

BMCS Webmaster

From: "BMCS Webmaster (Alan)" <webmaster@bluemountains.org.au>
To: "BMCS Webmaster (Alan)" <webmaster@bluemountains.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 19 May 2011 10:59 AM
Attach: gos_protest_14may11_a.jpg; gos_protest_14may11_b.jpg
Subject: BMCS Notice - Gardens of Stone event a huge success
Gardens of Stone event a huge success

We would like to thank you all for your continued support of the work of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. Your support comes in many different forms and collectively, we staged a very successful event on Saturday, 14th May out on site at the area of the Gardens of Stone that is currently under threat.

A strong contingent of concerned local residents from Bathurst, the Blue Mountains and Lithgow came to the event and people travelled from as far as Mudgee, Wollongong, Maitland, Gloucester, Newcastle and over 40 people from Sydney!

Our event highlighted that supporters say "No!" to open-cut mining in the 'Gardens of Stone' and, there is overwhelming support from around the state to protect this area.

Cate Faehrmann, MLC for the Greens addressed the event and reminded us that we must continue to get the message out there by speaking to our local members and politicians about our concerns.

Pepe Clarke, CEO of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW asked us to reflect that the precious sandstone formations of the 'Gardens of Stone' took 25 million years to create and can be destroyed from just 21 years of mining activity.

"The iconic Gardens of Stone is the sort of area that should be off limits to open cut mining. Coal mining has caused enough multiple cliff collapses in parts of the Blue Mountains," says Tara Cameron, Vice President of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

The event coordinator, Justin McKee wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped on the ground for their phenomenal efforts, to all the people who travelled far and wide to see this site for them selves and to the community leaders such as David Shoebridge, MLC for the Greens who took time to join us.

To sum up how people felt at the event, one traveller said "I've never been out here and I can't believe they are thinking of ripping any of it up!"

Ecopella's satirical songs entertained the crowd with their witty and well-written lyrics and spectacular performance. Ecopella's in-kind help is much appreciated.

The great people of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Katoomba Climate Action Now, Lithgow Environment Group, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, National Parks Association of NSW, National Trust, Rivers SoS and the Wilderness Society continued their support of our great campaign.

Keith Muir who has campaigned for years to protect the area enjoyed camping overnight with visitors and guided them through on bushwalks Sunday. We thank Keith for his continued commitment.

With sincere thanks
Lachlan Garland

