



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

COMING EVENTS

The Gardens of Stone Photographic Exhibition

Weekend of 17- 18 September, 2016
The new Law Building, Sydney University

The "Gardens of Stone: *In Focus*" Photographic Exhibition will display, in a kaleidoscope of images, the breathtaking beauty of a rarely visited but accessible part of the Blue Mountains, near Lithgow.

Please put this event in your diary today so that you may join us to view the works, share in each other's passion for photography and conservation through a series of nature and photography talks and workshops. Socialise at lunch and the celebration dinner, and witness the launch of the Gardens of Stone Heritage Report.

Opens Saturday, 10:00 AM - Award ceremony and refreshments from 2:00 PM . Exhibition closes 2pm Sunday. For more details go to the Gardens of Stone *In Focus* Celebration registration page: <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/campaigns/the-gardens-of-stone/register-gardens-stone-focus>

The Future is Wild: The 2016 Mick Dark Talk for the Future

"In wildness is the preservation of
the world" (Thoreau, 'The Wild')

Presented by Varuna Writers Centre in partnership
with Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Sunday 25 September, 2.00 pm

Kindlehill Performance Space in Wentworth Falls

The **Mick Dark Talk for the Future** honours the extraordinary generosity and legacy of Mick Dark, patron of patron and a past president and life member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society, with a talk to inspire community discussion of environmental issues of local, national and global significance. Full event details available soon at www.bluemountains.org.au and www.varuna.com.au and in September Hut News.

Family Bush Day: A Community Event

Sunday 16 October, 10 am to 2pm

Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson

Bring your family and enjoy the fun of this special event - all ages welcome. Learn about our local native animals. Citizens Science Projects. Lots of frogs from the Frog and Tadpole Study Group team. Drawing and colour workshops. Bird walks with Blue Mountains Bird Observers. Meet some special animal friends from Taronga's "Zoomobile"... and more.

Information soon on www.bluemountains.org.au

Council Election in September

The Blue Mountains City Council Election is on Saturday 10th September.

The Society is presenting everything you need to know about the election from an environmental perspective. In other words, **Vote for the Environment.**

We will be producing -

- a Report Card of the Council's performance against our questionnaire from the last election
- a Questionnaire that asks candidates where they stand on key Blue Mountains environmental issues.

All of this can be found on our special election website <http://bmce16.info/>. You will find a link to this on the Society's home page.

The report card assesses how the Council performed against the 12 questions we asked at the 2012 Council Election. These questions were "asks", that is, what we would like them to do - and they have fared pretty well - especially in the areas of "pollution and waste" and "planning and development".

The 2016 Questionnaire will be provided to all leading candidates - nominations close on the 10th August. By "lead candidates" we mean the first candidate in a group. There will most probably be 4 or 5 lead candidates in each of the 4 wards - meaning over 15 questionnaires in total.

Their responses will be presented for each ward - to make it easier to assess your local candidates.

At the 2012 election, we were delighted that all lead candidates, except one, responded.

As in the past, we will not be recommending candidates, but we will be commenting on their responses.



Nursery reopens after winter break

The Society's native plant nursery at Lawson is open for sales on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and our volunteers will be at Blackheath and Lawson markets (more information on page 3).

New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Sue Nicol nursery@bluemountains.org.au

"Hut News", the newsletter of
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GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA – DOCUMENTING OUTSTANDING FAUNA VALUES

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) comprises eight reserves: Blue Mountains, Gardens of Stone, Kanangra-Boyd, Nattai, Thirlmere Lakes, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks and Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve. The area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 because its natural values, including the diversity of its fauna, were considered to be outstanding at international level.

In 1998, when the nomination of the Greater Blue Mountains Area for inscription on the World Heritage List was prepared on behalf of the Australian Government, it was well known that the area provided habitat for a wide variety of fauna. However, details of the vertebrate fauna were sketchy. The nomination indicated that about 400 native vertebrate fauna species had been recorded in the area including 52 mammal, 265 bird, 63 reptile and more than 30 frog species. The diverse bird fauna was thought to include 25 species of honeyeaters, approximately one third of the Australian total.

Over the last year, in an attempt to gain a clearer understanding of the vertebrate fauna, we have been preparing annotated checklists of the native frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals in the GBMWA. The checklists indicate the species we consider to have been reliably recorded in each of the eight constituent reserves together with their conservation status at national and state level, and details of their distribution, habitat and relative abundance in the WHA. The project has been supported through funding from the Australian Government's Community Heritage and Icons Grants Programme.

If you would like a copy of the checklists please contact us. Additional records or comments on the checklists would be most welcome. As the fauna is by no means completely known, nor is it static, we are hoping that the checklists will be regularly updated. Out of interest, over 60 of the vertebrate fauna species are considered threatened at national and/or state level and at least 422 native species: 66 mammal, 250 bird (including at least 29 honeyeater species), 71 reptile and 35 frog species have been recorded in the area since European settlement, truly an outstanding diversity.

Judy and Peter Smith smitheco@ozemail.com.au

(Image: Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Peter Smith)

DEADLINE for the next issue of
 HUT NEWS is **20 AUGUST 2016**
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MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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Western Sydney Airport: A major threat to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Thanks to a Great Team!

In the weeks leading up to the Federal election, the Society paid for printing of another 20,000 No Western Sydney Airport flyers. Half of them were Blue Mountains versions, the other half for Western Sydney.

Volunteers from NoBCA, RAWSA and BMCS letterboxed the lot in just three weeks! Peter Green tells me he walked over 90km in Faulconbridge and Springwood delivering flyers (giving his arthritic ankles a hard time). My wife Heather and I travelled to Blacktown, Lalor Park, Erskine Park and St Clair, sometimes three times in a week, to letterbox homes that will be the worst affected by low flying aircraft under full power in 2025.

Derek Finter worked his legs off in Emu Plains, delivering thousands of flyers. Helen Yoxall, Kathryn Davy and Lucy Mark helped us in Blacktown, as well as around their own homes. Deb Emelhain from RAWSA worked her team of volunteers hard in areas from Katoomba to Silverdale.

In the past 6 months, we have now printed and letterboxed over 50,000 flyers! NoBCA have been at multiple community stalls, displaying corflutes, handing out flyers, talking to people. RAWSA were at Winter Magic, marched in the parade, sang their songs. Both RAWSA and NoBCA have 'wobble boarded' at the road side in a dozen different locations, getting thumbs up, horns honked, and a bit of abuse along the way - "get a job!"

The energy and effort from all of these people and many more has been amazing.

Did we make a difference? Who Knows? Election issues included the Airport, hospitals, TAFE and of course Medicare.

I cannot thank people from RAWSA, NoBCA and BMCS enough for the help we have given each other, the comradery, the ideas and the energy to keep going, keep informing, keep campaigning.

Qantas A380
- photo by
Andrzej
Kostrzewa



After the election I had a week off, put a new stereo in my car, went bushwalking, just to refresh. Now I am back into it, writing letters to new Ministers and existing Members of Parliament, attending meetings, discussing strategy with colleagues.

Blacktown and Blue Mountains Councils.

Both Blacktown and Blue Mountains Councils are opposed to the Airport. The two Mayors (Stephen Bali and Mark Greenhill) have met to discuss strategy.

Blacktown has held eight community events, telling people about the Airport and the other thorn in their side, the World's Biggest Incinerator planned for Minchinbury. Thousands upon thousands of flyers have been printed and professionally letterboxed around the Community Events. A huge database of email addresses is being compiled, ready for twice monthly Mayoral newsletters to be sent. A Community Campaigner has been employed (Suzette Meade) to run it all.

In the Blue Mountains, Council staff have been to Canberra twice to meet with Department heads, the Mayor has written to IUCN and UNESCO, and multiple meetings of the Mayoral Reference group have been run.

There is plenty going on, the campaign rolls forward, we must stop this abomination on our doorstep.

Ross Coster

nwsa@bluemountains.org.au

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 (from 3rd August). The nursery is located in Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets - map on our website www.bluemountains.org.au

Blackheath Community Market, 1st Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm (from 3rd September)

Magpie Market, 3rd Sunday of month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm (from 20th August)

Tube stock \$3. Larger pots available.

Discounts for bulk orders and large contracts.

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

VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE

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.

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

Book Review

ABORIGINAL ROCK ART IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

John Van der Have, Author

Review written by Eugene Stockton

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, which aims at promoting local research and writing, is proud to bring to the public its latest title **Aboriginal Rock Art in the Blue Mountains**. John Van der Have is an architect who specialises in harmonising design with the landscape. Here he has approached the subject of local rock art, not from an anthropological or archaeological view point, but from an artistic and aesthetic one. Over and over again he stresses the sense of place in which the art is found. These artworks are inextricably and forever connected to their location.

These figures, whether painted on rock shelter walls or engraved on open rock platforms, may be presented to the public in isolation from their setting, perhaps framed on gallery walls or photographed in a book such as this. But the author, with sensitive text and superb landscape views, emphasises that the locations were already in themselves sacred places which made an impact on the soul of the artist. These settings were grand in scale, vast and spectacular – undoubtedly storied places, which the artist has drawn out with a lightness of touch and agility of hand. The artwork is not itself monumental but suggestive of deeper meaning and motivated by the artist's special feeling for the land. Together, artwork and setting constituted what could be termed landscape architecture, an open-air temple.

Fittingly this book has been dedicated to the Aboriginal people of the Blue Mountains, living descendants of those who had been here for thousands of years. It is a warm endorsement and respectful acknowledgement of the treasures which their ancestors bequeathed to them and which are now given to all to share. It has been estimated that about 1,000 rock art sites are known in the Blue Mountains and undoubtedly many more to be discovered. It is high time to record all we know as some artwork has almost faded away and all are vulnerable to the ravages of time, and even more so to vandalism.

John Van der Have tells the story of the modern Aboriginal art movement which sprang up in the Central Desert in the 1970's. "There were artworks that drew upon the richness of Aboriginal culture extending back thousands of years. The artistic outpouring that began at Papunya in the early 1970's captivated the world, and within a few years led to passionate worldwide interest.

These contemporary Aboriginal artworks struck a deep chord with many people, not only in Australia, but also throughout the world." Art critic for *Time* magazine, Robert Hughes, is quoted as calling it "the last great art movement of the 20th Century." John points out the common tradition behind the contemporary art world and the simple figures displayed in this book are sourced from the same feeling of identity with the land. **Aboriginal Rock Art in the Blue Mountains** - RRP\$50 is available from *The Turning Page Bookshop, Springwood; Megalong Books, Leura; Lamdha Books, Wentworth Falls; Gleebooks, Blackheath, Glebe.*

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust, publisher of this book, invites you to view our publications at www.bmert.org
Email enquiries to allan.walsh@exemail.com.au

Ongoing Inspiration from Yesteryear's Women Pioneers



About 130 people braved the cold (both outside the Wentworth Falls School of Arts and inside) to remember a number of female identities who strived, during the 20th century, to transform the status of conservation in the Blue Mountains as well as among the broader NSW community.

Our local State Member Trish Doyle offered much appreciated introductory words of encouragement and then listened with us to Jim Smith, Ken Goodlet and Anne McLeod summarise the results of years of intensive research. Life member Robin Mosman gave a heartfelt rendition of an Eleanor Dark prose passage about the phantom waterfalls of Narrowneck Plateau, Katoomba, as Alan Foster played a guitar accompaniment.

The names of many of the women conservationists were mainly familiar to the gathering, which featured a solid representation of Consoc's "old hands". Yet there's a freshness to hearing the exact words of Isobel Bowden (1908-1986) when she struggled to alter prevailing attitudes to fire management or when she was leaving her deathbed messages about the conservation values which should be enshrined in generations that come after her.

Marie Byles (1900-1979) was a woman of impressive accomplishments in the law, meditation, lifestyle philosophy and new approaches to religion. But it gives her a kind of geographical completeness that we can go to the Blue Gum Forest, Bouddi National Park or the Warrumbungles and know that Marie was immersed in the leadership, financing and practicalities of ensuring that these places have never been spoiled.

There was Ruth Schleicher who was so persistent and unassuming in writing letters and building up conservation groups within the Blue Mountains. There was Dot Butler with her great enthusiasm who, by all accounts, socialised with every serious bushwalker in NSW for several decades.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped make the Women Pioneers in Conservation forum a success. Thank you to Ken Goodlet and the Woodford Academy for an exhibition of Isobel Bowden memorabilia. Thank you to Anne McLeod for bringing her recently published biography of Marie Byles. And thank you in advance to the authors whose resolve to write further books and articles about insufficiently celebrated women was strengthened by the holding of this event.

Don Morison.

Did you meet Isobel Bowden?

During his talk, Ken Goodlet asked "did anybody meet Isobel Bowden" and several people put up their hands. Ken would love to be able to talk to these people and anybody else who met Isobel. You can contact Ken at kgoodlet@tpg.com.au or leave a message for him at Woodford Academy (02) 4758 8743.

GARDENS OF STONE UPDATE Madi Maclean

More news on our campaign to achieve the protection of the 40,000 ha Gardens of Stone stage 2 proposal.

Clean up of Wollongambe River Mine waste finishes but questions remain

The Environment Protection Authority has announced that the clean-up is complete. All the requirements of the clean-up notices have been satisfied. Whilst EPA has done a good job requiring extensive cleaning of the toxic goo from the river, it has only been cleaned to the extent that it does not harm the environment further.

Centennial Coal will have to pay the presumably substantial costs of the clean-up which has been conducted for almost a year since the spill was reported on 3 July 2015. This is separate from any penalty they incur from the prosecutions underway. Clarence is required to monitor the water quality for two and a half years.

Centennial has pleaded guilty to criminal charges for polluting the river under the highest category of harm in environmental law and to separate charges for damaging a national park. However, two questions remain: What caused the mine waste to collapse? And what has been done to ensure it does not happen again?

The guilty plea means the public is unlikely to find out the cause. The court hearing will focus on the penalty to be set rather than what happened.

The Society will be putting the case to the EPA to seek the maximum penalty available given the severity of the environmental damage, the damage to a world heritage area and the reality that the coal fines cannot be entirely removed from the world heritage area. Water and rain will keep flushing it down the river. And we will also be pursuing answers to determine what has been done to ensure the coal waste does not spill again. More on this in the Society's emails to members.

Next court date is 12 August for further directions. See

the EPA's media release here: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/epamedia/EPAMedia16070701.htm>

Improving Clarence mine water discharge

Clarence Colliery also discharges toxic mine waste water into the Wollongambe River under its Environmental Protection licence. The licence review has been going for over a year because the EPA had to divert resources to the mine waste spill.

The review process has included a joint experts committee to look at the appropriate water quality for the discharge given it goes into a river which flows through a world heritage area, a matter of national importance. A stakeholders meeting will be held in late August including BMCS reps to discuss the reports from this process.

New threats to Ben Bullen State Forest area

Castlereagh Coal, the new owner of Coalpac's two mines near Cullen Bullen, have lodged two exploration licence applications (ELAs). These ELAs could allow them to extend their current mining leases. One ELA covers a large part of Ben Bullen State Forest, the area that two Planning Assessment Commissions concluded was of international significance and should be conserved. The other area includes some compensatory habitat areas relating to earlier mining operations and two areas with toxic mine acid leaching.

The Society and Lithgow Environment Group (another member organisation of the Gardens of Stone Alliance) have both lodged objections to these applications highlighting issues which need to be addressed in order to protect the environment.

Read about the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 Conservation Proposal here: <http://bluemountains.org.au/gos2.shtml>

Poets' Corner



THE BRIDAL VEIL

Showers of diamonds cascade from above,
Dancing on zephyrs, buoyed from below.
Diamonds in millions, spirits of lore, of light,
From the rock rim, a rush -
Out and down to a green void unknown,
Not knowing or caring or reasoning why,
Without fear or question or doubt,
Without dread of height or flight,
No concern of what life may be about.
But in this one special moment, present.
A joy in tumbling, falling, cascading,
In soaring upwards, outwards, around.
Cascades of diamonds dancing in golden light.
In this moment each diamond a lifetime -
Totally brilliant, all too totally brief.

Ross Bridle

Readers of Hut News are invited to send a poem inspired by the Blue Mountains, maximum of 20 lines. Each month, one or two will be published in Poets' Corner. Poems can be emailed to brendan049@gmail.com or even posted to Poets' Corner at 5 Lurline Street, Wentworth Falls 2782.
Brendan Doyle.

ELPHINSTONE—LEAVE ALONE



Elphinstone Plateau, Katoomba. Greenhood Orchid (*Pterostylis longifolia*); Bushwalkers enjoy a quiet stroll on Elphinstone Plateau among a stand of mature *Eucalyptus oreades*.



Where is Elphinstone Plateau?

Just near the Explorers Tree at Katoomba, at the end of Pulpit Hill Road, you will find Elphinstone (Radiata) Plateau, a peninsula containing the last remaining parcel of undeveloped southern escarpment land in the Upper Blue Mountains. The majority of the Plateau (apart from a small area of Crown Land) consists of 305 hectares of private land owned by the Transcendental Meditation Organisation (TMO), via its corporate arm (Maharishi Global Administration through Natural Law Ltd).

Why is it so special?

The Plateau is well known for its spectacular scenic qualities, with stunning views along the escarpment and down to the Megalong Valley, and the network of tracks on the Plateau which are used by local residents, bushwalkers and rock climbers. The Plateau has significant biodiversity value, including vegetation communities such as Blue Mountain Swamps, *Eucalyptus Oreades* Open Forest and Blue Mountains Heath. A number of threatened fauna species can also be found on the Plateau, with local residents frequently reporting sightings of the Spotted Tail Quoll. Two threatened plants have been identified on the site, including one of only ten places where the Dwarf Mountain Pine grows. A few sickly *Pinus radiata* are the last reminders of a failed plantation from the 1950s, native bushland now dominating the landscape.

Elphinstone Plateau is an invaluable bushland and fauna corridor between Medlow Bath and Katoomba. The high environmental value of the area is evidenced by the fact that nearly the entire Plateau has now been zone E2 Environmental Conservation under Blue Mountains LEP 2015, which prevents any type of development.

A long fight

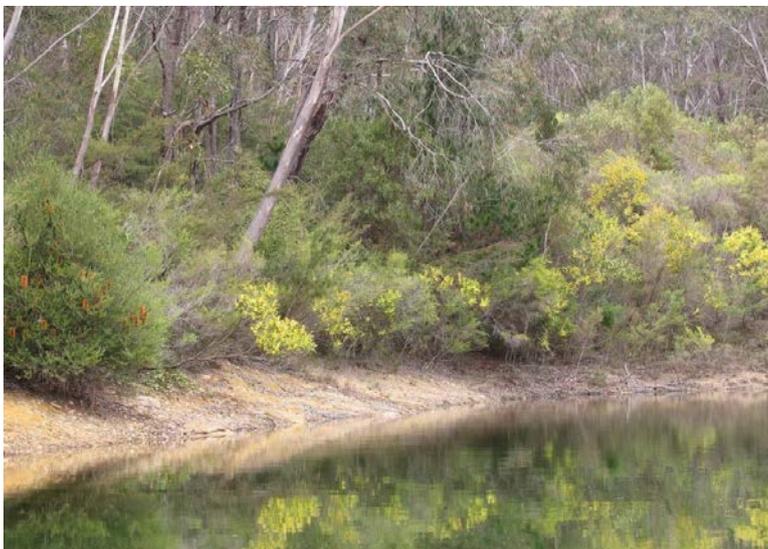
The Society has had a long interest in conserving the Plateau and having it added to the Blue Mountains National Park. Back in 1990, TMO proposed to develop the site for a 416 residential Meditation Academy. Local

residents and the Society campaigned hard opposing the development which attracted widespread community opposition (including 280 individual submissions lodged in opposition and a 2500 signature petition!) While this development did not proceed, the Society and the community continued to lobby throughout the 1990s to have the site acquired by the State Government and included in the Blue Mountains National Park. When the land was put up for sale by TMO in 2015, Council and the Society both unsuccessfully pushed for acquisition of the land by the State government, for inclusion in the Blue Mountains National Park. Ultimately, no sale proceeded and the land is still owned by TMO.

The latest threat

In late 2015, three development applications were lodged by TMO for three houses on the Plateau (go to Council's website to view the development applications Nos X/612/2015, X/611/2015 and X/709/2015). The applications were lodged before LEP 2015 was finalised, and therefore the development applications will be assessed under the old LEP 1991 (the zoning under LEP 1991 allowed for new dwellings houses). One house is sited directly behind the existing houses on Pulpit Hill Road (10-16), while the other two dwellings are sited further into the Plateau, near an old dam. The Society lodged a substantial submission opposing the developments given the inadequacy of the environmental assessment, the conservation significance of the area, impacts on Blue Mountain Swamps adjacent to the proposed dwellings, the high bushfire risk, and the impacts on threatened flora and fauna. The Society also has concerns that the three houses appear to be identical in design and two located very close together, suggesting a commercial rather than residential use and therefore the possibility of further expansion in the future. If the developments proceed, public access to the Plateau is likely to be severely restricted or cease completely.

(continued on page 7)



ELPHINSTONE - LEAVE ALONE

(Continued from page 6)

Council did not approve the three development applications, and TMO launched proceedings against Council in the NSW Land and Environment Court. The Society, along with local residents, attended a conciliation hearing in June as part of the legal proceedings and presented evidence to the Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court on the conservation importance of the Plateau and the significant negative impacts of the proposed developments. Council, TMO representatives and the Commissioner (the Society and residents were not involved in this part of the hearing) then proceeded on site to discuss the development applications and the issues raised.

The Society now understands that TMO will be required to provide additional information, including further environmental assessment, and must vary the developments in response to the issues raised. The additional information and the modified development applications will be publicly advertised by Council, allowing residents and the community to provide comment. The Society has not been informed of when this is likely to happen

What now?

The Society remains opposed to any development on the Plateau and believe the area should be acquired by either the State or Commonwealth Government as an addition to the Blue Mountains National Park. The proposed three developments in their current form are totally unacceptable and will result in significant environmental impacts. The undeveloped character of the Plateau will be lost forever, and if the developments are approved, further development may occur in the future.

What you can do

- The Society will be lobbying hard to Save the Plateau and will need your help. If you are keen to be part of the campaign please email landuse@bluemountains.org.au.
- Write to Council opposing the proposed developments on the Plateau, making the key points outlined above and in our submission (go to the Society's website for a copy).
- Make a submission when the modified DAs are exhibited.

Photo (top of page). Banksias and wattles bloom on Elphinstone Plateau in August, the colours reflecting into a little dam.

Elphinstone – Leave Alone

(by Wyn Jones, 1990 - an extract)

Some say unnamed feet found Black's Ladder
The way to Megalong,
As birds migrated, and climbed the split cliffs
To better feed,
Wrapped in mist crowded banksia heath.
The water sparkled then, as now
From out rock wells tightly squeezed for aeons,
Feet came and went silently
To Elphinstone, top of Megalong.
Undisturbed – the Plateau sighed in moods of mist
And Moon and sunny climes ...

Memories of Dot Butler

As long time members of Sydney Bushwalkers, Jo and I have many fond memories of Dot. Each of us in our early days with the club (we in our mid 40's and Dot in her late 60's) were passed, while climbing Cloudmaker, by this strong older woman climbing the slopes, seemingly without effort.

But my favourite story is my first encounter with Dorothy, at Coolana, the SBW property in Kangaroo Valley (the purchase of this property was organised by Dot in the 60's).

As the property is right beside Kangaroo River, swimming and canoeing were and still are popular pastimes. Anyway, I wandered down to the water and happened to jump in a double canoe with this woman, who I somehow knew was named Dot.

After we had sorted out paddling and steering and began progress upstream I happened to say "Hi Dot, have you done much of this paddling business?"

"I've just returned from a 400 mile paddle down the Yukon River", was the surprising reply and so I just sat and listened in amazement while Dot regaled me with her story of the journey, of camping on the trip, either beside the river or on islands in the stream, always conscious of a possible visit by bears, and how each campsite was organised to have no food evident to attract the bears. The story went on, no doubt embroidered in true Dorothy fashion, but it left me with a memorable day of paddling and a lasting memory of this remarkable woman.

Jim Percy.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION
SOCIETY www.bluemountains.org.au**
'Like' us on Facebook:
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
Follow us on Twitter: [bmcnsnw](https://twitter.com/bmcnsnw)

NAMING THE WILD DOG MOUNTAINS—Jim Smith (Part 5 of 7)

Parts 1—4 of this series were published in April/May/June/July 2016 Hut News and can be found on our website: <http://www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews-archive.shtml>

Local Settlers' Names

An undesirable aspect of Dunphy's scheme was that some of the places named by him had pre-existing names used by the Megalong Valley community. Dunphy did make some effort to record earlier names, for example by corresponding with Norbert Carlon. There is an interesting story from one of Dunphy's journals where he indicated that he valued Carlon's opinion. On 2nd October 1932 he called in at 'Green Gully' and found that Norbert had a copy of the 1932 map, sent to him by Walter Roots. According to Dunphy:

He said he thought it was a really good map. I wanted to discuss a number of matters hinging on the map, but there was a chap there by name of either Green or Grant and, as I did not want him in on the matter, I could not discuss his place-names further than we had taken the matter before, so we mutually avoided it. We had corresponded about it before and he felt satisfied.²¹

There is no evidence that Dunphy had later discussions with Carlon about the placenames on his map. On another trip a few years later Dunphy was annoyed by an action of Norbert Carlon which he discovered on a trip to follow the White Dog Range to Cox's River.

No club members had been on it before and this party counted on being the pioneers. They were shocked to find a line of blazes, not done recently. Norbert Carlon told them, or Dunphy's party, later that he cut the blazes some years ago. He said it was an important route at one time and he thought he should mark it, but advanced no proper reason.²²

If Dunphy is here expressing a general objection to the blazing, or marking of tracks, he may be somewhat disingenuous, as he is known to have done much blazing himself, with a special design for the Mountain Trails Club blaze. Alan Rigby described a track from the foot of Mount Mouin "which circles around the western side of the Mouins as far as the head of Merigal Creek; it has been well blazed by M. J. Dunphy as far as the Blue Dog ridge."²³

As an example of a well-established local placename in the Wild Dog Mountains that was disregarded by Dunphy, Bernard O'Reilly commented in his book *Cullenbenbong*:

Away up the Cox River in the uninhabited country between Burrangorang Valley and Jenolan Caves, is a splendid granite mountain, which, for upwards of seventy years, has been known as Peter O'Reilly's Range. Recently an enthusiastic group of people have tried to have it renamed "Mount Yellow Dog." Whatever may be the merits of the new name, there are many people who think with me that it should retain the name of a grand old Pioneer--Peter O'Reilly, my father.²⁴

Dunphy's Mount Yellow Dog is at the junction of the Yellow Dog and Yellow Pup Ridges. It is a minor feature that cannot really be described as "splendid" and there is no granite in the Wild Dog Mountains. There has been

some debate about exactly what feature was named after Peter O'Reilly (1848-1917). Jim Barrett relates one version of the origin of the name:

Early in the 20th century the future Yellow Dog was known to the cattlemen as Peter O'Reilly's Range. During the annual musters at Konangaroo Clearing, which is opposite this ridge, Peter O'Reilly (father of Bernard) would often look up and admire the hump across the river, and he eventually became (probably) the first to climb it.²⁵

Claude Veyret wrote that it was Yellow Pup Spur that was originally called Peter O'Reilly's Range.²⁶ The Catholic Priest Father Richard Coughlan had a lot of communication with the early settler families of the Burrangorang and Megalong Valleys. He wrote in 1956 that "The country since known as "The Dogs" was then the Peter O'Reilly Range".²⁷ In a later article he wrote: "The residents of the Burrangorang and Megalong Valleys called the mountain which, at the end of Narrow Neck, separates the two valleys "Peter O'Reilly's Mountain"²⁸. In the first quote Coughlan claimed that the whole of the Wild Dog Mountains was named after O'Reilly. The second quote is more ambiguous but appears to assert that the feature named after Peter O'Reilly was much more than a minor spur off the Yellow Dog Ridge.

Horace Salmon recounted a meeting with Jack Duncan after going down the Blue Dog Ridge:

After climbing down the slate slide opposite Mount Heartbreaker and walking to the Jenolan River we met Jack Duncan from Euroka... enquiries as to our route elicited the information that we had climbed down Blue Dog. "Where was that?" We explained. "Oh, you mean the Hornets' Nest." He had never heard of Blue Dog although he had forgotten more about the country than we ever knew.²⁹

Speaking of the residents of the Cox River, Salmon noted that "Every paddock, every ridge, every hill, every river crossing is named.... The [Dunphy] map doesn't show these names-- conversely the locals don't know the map names." Salmon continued, acknowledging that even though Dunphy's naming of the Wild Dogs was "perfectly logical...the locals don't know or recognise these names."

Continued on page 9—Endnotes.

Welcome to new members

Kate Matthew
Katee Giacca
Paul Jones
Andrew Cox
Philippa Walsh
Richard Lawson
Ruth Lawson

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY www.bluemountains.org.au

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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Wild Life in Blackheath Christine Davies

Cold, wet and miserable might be how some people have described the July 2016 school holiday weather in the upper Blue Mountains. But there were some lovely winter days. And, on at least three mornings, early risers who made their way to Govetts Leap Lookout were treated to sunrises of such grandeur that they are unlikely to be forgotten.

The beautiful Grose Valley, with its many moods, is always a sight to behold. But, in winter, when the golden light of the rising sun breaks through the clouds, seeking out patches of gold in the cliff faces and lighting up a river of white cloud flooding the depths of the valley, words to describe are inadequate.

With the rising of the sun, the valley comes alive with the song of lyrebirds. Winter is breeding time for the Superb Lyrebird, when the males construct and maintain a number of display mounds on which to sing and dance in courtship, their repertoire including imitations of the songs of many other birds.

I have given some photos of July sunrises to Valda and Tara for our website (www.bluemountains.org.au) and Facebook (Blue Mountains Conservation Society).

Naming the Wild Dog Mountains (Part 5 of 7) -

Continued from page 8

Endnotes:

²¹ Myles Dunphy, Journal 19. The Wild Dog Mountains. September 29 and 30; October 1 and 2, 1932. It would be interesting to locate the correspondence between Dunphy and Carlon.

²² Myles Dunphy, journal entry for 31 March 1934, transcribed for Wilf Hilder.

²³ Alan Rigby, 'Lost in the Wild Dog Mountains', *The Sydney Bushwalker*, December 1932, p.3.

²⁴ Bernard O'Reilly, *Green Mountains*, Smith and Paters, Brisbane, 1940, p.96.

²⁵ Jim Barrett, *Place Names of the Blue Mountains and Burratorang Valley*, 1994, p.59.

²⁶ Claude Veyret, 'Place Names', *The Waysider*, November-December 1975, p.6.

²⁷ "F. R. C.", 'Bushwalking Forty Years Ago', *The Waysider*, March 1956.

²⁸ R. B. Coughlan, 'The Story of Kowmung House', *The Waysider*, January-February 1979.

²⁹ Horace Salmon, 'Stop That Confusion!', *The Bushwalker*, 1937, p.24. Jack Duncan was born in 1891 and died in 1975, having spent nearly all of his life in the Megalong Valley.

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 \$35 Concession (Senior/Student) \$25

Household \$40 Household Concession \$30

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

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".

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 WALK DOWN KEDUMBA PASS

On a cold windy day in June, sixteen bushwalkers from the Thursday Pleasure Walkers set off down Kedumba Pass to visit the Cleary Memorial. We were very fortunate to have Jim Smith offer to accompany us and tell us the history of the Pass. He pointed out to us the bridle track constructed in 1927 and the track taken by Aboriginal people over a long period of time. Jim took us onto a small portion of both tracks and it was a privilege to stand where very few white people have previously stood.

We then proceeded to the Cleary Memorial. Ken Cleary was killed in 1953, when he was only twenty-one, by a rock fall while he was helping to construct the Pass. His father, Dan, is also remembered there. Dan and his brother owned the Kedumba Pastoral Company which ran the farm in the valley. After the construction of the Warragamba Dam an alternative route from the valley had to be found as they could no longer exit via Camden.

From various lookouts along the Pass there are magnificent views of the Kedumba Valley with the old farm which is slowly being reclaimed by nature. You can see as far as Mounts Tiwilla and Cloudmaker and the unusual view of the south side of Mount Solitary and the Korowal Buttress.

We very much appreciated the company of Jim Smith who made the day even more enjoyable.

Beverley Thompson (Thursday walks co-ordinator)

Image: BMCS Thursday Pleasure Walkers (left to right): Chris Smith, Beverley Thompson, Chris Alderson is hiding behind Beverley, Doreen McGarrigle, Bernie Power, Chris Caton, Jeanette Robertson, Helen Yoxall, Amanda Brien, Pauline Cookson, Steve Cookson, Warwick Stanbridge. (mid front) Rose Ellul, Jill Hogwood. (right front) Jim Smith. Photo by Alan Foster

Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year 2016

Date: 19 August to 9 October 2016

Time: 09.30 AM to 05.00 PM

Location: Australian Museum, entry via William St

Admission: \$20 Adult, \$11 Concession, \$3 Child including general admission | \$5 Member Adult, \$3 Member Child

This stunning wildlife exhibition is a major photographic competition that celebrates the natural beauty and diversity of our region.

Presented for the first time in Sydney, the Australian Geographic Nature Photographer of the Year 2016 exhibition celebrates the extraordinary natural wonder of the Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and New Guinea bioregions.

Featuring more than 100 stunning images taken by professional, emerging and junior photographers from around the world, this annual competition documents the story of our region's unique and ever-changing natural world.

23. OLD POST OFFICE AND GRANITE COUNTRY, Hartley

The beautiful old Post Office at Hartley was constructed in the 1840s when this village was one of the most important settlements on the western road from Emu Plains to Bathurst. Its significance declined when bypassed by the first railway in 1869. Later the National Parks and Wildlife Service was able to take over the site and protect the 19th century features.

In the Greater Blue Mountains, well preserved natural landscapes based on sandstones, shales, limestones and marbles are prominent. Our granite landscapes have been mostly transformed by agriculture, Evans Crown Nature Reserve is a rare exception.

Much as it has been influenced by human activities, the granite zone around Old Hartley Post Office remains impressive. In 2013, NPWS opened the Kew-y-ahn Heritage Walk, a short trail giving access to a prominent granite outcrop above the village. The Post Office building itself is now a well patronised café, offering both snacks and lunches. Development of walking tracks to allow better appreciation of the overall site continues.

24. RANGE AND CROKER'S FIRE TRAILS, Far South Blue Mountains National Park

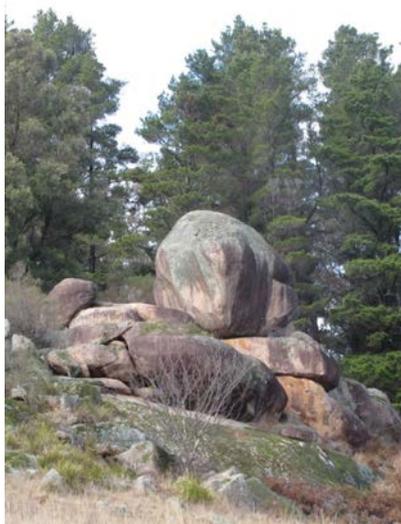
From the Taralga to Wombeyan Caves Road, 2WDs or 4WDs can access a fascinating variety of landscapes. Near this trail junction, sunlight filters through the ribbon gums, reflecting into a Lilliputian world of spider webs, colourful fungi and pools.

For thousands of years the Gundungarra people inhabited areas of the southern Blue Mountains like this one. Important trading routes were described in legends that reinforced the geographical features by which generations of indigenous people navigated through densely vegetated bushland. The most significant surviving Gundungarra legend, the Gurangatch and Mirrigan story, describes a route from the Wollondilly River to Jenolan Caves and Duckmaloi Walls.

No doubt, stories about many other areas like this one were lost when the European invasion displaced the traditional Gundungarra lifestyle from the southern Blue Mountains. The Croker's area is like an area north of Medlow Gap where part of the surviving legend is placed – Mirrigan creates a waterhole by forcing his snout upwards through the soil after tunnelling.

At atmosphere of peace exists here. But the abundance of termite mounds, the intricacy of the spider webs and the constant tumbling of dead or wind affected branches into the waterholes are testament to constant change.

Images (left to right, top to bottom) - Kew-y-ahn (or Bell Rock) outcrop, above Hartley Village; Gerard from Lithgow explores the Kew-y-ahn Heritage Walk (published by kind permission of Gerard's mother); The old Post Office and Court House (background) define the 19th century dignity of Hartley; Reflections in a waterhole down the hill from the Range-Croker's fire trail junction; Sunlight on a spider web near the Range fire trail. Photos by Christine Davies.



This "Blue Trail" is a collective description for sites in the western Blue Mountains that arouse natural or cultural interest or both. Most are only a short walk from roads or vehicular tracks. One day, a high quality walking path may link them.



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, mobile 04024 02783, 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 Harold Thompson harold.thompson@bigpond.com 6355 1762 or mobile 0409 010 737

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)

Aug 13 – **Govetts Leap, Rodriguez Pass to Junction Rock** and up the **Horse Track to Evans Lookout**. 600M ascent/descent- Leader **Warren** 4787 5403-Meet at Blackheath Station Carpark-8.15am-9Km-Gr 3-Map **Katoomba**

Aug 20 **Gardens of Stone** – off track – part exploratory. Contact leader for more detail. Leader Hugh 0423 309 854
hue.s@optusnet.com.au

Aug 27 **Redledge Pass**, Narrowneck gate to the pass, cable tramway route and up the Devils Hole. 450m descent/ascent. Warren 4787 5403. Meet Katoomba Station car park 8.15 am. 8 km. Grade 3-4. Map Katoomba.

Sep 3 **Gardens of Stone** – off track – part exploratory. Contact leader for more detail. Leader Hugh 0423 309 854
hue.s@optusnet.com.au

Sep 10 **The Barnacles** – off track. Harold 0409 010 737. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.30 am. 8 km. Grade 3-4. Map Mt Wilson, Wollongambe.

Sep 17 **Gardens of Stone** – off track – part exploratory. Contact leader for more detail. Leader Hugh 0423 309 854
hue.s@optusnet.com.au

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, 04111 62345, keithdor53@hotmail.com

Aug 8 **Nepean River walk, Emu Plains/Penrith**, start at Emu Plains Station. Easy walk along both banks of the river. Lunch at O'Donahue's. Meet Emu Plains Station 9.45 am. Judith 4785 6310. Grade 2.

Aug 15 **Transit of Venus, Woodford**. Three waterfall walk. Meet Woodford Station (south side) 9.30 am. Maurice 0402 402 783. Grade 2.

Aug 22 **Bonnie Doon, Nellies Glen and climb up through Devil's Hole**. Walks on track apart from the 150 metre ascent by a scramble up Devil's Hole. 10 km. Total ascent/descent 450m. Katoomba map. Meet Katoomba Station car park 8.30 am. Warren 4787 5403. Grade 3.

Aug 29 **Bus Trip - Lost City via Clarence**, fare \$12. Book and pay Tony 9625 3985. Meet Springwood car park behind Westpac 8.20 am. Maurice 0402 402 783. Grade 3.

Sep 5 **Mount Solitary, Katoomba**. Car pool to Golden Stairs then down stairs and around Ruined Castle and up end of Solitary. Some rock scrambling. Meet Katoomba Station car park 8.30 am. Car pool fare \$5. Mary and Wayne Read 4739 0786. Grade 3.

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, denfenella@optusnet.com.au

Aug 11 **Lockleys Pylon, Leura**. Best views of the Grose Valley and Mounts Hay and Banks. Meet cnr The Mall and Megalong Street, Leura 9.30am. Leaders Jeanette and Alan 4757 3750. Car pool \$5. Take lunch. Grade 2/3

Aug 18 **Lost City Pagodas**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.45am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Car pool \$5. Take lunch. Grade 2

Aug 25 **Walter Burley Griffin Walk, Castlecrag**. Meet North Sydney Station 9.50am. Leader Jane 0403 470 101. Take lunch. Grade 2

Sep 1 **Boronia Point and Howes Point, Mount Victoria**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Doreen 6355 2371. Take lunch. Grade 2

Sep 8 **Transit of Venus, Woodford**. Meet cnr Woodford Ave and Great Western Hwy, Woodford 10am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Take lunch. Grade 2

TARKINE TREK: 11-17 March 2017

Trek Tasmania's incredible Tarkine rainforest in support of Bob Brown Foundation

The funds you raise will go directly towards the Tarkine Future 2020 campaign, which is calling for the Tarkine to be recognised as a National Park and World Heritage Area by 2020.

The Tarkine wilderness is the largest tract of cool, temperate rainforest in Australia. It should be protected. Instead it is being logged, mined and smashed by 4WD tracks dissecting its heritage coast.

By joining the Tarkine Trek 2017 you will help fight to protect the Tarkine, including its wildlife, rainforests, button-grass, wild coast and pristine streams.

<https://inspiredadventures.com.au/events/bbf-tarkine-trek-2017/>

Read about our bushwalkers' exploits on Facebook—with lots of wonderful photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/BmcsBushwalking>

BmcsBushwalking

and

<https://www.facebook.com/bmcslongerbushwalks>

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