

# HUT NEWS

*"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"*



## The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Drive

At our next monthly meeting, our guest speaker will be Veronica Nolan of the Capertee Valley Environmental Group. Veronica will be talking about "The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Drive", a scenic route currently being promoted by Lithgow City Council. She will be concentrating on the section known to the locals as 'the back way', the road from Glen Davis to Mudgee.

The Capertee Valley lies within the western escarpment of the Blue Mountains and, at 30km wide, is the largest enclosed valley in the southern hemisphere. Rising dramatically from the valley floor is Pantoneys Crown, a column-like, flat-topped mountain, named after William Pantoney, one of the members of the first European expedition through the area - that of John Blackman in 1821.

The area is rich in both historical remains and natural beauty—from the crumbling ruins of the shale-mining town of Glen Davis to the precipitous sandstone cliffs, pagoda-like rock formations and a diverse fauna and flora of the Gardens of Stone National Park.

**The meeting will commence at  
7.30pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July  
At the Conservation Hut,  
western end of Fletcher St, Wentworth Falls.  
VISITORS MOST WELCOME!**

View from The Sentinel, Glen Davis, looking south-west over the Capertee Valley.



## MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT LAUNCHES "DRINK TAP WATER" CAMPAIGN

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society is distributing free bottle labels designed to encourage people to conserve groundwater by drinking tap water instead of bottled spring or bore water.

The labels were launched by The Hon. Phil Koperberg, Member for the Blue Mountains and NSW Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water, at Katoomba High School on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Environment groups at Katoomba High School and Leura Public School showed their commitment to the campaign by organising the distribution of the labels to the students. Representatives from Blue Mountains City Council and local schools were present.

The labels feature a tap and emphasize the importance of leaving groundwater in the ground for the benefit of the environment and groundwater dependent ecosystems. In comparison with drinking spring or bore water, tap water is less costly to buy, produces less greenhouse gas during distribution, and causes less environmental pollution.

At the launch, Mr. Koperberg said "I congratulate the schools and the Conservation Society on this initiative. Recent polls have shown that a large proportion of the population is deeply concerned about climate change and has expressed a desire to participate in the effort to cut greenhouse gases. You cannot underestimate the importance of the contribution each individual can make. I hope to see the campaign spread into other schools and the general community." Mr Koperberg has shown his concern for the overuse of groundwater by placing restrictions on the use of bore water in the Blue Mountains.

Labels were available at the Blue Mountains Conservation Society stall at the Winter Magic Festival on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to those producing a re-usable drinking bottle. Labels are now available at Paddy Pallin's, Mountain Designs and Blue Mountains Food Co-Operative (on production or purchase of a re-usable bottle).

At this stage, only a limited number of labels has been printed. It is planned to obtain feedback on the design and durability of the labels before approaching funding bodies for assistance with further production of labels.

It is hoped that other conservation organisations will support this campaign and help to bring the concept to the broader community.

**Sue Ernst,  
Groundwater  
Subcommittee**



**DRINK TAP WATER!**  
Bottled 'springwater' takes water from swamps.  
'Springwater' is groundwater that healthy swamps need.  
so...leave the water in the ground to keep endangered swamps alive and healthy!  
**PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF THIS BOTTLE...RE-USE IT!**

Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
www.bluemountains.org.au ph 02 47571872

## HUT NEWS

"Hut News" is the newsletter of the  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 29, Wentworth Falls, 2782  
Phone: 4757 1872 Fax: 4757 1753  
Email: [bmcs@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:bmcs@bluemountains.org.au)

**President: Brian Marshall**

4784 1148, marabeni@optusnet.com.au

**Senior Vice President: Heather Hull**

4739 1493, hhull001@bigpond.net.au

**Second Vice President/Walks Convenor:**

**Christine Davies** 4787 7246,

davica@bigpond.net.au

**Membership Secretary: Ilan Salbe**

4759 2372,

membership@bluemountains.org.au

**Treasurer: Bart Beech**

4739 9947, bbeech@invensys.com.au

**Administration Officer: VACANT**

**Meetings Secretary: VACANT**

**Meetings Convenor: David Brazil**

4784 3496, david@dbrazil.com

**Plant Nursery Manager: Kevin Bell**

(ph/fax) 4787 6436, khbell@pnc.com.au

**Environmental Education Officer:**

**Chris Yates** 4784 3407,

christopher.yates@education.nsw.gov.au

**Land Use Officer: Phillip Morrison**

4757 1393, pmorrison26@yahoo.com.au

**National Parks Officer:**

**Karen McLaughlin** 6355 2835,

karen.mclaughlin@ozemail.com.au

**Threatened Species/Bushcare Officer:**

**Clive Heywood-Barker** 4782 3345,

ozbundu@hotmail.com

**World Heritage Officer: John Haydon**

0421 479 146,

jhaydonmc@optusnet.com.au

**Bushfire Officer: Hugh Paterson**

4751 2303, goodbush@pnc.com.au

**Lithgow Regional Sub-committee**

**Coordinator: Chris Jonkers** 6355 1179,

cjonkers@ozemail.com.au

**Website/Technical Officer: David Bowskill**

4757 3416, davidbow@tpg.com.au

**Publicity/Publications Officer: VACANT**

**Project Officers:**

**Hilary Hughes (Climate Change)**

4787 6240, hilary@auzzie.biz

**Don & Tara Cameron**

4751 1130, dontara@ozemail.com.au

**Susan Girard**

4782 5810, Pest.asides@bigpond.com.au

**Newsletter Editor: Juli Boddy**

4759 2372, hutnews@bluemountains.org.au

## Membership Matters

Ilan Salbe, Membership Secretary

### *E-mail interest groups*

About 60% of members have given their e-mail details to BMCS which provides me with a convenient means of checking your membership details, etc. It also allows us to send you information that cannot be conveyed through Hut News due to time constraints (these are sent via Ross Coster's Mt Hay Technology).

We value being able to contact our membership quickly and easily but also recognise that many people suffer from an excess of email. For this reason, we are setting up several 'email interest groups'

## Letter of the Month—July 2007 Promises, Promises!

On Sunday 3 June, ten Conservation Society members made the long journey to Anvil Hill in the Hunter Valley to join with hundreds of others protesting against the proposed coal mining development. Four days later, approval of the development was announced by Planning Minister Frank Sartor.

In November 2006, NSW Premier Morris Iemma stated "Our grandchildren face a grim future if we do not cut the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing the planet to warm dramatically" (Sydney Morning Herald 29.11.06).

But what is the NSW government's real commitment to deal with the climate change crisis?

Despite concerns about global warming, electricity and gas demand show NSW residents are consuming fossil fuels at an unprecedented rate. Premier Iemma said on 25 June 07 that it was "possible" the state would need not just one but two base-load coal-fired power stations by the middle of next decade to meet rising demand.

On the same day Mr Iemma announced that the desalination plant will be running by 2010 and be twice as big as originally approved. However, there has been no sign of a contract to build the renewable energy power station to supply the green energy promised to run the plant.

So in NSW Labor's first 100 days we have seen the announcement of 2 major developments which will make huge contributions to carbon emissions.

By contrast, last year Mr Iemma promised that renewable energy would supply 10% of total electricity by 2010 and 15% by 2020. Where are the announcements for the projects that will deliver these targets? The only reference to renewable energy has been a caucus briefing note leaked to the Sydney Morning Herald stating that "the energy minister will be able to exempt whichever big businesses he likes from paying extra" for their electricity to meet this renewable energy target, while householders are expected to have to pay 30 cents extra a week.

We were also promised a rebate for solar hot water systems at the last election. This would make a real difference to electricity consumption, given that New South Wales has 2.5 million homes with electric water heaters. There has been no mention of this rebate since the election.

**Send a short message to the Premier (cc the Leader of the Opposition) making some or all of the following points:**

- I am very disappointed at the NSW Labor Government's decision to approve the Anvil Hill coal mine and to proceed with an enlarged desalination plant at Kurnell.
- How is the Government proposing to meet the 10% renewable energy target by 2010, when abundant cheap coal supplies will offer a compelling excuse to build further dirty coal-fired power stations?
- When can we expect to hear an announcement about the renewable energy power plant to supply the proposed enlarged desalination plant?
- When will you fulfil your election promise for a rebate on solar hot water systems?
- When is the Labor government going to go beyond mere rhetoric in dealing with climate change? So far all we have heard is a smoke screen of fine phrases and empty promises, while the reality is nothing but business as usual with the mining and big energy using industries.

**Contact Details:**

Post to: Post to Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney 2000, or email:

**The Premier:** [thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au)

**Leader of the Opposition:** [LOP@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:LOP@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**Rosemary Lathouris and Robin Mosman**

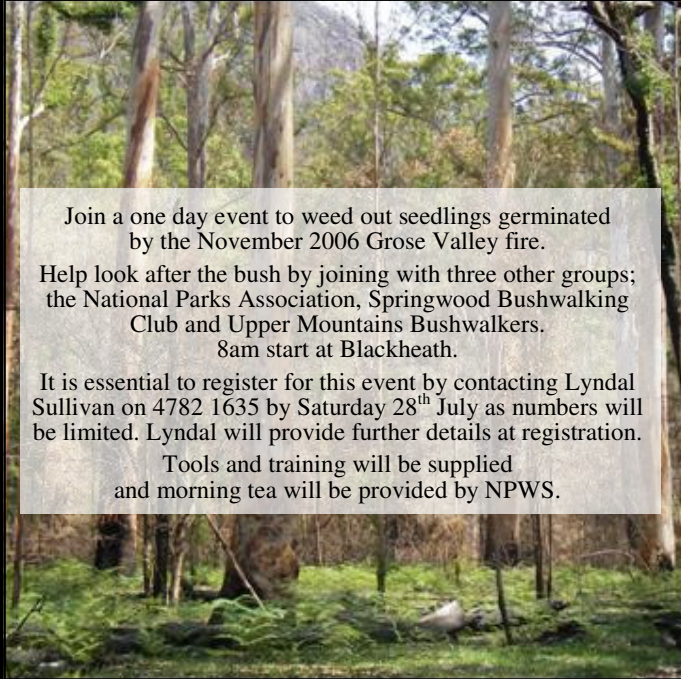
that will allow members to nominate which categories of emails they wish to receive—watch out for an email from me in the near future.

The proposed categories are:

- (A) membership matters (that's from me and should be pretty infrequent);
- (B) notification of when the next Hut News is available on our website (you can choose whether or not to keep receiving your hard copy as well);
- (C) BMCS bushwalking matters;
- (D) BMCS news, events, requests, etc. (eg. we emailed members when last month's guest speaker had to cancel due illness);
- (E) information other organisations have asked us to pass on.

Visit the BMCS website at: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

## HELP REMOVE WEEDS from the BLUE GUM FOREST



Join a one day event to weed out seedlings germinated by the November 2006 Grose Valley fire.  
Help look after the bush by joining with three other groups; the National Parks Association, Springwood Bushwalking Club and Upper Mountains Bushwalkers.  
8am start at Blackheath.  
It is essential to register for this event by contacting Lyndal Sullivan on 4782 1635 by Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July as numbers will be limited. Lyndal will provide further details at registration.  
Tools and training will be supplied and morning tea will be provided by NPWS.

**Saturday 4 August 2007**

## ENERGY-SAVING LIGHT BULBS *Installed Free!*



There are currently a number of 'carbon credit' companies offering free installation of energy-saving light bulbs (and in some cases water-saving shower heads and/or taps too) to Blue Mountains households.

Green Alliance is currently installing light bulbs and shower heads in the Blackheath/Upper Mountains area AND for every household signing up (through Blackheath Climate Action group) they make a \$5 donation to Blackheath Primary School for their Solar Panel school project. Contact Lis Bastion for details on 4787 7533.

The Linden Citizens Association recently used a company called Neco for installation of their light bulbs - contact details: [www.neco.com.au](http://www.neco.com.au) or phone 1300 882 640.

And another company we've just heard about is Fieldforce - contact details: [www.envirosaver.com.au](http://www.envirosaver.com.au) or phone 1800 755 895.

**Hilary Hughes, Climate Change Project Officer**

## SUSTAINABLE HINTS



Here are some simple, cheap and homely hints for reducing your carbon footprint. These can be seen as simple DEMANDS to the less superior members of your household!!!

- Draft excluders (i.e. sand snakes) at doorways, prevent cold air entering a house or a room—and keep hormonally pumped-up male funnel web spiders out, too.
- Thick curtains (especially with pelmets) keep warmth inside rooms from escaping, especially in cold weather and at night.
- Closing doors and artificially heating (using gas, wood, green electricity...) an isolated, but centrally occupied, area of the house. Sharing a blanket can be worthwhile too!
- Only use electric blankets to heat the bed and then turn them off. Using a hot water bottle is even better...but Rowe Morrow tells us that, in her experience, you shouldn't then try to re-use the hot water bottle water to make a cup of tea - it has a strong natural taste of rubber!

**Susan Girard Climate Change Subcommittee**

## The BMCS Land Use Subcommittee *Who We Are and What We Do*

The Land Use Sub Committee (LUSC) deals with issues relating to ecologically sustainable development in the Blue Mountains. This ranges from planning instruments, legislation and policies, development assessment and enforcement procedures, through to monitoring specific development applications (DAs), general land management matters and other issues related to preventing urban sprawl, protecting environmental values from insensitive development and ensuring compliance with the Local Environment Plan (LEP). We also aim to educate Society members and the wider community on land use issues and create networks of interested people to further these and the wider objectives of the Society.

The LUSC is, of necessity, a very active subcommittee made up of a Land Use Officer and five full-time members plus other part-time members and people seconded to help with particular projects such as writing submissions or investigating particular development applications. The work involved is not very glamorous and there are the continual frustrations of dealing with government bureaucracy, but it is central to what the Society is trying to achieve.

Some examples that highlight the kinds of matters the Subcommittee is currently handling are:

- The impending introduction by the State Government of a centrally determined Standard LEP to replace existing locally generated ones. The Standard LEP will likely provide less protection for the environment than our current LEPs.
- There have been a number of recent rulings handed down by the Land & Environment Court and the Appeals Court which undermine prohibitions in the LEP against unsustainable developments. These prohibitions have been ruled to be only "development standards" which do not necessarily have to be complied with. This is an issue with potentially major implications if not resolved.
- We are in regular correspondence with Blue Mountains City Council to ensure that Council staff understand and comply with the environmental protection measures in the relevant legislation when assessing DAs and give correct advice to the public.
- On a weekly basis, we monitor new DAs and lodge submissions on those where we have concerns about their environmental impacts. Currently there is correspondence regarding ten on our table. We are in constant need of interested people willing to help with writing draft submissions or simply gathering information about DAs in their local area. You don't need any special qualifications for this!
- There have been complaints relating to the clearing and maintenance of fire trails in the Blue Mountains, with allegations of overclearing and erosion due to poor road construction practices. We are pursuing this with NPWS.
- The BMCS Sustainable Development Policy is being reviewed. You will be hearing more about this soon, with invitations for member input into the revised Policy.

Appointees from the LUSC regularly participate in workshops or sit on advisory committees, such as the Waste Reference Group or the recent BMCC DA Audit group.

The Land Use Officer is available to any member seeking advice or wanting to raise any issue that concerns them. In return, please don't be afraid to offer to help do something about it!

**Phillip Morrison, BMCS Land Use Officer**  
**4757 1393, [pmorrison26@yahoo.com.au](mailto:pmorrison26@yahoo.com.au)**

# Groundwater, the Metropolitan Water Plan and Desalination

The Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water signed an order (effective 1st June) imposing restrictions on bore water use in the Blue Mountains City Council area where a reticulated water supply is available. His commitment to the use of tap water versus bottled groundwater was demonstrated launching the Society's 'tap water' campaign on 22nd June at Katoomba High School. Furthermore, the Department of Natural Resources (now largely subsumed by DECC, the Minister's department) imposed an embargo on new water bores over the Blue Mountains Sandstone Water Shortage Zone GWMA 606, effective from 2nd February.

The restrictions on bore water use (due to terminate or be re-

## ~ ~ Groundwater extraction/exploitation in the Blue Mountains ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Society is of the view that:

- Based on the precautionary principle and the need to ensure that 'our' World Heritage Area is not added to the international Endangered World Heritage list, a permanent embargo should be placed on any new bores for groundwater extraction from regions in and peripheral to the National Parks of the Blue Mountains, the World Heritage Area and Endangered Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps, and all other endangered or threatened communities throughout the Greater Blue Mountains region.
- The existing ministerial order should be extended, both in time, with a view to effectively making restrictions permanent, and in level of restrictions, with a view to precisely matching those applicable to the reticulated water supply.
- All currently un-metered domestic and stock bores in any region with a reticulated water supply should have meters installed with a view to charging for kilolitres consumed at rates commensurate with Sydney Water, less a nominal treatment cost. The aim is to remove the current advantage enjoyed by those able to afford bores that extract water destined for base-flow environmental needs and the water supply for Sydney and other regions. In effect, such users are

stealing from the environment and 'drinking' at the expense of our water supplies.

- The pricing structure of groundwater extracted for commercial exploitation should be reviewed and set at a level commensurate with the engendered environmental and community sacrifices, and the retail revenue generated. The notion of a licence to extract groundwater costing ~\$200 for a water volume marketed at  $\$20 \times 10^6$  is unacceptable exploitation of a community and environmental asset.
- A full review should be implemented to establish the CUMULATIVE short- and longer-term impacts on groundwater resources and dependent base flows, of underground and open-cut coal mining and electric power generation in and peripheral to the Western and Southern Coalfields.
- The Subsidence Management Plan process applicable to underground coalmining should be reviewed. The aim should be to mitigate gross disruption of the hydrologic regime. Disregarding cumulative and longer-term effects, and mining until damage can incontrovertibly be proved and then attempting remediation or offering compensation is unacceptable. The present system places the onus of proving damage on the community; in doing so, it totally disregards the precautionary principle.

The present article outlines the Society's beliefs regarding the extraction/exploitation of groundwater, a sustainable water supply, and the latest desalination bravado.

## ~ ~ The Sydney Metropolitan Water Plan ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Society believes that:

- The plan must be sustainable in the context of climate change and the demands of an expanding population. It should be structured for the next 25-50 years, rather than be expediently focussed on the shorter term of 15 years.
- The most economical and sustainable approach that grows with the population and has the capacity to accommodate climate change must involve a structured progression comprising:
  - Government-subsidised rainwater tanks connected to toilets, washing machines and other 'non-potable' household applications.
  - An immediate commitment to introduce comprehensive Indirect Potable Recycling (IPR) and coastal stormwater harvesting – this is the only system that automatically grows with the demands of an expanding population, can accommodate climate change predictions, and breaks the unsustainable 'single use and throw it away' mentality.

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- Permanent retention of level 3 restrictions to promote community awareness, together with structured price signals to encourage appropriate economic behaviour.

- Desalination and groundwater exploitation should be rejected as too expensive, environmentally insensitive, and lacking the in-built capacity of IPR to grow with an expanding population.
- There should be an independent public enquiry into the relative merits of desalination versus IPR and comprehensive stormwater harvesting that is unencumbered by gross distortions such as "are you prepared to drink sewage?"

You will be aware that the Government has recommitted to desalination (e.g. "No stopping desalination even if the dam spills over", Wendy Frew, SMH 27 June p7). The Society believes that this is a major mistake and that the Government should reconsider its position before becoming financially and contractually locked into this inferior option.

**Brian Marshall**

### Waratah Rivulet Rally Postponed

Unfortunately, the Waratah Rivulet Rally (see last month's Hut News) scheduled for Sunday 17th June had to be postponed due to flooding. The SCA closed the catchment as conditions on the riverbank were wet and dangerous.

We will try to let you know when the rally will be held but keep an eye on the Total Environment Centre ([www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au)) and RiversSOS ([www.riverssos.com](http://www.riverssos.com)) websites in case it is scheduled for before the next issue of Hut News. (Ed.)

For those who want more background information, the Total Environment Centre has published a dossier entitled "What Happened to the Waratah Rivulet? A case study of the failure to protect streams from longwall mining" which can be downloaded from <http://www.tec.org.au/dev/index.php>.

The dossier is based on Freedom of Information documents released on 27 June 2007 which reveal that the NSW Government was informed by the Sydney Catchment Authority of an unfolding environmental disaster in the Woronora Dam catchment well before it approved further underground coal mining in the same area.

## The Desalination Extravaganza: Fact and Fantasy

The Premier announced (e.g. SMH February 6 2007) that a 125 ML/day desalination plant would be built at Kurnell (at an approximate cost of \$1.9 billion) if he won the election. The dam levels then averaged 34% of capacity and were falling. He said that two consortia had been asked to tender for the plant's construction, but that construction would only go ahead if dam levels dropped to 30%. This was the so-called trigger.

We now know (e.g. ABC News June 25 2007, SMH June 27 2007) that a consortium has won the contract to design, build and run the plant, the total cost will be \$1.76 billion, and the capacity will be 250 ML/day. A trigger no longer applies, construction will go ahead regardless of the dam levels, the system will be operational by 2010 and the plant will operate continuously.

The Premier believes he has a mandate to deliver a desalination plant and 'future-proof' Sydney's water supply, by virtue of his pre-election announcement. Yet nothing envisaged abandoning the trigger, disregarding dam levels that are now at 50% capacity, running the plant continuously such that desalinated high-cost water will be a permanent component of Sydney's water supply, and effectively promoting a profligate 'single-use-throw-away' system that lacks an in-built capacity to meet an expanding population and the effects of climate change.

Many believed that, given the recent rains, the Premier would see some sense in standing back and reassessing the whole matter of a sustainable water supply. After all, the election is over and he has new ministers in charge of Water Utilities, and Climate Change, Water and Environment. Surely this provides an opportunity for rational analysis rather than shortsighted obstinacy or fear of being termed indecisive?

Unfortunately not! The 'desalination' decision is on a par with approving the Anvil Hill coalmine, mindlessly endorsing the Federal Government's \$10 billion plan for 'saving' the Murray, and exempting selected big power users from paying extra to meet the Government's renewable energy targets despite this further loading the costs to householders (SMH June 27 2007).

The election mandate of Premier Iemma and his Government, courtesy of an inept opposition, was based on 'heading in the right direction but recognising the need for substantial improvement'. Well, the Premier may be facing forward rather than backward, but the big decisions to date suggest that the 'nice bloke' image is as good as it gets! The 'Peter Principle' springs to mind.

# SIMULTANEOUS WORLD WIDE PREMIERE JULY 31, 2007



Be part of the simultaneous world wide premiere screening of the documentary 'The Thin Green Line'.

7-9 pm, Tuesday 31 July 2007

NPWS Auditorium, Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath

Entrance fee is a gold coin donation. 100% of profits of DVD sales and money raised from the premieres worldwide go directly to aiding the families of rangers killed on the thin green line, to other ranger conservation programs, and to help rangers in their conservation struggle.

The screening is supported by the NPWS Blue Mountains Region. The Thin Green Line is a documentary endorsed by the International Rangers Federation (IRF) and the recently developed Protected Areas Workers Association (PAWA) of NSW. For more information, take a look at [www.thingreenline.info](http://www.thingreenline.info) and the IRF site <http://www.int-ranger.net/>.

To assist the organisers, please confirm attendance prior to 20 July  
email: [duncan.scottlawson@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:duncan.scottlawson@environment.nsw.gov.au),  
phone: 6336 1972, fax: 6336 2122



## Last Chance for \$1 Plants

The nursery volunteers will be at the Lawson Magpie Markets on Sunday 15th July and this will be your last chance to buy quality local plants in tubes for just \$1 each!

The nurseries will re-open on Tuesday mornings (Blackheath) and Wednesday mornings (Lawson) in August with new stock and species at the standard price of \$2.50 each.

So, if you want to save and have the best selection, come early and bring a box to the Markets, held in the grounds of the Lawson Public School, Great Western Highway from 9am to 1pm.



## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY BUSHWALKING GROUP

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. Cost of insurance and affiliation fees is \$15 per member. For further information, contact the Walks Convenor, Christine Davies (4787 7246, [davica@bigpond.net.au](mailto:davica@bigpond.net.au)).

**BEFORE ATTENDING, PLEASE DISCUSS THE WALK WITH THE LEADER (listed below)**

- **THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST WALK OR YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION.**  
Grade 1—Easy, Grade 2—Easy/Medium, Grade 3—Medium, Grade 4—Medium/Hard, Grade 5—Hard

### MONDAY LEISURE WALKS

'Short Day' walks of 3-5 hours, for those of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch & adequate water. Norm Harris 4784 1554.

<b>Jul-16</b>	<b>Porters Pass, Walls Ledge (3)</b> <i>Majestic views over Kanimbla Valley.</i>	<i>Phil</i>	<b>4787 5560</b>	<b>Blackheath Station carpark</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>
<b>Jul-23</b>	<b>Christmas in July, Blackheath (2)</b> <i>Social lunch after walk in Bacchante Gardens. Cost approx \$25, pay when booking with Mary.</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<b>4787 6584</b>		
<b>Jul-30</b>	<b>Bus trip to Noble Canyon (2)</b> <i>Dry canyon. BBQ lunch. Fare \$12, pay when booking with Birgitta (4784 3191).</i>	<i>Norm</i>	<b>4784 1554</b>	<b>BMCC depot, South St, N.Katoomba</b>	<b>8.30am</b>
<b>Aug-6</b>	<b>Hermitage Track, Sydney Harbour NP (2)</b> <i>Walk from Rose Bay to Watsons Bay, then lunch at Doyles.</i>	<i>Norm</i>	<b>4784 1554</b>	<b>Central Station, top of escalator</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Aug-13</b>	<b>Euroka, Glenbrook (2)</b> <i>Walk through tall forest to the Nepean River.</i>	<i>Heather</i>	<b>4739 1493</b>	<b>Glenbrook Station carpark</b>	<b>9.30am</b>

### THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS

Walks conducted to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, lunch if noted & adequate water. Simone Bowskill 4757 4316.

<b>Jul-19</b>	<b>Bonnie Doon, Katoomba (2)</b> <i>Cliff-top walk with views.</i>	<i>Joan c/o</i>	<b>4757 3416</b>	<b>Gearins Hotel, Katoomba</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>Jul-26</b>	<b>Cathedral/Split Rock, Glastonbell (2)</b> <i>An area of spectacular land forms. Glastonbell is a private sanctuary, suggested donation of \$5.</i>	<i>Phil</i>	<b>4787 5560</b>	<b>Mt Victoria Station</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Aug-2</b>	<b>Woodford to Linden (1)</b> <i>Walk from Woodford to Linden via historic features.</i>	<i>John</i>	<b>4757 1558</b>	<b>Linden Stn for 10.24am train to Woodford</b>	
<b>Aug-9</b>	<b>Gooch's Crater (3)</b> <i>2km walk on firetrail through an area of spectacular land forms. Take lunch. Phone David for transport arrangements.</i>	<i>David</i>	<b>4757 3416</b>	<b>Mt Victoria Station</b>	<b>10.00am</b>
<b>Aug-16</b>	<b>Minnehaha Falls, Katoomba (2)</b> <i>Walk to see progress of regenerating vegetation after bushfire.</i>	<i>Joan c/o</i>	<b>4757 3416</b>	<b>Gearins Hotel, Katoomba</b>	<b>9.30am</b>

### WEEKEND WALKS

Usually full day walks—please discuss with the leader or Jim Percy 4758 6009. Bring morning tea, lunch & adequate water.

<b>Jul-14</b>	<b>Blaxland to Lapstone via Glenbrook Ck (4)</b> <i>12km, reasonably steep with some scrambling off-track and some rock-hopping.</i>	<i>David</i>	<b>4757 3416</b>	<b>Blaxland Stn, bottom of stairs, S side</b>	<b>8.30am</b>
<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Yulefest in July—St Albans Bus Trip (2)</b> <i>Yuletide lunch at The Settlers Arms preceded by a walk (approx. 5km) along part of the historic North Road. To book phone Annemarie (4759 2172) or Jim (4758 6009): a deposit of \$20 will cover both the lunch and bus trip.</i>			<b>Katoomba BMCC Depot 8.30am or arranged pickups to Springwood</b>	
<b>Jul-28</b>	<b>Bruce's Walk, Went Falls to Lawson (3)</b> <i>8km, all on firetrail &amp;/or track with some overgrown track sections.</i>	<i>Ron</i>	<b>4757 1526</b>	<b>Wentworth Falls Station carpark</b>	<b>9.10am</b>
<b>Aug-4</b>	<b>Lockyers/Lawson Long Alley circuit (2)</b> <i>Historic tracks looking for an easier way to access the western end of the Blue Mountains. 10km, all on track</i>	<i>Liz</i>	<b>4754 4966</b>	<b>Mt Victoria Station carpark</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Aug-11</b>	<b>Baal Bone Gap, Gardens of Stone NP (3)</b> <i>Ridge walk through remarkable pagoda country with spectacular views of Wolgan and Capertee Valleys. 10km plus an optional scramble down to cave. 52km drive from Mt Vic, 4WD recommended for the last 9km of forest trail.</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<b>4787 8887</b>	<b>Mt Victoria Station carpark</b>	<b>8.30am</b>
<b>Aug-18</b>	<b>Glenbrook Reserves Circuit (3)</b> <i>Glenbrook Lagoon, Marges &amp; Elizabeth lookouts, Tunnel Gully track, the Bluff via the old construction tramway track.</i>	<i>Andy</i>	<b>4758 9770</b>	<b>Glenbrook Station</b>	<b>9.00am</b>

### CAR CAMPING TRIPS

#### **Extended car trip to Western NSW 25 July - 3 August**

Warrumbungles, Coolah Tops and Gundabooka National Parks with walking, birdwatching, plant identification and other opportunities.

Camping or accommodation provided options in cottages, bunkhouses and an historic hotel.

Bookings have closed but if interested contact **Meredith (4782 4823)** asap in case there are any cancellations.

#### **Two-night camp at Pantoneys Crown 14 & 15 August**

Car camp 2 nights at Airly and climb the Crown with a daypack. (Map: Ben Bullen)

It will be a long day as the walk could take from 6½ to 8 hours, depending on the party. 14 km in total, including a steep climb and descent and a scramble to the top, probably requiring a rope. A walk for the adventurous not the fainthearted!

There will be a party limit so you will need to book for the walk and to consolidate transport arrangements with **Bill (4758 8545)** before 1 August.

### *On the Duckmaloi River*

Silently fishing the platypi brown like the river



**Diana Levy**

### **BMCS Bushcare**

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare group works in the Blue Mountains National Park at Wentworth Falls on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Tools are provided but bring morning tea, gloves and drinking water.

For more information, contact Karen on 4757 1929.

### **Welcome to our new members**

Jeremy Jones, *Hazelbrook*      Boz Brooks, *Katoomba*  
Liam Mitchell, *Wentworth Falls*  
Geoffrey Lanham, *Glenfield*      John Blackadder, *Lawson*  
Margaret, Matthew & Rebecca Hilder, *Wentworth Falls*

### **MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES**

**Ilan Salbe 4759 2372**  
[membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)  
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782