Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

HUT NEWS

Issue No. 319
October 2014

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

PUBLIC MEETING

The State of the State - an environmental perspective

In the first of a series of events leading up to the NSW State Election, **Blue Mountains Conservation Society** is pleased to present a well rounded environmental look at the "*State of the State*".

Wednesday, 15th October 2014, 7 pm at the Conservation Hut, western end of Fletcher St Wentworth Falls

Guest Speaker: Kate Smolski, CEO Nature Conservation Council of NSW. Ms Smolski, prior to becoming CEO of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, was its Campaign Director. There are few people better placed than Kate to provide us with an accurate and timely snapshot of the state of NSW's environment. Come along and find out what the critical environmental issues for our state really are.

As this meeting is part of the Society's election coverage, candidates from the major parties (Liberal, Labor, and Greens) have also been invited and are welcome to speak briefly after Ms Smolski's presentation. So far, the attendance of two candidates has been confirmed, come along and find out which two.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society General Meeting

Music of the Mountains .... Jim Smith

Saturday, 25th October, 10 am
Wentworth Falls School of Arts
(Cnr Great Western Highway and Adele Avenue)

Listening to the Blue Mountains.

Jim did his first Blue Mountains bushwalk (to Princes Rock lookout) 50 years ago and has lived in Wentworth falls for 40 years. One of the most important insights that he has gained during his half-century living in the bush is the realisation that, although the living things that we share this planet with do not speak human languages, they do have voices.

Known as an enthusiastic promoter of bushwalking, Jim Smith now believes that people in the bush are doing too much walking and not enough sitting. He says that the most remarkable things that he has seen and heard in the bush were experienced when he was standing still, sitting or lying down.

He will discuss the bush sounds which were once common but have now disappeared from the Blue Mountains, the sounds that modern human ears miss, mysterious and terrifying night sounds, bird dialects, echoes, the loudest and most subtle sounds of the region, silences, his favourite sounds, the most horrible sound he ever heard and sounds that only he has heard. Jim will explain why it is harmful to watch televised nature documentaries and discuss the pathological condition termed nature deficit disorder syndrome.

Although the sounds of the Blue Mountains vary on a daily and seasonal basis, Jim believes that there is an underlying soundscape, or 'music' distinctive to the region, that few people know how to listen to.

There will not be a 'question time' after this presentation, but members of the audience will be invited to share their own special memories of the sounds of the Blue Mountains.

Visitors will be very welcome. Gold coin donation.

The *Great Koala Count* is happening from 7-17th November. It'll be a wonderful chance to go out for a walk or two with the kids and have a lovely time looking around and appreciating the local bush at a beautiful time of year.

Find out much more about how to spot koalas and your opportunity to become a Citizen Scientist contributing to valuable research. Bring the family along to a meeting:

Sunday, 2 November, 11am
at Faulconbridge Hall, Home Street
(off St Georges Cres.), Faulconbridge

Read more on page 2.

A Grandparents Day Afternoon Tea Party for our Grandchildren's Survival

You are invited to an afternoon tea letter writing party at the home of Robin and Warwick Mosman on

Sunday 26 October at 2.30 pm.

Bob Debus will launch a new website to encourage hundreds, thousands of other grandparents to write letters.

Let's take some action to help our grandchildren.

Read more on page 5.

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

President:: Alan Page 4784 1704
president@bluemountains.org.au
Senior Vice President: Tara Cameron
0419 824 974 taracameron4@gmail.com
Second Vice President: Don Morison
8230 2116 2vp@bluemountains.org.au
Treasurer: Bart Beech 4739 9947
bart.beech@invensys.com
Administration Officer: Jeanette Robertson
sao@bluemountains.org.au
Bushcare Officer: Paul Vale
4787 8080 0429 014 454
bushcare@bluemountains.org.au
Environmental Educatlion Officer:
Gary Humble 4784 1648 0427 841 078
gaz.humble@gmail.com
Landuse Officer: Angela Langdon
0417 004 722
angela.langdon@bigpond.com
Meetings Secretary: Heather Hull
4739 1493 hhull001@bigpond.net.au
Membership Secretary: Ross Coster
4739 2987 0418 462 576
membership@bluemountains.org.au
General Meetings Convenor:
Brendan Doyle 4757 2197
brendan049@gmail.com
National Parks/World Heritage Officer:
Brian Marshall 4784.1148
briannamar@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor: Christine Davies
4787 7246
hutnews@bluemountains.org.au
Plant Nursery Manager: Sue Nicol
4787.8887 nursery@bluemountains.org.au
Publicity Officer: Annabel Murray
0404 455 626
publicity@bluemountains.org.au
Sustainable Population and Climate
Change Officer: Peter Green 4751 9474
peter@pwgreen.id.au
Threatened Species Officer: Nakia Belmer
0414 344 741 bayern11@tpg.com.au
Website Officer: Alan Page 4784 1704
president@bluemountains.org.au
Walks Convenor: Maurice Kerkham
4739 4942
mauricekerkham@hotmail.com
Project Officer-Events: Rob Baigent
4759 3104 rob.baigent@bigpond.com
Project Officer: Craig Linn
craig.csmc@exemail.com.au
Bushfire Representative: Hugh Paterson
4751.2303, mob 0427 512 303
fmatter@bigpond.net.au

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
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18 OCTOBER 2014
hutnews@bluemountains.org.au
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES
Ross Coster
02 4739 2987 0418 462 576
membership@bluemountains.org.au
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

Rachel Makinson 1917-2014

The Society became aware of the passing of Rachel Makinson when we received donations, requested in lieu of flowers at Rachel's funeral.

I knew Rachel in the Blue Mountains from 1990 until 2000, when she moved to a retirement village in Turramurra. In another life she was a highly respected physicist with CSIRO Division of Textile Physics.

Rachel had established a beautiful native garden at her home at Mount Victoria, overlooking the Kanimbla Valley. We first met on Society bushwalks, including when Rachel invited the bushwalkers to her home for morning tea and to inspect her garden prior to a walk on the property of Charles Johnson in the Kanimbla Valley below.

When I moved to Blackheath and led Monday Leisure Walks for the Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre, Rachel came on these walks. She showed me several walks, including one of my favourite short walks which I named "Rachel's Track". In October the lovely waratahs and other spring wildflowers bloom in profusion along Rachel's Track, a fitting prelude to a stunning view over the magnificent Grose Valley. Christine.

Koalas are counting on us counting them

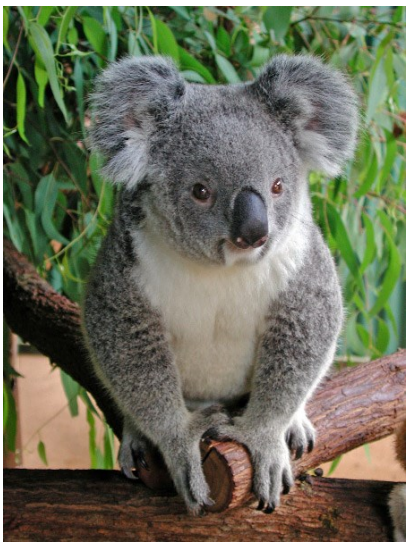
The *Great Koala Count (7-17 November)* is an annual national event. The information collected may be used to investigate koalas' use of habitats; identify areas of concern or promise for populations; monitor changes over time; & develop conservation strategies for this Threatened Species.

Dr Grainne Cleary is part of the team who've developed *BioTag*, an app for SmartPhones to record the GPS location & details about any koalas spotted. After registering at www.koalacount.org.au and downloading *BioTag*, if you spot a koala, just snap a photo & answer the questions. You don't even need to be in range at the time. And if you don't see any, that's valuable info for the researchers too. You don't need a SmartPhone to take part - you can report manually on the website too.

Most koala sightings in the Mountains have been on more fertile soils in the lower eastern areas & around the basalt capped peaks, but the results of the *Count* may change this. Coincidentally, during last year's count in the Mountains, a koala was seen crossing the Highway at Boddington Hill and others sought refuge near houses at Winmalee during the bushfires.

At the meeting on Sunday 2 November, Grainne will also outline the *Atlas of Living Australia* (www.ala.org.au), an amazing online data base of flora & fauna. Using the *Atlas*, you can enter any location and find the whole range of animals and plants that have been recorded within a 1, 5 or 10 km radius, whether lizards, mosses, insects, grevilleas, birds or any other living thing.

Dr Kellie Leigh will be discussing her research looking at koala diversity throughout the mountains (www.scienceforwildlife.org). Kellie is examining how koalas use the range of trees and how to manage and protect their population in a potential refuge from the increasing threats of the continuing growth of Sydney, diseases and climate change.



Kellie also is involved in using wildlife-detection dogs to survey elusive threatened species such as koalas and quolls. Kids will love watching Badger, her quoll detection dog, demonstrate his amazing skill at finding quoll scats hidden in the park next door.

Enquiries: contact Gary Humble, 4784 1648, gaz.humble@gmail.com

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Experience
www.worldheritage.org.au

The Gardens of Stone ...
a photographic journey with Hugh Speirs

Looking over us—some fossilized dinosaur?

BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Our nursery offers the home gardener, landscaper or large contractor a big variety of quality local native plants at economical prices.

Lawson Nursery, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 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 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. Larger pots available. Discounts for bulk orders and large contracts.

Enquiries Sue Nicol 4787 8887, nursery@bluemountains.org.au

10/50 Bushfire Vegetation Clearing Law: What can you do about habitat reduction?

We all agree people need to make their homes safe from bushfire, but the 10/50 Bushfire Vegetation Clearing Law and its Code doesn't do that. This law was a rushed response to last October's bushfires and there is no clear evidence that it will work.

The law was conceived in haste; it was pushed through with no genuine public consultation; there has been no public education campaign; it is even unclear which government agency will ensure it is correctly applied.

It is questionable whether some critical aspects of the Code have legal validity: e.g. the watercourses around which wholesale clearing is prohibited, and the inconsistency with protections offered to threatened communities and species under federal legislation.

As the law stands, most of the built area of the Blue Mountains is within a 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area. CSIRO studies suggest that there is little point in felling trees and other vegetation near homes when the main risk of fire comes from ember attack, with embers often emanating from hundreds of metres – if not kilometres away.

Non-compliance with the rules can be reported to Council and the Environment Line. Grounds for Complaint and details of how to take action can be found on page 8.

Many local Councils, the Local Government Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW are actively putting pressure on the NSW government to change this law and its Code. It is understood that some amendments may be on the way.

One of the very few limits to clearing is within 10m of a 'prescribed stream' – however this is not clearly referenced or defined! If 'prescribed streams' are based on the list from the now repealed Water Act 1912-1972, in this area, only the Grose and Hawkesbury Rivers, and a few creek-lines around the Bell-Mt Tomah area are included. However if the definition from the Office of Water is used, all watercourses shown as a blue line on a topographical map are covered.

Another confusing aspect is the conflict between State and Federal legislation. Ecological communities or species recognised under federal legislation cannot have their protections removed by a state law! Unfortunately, there are no exemptions for the threatened communities and species listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, or for the 31 locally significant vegetation communities listed in the local LEP.

For further information on the legal inconsistencies see the EDO's submission to the Code:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/edonsw/pages/1543/attachments/original/1406016064/140721_Code_of_Practice_-_EDO_NSW_submission.pdf?1406016064

How to take action to help change the Code:

You can add your voice to help protect our creek lines and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Send a message to Police and Emergency Services **Minister** Stuart Ayres (office@ayres.minister.nsw.gov.au phone 8574 6500) and **Environment Minister** Rob Stokes (office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au phone 8574 6700) asking the government for an urgent moratorium to stop the destruction.

Let the Society know of your action by emailing bmcs@bluemountains.org.au, mail to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782, or phone 4782 1635.

JOIN Blue Mountains Conservation Society, or renew your membership online.
www.bluemountains.org.au

Hawkesbury over-development … a Grose assault Don Morison

As ICAC spotlights a large development proposal at North Richmond, it is time to ponder what a large part of the Hawkesbury River catchment is under threat. For the moment, Hawkesbury Council has voted in favour of postponing the development while further investigations proceed. Meanwhile, the current mayor of Hawkesbury (who is not in favour of delaying the North Richmond development) has dusted off an old road reservation which could end the status of the Grose River as an unabridged wild waterway.

Let's start this by discussing some history. The geography of the Hawkesbury-Nepean-Wollondilly catchment, with its steep-sided valleys and mountains to the north, west and south, has long provided many benefits to Greater Sydney. It was recognised by 18th century settlers as a food basket for the colony of NSW. Its fertility was aided by its regular flooding which 21st century developers now see as a dastardly conspiracy against their profits.

For many decades, the floodplains and mountains have been accepted as a constraint on the urban sprawl of Sydney. Sydney is one of the world's lowest-density large cities. The natural tendency towards the trapping of air pollution in its large basin-shaped landforms will cause even more severe problems if Sydney's status as the highest public transport use city in Australia is not preserved and if new pockets of congestion are created along the foothills of the mountains. If ever there was a location which should not be allowed to become part of the almost endless suburb belt, surely it is North Richmond.

Importantly, the whole catchment of the Hawkesbury River has been a natural and cultural inspiration in the history of Australia. It is the "secret river" in the writings of Kate Grenville (disclosure: Ms Grenville is this writer's favourite living Australian author). One never travels far in this catchment without locating a scene captured by some eminent artist in the history of Australian landscape painting. Kate Grenville herself was involved in a (so far unsuccessful) campaign to save the architecturally outstanding Andrew Thompson Square at Windsor from Baird Government proposed road works. Andrew Thompson arrived as a convict and became a famous and accomplished emancipist.

Now to return to the Grose River. The developers and politicians, whose names most of us would never have heard were it not for ICAC, face two significant challenges. Firstly, they want to corrupt the significant role the Hawkesbury catchment has played in Australian life. Secondly, they want to do it without any significant outlays on new infrastructure. The current North Richmond - Bells Line of Road bridge is already a major bottleneck. It would be inconvenient, expensive and disruptive of existing commercial activity to widen the bridge.

Consequently, the possible construction of a new bridge linking Yarramundi Road directly through the bushland and wetlands to the road on the west bank of the Hawkesbury is being mentioned. The Grose is a truly wild river. It has never had a bridge across it. Yarramundi, despite some settlement, still remains a fitting gateway to the natural wonderland of the Grose. To disrupt this area would be yet another insult to the environment.

Photo: Near the junction of the Hawkesbury, Nepean and Grose Rivers, at Yarramundi.

While it is not the province of Hut News to canvass all the issues ICAC is raising about the North Richmond development, we can be thankful that the spotlight has now been shone on the ramifications of this inappropriate proposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ON THE REEF: WHY SCIENCE HISTORY MATTERS

4 pm, Saturday, October 11: Blackheath History Forum, Blackheath Public School Hall (cnr Great Western Highway and Leichhardt Street). Entry $5. Refreshments from 3.30 pm.

A few months ago Iain McCalman was approached for help by a group of environmentalists and eco-minded tourist businesses from Mission Beach, a resort community located a few hours south of Cairns on the Cassowary Coast. Their town and region had been torn apart by two successive cyclones, only four year apart.

They explained that they wanted to rebuild their battered region around the story of the popular environmental struggle of the 1970s told in his recent book, *The Reef.* This contest had led ultimately to the twin listing during the 1980s of the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics Rainforest as World Heritage Nature Parks. They hoped this half-forgotten story could become a source of present and future renewal in the aftermath of their twin cyclonic catastrophes, as well as the ominous emerging threats of climate change.

In this paper, Iain will briefly outline the story of that 1970s' environmental campaign and reflect on some of its implications and possibilities for the unfinished business of protecting the reefs and rainforests of Far North Queensland during the present and the future.

IAIN McCALMAN is a Fellow of three Learned Academies and a former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is a Professor in history at the University of Sydney and co-Director of the new Sydney Environment Institute. His current book, *The Reef – A Passionate History* (2013), has now been published in Australia, the USA, and the UK. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2007 for services to history and the humanities

www.blackheathhistoryforum.org.au

A Grandparents Day Afternoon Tea Party for our Grandchildren's Survival

Robin Mosman

Remember all those years ago, when Kevin Rudd's first government was elected, we had such high hopes that the threat of global warming was at last going to be tackled by our governments, State and Federal?

I remember the huge turnouts at the Walks Against Warming in 2007 and 2008. This photo is of Warwick and me with Rosemary and Arthur Lathouris carrying the banner for the email campaign we ran from 2006 to 2009.

Some of you may remember the Letter of the Month we wrote for Hut News during that time, about different aspects of the issue, and government action or inaction on them.

However, in spite of all the public support for real action, nothing really happened. Both major political parties bear responsibility for this. And by the end of 2009, as the world's leaders returned from the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen with no plan for any action, the Sydney Morning Herald carried the message "The World Has Grown Weary of Climate Change".

People stopped marching and politicians stopped listening. But global warming didn't stop.

Scientists are now of the opinion that temperatures will rise by 4 to 6 degrees rather than the 2 degrees as initially hoped, with all the dreadful problems for survival that will pose.

Is this the sort of inheritance we are content to hand down to our grandchildren? It often seems to me that those of us who are now grandparents in Australia have lived through the best time in the world. Are we prepared to leave our grandchildren a degraded country in which they will have to struggle to even survive?

Australia is contributing hugely to climate change through the coal that is being mined here and exported. And the latest information is that mining companies are planning to double their exports. This means more mines, with their massive requirement for and pollution of water; and in NSW most are being planned for the rich agricultural land of the Liverpool Plains. So we have a triple whammy for our grandchildren to contend with - climate change with its droughts, flood and bushfires; degraded agricultural land; and polluted water.

What can we grandparents do? Well, there is a growing groundswell of public dissatisfaction about the impacts of coal and CSG mining. Increasingly, people are becoming aware of the problems they create, and standing up to let our political leaders know that this isn't the way we want our country to develop. We can add our voices to that - and we have lots of voices – they're always telling us how many baby boomers there are!

Bob Debus told me recently that politicians pay more attention to letters than they do to emails, and hey, *grandparents - remember letters,* writing them, putting stamps on them, posting them at the post office! We know how to do this probably better than any of the young folks!

So Warwick and I have decided to have a letter-writing party, on the theory that we might as well have some fun at the same time as letting our politicians know we aren't happy with how things are at the moment. And you're invited! Sunday 26 October is NSW's official Grandparents Day, so that seemed like a great day to do it.

Please come to our Grandparents Day afternoon tea letter-writing party

at the home of Robin and Warwick Mosman
19 Falls Rd Wentworth Falls (opposite Wilson Park)
2.30 pm Sunday 26 October
for a delicious afternoon tea and to write some letters to the leaders of our political parties
RSVP Phone 4757 1354 or email rwmosman@bigpond.com

We'll also be launching a website which you, and we hope thousands of other grandparents, will be able to access for ideas for further letters.

Need any other inducement? Bob Debus is coming to launch the website for us!

Many of our friends speak of their frustration about the lack of vision or significant action from our political leaders on climate change. Instead of just talking to each other about it, let's start doing something, and get our message to the people who need to hear it. **Let's take some action to help our grandchildren.**

Robin and Warwick Mosman are taking action for the survival of their grandchildren, photographed on page 1.

Welcome to new members

Greg Hausfeld, Linden
Fran Hausfeld, Linden
Brian James, Croydon
Helen Carey, Croydon
Anne Bowman, Leura

The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

$7.50 plus $1.50 postage.
Buy the map online (www.bluemountains.org.au) or write to BMCS, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 with your cheque or money order.

Ten Years with the Palette, Shot Gun and Rifle on the Blue Mountains

Sidney Read Bellingham was born in London in 1857, where he was trained as an artist. He migrated to Australia in 1879 and, after failing to make a living by the 'palette', became a professional hunting guide. He was closely associated with the Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caves for ten years and wrote an autobiographical account of his time in the region entitled *Ten Years with the Palette, Shot Gun and Rifle on the Blue Mountains*, published in 1899. After leaving the Blue Mountains in 1892, Bellingham moved to Victoria where he died in 1952. Bellingham's 1899 book is a classic of Blue Mountains literature, with its detailed accounts of local wildlife and scenery. It is being republished by Jim Smith, together with a biography of Bellingham. This new edition includes a history of hunting in the Blue Mountains. The following is an extract from the book. Ordering details will be in the next newsletter.

The Lyrebird – a case study in conservation

The tail feathers of Lyrebirds were being sold as decorative items in Sydney by at least the 1830s. The visiting English naturalist George Bennett wrote:

> The tail-feathers, detached entire from the bird, are sought for by collectors for their beauty, and are sold in the shops of the zoological collectors at Sydney, in pairs, formerly at a cheap rate, as the birds then abounded in the mountain ranges of the Illawarra district; but now that the bird, from its frequent destruction, has become rare, these tails have attained a price of from twenty to thirty shillings the pair.[1]

The Victorian hunter Horace Wheelwright recorded that Aboriginal people were hunting Lyrebirds in the 1850s in order to sell the tails in the city.[2]

Before 1866 it was legal to shoot any wildlife in New South Wales. Passed in that year was 'An Act to provide for the preservation of Imported Game and during the breeding season of Native Game'. Only a small number of native birds, not including the Lyrebird, were given protection from hunting, and then only during the 'closed season' between 1 August and 31 December.

'An Act to secure the protection of certain Birds and Animals', commonly referred to as the Game Act, was passed in 1879. This added the Lyrebird to the list of species that could be shot at any time except during the extended 'closed season' of 1 August to 20 February. 'Closed seasons' were meant to protect birds during their breeding season. As the Lyrebird breeds in winter, the closed season was useless for it.

In October 1891 Sir Henry Parkes stated in Parliament that he was "considering measures by which the wanton destruction of lyrebirds can be stopped." He said that one man had exported to San Francisco 1600 tails in one year.[3]

The naturalist Harry McCooey backed up Parkes's initiative in a letter to the *Sydney Mail*, criticising the 1879 Game Act as:

> … a gigantic farce and a miserable failure; it is never enforced. We never hear of a prosecution under this Act, and for all the good it has done, or is ever likely to do, it might just as well be swept from the Statute Book.[4]

He described those who hunted the Lyrebird as:

> … a species of Vandals to whom I cannot refer without feelings of contempt and aversion – that the tail, the beautiful tail of which the bird itself is so justly proud, of the menura[5] has a money value; and consequently a cold-blooded unscrupulous crusade has been waged against it all the year round, notwithstanding that it is, and always has been, one of the birds which our Game Act is supposed to protect during the breeding season.

McCooey summed up a regrettable aspect of the Australian character:

> It seems to me – and I am an Australian, and speak as one – that the moment anything Australian is found to be beautiful or valuable, be it a flower, a tree, a bird, a cave, or a mammal, that moment the spirit of Vandalism is awakened and becomes rampant, and a greedy disgraceful, incontinent rush is made to see who shall grab the most or become the sole possessor. No decency is shown, no consideration. And rather than allow one person to become the possessor of a thing – it may, for example, be a rare and invaluable specimen of ethnology, botany, geology, or zoology – there are some persons who will wantonly destroy it. The Vandalism I complain of induces people to shoot down lyre birds in order that their tails may for a very brief period ornament their smoke-begrimed mantel-shelves. And again this wretched, contemptible, and lamentable Vandalism asserts itself with wanton, energetic vigour when a new and beautiful cave is discovered, in the indecent and shameless rush that is made to wrench off and carry away the stalactites.

The 1893 'Act to protect certain imported and other Birds' granted the Lyrebird complete protection from hunting for five years. From 1898, hunting was to be resumed except for the (still useless) closed season from 1 August to 31 January.

During this period a Megalong Valley settler reminisced about eating lyrebirds:

> During my hunting trips, which have been many and oft times rough, I have dined off nearly every bird and animal in the bush, magpie, cockatoo, lyre-bird, etc., etc., 'possum, wallaby, wallaroo, platypus and iguana. The two last are too tough and rank for anybody but a blackfellow who has been starved for a week or two. Two of us in the flood lived through a week on rock wallaby and lyrebirds washed down with water.[6]

Another former hunter who was now urging the conservation of wildlife was Frederick Aflalo who wrote in 1896:

> Before the newly arrived visitor can get a chance of seeing the beautiful *Menura* in its native haunts, he grows only too familiar with the tails in the windows of Sydney shops, as indeed in curio-stores in London.
>
> Not long since, for example, two enterprising brothers employed a number of men to shoot the luckless male birds, in which after some practice, they were unfortunately so successful, that 500 dozen [6000] of the beautiful tails were reported to have reached Sydney in the course of a few weeks. [7]

(continued on page 7)

The Lyrebird – a case study in conservation
(continued from page 6)

In his 1888 advertisement Sid Bellingham had listed Lyrebirds amongst the 'game' that would be available on his guided hunting tours, however by 1899 he seems to have turned against killing them, as the chapter on this species in his book is an appreciative essay on their beauty and songs with little encouragement to hunt them.

Another hunter-naturalist, Thomas Ward, warned, in the early 1900s:

> … the lyre bird, one of the most characteristic birds of our continent, has been cruelly persecuted, so that it has not only been exterminated in many districts, but is now scarce everywhere, and in danger of total extinction. The Blue Mountains are, or were, the headquarters this very remarkable bird…[8] For a long time a good price was obtainable in Sydney for its feathers, and if the bird was ever seen within a hundred miles of that city it was tracked down and shot.[9]

In 1909 ornithologist Sid Jackson "reported on horrific lyrebird drives in northern New South Wales, when hundreds of male lyrebirds were slaughtered 'to supply globe-trotting curio-hunters with the unique tail feathers'"[10]

It was not until the passing of The Birds and Animals Protection Act in 1918 that hunting the Lyrebird was banned permanently in New South Wales. This was due to agitation by the Royal Australasian Ornithological Union.[11]

[1] G. Bennett, *Wanderings in New South Wales*… Richard Bentley, London, 1834, volume 1, pp.277-8.
[2] H. Wheelwright, *Bush Wanderings of a Naturalist*, Routledge, Warne and Routledge, London, 1861, reprinted Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1979, p.64.
[3] 'Preservation of Native Game', *Sydney Mail*, 17 Oct 1891, p.846.
[4] H. McCooey, 'Our Beautiful Lyre Bird', *Sydney Mail*, 31 October 1891, p.962.
[5] The scientific name of the Lyrebird is *Menura novaehollandiae*. (*M. superba* in older texts.)
[6] "Platypus", 'Megalong Matters', *Katoomba Times*, 6 Jan 1893.
[7] F.Aflalo, *A Sketch of the Natural History of Australia*, *with some notes on sport*, Macmillan & Co, London, 1896, pp.129 -131.
[8] T. Ward (edited by Paul Fountain), *Rambles of an Australian Naturalist*, John Murray, London, 1907, p.7.
[9] Ibid., p.12.
[10] L. Robin, *The Flight of the Emu,* Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 2001, p.173.
[11] P. Reilly, *The Lyrebird: A Natural History*, New South Wales University Press, Sydney, 1988, p.83. More information on the trade in lyrebird plumes is in A. Chisholm, *The Romance of the Lyrebird*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1960, chapter 14.

VALLEY OF THE WATERS 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 welcome. Phone Karen 4757 1929.

That pesky little bird

Christine Davies

It's been delightful to watch three White-browed Scrubwrens in my Blackheath garden this winter. They bathe in the bird bath on the coldest of days, often just before dark. They hop around the garden and across the deck, searching for insects. The previously healthy population of spiders on the outside of the house is depleted as they scour the windows, doors and eaves.

On 26 August I came across a White-browed Scrubwren in the "lounge/TV" room, happily bouncing around looking for insects (alive or dead) near the glass doors. It retreated to the kitchen, where it had entered, found the door closed and fled into the back room.

I found it beside the glass door, picked it up, took it outside and put it on the deck. It stood there, not moving. After a while, another scrubwren appeared out of the bushes and went to it., then came back twice and gave it tiny insects. But it still didn't move from the spot.

I could hear Currawongs and Kookaburras. What if one of them saw the little bird and flew down? I could bear it no longer. I opened the door, stepped outside, and the bird flew into the bushes.

Carol Probets said that, from looking at the photo, the bird is an adult female. It may have flown into the glass while trying to escape from the back room and was stunned. Coming into the breeding season, it may have been its mate that brought insects and fed it.

"White-browed Scrubwrens are cooperative breeders, like many Australian birds", Carol told me. "This means they live in family groups consisting of a breeding pair plus one or more 'helpers', who are usually offspring from a previous brood or previous year."

This chapter of the story had a happy ending when the bird recovered and was able to fly away. I saw them the next day as they searched the garden, deck and windows for insects and bathed in the bird bath. A week later, another problem for the scrubwren family. The male found another pesky little bird … the one who stares back and challenges him when he hops on the door sill and looks in. Christine Davies.

10/50 Bushfire Vegetation Clearing Law

How to take action if you have observed a breach

- **Collect evidence**. Note the date, time, and address of the clearing. Also the name of the company doing the tree removal and number plates of vehicles. Take photographs or videos.
- **Phone Council immediately** on 4723 5000 (from lower mountains) or 4780 5000 (from upper mountains) and say you suspect a breach of the 10/50 Code. You can do this business days, weekends and out-of-hours. Follow this up with an email or letter to council stating 'Customer Service Request' in the subject line and your Customer Service Request number if you have been give one over the phone. Say that you are making a formal complaint, provide the relevant information and attach your evidence (photos etc). Email: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
- Notify Office of Environment and Heritage's **Environment Line** (131 555)
- Provide a copy of your complaint and evidence to **the Society** by email bmcs@bluemountains.org.au, mail to PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782, or phone 4782 1635.

Grounds for a Complaint

Please take action if clearing is taking place in any of these situations:

- If the land is outside of a "clearing entitlement area" (you can check this at http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing/tool). Most of the Blue Mountains is in it, even near the centres of most towns.
- If trees beyond 10 m are being removed; ie the trunk of the tree has to be less than 10m from the wall of a building containing 'habitable rooms' (e.g. a house, not a detached shed or garage). If it is only branches, then these can only be pruned.
- If shrubs or groundlayer plants beyond 50m are removed
- If the owner's permission has not been obtained; eg where the 50m extends onto a neighbouring property or a public bushland reserve.
- If earthmoving equipment or ploughs are used, and/ or the soil is disturbed
- If the slope is greater than 18 degrees (or 33%) unless covered by a Geotechnical Engineer Assessment Report.
- If it is within 10m of a watercourse *
- If threatened species or endangered ecological communities have been destroyed *
- If areas identified under the Blue Mountains LEP as 'Protected Areas' or zoned as Environmental Protection (EP or E2)*
- If heritage items have been destroyed *

Note that the last four situations* may not be strictly contrary to the Code, however the lack of legal clarity means that it is important to report these situations to demonstrate the problems which may hopefully lead to changes. To check the exact details of what is permitted, check the Code which can be found at http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/18453/1050-Vegetation-Clearing-Code-of-Practice.pdf

Climate Action!

On Sunday 20 September, thousands of people took to the streets in Australia's capital cities to demand action on climate change. The rallies were part of a series of 2,000 events in 166 countries across the world, culminating in a massive march in New York City where the UN-hosted climate summit was set to discuss carbon emissions.

A number of Blue Mountains folk travelled by train to Sydney to join the rally in Bicentennial Park, on the waterfront of Glebe, where speakers included Nell Schofield (Lock The Gate) and Rick Laird (fifth generation farmer from Maules Creek). At the end of the event, as many as would fit populated the outline of the words "BEYOND COAL AND GAS" for photos.

A record 310,000 people came onto the streets of New York. UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, wearing a blue t-shirt that read "I'm for climate action" marched arm-in-arm with primatologist Jane Goodall and French ecology minister Segolene Royal. "This is the place where our subsequent generations will live", Mr Moon told reporters. "There is no Plan B, because we do not have Planet B."

The UN climate summit, which was attended by more than 100 world leaders, set the stage for a crucial conference in Paris in December 2015 aimed at finalising an agreement. Prime Minister Tony Abbott did not attend the event.

Our Environment Levy at Work

Turtle, fish and other aquatic life is thriving in Glenbrook Lagoon – once the most polluted waterway in the Blue Mountains – thanks to a seven year restoration program involving the local community and funded by Council's Environment Levy. Using a $280,000 Caring for Our Country grant from the Federal Government, with $200,000 in matching funds provided by Council's Environment Levy, Council has cleared 99.9% of Cabomba and Salvinia which were choking the lagoon.

Blue Mountains City Council's Environment Levy raises around $1.5 million annually from Council rates and funds projects to restore local creeks, improve water quality, control noxious weeds, protect endangered species and improve walking tracks across the City.

Council has recently launched a project to clean up Leura Falls Creek. Leura Falls Creek forms the headwaters of Leura Cascades. In recent years, this iconic waterway has suffered increasingly from the effects of urban stormwater runoff and pollution.

Council has secured a $150,000 grant from the Sydney Catchment Authority by matching the grant with a $150,000 contribution from the Environment Levy.

The Leura Falls Creek project aims to improve creek condition by constructing seven pollution-trapping stormwater treatment systems within the catchment, restoring degraded creek sections and running hands-on education workshops for local businesses and residents. The Leura Falls Creek Catchment Working Group (LFCCWG), made up of five dedicated local Bushcare volunteer groups, will be actively involved – assisting the Council and the SCA to run a monitoring program to track changes in water quality.

Loose Feathers, with Carol Probets

A good bird migration day is one of the most exciting things in nature. It represents, to me, what autumn and spring are all about as the seasons of change. September 22nd was one such day this year. The weather was perfect - a clear blue sky, the warmth of the sun melting away the winter chill, the air calm and the mood idyllic. From sunrise to late afternoon, flock after flock of small birds passed by, heading south, as they had been on many other fine-weather days of that month.

At this time of year they're heading back to their nesting sites after spending the winter in rich feeding areas to our north. Exactly how far north depends on the species, the conditions at the time and sometimes even the individual birds.

By far the most numerous of the migrating birds are the Yellow-faced Honeyeaters. You might remember me writing about their migration in autumn, when the stream of birds heading north to their wintering areas in northern NSW and southern Queensland can be truly spectacular. The return migration in spring is usually less concentrated. But this year it's been big, though the autumn migration was average. It seems the birds use different routes in autumn and spring.

Tuning your ear to the calls of migrating birds, it's possible to discover a surprising variety of species moving through. Like the Yellow-faced, the little White-naped Honeyeaters are numerous, but you'll also hear Silvereyes, pardalotes,, swallows, woodswallows and other birds on the move. The larger wattlebirds, friarbirds, cuckoo-shrikes and orioles can be seen moving in flocks. The longer distance migrants - many of those that come down from north Queensland and New Guinea - fly at night. You may have been woken in the early hours by the truly awful, raucous calls of Channel-billed Cuckoos in flight.

It's especially fun to realise there are birds flying overhead that aren't commonly seen on the Blue Mountains plateau. For example, in the afternoon on 22nd September I became aware of a soft rolling trill overhead - Rainbow Bee-eaters high above! In some years we get huge flocks of White-browed and Masked Woodswallows moving over. In the past at Katoomba I've heard Silver Gulls (seagulls) and what could only be migrating shorebirds overhead at night.

It's sometimes assumed that Australian birds don't migrate much. But for anyone who happens to live along a migration bottleneck (as we do in the Blue Mountains), it's obvious that plenty of our birds do. Many Australian species (like the Yellow-faced Honeyeater) are partial migrants, which means that some individuals migrate and some don't. In addition, the number that migrate might vary from one year to another. The movements of Australian birds are complex and there is much we still don't know about them.

Carol Probets
origma@westnet.com.au
Twitter: @carolprobets

Yellow-faced Honeyeater at a flowering grasstree in Megalong Valley, November 2012.

Photo by Carol Probets.

You can become a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society

- **Post** this Application Form with your cheque or money order to: Blue Mountains Conservation Society, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782, **OR**
- **Join online** at: www.bluemountains.org.au

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1. …….
2. …….
3. ……..

Address: ……...
……PC ……

Phone(s) ……..

Email ……

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 ……

MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)
Single $30 Concession (Senior/Student)$20
Household $35 Household Concession $25
Corporate (negotiable)
Membership (circled above) $ ……
Donation (tax deductible) $ ……
Bushwalkers: please add
$20 per walker per annum. $ ……
TOTAL AMOUNT $.....

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

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; Website and social media; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Administration;

ENQUIRIES: Phone 02 4757 1872
Email: membership@bluemountains.org.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc
'Like' us on Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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.**

A BEQUEST

Please remember us in your Will.

The Law Society of NSW recommends the following wording: "I bequeath the sum of $ … to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society shall be complete discharge to my executors in respect of any sum paid to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society".

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

SUMMER SPLASHING

In November 1839, with NSW in the grip of drought, naturalist Louisa Meredith found the Weatherboard Inn a welcome respite from the dust and heat of the Western Road. She was returning to Sydney from Bathurst and the next day, seeking some early relief from another hot morning, set out on foot along "the borders of a bright brook that … gurgled and glittered over its rock bed", delighting "to stoop and dabble in it … with no very great objection to a splash if one's foot slipped". There were frogs and dragon-flies and delicate fringed violets and she reveled in the "moist greenness" of it all.

Her enjoyment of Jamison Creek must surely have been repeated many times as the 19th century matured and the village of Wentworth Falls grew around the old inn. Indeed, physical evidence still exists of later summer splashing in its coolness. About half way along Darwin's Walk, a turn in the track presents the walker with an outlook over a small pool at the base of a 'gurgling and glittering' (on a sunny day) cascade, the track passing across its well built dam wall.

The bathing pool was constructed during the winter of 1898 with funds raised by public subscription. Work was overseen by a committee of locals and supervised by Frederick Henry Moore, the committee's treasurer. Moore, a Sydney businessman, owned 'The Bungalow' in Pritchard Street and was one of those energetic and inspiring early trustees of the town's recreation reserves whose legacy continues to delight and nourish people today.

Born into a Western Australian pastoral family, Moore was educated in England and while business was his source of income (he managed branches of Dalgety & Co. in New Zealand, Tasmania and Sydney) it vied for his attention with other passions both intellectual and sporting. He travelled widely, was an active member of the Royal Society, Royal Geographical Society, Australian Jockey Club and a founding member of the Katoomba Shooting, Excursion & Fishing Club. In his youth, as captain of the Blackheath (London) Football Club, he'd been present at the famous 1863 meeting that laid down the laws of soccer and established the English Football Association. Truly a man of wide interests and enthusiasms, Moore died aged 95 while visiting Hobart in 1934 and is buried there.

When completed, the bathing pool, accompanied by two dressing sheds, was governed by some simple but emphatic rules that included the wearing of "a bathing dress" after 8 am (what was allowed before this?) and designated times when the pool would "be available for ladies only". It was promoted widely by the local guesthouses and, by 1906, was reported to have become "a great attraction and is liberally patronized". In 1913 the bath was "thoroughly cleaned out" and the dressing sheds renovated, allowing swimmers "to enjoy an early morning dip in the most pleasant conditions".

Perhaps the remains of the old bathing pool can tempt us to pause for a moment and dream of hot summer days long gone.

John Low (grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com)

BMCS Planning and Development Resource Kit

Do you want to take action on an environmental issue in your neighbourhood or the Blue Mountains more broadly?

Do you want information about the laws and procedures relating to development and environmental protection?

Find out what **YOU** can do! Go to the Planning and Development Resource Kit www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml

Spring on the Pipeline Track

On a sunny August day, five Monday walkers set off to walk some of the Pipeline Walking Track at Newnes. The Wolgan Valley looked fresh and green after the rain and Wood Ducks were paddling in the water running over the culvert. As we drove into Newnes, we were surrounded by bright yellow flowering wattles growing along the roadside and the banks of the Wolgan River.

Ros, Chris, Win, Tony and I had a delightful walk beside the river with lots of birds calling and flying through shrubs. As we were bushwalkers and not birders for the day, we did not have binoculars with us to identify them. Ros and Chris agreed that a birding trip would be worthwhile at another time. Then we had morning tea at the manager's house…now a ruin

The walk up through the gully was steep and my fears about a slippery track soon dissolved, as the shale track surface and loose leaves had stabilized with the rain earlier in the week. We saw bright purple *Hardenbergia* flowers trailing beside the track. Entering the rainforest we stepped over a log, under an old steel cable and up, up, up we went over some stone steps and past giant boulders covered in moss and Rats' Tails Orchids.

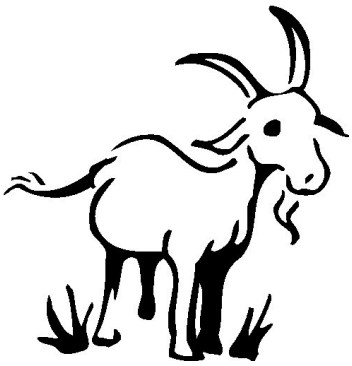
Sunlight appeared above us and quickly we were on top of the cliff and surrounded with the bright yellow flowering shrubs of *Dillwynia floribunda* with its egg & bacon flowers. The bright yellow flowers of *Acacia brownii* were around us at Echo Lookout and could be seen all over the ridge near by. Spectacular views of Wolgan Valley cliffs caught our attention as we settled on a rocky edge for lunch.

Loud thunder rumbles and black clouds prompted us to get moving, so we walked to another lookout, where we had views over Capertee Valley. We saw migrating honeyeaters flying past us on their return journey through Green Gully to the south, so our time on the cliff top was a spring special.

A careful and quicker return journey down the slopes soon found us sitting comfortably on the verandah of the museum or old pub, sipping a large mug of hot tea. Thomas, who had kindly opened up and made tea for us, joined us in a discussion of walks in the area. He has assembled a folder with numerous walks in and around Newnes that may interest other walkers.

All in all, we had a happy, safe and good walk. The trip out of the valley was slow, with lumbering wombats, mobs of wallabies and Eastern Grey Kangaroos bounding across the road. Meredith Brownhill.

Firearm fans fail feral test



NSW ALP environment spokesman Luke Foley and one-time chairman of the now abolished NSW Game Council, John Mumford, gave separate interviews to ABC Radio Illawarra on 24/9/14.

There was no disagreement that "supervised hunting" in 12 inland NSW national parks has cost as much as $7,000 per animal since the NSW government began trialling it and that the great majority of kills were of rabbits. Mr Mumford, however, wanted to redefine the word "hunting" to mean something like an armed person discharging a firearm at an animal with nobody else present.

The background to this dispute is that there are millions of damaging feral animals on public lands in NSW. Very few think that the money that is spent on feral pest control is doing anything significant to slow the spread of this problem. Many readers will have seen the documentary feature film, "The Man from Cox's River", in which more than $30,000 per animal was spent to remove some of the feral horses from the Warragamba catchment.

Unfortunately the ABC interviewer failed to remind Mr Mumford that the current NSW Government abolished the Game Council because an internal review found it ineffective at supervising volunteer firearm users on public lands. The current climate of public debate is hardly conducive to encouraging more people to wander round on public lands brandishing firearms.

On 25/9/14, Hut News attempted to conduct an interview about the feral animal problem with two untethered goats who were standing on the carriageway of the Great Western Highway at Mount Victoria Pass, dining on the road shoulder vegetation. The goats had no comment.

Copperhead in a Can

This Copperhead Snake was found, with its head trapped in the can, by a local resident who called **Reptile Rescue**. The snake is now under observation with the carer and hopefully will survive.

Bravo to the resident who was picking up rubbish, as well as for finding the snake, in Michael Eades Reserve, North Katoomba.

Meredith Brownhill, 23/9/14

Photo by Julia McConnell.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc: 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. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. If you are a new walker to Saturday walks, before attending contact the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy—phone 4758 6009, email jp34@tpg.com.au Check www.bluemountains.org.au for updates.

Saturday Walks driver reimbursement: *In an effort to ensure that car drivers are adequately compensated for the use of their vehicles a driver reimbursement policy applies* (Check www.bluemountains.org.au Saturday Walks page for details)

Oct 11- **Wentworth Falls to Leura** via Kedumba Road, Sublime Point Ridge and Fern Bower Track 650M down and 600M up Join in and be part of this soon to become **Classic Walk**-Leader **Chris** 4784 2385- Meet at Wentworth falls Stockade CP - 7.30am-15Km –Gr 3/4-Maps **Katoomba/Jamison**

Oct 18 **Golden Stairs Mt Solitary to Chinamans Cave and Return**-Leader **Warren** 4767 5403-Meet at **Katoomba** Stn CP-8.15 am-15Km Gr-3-Map **Katoomba**

Oct 25 **Perrys Lookdown to Govetts Leap via Rodreques track**-Leader **Harold** 9600 8005-Meet at Blackheath Stn CP Sth side-8.15am-7Km-Gr3-Map **Katoomba**

Nov 1 **Butterbox Pt Mt Hay** –Leader **Harold** 9600 8005-**Meet at** Mt Hay Road School-8.30am-5Km Gr 3-Map **Katoomba**

Nov 8 **A new walk out of Springwood** Details later-Leader **Diana** 4751 3935-Meet at Springwood Stn Carpark

Nov 15 **Kanangra Walls** (Car pool)-Leader **Bob** 4757 2694-Meet **at** Wentworth Falls Stockade CP-7.30am-7Km Gr-3-Map **Kanangra**

ADVANCE NOTICE: Snowy Mountains in summer. 11th to 17 January 2015. A variety of bushwalking experiences above and below the tree line. Accommodation in Perisher Valley at Cooma Ski Club Lodge—cost $15.00 per person per night. Expressions of interest required by the end of October in order to reserve a sufficient number of rooms. Contact Warwick Mosman 4757 1354, rwmosman@bigpond.com

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 Keith Dorrian, 4736 1010, keithdor53@hotmail.com

Oct 13 **Hazelbrook to Linden** via Woodford Lake with lunch stop at Kings Cave (some road walking). Meet Hazelbrook Station (top of stairs) 9am. Kate 4759 1943. Grade 2.

Oct 20 **Radiata Plateau, Katoomba**, via Frank Walford Park and Bonnie Doon, 12 km. Meet Katoomba Station car park 9.30 am. Ken 0423450200 . Grade 2.

Oct 27 **Panther Track to Hassans Walls**, Lighgow. Ridge walk with amazing views. 10 km. Bush tracks and fire trails. Meet Lithgow Station 9.10 am. Judith 4758 6310. Grade 2.

Nov 3 **Sculptures by the Sea**, Bondi to Coogee. Meet Central Station, top of escalators, 9.30 am. Keith 4736 1010. Grade 2.

Nov 10 **Bus Trip to Bidjigal Reserve**, Castle Hill. Fare $12. Book and pay Tony 9625 3985. Bus leaves Springwood car park, behind Westpac, at 8am. Judith 4758 6310. Grade 2.

Nov 17 **Red Hands Cave**. Glenbrook historic art rock. Meet Glenbrook Station car park (east) 9.30 am. Mary Read 4739 0786. Grade 2.

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Walks 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

Oct 16 **October Creek Mount Wilson.** Check area burnt in last year's bushfire. Car pool $5. Take lunch. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 2.

Oct 23 **Mystery Walk in Bell.** Car pool $5. Take lunch. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2

Oct 30 **Nature Trail Wentworth Falls.** Great views. Car pool. Lunch optional. Meet Stockyard Car Park Wentworth Falls 9.30am. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Grade 2

Nov 6 **Mount Sion Park and Glenbrook Lagoon Glenbrook.** Local history walk. Take lunch. Meet Glenbrook Commuter Car Park 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1

Nov 13 **Lake Parramatta Walk Parramatta.** Bush track (4.5km) around lake with little rocky climbs and stepping stones across river. Take lunch or buy at cafe. Ten minute bus trip to start walk. Meet bottom of steps leading to Darcy Street Parramatta Station 9.55am. Leaders Alan and Jeanette 4757 3750. Grade 2.

Dunphy's Kowmung Adventure Launch
Jim Percy (one of the organisers), Tara Cameron, Sierra Classen and Alex Allchin who both walked in replicas of the original gear used in Dunphy's time. Photo by Rob Baigent.