

Goodbye LACHLAN GARLAND – environmental warrior

The Blue Mountains community is mourning the recent passing of well known local environmental advocate Lachlan Garland. Lachlan was a passionate, committed and hardworking volunteer dedicated to defending and conserving the beautiful Blue Mountains environment, as well as actively campaigning on national environmental issues.

A very experienced and highly-skilled bush regenerator, Lachlan's involvement in Bushcare was his great love, working on the ground in bushland areas with fellow volunteers. Over the years, Lachlan had been a member of numerous Bushcare/Landcare groups up and down the Mountains including Summerhayes Park, Braeside, Valley of the Waters, Everglades, Central Park, Charles Darwin Walk, Coates Park and Marmion Swamp.

Lachlan was a founding member and co-ordinator of the Jamison Creek Catchment Group. He worked closely with Blue Mountains City Council to remediate and improve bushland areas in the catchment, with education being a major focus of his work including the hugely successful Waterways Festival at Wentworth Falls Lake in 2019.

Appropriately, Lachlan's outstanding long-term commitment to Bushcare was recognised in 2019 with him being awarded Council's Bushcare Legend Award.

Lachlan was appointed by the NSW Environment Minister to National Parks Blue Mountains Regional Advisory Committee from 2010 to 2016. During this time Lachlan contributed to plans of management for various national parks in the region, worked closely with the World Heritage Advisory Committee and provided considered advice on visitor management, fire management, weed and pest strategies and threatened species management. He was a focussed and committed community member on the Committee and worked hard to protect the conservation values of our local National Parks.

Lachlan was also a long standing member of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and held various roles on the Society's Management Committee, notably President (2011, 2012 and 2019), Membership Secretary and National Parks Officer, as well as being an active member of the Land-Use sub-Committee. During this time, he worked valiantly to protect Radiata Plateau and the recent purchase of the Plateau and its inclusion within the national park system is testament to his efforts. Whether it was arranging events, writing submissions to Council over inappropriate development, doing site inspections of illegal clearing, leading the charge at rallies opposing hunting in National Parks or eloquently speaking at events opposing the raising of Warragamba Dam wall, Lachlan was always there, willing and able, advocating for the bush he loved.

Lachlan was a member of the Blue Mountains Bird Observers, creating the position of Conservation Officer and actively working to protect local bird populations. He was also an active volunteer firefighter with the Valley Heights RFS Brigade for ten

years, where he participated in ongoing training, maintenance of equipment and fundraising.

In 2020, Lachlan was honoured with a Seniors' Week Recognition Award for all his environmental and community work.

To many who knew him Lachlan is remembered for his sense of humour, wicked grin, loyalty and commitment to his family and friends. He was highly organised and meticulous, an avid reader particularly of environmental publications and books and highly respected for his knowledge and experience. Lachlan could be blunt and forthright, but he will be remembered as a man who put his thought and passions into action in protecting the environment he loved. Lachlan will be sadly missed by his family and friends and the many people who have worked and volunteered with him. Lachlan leaves an environmental legacy that will long be remembered.