



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"



Why GIVE A DAM?

The wild rivers of the southern Blue Mountains form a landscape that has been largely untouched by modern society. The area is home to 48 threatened plant and animal species, ancient river valleys, rare dry rainforests and hundreds of Indigenous cultural sites. The significance of the southern Blue Mountains landscape led it to being inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000.

Ornithologist Martin Schultz describes the region as a "secret biodiversity wonderland" he says was once called Sydney's Jurassic Park.

"The area is so special because it is a functioning ecosystem, you have dingoes keeping kangaroos under control and it's all working like it should - it's healthy."

The plan to raise the dam wall will see the area flooded through a "controlled release" of water which Dr Schulz says threatens the biodiversity in the region. He warns it could take hundreds of years for the ecosystems to turn into something functional again.

Raising the Warragamba Dam wall will destroy 65 kilometres of wilderness rivers and inundate 4,700 hectares of the world heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park, threatening endangered wildlife and culturally significant Indigenous sites.

Raising the Warragamba Dam wall is a developer-driven proposal that will make it easier to build on flood-prone land in western Sydney, but it will not stop floods.

Read more: <https://www.giveadam.org.au/>

Join the March at Katoomba on 9 June

Help to demonstrate that there is massive community opposition to this project.

Meet at Carrington Place, Katoomba. We will make our way to the Kingsford Smith Park amphitheatre where there will be speeches and performances by local musicians and artists. It will be a fantastic and family friendly day. Bring homemade banners, flags, posters.

"Croc Park" development at Wentworth Falls revived

Thirty years ago, the Blue Mountains community campaigned against a "Flora and Fauna Park", including a live crocodile exhibit, on Bodington Hill, Wentworth Falls. The development was supported by the then pro-development council.

The campaign was lost and development approval given, but the development did not happen and has laid dormant for 30 years.

On May 8 this year, residents reported that approximately 2-4ha of native vegetation has been clear-felled on this property, including in the E2 Environmental Conservation zone, and risking major silt pollution in swamps and creeks on the site.

The Society is pursuing the matter and Council is investigating.

Please read more on pages 2 and 3, and contact council urgently.

Have your say about the future use of Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath

Read more on page 5.

'Destination Pagoda' 7pm Tuesday 2 July at Mt Vic Flicks

Showing of Gardens of Stone documentary, by the award winning film maker Tom Zubrycki.

Read more on page 3.

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

President: Lachlan Garland 0415 317 078
president@bluemountains.org.au

Senior Vice President: Tara Cameron
0419 824 974 taracameron4@gmail.com

Second Vice President:

Don Morison 8230 2116
donmorison@bluemountains.org.au

Treasurer: Elizabeth Howard 0414 090251
eh.mistover@bigpond.com

Administration Officer: Jeanette Robertson
sao@bluemountains.org.au

Bushcare Officer: Paul Vale
4787 8080 0429 014 454
bushcare@bluemountains.org.au

Environmental Education Officer:
Cathy Cavanagh
education@bluemountains.org.au

Events Coordinator: VACANT

Landuse Officer:
Angela Langdon 0417 004 722
landuse@bluemountains.org.au

Meetings Secretary: Heather Hull
4739 1493 hhull001@bigpond.net.au

Membership Secretary: Ross Coster
4739 2987 0418 462 576
membership@bluemountains.org.au

National Parks/World Heritage Officer:
Dr Kerry Mills kerryfmills@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Christine Davies 4787 7246
hutnews@bluemountains.org.au

Nursery Manager: Paul Irwin
nursery@bluemountains.org.au

Publicity Officer: VACANT

Sustainability Officer: Clare Power
sustain@bluemountains.org.au

Threatened Species Officer:
Judy Smith smitheco@ozemail.com.au

Website Manager: Alan Page
leurlan@hotmail.com

Walks Convenor:
Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942
mauricekerkham@hotmail.com

Bushfire Representative: Hugh Paterson
4751.2303, mob 0427 512 303
fmatter@bigpond.net.au

The **DEADLINE** for the next issue
of HUT NEWS is
15 JUNE 2019

Christine Davies, 4787 7246
hutnews@bluemountains.org.au
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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

Crocodile Park development at Wentworth Falls revived



10 Great Western Highway Wentworth Falls (next to Dillinger's Nursery) is the site of the controversial 'Flora and Fauna Park', which was the subject of a major community campaign opposing the development 30 years ago.

The site is of high environmental and visual significance in a 'Land Between Towns' area, which is meant to provide a vegetated buffer between Bullaburra and Wentworth Falls. The concrete driveway off the highway halfway up the hill (near the 'Wentworth Falls' sign) is the entry to the site.

What happened?

Over an unknown period up to May 8, approximately 2-4 ha of native vegetation and trees was clear-felled and removed and/or slashed and spread over at least part of the cleared area. No sediment controls could be seen from the fence on the highway on May 9 when several BMCS members went to see the damage. It appears that clearing has been done in the E2 Environmental Conservation zone at the property boundary on the highway, destroying the wildlife corridor leading to the tunnel under the highway.

The clearing was reported to Council by local residents and the Society. The immediate concern is the potential for a major silt pollution event downhill into the large swamp and creeks on the site in the next heavy rain.

Why didn't anyone know about this?

A construction certificate (CC) provided by a private certifier approving the vegetation clearing was lodged with the Council in December 2018. Council has no part to play in this process, other than to put the documentation on its website. The private certification system by-passes Council and there is no public consultation. The Council is the only entity that needs to be notified of the commencement of work done under a CC, at least 2 days before the work begins. The Society is trying to ascertain if the Council was notified.

Was the landclearing legal?

The CC is for 'site clearing: removal of vegetation only, for preparation of the approved Flora and Fauna Wildlife Park'. The controversial park was granted development approval in November 1989 with 49 conditions of consent.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society does not believe that a CC can be validly issued for land clearing only. Further, the Society believes that the land clearing does not comply with the conditions of consent in the 1989 development approval. These conditions required a number of reports, plans and other approvals before work could begin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.

Crocodile Park development revived (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

The Society is following up these issues with the Council and with MP for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle. This event again raises questions about the private certification approval system in NSW.

Hasn't the development approval lapsed after 30 years?

Apparently not. This is because in 1996 the NSW Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, found work that the then owner of the site undertook just days before the development approval was due to lapse (November 1992), constituted 'commencement'. If a development is deemed to have 'commenced' the development approval apparently never lapses.

What happens next?

The developer apparently intends lodging a CC for the actual construction of the Flora and Fauna Park. Note that a CC is an approval, not an application for approval. There will be no opportunity for public consultation.

The Society is vigorously pursuing the matter and Council is investigating. The Council needs to know that the community is appalled by this environmental destruction, and that it expects the Council to pursue the matter and potentially take action against the owner and the private certifier if the lawfulness of the CC and the clearing is in doubt.



This photograph shows extent of clearing.

What you can do right now.

Contact the council by phone on 4780 5000 or email council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au stating your concerns about the land clearing and asking what the Council is doing about this.

Also contact the councillors and the mayor. Contact details can be found on Council's website.

Councillor Pete By Denis Kevans

Promoting a Crocodile Park in the Mountains, Councillor Pete made a sally:

"There's nuffen' to see in the Blue Mountains, anyway
Except a few rocks in a valley."

Denis Kevans
300 Funny Little Poems, 1998.

BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

Our nursery is closed during the colder months. We will reopen in August and volunteers will be selling plants at the Blackheath Community Market on the 1st Sunday in August and the Magpie Markets, Lawson, on the third Sunday in August.

nursery@bluemountains.org.au

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY www.bluemountains.org.au

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society
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'Destination Pagoda' Gardens of Stone documentary showing at Mt Vic Flicks, 7pm Tuesday 2 July

A date for your diary!

The new documentary by Tom Zubrycki, award winning documentary maker, tells the story of the Gardens of Stone campaign to protect this spectacular area and how its future hangs in the balance. See it at Mt Vic Flicks, Mount Victoria.

Lithgow's main tourism potential lies in its beautiful, internationally significant pagoda landscapes. The Gardens of Stone Alliance (Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Lithgow Environment Group) have developed a visitor plan called Destination Pagoda that proposes to significantly increase the number of visitors to Lithgow through the creation of new visitor opportunities in a state conservation area reserve in which underground mining is permissible. The area's values can be protected and enjoyed by thousands just through the provision of basic recreation facilities that enable families to get close to nature and then enjoy a nice lunch in Lithgow.

Ian Brown, adventurer, climber and respected park management consultant, will outline the potential of the Gardens of Stone as a world-class tourism and conservation reserve.

Destination Pagoda (co-authored by Ian Brown and Elizabeth Dudley-Bestow) outlines a program to create an iconic, rewarding, must-see tourist destination.

Copies of the *Destination Pagoda* plan will be available for sale. The event will run for approximately one hour. There will be more information in our weekly emails and website shortly.

I recently revisited Binnaway near Coonabarabran in central western New South Wales. While there I went looking for a natural spring that flowed across the red dirt Bourke and Halls Road. The area had been an important place for the local indigenous people and was a corroboree ground.

A more picturesque and reflective location you would be hard pushed to discover. The colours of the countryside became acutely focused in the wash from the afternoon sunlight. The constant sound of the spring water could be heard gurgling into a hollow between the sandstone, emerging mysteriously in a still expanse of water below. Indentations in the sand betrayed the recent pathway of a snake of reasonable girth. Random marks left where possible tools were sharpened and strange shapes depicted on the rock transported me back to another time.

Since my visit I have been thinking about the spring and what made it so important to the Aboriginal people. The life giving importance of the spring water and its attraction for animals were evident. But what sacred or significant event could have taken place there?

Coincidentally, I began reading Bob Randall's autobiography "Songman: the Story of an Aboriginal Elder". Its opening chapters provided me with more food for thought. I began to ask more questions. What

"ancestor being" passed that way and what did it do there? Was it believed to be a place of ancestral creation and was it because of this that it had significance for the Aboriginal people? Did the ancestor being stay there and did the Aboriginal people believe it was responsible for the spring's existence? Was it still believed to be in the land or in the water? Was the snake trail I saw evidence that the ancestral being could have been a spirit snake?

For a ceremony to be held there, something significant must have taken place. As a sacred site, there was a responsibility imposed on indigenous people to take great care of the place. Believing the spring to be on a dreaming track or song line, the road with its causeway could be viewed as a form of desecration. Driving over the roadway could also be judged in the same way.

This place would have had its own story, its song, its dance and painting, and would have been believed by the Aboriginal people to possess the power to cause change. I thought of the appropriateness of Judith Wright's poem "The Bora Ring" for this place of significance.

*The song is gone; the dance
is secret with the dancers in the earth
the ritual useless, and the tribal story
lost in an alien tale.*

THIS IS A PLACE OF SIGNIFICANCE (a poem by Jim Low)

This is a place of significance
None of us came here by chance.
What ancestral being passed this way?
What happened here on a Dreamtime day?

Did the spring explode from the Earth,
Gushing upwards for all its worth?
Was that the reason for ceremony?
For I know about a corroboree.

This is a place of significance
None of us came here by chance.
I followed the dusty Bourke and Hall Road
Across the causeway the tyre treads showed.

What song line played its way through here?
What Dreaming ancestor did appear?
Was it a snake whose mark I see?
Is that why there was a corroboree?

This is a place of significance
None of us came here by chance.
Have my tyre tracks caused you pain,
Opened up old wounds again?

Entrusted to treat this place with care
My photos captured the beauty there
The faded lines beside the spring
A sharpening groove so the axe would sing.

This is a place of significance
None of us came here by chance.
Here the life force can be found
In the water's constant sound.

© Jim Low



Old White Woman Looks at Pre-European Australian Art while on a Bush Walk

Inside a cave is the representation of what appears to be bird tracks, etched side by side in rows on the wall of the cave. Each etching has been carefully blackened to give depth. They continue, like runes, from the mouth of the cave into the dark interior. Would the artists have continued right around the cave wall if they had time?

We're unsure what we're looking at, but we feel a thrilled puzzlement. It's here for us to look at because the artists are no longer here to guard it or care for it. It's a gift, for us who haven't seen it before by those who are now the de facto custodians. They trust us and want to share it.

There is an official little number hammered into the cave entrance. We all trust that this means some authority will care for it, protect it and explain it.

In all probability, not much will be explained. But it is a wonder and it can help us reflect that in Australia we live with the longest surviving culture on earth.

Twenty years ago I was fortunate to be present at a discovery of Aboriginal remains at a bridge building site in a remote area of NSW. I was struck by the contrast of my presence in the cave and that incident.

Work stopped. Elders of both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities were consulted, an archaeologist brought in. There were negotiations and an amicable solution was reached and conflict avoided.

But here as in many Aboriginal sites in the bush the only protection is its precarious anonymity.

As we bent down to peer at the enigmatic marks, we were privileged to see how Australian artists represented their landscape before colonisation. And though mystified, we left with a fresh way of looking at the landscape which we now occupy.

Cathy Cavanagh

More Noise in the Mountains?

Have your say about the future use of Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath

Have you registered yet for the 'consultation'? (details still not available). Contact the Department of Industry, Crown Lands, mark.maloney@crowland.nsw.gov.au - express your concerns and ask to be included in their consultation.

Key message to be made in your email and during the process:

Ask that Katoomba airfield be returned to the Blue Mountains National Park from which it was excised in the 1960s, to be managed solely as an emergency airfield. (See the May edition of Hut News for background information.)

For more information or to get more involved:

Blue Mountains Conservation Society www.bluemountains.org.au
Katoomba Airfield Community Group at www.ourblueys.org

Nursery News

Working together to save native species

Our nursery has joined forces with Megalong Public School and National Parks and Wildlife Service in a project to propagate and plant endangered species.

The school principal, Stephanie Scott, invited us to come and show the children how to take cuttings and sow

seeds of *Callistemon megalongensis* which only grows in certain areas within 10k of the school. On a lovely morning in early May we arrived at the school armed with the equipment and materials we needed for propagation. Each of the nine pupils present was able to take a cutting from plants already growing in the grounds, then prepare and pot it. They then sowed seed provided by NPWS into a seed tray. We are going to keep cuttings and seed in our glasshouse until ready to take

back to the school for the children to pot on.

After morning tea in the sunshine, enjoying the beautiful surrounds, while the children spotted a passing Wedge-tailed Eagle, we helped them plant *Zieria covenyi* in the 'pony yard' behind the school. (What other school would have a pony yard?!) These plants were brought by NPWS threatened species officer, Michaela Jones, and had been grown at Mt Annan Botanic Gardens. It is found in only two or three locations in the Blue Mountains, one of which is not far from the school.

The children all participated in the planting with enthusiasm and energy. How lucky are they to have such a wonderful school environment which is obviously a source of pride.

As *Zieria covenyi* has such a restricted distribution it is hoped that planting it in schools will provide a protected environment to 'future proof' these plants. Other upper mountains schools are also involved in this project and we are very happy to play a part.

Sue Nicol

Images:

Callistemon megalongensis, Steve Douglas, www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/conservation-programs/megalong-valley-bottlebrush-conservation-program
(Flowers of *C. megalongensis* are bright pink with darkish red filaments)

Zieria covenyi, PlantNET - NSW FLORA ONLINE

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>



The power of hope and the imagination Clare Power



Many of us are tossed tumultuously between despair and hope and ride the bumpy waves along this spectrum as we experience and hear about the devastations facing the planet and the incredible stories of determination, resilience and innovation in the face of these. It can be challenging to know where best to channel our time and our energy as our own personal response. So this month, I've decided to focus on two people who are drawing on the power of imagination and hope as their current approach to inspiring the public to respond creatively and with renewed zest.

Before discussing these approaches though, I want to remind you of the work of the profoundly wise author, teacher and activist Joanna Macy <https://www.joannamacy.net>. She cautions: "Of all the dangers we face ... none is so great as the deadening of our response". Her life's work is connected to the idea that "we begin by acknowledging that our times confront us with realities that are painful to face, difficult to take in and confusing to live with". Nevertheless, she says, 'we can choose our response... and the kinds of responses we make and the degree to which we believe they count are shaped by the way we think and feel about hope'. In contrast to passive hope, Joanna suggests that we 'need the practice of active hope, which is becoming participants in bringing about what we hope for ... and the guiding impetus is our intention, we choose what we aim to bring about, act for and express'. This is a very potted summary of her highly recommended book (written with Chris Johnstone: *Active Hope, How to face the mess we're in without going crazy*) and an attempt to set the scene for the examples of active hope being provided by Damon Gameau, director of the new film '2040' and Rob Hopkins' upcoming book on *Power to the Imagination*.

In creating the hybrid feature documentary '2040', Damon Gameau was inspired in part by contemplating the future for his four-year-old daughter and his desire to 'contribute a different narrative. One that shows that there are solutions to our problems and lots of people who are already passionately acting on them'. Damon 'embarked on a global journey to meet innovators and change-makers in the areas of economics, technology, civil society, agriculture, education and sustainability. Drawing on their expertise, he sought to identify the best solutions, available to us now, that would help improve

the health of our planet and the societies that operate within it. From marine permaculture to decentralised renewable energy projects, he discovered that people all over the world are taking matters into their own hands'. Damon explains that in selecting the solutions shown the film they 'tried to find solutions with cascading benefits that would benefit communities, income inequalities, biodiversity, health and other factors'.

Damon's approach has been coined 'fact-based dreaming'. He thinks that 'we have lost the ability to imagine and visualise on a large scale. Our leaders often talk about protecting us and 'building walls' rather than dreaming, discussing and visioning a future we want. When we don't do that, we inhabit someone else's future. That said, I didn't want the film to be utopian and fanciful. Everything I show my daughter in the future already exists today. It's an extrapolation of the wonderful solutions we already have. For more information see <https://whatsyour2040.com/> By the time June Hut News is published 2040 will be showing in cinemas across Australia. At the time of writing Mt Vic Flicks are working with the distributor to arrange screenings possibly in late June, so keep an eye out on their website.

Rob Hopkins, who is an author and co-founder of the Transition movement, is working on a current project that is aligned with the intent of '2040'. The Transition movement has been guided by the premise of local communities visioning how we rebuild and reimagine our world based on broad principles of ecological sustainability. Rob's latest undertaking is in response to his concerns that 'it increasingly feels that our collective imagination, our ability to ask "what if?" and to imagine something other than what we currently have, is a much under-used muscle at a time when we really need it at full strength'. With a similar time frame to 2040, Hopkins asks 'What if we could find a way over the course of the next 20 years to be bold, brilliant and decisive, to act in proportion to the challenges we are facing, to aim for a future we are excited about, and to deliver on a legacy we are proud to leave the next generations? From "What Is To What If" is a call to action to reclaim and unleash our collective imagination, told through the stories of individuals and communities around the world who are doing it now, as we speak, and witnessing often rapid and dramatic change for the better in their lives and communities. Many of these stories can be read about on Hopkins' site <https://www.robhopkins.net/> and his book will be published later this year.

Of course, in the Blue Mountains where we are privileged to live, there are a multiplicity of stories already in action. Our progressive community offers many opportunities for involvement in visioning and enacting our local futures according to our interests and current capacities. Over the next few months we'll be developing a Con Soc sustainability page which provides links to as many of these as possible. Please email me if you'd like any included sustain@bluemountains.org.au

And on a final note, all power to Extinction Rebellion and their fierce determination and commitment that led to the UK parliament declaring a climate emergency.

Image: <https://www.robhopkins.net/2019/05/14/why-the-climate-emergency-needs-a-national-imagination-act/>

2014: The hottest year on record; 2015: The hottest year on record (again); 2016: Global heat record broken again; 2017: Record breaking year for heat and extreme weather; Weather Gone Wild: Climate Change-Fuelled Extreme Weather in 2018; 2018/19: The Angriest Summer; ...

WHAT COMES NEXT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Climate Council was founded in 2013 as an independent and 100% community-funded organisation in response to the abolition of the Australian Climate Commission by the Coalition Government. It is made up of some of the country's leading climate scientists, health, renewable energy and policy experts, as well as a team of staff, and a huge community of volunteers and supporters who power its work.

In the wake of the Federal Election, Amanda McKenzie, Climate Council CEO, described feeling deflated and then determined. Two days after the election the government was already being asked tough questions about how the Government would address energy and climate change. "There is no doubt that climate change was a top issue at this election and the need for action is at the forefront of community consciousness," Amanda wrote.

"Over five years of relentless work, we have elevated climate change to the top of the national agenda, killed off the influence of climate denialism, educated millions and created momentum for strong climate policies across state and local jurisdictions. Pushing for action on climate change is hard. It can be demoralising, slow and deeply frustrating. And we are up against formidable opponents.

"Our work together is more important than ever, and we must expand our strategy, resource our mission and elevate our impact."

Subscribe to the Climate Council's newsletter for the latest climate and energy news. <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au>

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Blue Mountains City Council Councillor Brent Hoare, along with 13 other council representatives from around Australia, recently visited Port Augusta in South Australia to see first-hand the coal to clean energy transformation underway. The trip was part of the Climate Council's **Cities Power Partnership** program.

Port Augusta has just marked three years since its last coal power station closed down. Cr Hoare said that the pioneer regional city is thriving on renewable energy. "It was a rare opportunity to get behind the scenes of some of the largest renewable projects in the country and hear from top climate and energy experts."

Former South Australian leader, Jay Weatherill, met with the council representatives. "We have 14 renewable energy and storage projects under construction or due to start, supporting more than 2,000 jobs. South Australia generates more wind and solar energy than any other state, accounting for more than 50% of generated power and we are a leader in rooftop solar—and that's because local and state governments, industry and community worked together to get us there," Mr Weatherill said.

Source: Blue Mountains Gazette, 22/5/19 <https://www.bluemountainsgazette.com.au/story/6114883/cost-of-climate-change/>

Moffitt's Gardens of Stone Celebration

Sunday 30 June, Lithgow

Vernon Moffitt & Joyce Moffitt
Strong Unionists; Strong Environmentalists

Installation of a commemorative plaque at STATE MINE HERITAGE PARK State Mine Gully Road, Lithgow

Train travel to Lithgow. Catch train departing Central at 8.24 am to be picked up by specially chartered coach at Lithgow Railway Station at 11:15am to see Lithgow's spectacular pagoda landscape at Dobbs Drift Lookout and then return to State Mine Heritage Park for a ceremony where Vern and Joyce will be remembered as revered coal mining unionists and being the greatest advocates for protecting Lithgow's Gardens of Stone.

Vernon Moffitt (1924-2001) was a respected coal miner who worked tirelessly to further the rights and conditions of his fellow coal miners. He influenced the political education of many young miners, including Greg Combet who went on to become the Minister for Climate Change, Industry and Innovation in the Gillard Government (2010-2013).

Together with his wife Joyce Moffitt (1930-1999), Vern played a significant role in founding the Lithgow-Bathurst environment movement. They were founding members of the Bathurst Conservation Group, Central West Environment Council and Central West Branch of the National Parks Association of NSW.

Joyce Moffitt was pivotal in highlighting the need to protect the rare and endangered Bathurst copper butterfly *Paralucia spinifera*, the Gardens of Stone's upland swamps, and the fragile Newnes Plateau. Together the Moffitts played a valued role in the creation of the Gardens of Stone National Park — today World Heritage listed.

This important union/environmental celebration invites Lithgow Councillors, State Member for Bathurst, Mr Paul Toole, along with other union, environmental and political leaders. This celebration hopes to reiterate the case that it is now time to protect Lithgow's spectacular Gardens of Stone pagoda landscape as a State Conservation Area. This protection will pave the way for a new and vibrant tourist economy for Lithgow, as outlined in the recently launched visitor plan *Destination Pagoda* www.gardensofstone.org.au

The event is being organised by The Gardens of Stone Alliance (Blue Mountains Conservation Society, Lithgow Environment Group and Colong Foundation for Wilderness), CRUMA (Combined Retired Union Members Association) and the State Mine Heritage Park.



“Evidence of Vanished Things”: A walk of the Thursday Interpretive Nature Group in Portland with John Low, historian and poet.

Cathy Cavanagh and Christine Davies

The little town of Portland in the high country of the NSW Central Tablelands is a place where the impact of the waves of history can be deeply felt as well as observed, from the time of first contact between the Wiradjuri nation and Europeans, up to its recent industrial past.

One element of that industrial past which John Low included on his tour of the town is reimagined poignantly in murals on the disused cement silos.

The artist Guido Van Helten’s massive figures on the silos depict people who still live in the town and who worked in the cement works. The giant sepia coloured images are extraordinarily moving. We are like ants in their presence. The old and wrinkled figures are moving away or look back, while the sole female figure faces the town, looking over it like a guardian. It is a proud and beautiful tribute to Portland and its working class heroes.

Before lunch at the Coronation Hotel (probably named for the coronation of Edward VII) we had spent a very enjoyable few hours walking beside Williwa Creek in the town common which has an area of 650 acres. Trees were scattered on the hillsides with their understorey closely cropped by rabbits, marsupials and other grazing animals. A relic of the past, town commons in most Australian country towns have long since vanished.

The Commonwealth Portland Cement Company operated from 1898 to 1991. Since the cement works closed, Portland has been reinventing itself. The “Signs of Yesterday” painted on the shops are a good tourist attraction. On a May Thursday it was quiet, but the town appeared anything but depressed. It is in beautiful countryside among rolling hills.

Located on the northern edge of the cement works, the historic bottle kilns are remnants of the early cement making process. Some of us inspected an old railway viaduct on a disused branch line, while others made friends with a gentle draught horse which came to greet us.

There is much more to see in Portland. Thank you John for a very interesting and enjoyable day.

(More information about TING on the Society’s website: www.bluemountains.org.au - go to activities.)

Photos (from top left). An old water tank and a few foundations are all that remain of a dwelling on the common; Cement works buildings are probably heritage listed; Disused silos with murals; Historic bottle kilns; Gentle draught horse comes to greet us. (Bottle kiln photo by John Turner, others by Christine Davies)

Looking Back ...

Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society

Newsletter No 27. February 1977

HONOURS FOR CONSERVATION AND LITERATURE:

Originator of Blue Mountains National Park

Mr Myles J Dunphy, OBE, New Year's Honours List – for services to conservation.

Recently we displayed in the Hut a copy of the historic supplement to The Katoomba Daily, 24th August, 1934. This 4-page broadsheet 'issued for General Information' described, with map, 'a Blue Mountains National Park with Primitive Areas' proposed by the National Parks & Primitive Areas Council, being the 'scheme originated by MJ Dunphy ... formulated ... 1922 – 1932, handed to the Surveyor-General and the Blue Mountains Shire Council in June, 1932'. This 'scheme' was based on the experience of Myles Dunphy and fellow pioneering bushwalkers. He and his friend Herbert Gallop undertook their first long walk in the region – Jenolan, Kings Tableland, Burragarang, Picton – in 1912. There were no adequate maps and from then on Myles devoted his cartographic skill to making the detailed maps needed by bushwalkers.

His 1932 'scheme' map (excepting some later proposed extensions in the north) envisaged the Greater Blue Mountains National Park of the current campaign. It was the down-to-earth plan of a great vision. A quarter of a century later the 'Central Division' of the scheme was realized as "Blue Mountains National Park" and Myles Dunphy was an original trustee representing the Conservation groups. In time the "Kanangra-Boyd" was dedicated, the Konangaroo area added after a long campaign. The announcement of the Government's decision to dedicate 160,000 hectares in the Southern Blue Mountains came appropriately at the time of the recognition of Mr Dunphy's service. This realises the "Southern Division" of the scheme, excepting the Mt Werong area which is to be investigated.

Though there have been some disappointments, some encroachments upon the wilderness he looked upon sixty-five years ago, Mr Dunphy has lived to see the Southern and Central Divisions of the Park he envisaged as a young man, and to see the campaign for the remainder and extensions mounting strength at this moment.

Newsletter No 26. November 1976

AROUND THE TRACKS

The business of maintaining tracks has problems from landslides, slips, fallen trees and blocked drains. I recently cleaned a drain in company with Arthur, an enthusiastic workmate new to the tracks. He was astonished to find the track under water a few days later but, as usual, a large "Yabbie" was responsible. These animals, with great cunning and considerable engineering skill, drive a tunnel at 45 degrees to the drain downhill, then uphill to the middle of the track. This means that all water in the drain diverts down the tunnel, drops any food at the lowest point and then wells up in the middle of the track infuriating the long suffering rangers. Our friend then drives a tunnel uphill from the lowest point to live in and awaits the arrival of dinner.

Arthur found a similar situation some days later and announced he was going to find the culprit. A little later, I heard a cry of pain so assumed the search was over. Sure enough, Arthur appeared with a Yabbie seven inches long which we put in the river. By now, I feel sure, the yabbie is on his way back, mulling over plans for a three or even four tier tunnel.

Wilson Alcorn. (Blue Mountains Council Ranger)

(Wilson was also the Society's newsletter editor at that time)

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

VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am - noon. Tools and gloves are available. Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
Phone Karen 4757 1929

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.

Hut News: behind the scenes

Before Hut News miraculously appears in your letterbox and on our website each month, there are many volunteers involved in making it happen.

Among them are our proof readers: Jeanette Robertson, Sue Nicol and Brendan Doyle. These three people have busy lives and other voluntary activities, but most months manage to carefully read the draft and send me a list of the typos and all the other mistakes they find - sometimes the list is very long!

Jeanette Robertson is retiring from this job after many years. Thank you Jeanette for your valiant contribution.

Christine Davies

Hans the Donkey Drover by Denis Kevans

Says Hans the Donkey Drover, we'll throw the old leg over,
Throw the old leg over, it's time for one and all,
Says Hans the Donkey Drover, we all will live in clover,
If we learn to ride our donkeys, straight down to the waterfall.

Chorus:

Our bums are getting blisters, up and down the old Three Sisters,
Donkey droving down the donga, where the donkey drovers go,
From Toronto to Taronga, donkey-droven' down the donga,
With Hans the Donkey Drover and his yippety kye aye O.

Says Hans "Come on, rewind it", and they all jumped off behind it,
They pushed and grabbed the tail, and they wound it round and round,
"All we need, young feller, is more work on this propeller",
Then the donkey took a side-step, and they crashed down to the ground.

And the rusted rings of iron, of the ladders? They'll be fine,
We'll shoe the donks with magnets, put a magnet on each boot,
While tourists cling to strapping, you will hear the boots tap-tapping,
Or otherwise we'll float'em down the cliff by parachute.

And I've a scheme in train, it's another from my brain,
To breed a tribe of hybrids, cross the donks with mountain goats,
We'll call 'em dotes or gonkeys, they'll have heads as tough as conkeys,
They'll leap from rock to boulder with a rum-cask round their throats.

And bleating loudly "Shazaam!" they will fly across the chasm,
And yodel Tyrolean, tirra-lirra, toodle-oo,
And pursued by made George Neguses, these instant gonkey pegasus',
Will fly in decreasing circles, till they disappear from view.

It was Hans the Donkey Drover, who threw the old leg over,
And charged him down the mountain, like a torrent down its bed,
On a gonkey saddle-packer, here comes Scott and Pete and Macca,
"Will I pull the bridle Peter?" "No, no, son, give him his head."

Denis' short poem about the Crocodile Park (see page 3) reminded me of others written by Denis, barracking for the Blue Mountains environment.

"Hans the Donkey Drover" was written within a short time of "Councillor Pete", the character who features in both.

Would-be developers, out to make a quick profit, have come up with sometimes bizarre ideas which are quite contrary to what is good for the Blue Mountains and its fragile environment.

Denis was quick to ridicule the ridiculous.

Christine Davies

Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

The Visitors Map is full of suggested walks and trips. It is in full colour, 60 by 85 cm in size, and covers the entire Gardens of Stone region at a 1:100,000 scale, making it ideal for planning your next trip to the area. You can buy a map on the society's website at www.bluemountains.org.au/GoS_VisitorsMap.htm



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.

Sections of the Blue Trail featuring the western Blue Mountains can be found in past issues of Hut News:

www.bluemountains.org.au/hutnews.shtml

The full Blue Trail is being added at www.simplyaustralia.com.au/category/blue-trail/

59. HISTORIC WATERWORKS MUSEUM, Goulburn

The coastal catchment drained by the Wollondilly, Lake Burragorang, thence the Warragamba, the Nepean and the Hawkesbury, is one of the most diverse large catchments in NSW. Nearly all of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is located within this catchment.

The now disused waterworks on the Wollondilly at Goulburn is billed as the outstanding steam powered municipal waterworks in the southern hemisphere. Of particular interest to environmentalists is that, among the many structures created by non indigenous humans that affect water flow through the catchment, this is one of the closest to the headwaters.

The museum is open on Sundays and a few other days each week. There are a number of days each year when items from the steam age are put into operation by the volunteers. We encountered a particularly helpful volunteer who was happy to explain the history of the museum site and give information about the static displays.

It is a most attractive place to learn about the technology that enabled a reliable water supply for the oldest inland city in our state during the years from 1886 to 1977, first by steam powered apparatus and later by electric pumps. But this museum also contains items that make the visitor think about how non indigenous communities and the river systems co-evolved from the 19th to the 21st centuries.

From the developing challenges of de-polluting drinking water stressed by many types of farms and urban growth to the poignant stories of inexperienced swimmers visiting the site and then drowning in the waters, this museum tells a story of how we relate to rivers.



Images: The Wollondilly River, Australian water fowl and 19th century structures ... the ambience of the Goulburn historic waterworks. (Photos by Christine Davies)

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)

- Jun 8 **Mount Wilson & surrounds** Leader, **Eddie 47842691**. Meet Mt Victoria Stn. CP, 8.50am. 10k, Gr3. Maps Mount Wilson, Wollangambe
- Jun 15 **Wongarra Ridge, Walls Lookout**. Some off track. Leader **Alice 47393086 or 0425738766** Meet Wentworth Falls Stn CP 8.30am. 7k, Gr3, Map, Mount Wilson.
- Jun 22 **Heaven & Hell, Gardens of Stone**, Off Track. Leader **Emanuel 0419773906**. Contact leader for details and to book in. 6k GR 3/4, Map Cullen Bullen
- Jun 29 **Birrabang circuit**. Leader **Harold 0409010737** Ring Leader to book in. 12k. Grd 4. Map, Mt Wilson.
- Jul 6 **Devils Hole**. Leader **Mike 47573660** Meet Wentworth Falls CP 8.30am. 8.5k, Gr 3, Map Katoomba.

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

- Jun 10 **Popes Glen to Pulpit Rock Blackheath**. Walking from the Neighbourhood Centre and return. Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9-40. Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 3.
- Jun 17 **Euroka Clearing Glenbrook**. Circuit walk via the Ironbarks. Approx 8km. Glenbrook Station (East side) car park 9.30 am. Car Pool. Ros King Ph. 0417 261 465. Grade 2.
- Jun 24 **Perrys Lookdown to Govetts Leap Blackheath**. Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8-40 am Car Shuffle. Chris Smith Ph. 0412 263 006. Grade 3.
- Jul 1 **Leura Village Circuit Walk. Starts at Leura Station then Lyrebird Dell, Pool of Siloam, Golf Links LO, Fairmont, Lillian's Bridge, Edinburgh LO, Digger Cooper Res. and return to Leura**. Some steep track and steps. 9Km. Leura Station Commuter Car Park (next to Baptist Church) 8-30 am. Wayne Read Ph 0429 021 296. Grade 3.
- Jul 8 **Megalong Valley walk from the Megalong Rd along the 6ft track to the Coxs River and Return**. Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8-40am Car Pool Fare \$5-00. Wayne Read Ph 0429 021 296. 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, denfenella12@bigpond.com

- Jun 13 **Glenbrook Lagoon, Mount Sion Park and Lennox Bridge**. Local History Walk. Meet Glenbrook Station Car Park (east) 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Jun 20 **Asgard Swamp and Thor Head**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Car pool. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Jun 27 **Bus trip to Auburn Botanic Gardens**. Book and pay Tracy \$15 0434 362 611. Meet rear Westpac Bank, Springwood 9.00am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Take lunch. Grade 1
- Jul 4 **Wilson's Glen, Woodford. Leisurely walk to cave and waterfall**. Meet Woodford Station north side 10.00am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Take lunch. Grade 2
- Jul 11 **Evans Crown**. Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Keith 0411 162 345. Car pool. \$7. Lunch at Tarana Pub. Grade 2

Society bushwalks on facebook: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/bmcslongerbushwalks/>

Welcome to new members

Berhnard Wolf
Yuan Lim
Robert Anderson
Maureen Anderson
Breony Webb
Amy Child
Nerida Dalitz
Martin Dalitz
Wilfred Acosta

BMCS Planning & 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

For information about PLANT STUDY GROUP and TING (Thursday Interpretive Nature Group) - Go to our website www.bluemountains.org.au and click on "Activities"

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 Blue Mountains Conservation Society".