dream, so hang the cost,
and frack it!

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.

Chris Wood send the following story to John
Low in response to John column "Graffiti
Romance in September 2012 Hut News.

Graffiti, that scourge of the modern world,
does occasionally have a story worth telling.

On 21 Aug 1914 Dan
McAlpine, Glad
Ingram, Horace
Herrod, Trix Roughly,
Madge McDonald and
Nev Herrod, all from
Paddington, painted
their names in
Centennial Glen. The
paint is getting rather
faint these days, and
it's not helped by the
fact that it's on a nice
flat rock which
encourages walkers
to sit on it. The day of
their walk was
overcast with
showers, Blackheath
recording about 9 mm.



The third member of the party, Horace Mervyn
Herrod, was born in Jun 1891 at "Alpha", 90
Gordon St, Paddington. In 1914 he was living
there with his mother Matilda Hannah Herrod,
his father Reuben having died on 20 Feb
1907. He was 5 feet 7 tall (about 170 cm),
grey eyes and dark hair. He was a compositor
for the Sydney Morning Herald from 1907 until
his enlistment on 15 Dec 1915 into the AIF,
serial number 6672. After training he was sent
to Europe via North Africa, arriving at Etaples
in France (south of Calais) on 8 Aug 1916,
where he joined the 7th Field Company
Engineers as a Sapper. Sadly, like tens of
thousands of soldiers he did not survive the
war. He died on 8 Jan 1917 on the Somme
near Waterlot Farm, about half way between
Longueval and Guillemont, and he is buried in
Delville Wood Cemetery. For his service he
was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British
War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His death notice in the Sydney Morning
Herald of 27 Jan 1917 includes the words "He
died as he lived, a hero and a man." His
mother died in 1931.

There is a poem by EA MacKintosh:

High Wood to Waterlot Farm,
All on a summer's day,
Up you get to the top of the trench
Though you're sniped at all the way.
If you've got a smoke helmet there
You'd best put it on if you could,
For the wood down by Waterlot Farm
Is a bloody high wood.

Loose Feathers, with Carol Probets

It was one of those moments that every birdwatching conservationist dreams of. There, in my birdbath, was one of Australia's rarest and most beautiful birds - a Regent Honeyeater. And it was not only using the birdbath. This bird and its mate had successfully raised three healthy young in a cleverly concealed nest, high in a Slaty Gum on my bush block in the Capertee Valley. The three hungry fledglings were now keeping their parents busy demanding a never-ending supply of insect food. To me, they represented a hopeful prospect for the future of the species.

Striking in black and gold plumage, the Regent Honeyeater, now listed as Critically Endangered, is the charismatic flagship species for a whole suite of declining woodland birds. Over 80% of Australia's temperate grassy woodlands have been cleared for agriculture. What remains is usually on poorer soils or rocky ranges. It's no wonder we're losing our ground-feeding robins, babbler, treecreepers, finches and rich-patch specialist honeyeaters. Few National Parks conserve this type of habitat; it's the private properties and Travelling Stock Reserves which hold the key, being generally on richer soils. This all means that projects such as the Capertee Valley revegetation project and the Cowra Woodland Birds project are incredibly important for our birds.

The birdbath on my block is an old cast iron bathtub, which I found in the front paddock, tied to the Landcruiser and dragged to its current position. I arranged rocks of various sizes inside and angled branches into it so that no matter what the water level, the birds have something to stand on, an easy way of getting to the water, and out again! Next to the bath I planted a small-flowered grevillea which now overhangs the water and provides dense cover for the smaller honeyeaters.

On a hot day, it's easy to idle away a few hours watching the parade of birds coming to the bath. They come in waves, as safety is obviously in numbers. The honeyeaters love to bathe and are the most numerous, with up to a dozen species visiting. Also queueing up are the Diamond Firetails, Double-barred Finches, Eastern Rosellas, Rufous Whistlers, Speckled Warblers, Superb and Variegated Fairy-wrens and Spotted Pardalotes. But for sheer sensational glamour, it will be hard to beat the Regent Honeyeater!

"Carol Probets, origma@westnet.com.au

Photo: Regent Honey by Martin Potter



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

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

BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Lawson Nursery –Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am to noon. The nursery is located in the Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets, opposite Federation Building Materials (see the map on our website www.bluemountains.org.au).

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

Magpie Market, 3rd Sunday of the month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm.

Tube stock \$2.50 each. Larger pots available.

Enquiries Kevin Bell 4787 6436,

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.

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

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

When the English aristocracy visited the Blue Mountains, as they regularly did, the unfamiliar pleasures of the landscape often seduced them into relaxing the normal formalities of their class. Even the future Queen Mary and her ladies took to the swings at Leura Cascades in 1901 and wandered the bush paths for longer than they should.

Almost a decade earlier, following a visit to Jenolan Caves in January 1893, Alice, Duchess of Buckingham & Chandos, alighted at the Carrington Hotel with her friend Hilda. Having roughed it at smaller accommodation houses, they settled in to the comfort of the grand hotel, a panoramic view from their veranda and their dinner table “covered with flowers”. The following day Sir Frederick Darley of ‘Lilianfels’ took them to Wentworth Falls and the Three Sisters and despite the heat and flies they were not deterred from accepting an invitation the next morning for “a grand picnic expedition” to Govetts Leap.

Coach driver Harry Peckman, their guide for the day, was a man well versed in the art of introducing the aristocracy to the informalities of the bush. Bushman, poet and raconteur, it was he who had taken Lord and Lady Carrington by horse across the Six Foot Track in 1887 and introduced them to the camaraderie of the camp fire and the delights of billy tea. “Oh, such a beautiful, wonderful place!” exclaimed Alice on arrival at the Leap, the amphitheatre of cliffs intersected with dashing waterfalls (her words) becoming the background against which the ‘theatre’ of the picnic played out. Both director and performer, Peckman always ensured that his guests were part of the action.

It began with a story, a skeleton found in the thick bush in the depths of the valley, a lost soul who’d wandered from his friends and died “bewildered in the endless scrub and forest”. Then a lesson in fire-making and the baking of potatoes, followed by a warning about snakes and a careful study of the ground to ensure no serpents would spoil their “excellent repast”. After lunch and an exciting scramble down to the edge of the precipice, “throwing stones to see if we could hear them fall”, it was time for the ritual of ‘billy tea’ and the climactic flourish of the guide’s own poetry. His ‘Laughing Jackass’, a humorous verse and prose piece that included a reputedly faultless imitation of a Kookaburra, brought the picnic to a suitably colourful conclusion.

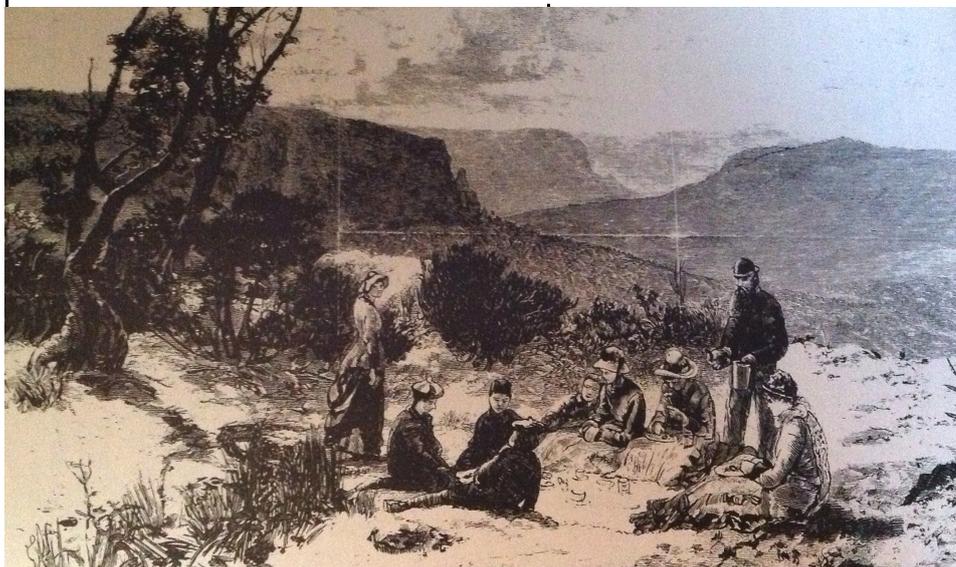
But the drama had not yet ended! Nature still had a few lines of her own to deliver. “On the way home”, Alice reported, “we were caught in a tremendous thunderstorm, and got well soaked – hailstones like peas ... and sheets of rain. It rains like a water-spout here when it once begins. Some of the ladies were so frightened that they took

refuge in a house, but most of us drove on and braved the elements”. An outing with Harry was invariably a memorable experience!

John Low

(grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com)

Note: A copy of Alice’s letters, *Glimpses of Four Continents*, written during her world tour and published in London in 1894, is held in the Local Studies Section at Springwood Library. Also, copies of Jim Smith and my book on Harry Peckman, *The Prince of Whips*, are still available at the give-away price of \$5!



Saturday Walkers

SNOWY MOUNTAINS WALKS, JAN 2013

I have made a booking for 15 people at **Cooma Ski Club Lodge** in Perisher Valley, for the period 14th-20th January 2011.

Allowing the first day to arrive, and the last day to drive home, this leaves five days for walking. There is no public transport to or in the valley in summer, and you can drive right to the door of the lodge.

Accommodation is on a self catering basis, and the lodge has a well equipped commercial kitchen with plenty of fridge and freezer space. During summer there will be no supermarket available in the valley, and you must bring in all supplies with you, or else be prepared to shop in Jindabyne (or Thredbo, which is even further away!).

You will have to bring your own linen and sleeping bag or blankets, and be prepared for cool nights, as the lodge is situated at approx 1760 metres altitude.

There are seven bedrooms, a loft, and a basement. The loft and basement provide comfortable beds, no hanging or cupboard space, and less privacy. With more than 15 attending we can not guarantee private rooms for everybody.

Total capacity is 26 people. This is too many for comfortable organization of walks, although there is a cheaper rate if we book the entire lodge.

The rate for summer bookings is up for review at the next committee meeting. I will advise when the new rate is known, although it is expected to be not more than \$20 per night.

Bring a mountain bike if you like, there is excellent riding there, and feel free to go horse riding, trout fishing, car touring, or whatever turns you on!

Walking trips will be arranged by agreement, and according to the weather, and will range from short doddles to quite lengthy if desired.

Warwick Mosman, 4757 1354 rwmosman@bigpond.com.au

The Thursday Mob, by Tracy Longden

The Thursday mob they love to walk
Their banter is more than just talk

Baz speaks French & gives endless cheek,
His wit is never meek & can last for a week,

Maurice is our rock; reliable, cheerful & capable too,
He's friendly & welcoming when you're new,

Bev is our quiet achiever, always leading,
with her calming manner-never panicking or stampeding.

Chris is kind & always thoughtful,
She never makes a fuss-in that you can trust,
She likes to catch the train - even in the rain,

Narelle is bright & very bubbly, always giggling over something,
She works with rocks & gems,
and turns them into jewellery for her friends.

Rosemary has a job fulltime,
with gardening, painting & trying to keep Baz in line.

Keith is a warming sort of chap,
He gathers you in & makes you feel like you belong.

Hartley Rosemary is upright & strong,
she's intelligent & rarely wrong.

Since being here I have seen the most wondrous sights,
and have looked down from dizzy heights;
Creeks, escarpments, cliffs & waterfalls,
I love them all & am having a ball.

So here's to the Thursday mob
without your company, I might sob;
Always keep on walking & never stop talking,
'cause you 're the nicest crew I ever knew.

30th anniversary of decision to save the rainforests of Northern NSW

October 2012 marked the 30th anniversary of the decision of the NSW Wran Government to cease the logging of the Northern NSW rainforests.

On 26 October 1982, the Wran Cabinet met for eight hours with one single item on the agenda—whether to save the rainforests of Northern NSW. The decision of the Cabinet that day was to protect all the icon areas of the Northern NSW rainforests—totally some 89,000 hectares, as well as the creation of a timber industry adjustment fund. At the 1983 Annual ALP Conference, Mr Wran said: “When we are all dead and buried, and our children’s children are reflecting on what was the best thing the Labor Government did in the 20th century, they will come up with the answer ‘we saved the rainforests’.

The plight of the NSW rainforests was brought to public attention at Terania Creek. The protest was the first time citizens physically defended a rainforest by placing themselves in front of police and loggers.

Years of writing letters, lobbying politicians and making submissions did not work. Protesters formed human barricades to block bulldozers and police making their

way into the rainforest. Eventually the actions of the protesters halted the logging and sparked the Wran government’s decision to gazette the remaining rainforest in NSW as National Park.

Shop early for Christmas

Give BMCS membership to a friend. Most of us will know like-minded environmentally-conscious people who are not yet members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Here is a chance to help the Society, and the environment. Give a one-year membership to a friend **or relative** for Christmas.

Annual membership fees are Single \$30 (**\$20 concession – senior/student**), Household \$35 (**\$25**). Bushwalkers pay \$20 extra per walker per annum. Send the details with your cheque to Membership Secretary, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 **or email bmcs@bluemountains.org.au** Your friend **or relative** will receive a gift voucher and one year’s subscription to Hut News. Enquiries to Lachlan Garland, 0415 317 078, email lachlan.a.garland@bigpond.com.

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 or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email mauricekerkham@hotmail.com or write to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782. **Late changes to the program will be published on the website.**

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

- Nov 17 **Deep Pass & Nayook Canyon.** Visit Lookout, T bone slot. Cool off in Nayook Canyon. Wet feet guaranteed. Some scrambling with ropes. Leader: **Emanuel 4757 1090** after 7pm. Or emanuelanddi@yahoo.com.au Ring leader for meeting time and details. Approx 6km, grade 3/4m Map: Rock Hill **Limit of 12.**
- Nov 17 Alternate walk. **Hanging Rock.** Leader: **Karen 4751 9695.** Meet at Blackheath Railway CP, at 8.30am. Approx 8km, grade 2 Map: Mt Wilson.
- Nov 24 **Springwood to Lost World via Magdala Creek & Glenbrook Creek.** Waterfalls, Ponds, lookout and wild flowers. Leader: **Harold 9600 8005.** Meet at Springwood Station CP, 8.30am. Approx 14km, grade 2/3 Map: Springwood
- Dec 1 **Noble Canyon & the Glow worm tunnel, return via the Grotto.** A spectacular walk covering both natural and man-made sculptures. Leader: **Bob 4757 2694** Wentworth Falls Stockland CP Time 8.30am. Approx 7km, grade 2/3 Maps: Cullen Bullen Ben Bullen
- Dec 8 **Birrabang Brook.** A delightful little brook with pools and sandy beaches. Wet feet guaranteed & up to your arm pits if you slip in. Leader: **Emanuel 4757 1090** after 7pm. Ring leader for meeting time & place, **limit 12.** . Approx 6km, grade 3. Map: Mt Wilson
- Dec 8 Alternate Walk **Six Foot Track, From Megalong Crossing to Cox's River** Leader: **Warren 4787 5403.** Meet Blackheath Station CP. Car pool to Megalong Crossing. Time 8.00am, approx 9km, grade 2/3, Map: Hampton

Forward Notices

- Dec 22 **Xmas Lunch.** \$24 + \$2 Levy for wine. **Bob Booking now** 4757 2694. Meet Wentworth Falls Golf Club. Grade easy. Map The front 9!
- 14-20 Jan 2013 **Cooma Ski Club Lodge in Perisher Valley.** Space is limited so book early. Leader **Warwick 4757 1354** More details are available at <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/snowy.pdf> Copy and paste into your web browser. For members without web access contact the leader for a hard copy.

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

- Nov 19 **Wentworth Falls Lake Circuit.** Followed by a "Shed Warming" at Tera and Dudley's sausage sizzle. Meet Wentworth Falls Station car park 9.35 am. Car pool to shed warming. Contact Tera 4757 2855. Grade 2
- Nov 26 **Mount York and Lockyers Line of Road.** Historical mountains road crossing. Contact Eddie 4784 2691. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.30. Car pool \$5. Grade 2.
- Dec 3 **"In the footsteps of Peter Mulheran".** Jim Smith will guide this walk showing how the track system evolved and interpreting the historical significance of Mulheran's work, including some now forgotten places. (More details on page 4). Meet Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls, 9.30am. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 2.
- Dec 10 **Bus trip—Bidjigal Reserve.** Book and pay Keith 4736 1010, \$12 fare. Grade 2. Contact Ken 0423 450 200. Meet Springwood Civic Centre car park 8.15 am.
- Dec 17 **CHRISTMAS LUNCH, Alexandra Hotel, Leura.** 12.00 for 12.30 start, \$30 p.p. Contact Judith 4758 6310, 0419780640. Money and order to Judith before 10th December.

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Walks of 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. Group Co-ordinator is Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076, roybev12@bigpond.net.au

- Nov 15 **Walls Cave, Blackheath.** Visit the Heritage Centre before doing walk. Bring a plate to share for lunch. Car pool. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Narelle 47512467. Grade 2.
- Nov 22 **Berghoffers Pass, Mount Victoria.** Explore early Blue Mountains road. Take lunch. Car pool. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.45 am. Leader Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 2.
- Nov 29 Visit 19th century murder site in Glenbrook. Meet Glenbrook Station car park 9.30 am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1.
- Dec 6 **Christmas lunch at Secret Creek,** 35 Crane Road, Lithgow. Cost approx. \$30. BYO. Let Bev know by 29 Nov if you will be coming. Meet at the restaurant. Contact Bev if you need transport. Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 1.
- Dec 13 **Mermaid's Cave and Coachwood Glen, Megalong Valley.** Cool walk followed by swim in Megalong Creek. Bring a plate to share for picnic lunch. Car pool. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am. Leader Barrie 4782 9235. Grade 2.
- Walks resume next year.**

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

'Like' us on Facebook:

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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

The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

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