



"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

Society Doings ...

By far the most talked about event has been the #ClimateStrike led by school children calling on our leaders for climate action.

While a few of our members have said that they don't believe that students should strike from school, others were there to support their children and grandchildren. I found watching the media coverage very emotional and was proud that two of my grandchildren (Zoe 27 and Lillian 17) were among the crowd in Sydney.

The Society has no immediate news to report about Radiata Plateau or Katoomba airfield or the proposed croc park. Our campaign to have the Gardens of Stone Stage 2, which includes Newnes Plateau, protected as a State Conservation Area continues and is probably in its 10th year, but this is not unusual for a major campaign.

On page 2 you will find a report from our Environmental Education Officer about our participation in the Threatened Species event in Katoomba. The Society's nursery volunteers propagated and grew the endangered plants which were the focus of our display.

The Society has lodged submissions to the State Government's Inquiry into Koala Populations and Habitat in NSW and a Lower House enquiry into energy. You can read these submissions and others on our website www.bluemountains.org.au

Christine Davies.

From an outraged climate denier: "What if climate change is a hoax, and we make a cleaner world for nothing!"

More reasons not to raise Warragamba

The NSW government wants to raise the dam wall by at least 14 metres which it claims will reduce flood risks to western Sydney suburbs downstream. But green groups, Aboriginal traditional owners and Unesco are against the proposal, with the world heritage committee announcing in July that it was "likely to have an impact on the outstanding universal value" of the area.

Traditional owners were given 42 days to respond to the government's 2000-page draft Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment report, with a deadline in August. They described the report as "inadequate" and "hard to follow", with not enough time to respond.

Meanwhile, claims that raising the dam wall would cut flood risks to downstream communities have been challenged after the leaking of charts show a 14-metre lifting of the wall provides only moderate benefit during the biggest events. Opponents say the charts further reduce the case for raising the wall since much of the waters that could inundate the flood plain enter downstream of Warragamba from the Nepean and other rivers.

Harry Burkitt, a campaigner with GIVE A DAM, said "It's now clear that raising the dam wall is not going to protect western Sydney suburbs from extreme floods", adding that it would be preferable to build high-level evacuation roads and to curb the "rampant over-development of western Sydney floodplains that is currently taking place". Read more <https://www.giveadam.org.au/>

Threatened species photos wanted

The Threatened Species Subcommittee is updating the Society's Threatened Species webpage. We are seeking photos of local threatened plants and animals (a list is available on the TS webpage), ecological communities (a list is in progress) and populations (a list will come). www.bluemountains.org.au/threatened-species.shtml

If you are able to contribute photos to be used on the TS webpage we would be most grateful. Photos may be sent direct to the Society's Website Manager Alan Page leuralan@hotmail.com. For each image used, Alan will acknowledge the photographer and copyright of the image remains with the photographer. Thank you.

July Smith, Threatened Species Officer.

BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES

We offer the home gardener, landscaper or contractor a big variety of quality local native plants at economical prices.

Blackheath Community Market, 1st Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm

Magpie Market, 3rd Sunday of month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm

Tube stock \$3.50. Discounts for bulk orders.

nursery@bluemountains.org.au



Why is there so much emphasis on the non-indigenous history of the Hartley Valley? Read more on page 11. (Note: This Blue Trail article contains an image of a deceased indigenous person.)

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The **DEADLINE** for the next issue of
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19 OCTOBER 2019
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Change in Office Bearers

Our Society's President, Lachlan Garland, has found it necessary to step aside because of health issues. On September 21, the Management Committee personally thanked Lachlan for his long years of service to the Society, including two terms as President, in addition to terms as Membership Secretary, Land Use Officer and National Parks Officer.

The Management Committee extends our best wishes to Lachlan and his family on behalf of all Society members. The Management Committee has elected Tara Cameron to serve as President until the Annual General Meeting in March 2020.

Threatened Species Day 2019—Katoomba

Blue Mountains Conservation Society contributed a display to the Threatened Species Day event at the Cultural Centre, Katoomba, on 7 September 2019. The display was designed to raise awareness of threatened species, particularly in the Blue Mountains area, among both young and old and to provide relevant activities suitable for primary school children.

The 'star' and focus of our display was *Zieria covenyi*. There are only 270 of these plants left growing on Narrow Neck in Katoomba. This plant attracted considerable interest and generated many discussions among visitors and other stall holders. And to mark this special day the *Zieria covenyi* produced pale pink blossoms. The children had the unique opportunity to draw and colour this precious plant from life. Thank you ConSoc plant nursery for loaning this and other rare and endangered plants for the day.



The temporary tattoos of our logo were very popular with the children and the book display generated a lot of interest with both adults and children. Quite a number of people would have liked to purchase two of the books, particularly the beautifully illustrated book "Leaf Litter" by Rachel Tonkin which complemented two trays of 'real' leaf litter which children could examine with the aid of a magnifying glass.

Our involvement in the day was successful in promoting the Conservation Society and its values as well as an opportunity to network with groups with similar aims. In particular, I was invited to participate in a tree planting exercise with North Katoomba Public School.

Cathy Cavanagh, Environmental Education Officer

Illustration: *Zieria covenyi* PlantNET, NSW Flora Online
<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

Busy term as National Parks Officer

Kerry Mills has decided to complete her term as our Society's National Parks/World Heritage Officer. The management committee gives our greatest thanks to Kerry for a large amount of work on all of the projects associated with National Parks and the World Heritage status of the Greater Blue Mountains during her time on the committee.

Suitable members for Society's management committee, please apply

Management Committee (MC) positions are listed in the box at left of this page. As you will see, there are several vacancies. A quorum of MC has the power to appoint members of the Society to fill the positions listed as vacant and serve until the Annual General Meeting in March 2020. The next MC meeting will be on 19th October.

Do you consider yourself a willing and able member of the Society to occupy one of these challenging and interesting positions? More information about the responsibilities of the positions is available from 2nd Vice President, Don Morison (8230 2116, donmorison@bluemountains.org.au). You are welcome to attend the management meeting as an observer. (Once you have decided to be available for office, email the President Tara Cameron at president@bluemountains.org.au).

Popes Glen Bushcare Group photo-history and video now available (free!)

Many Hut News readers will be familiar with Popes Glen Bushcare Group's 16-year project, working with support from Council and the NSW Environmental Trust to convert a weed-infested, highly degraded willow forest into a thriving wetland.

At the completion of the funding in 2018, the Environmental Trust reviewer commented:

"The group and its partners (primarily Blue Mountains City Council) not only restored a highly degraded, non-functioning silt plug into a thriving upland swamp ecosystem, replete with diverse communities of frogs and birdlife, but they demonstrated careful planning, adaptive management and a clear focus on monitoring and interpretation of results, to achieve it."

"Hats-off to this group on an outstanding achievement. Popes Glen Bushcare Group and BMCC working together have delivered a highly effective project management, translating into outstanding results for the local environment and community, which can now be used as a demonstration site. Congratulations on the past 16 years of hard work and the evident results."

Now that the landscape-transforming work has been completed, we've documented the project - successes as well as failures - in a comprehensive photo-history appropriately titled "Decades of Healing: The Full Story". For those wanting to burrow deeper into the extensive monitoring carried out, 18 appendices record the data on vegetation (native and exotic), birds, frogs, soil accumulation, surface and ground water characteristics, macro-invertebrates and stygofauna throughout the project.

A bibliography lists 35 relevant papers and other publications that were used to inform and guide the project.

This report is intended both as a historical record, as a guide for bush regenerators and as a teaching tool for bushcare instructors, as well as a motivational how-to guide for other groups hesitant to begin a project that seems dauntingly huge

"Wasteland to Wetland – The Full Story": <https://dl.bookfunnel.com/ebgais2pxn>

We've also made an 8-minute educational video, "We Created a Wetland", that illustrates the transformation of the site for a general audience. We use beautiful drone footage of the site as it is now, with voice-over and embedded historical still images showing its condition during the rehabilitation project. The video has been very successful as a short, educational and informative vehicle to explain the project and has been viewed over 430 times at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=610sas330EQ>

Links will be on the Conservation Society website soon.

Decades of Healing The Full Story

Wasteland to Wetland



Rehabilitation of a willow infestation
and silt flat

Popes Glen Creek, Blackheath, NSW
2002 – 2019

Alan Lane and Paul Vale

How good (and how threatened) is our biodiversity

Judy Smith, Threatened Species Officer

Australia's biodiversity is outstanding. With around 150,000 described species of flora and fauna and an estimated 450,000 as yet undescribed species (mainly invertebrates), we are in the top ten of the world's most biologically diverse countries.

In Australia (and the Greater Blue Mountains), old and evolutionarily distinct flora and fauna species, such as the Wollemi Pine and Platypus, co-exist with the new. Particularly precious are the high number of flora and fauna species found only in Australia. These endemic species account for 46% of Australian birds, 69% of mammals (including marine mammals), 94% of amphibians, 93% of flowering plants and 93% of reptiles. With such richness comes much responsibility.

It is thus dismaying that the Australian Government's *State of the Environment 2016: Biodiversity*¹ report (authored by senior CSIRO scientists Ian Creswell and Helen Murphy) concluded:

"The outlook for Australian biodiversity is generally poor, given the current overall poor status, deteriorating trends and increasing pressures. Our current investments in biodiversity management are not keeping pace with the scale and magnitude of current pressures. Resources for managing biodiversity and for limiting the impact of key pressures mostly appear inadequate to arrest the declining status of many species. Biodiversity and broader conservation management will require major

reinvestments across long timeframes to reverse deteriorating trends." and *"The lack of data and information from long-term monitoring of biodiversity is universally acknowledged as a major impediment to biodiversity conservation."*

So, locally, much to work for, plenty of challenges and much to be done.

¹Cresswell ID & Murphy HT (2017). *Australia state of the environment 2016: biodiversity, independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Energy*. Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy, Canberra.

Photo: *Xanthosia scopulicola* (Peter Smith). This small plant is listed as a Vulnerable Species under NSW threatened species legislation. It



is not listed (but should be) under Commonwealth legislation. Worldwide, it is known only from scattered locations between Kings Tableland (Wentworth Falls) and Boars Head rock (west of Katoomba). It grows in dryish cracks and crevices of sandstone cliff faces or on rocky outcrops above the cliffs.



On 22 August 2019, I attended a Hyde Park rally and sat in the gallery at Parliament House when Blue Mountains MP Trish Doyle presented a petition of over 12,300 signatures to the NSW Parliament calling for the repeal of the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act. (This bill was introduced and pushed through NSW Parliament in 2018 by NSW Deputy Premier John Barilaro, Member for Monaro.) Mr Barilaro spoke in response, hostile to those in the gallery as being part of a “group from inner-city Sydney, Reclaim Kosci, that were paid to campaign against me” (in the general election) ... “they believe that their views and their democracy trumps the democracy of local people who live and breathe the mountains—their generations and their culture.” Reclaim Kosci are people from many different parts of Australia.

By coincidence, during the following week members of our TING group travelled across the Monaro tableland to Eden. We stayed overnight at Cooma or Dalgety and met at Dalgety for an early morning sighting of a platypus in the Snowy River and a leisurely journey to the coast. In the distance we glimpsed snow-covered hills and for a while the road followed a disused railway (the Bombala line, closed in 1972). We stopped to admire the tiny railway platform and station building at Jincumbilly and the little donkeys who occupy the site. The Nimmitabel Bakery was a good lunch stop on the homeward journey. Between Canberra and Cooma, I was distressed to see the large numbers of kangaroos and wombats killed on the road to the snowfields.

The Monaro tableland is vast “big sky” country, with cloud patterns softening the starkness of the land ravaged by the overgrazing of hooved animals, drought and eucalyptus dieback. Should the State’s largest national park suffer the same fate?

Monaro and Kosciuszko had never been trodden by hooved animals before European colonisation less than 200 years ago. By contrast, the peat swamps of Kosciuszko National Park formed over many thousands of years. These peatlands are vital areas of moist habitat and regulators of water quality. But feral horses preferred by the NSW Government are trampling alpine habitats and threatening the existence of native wildlife which relies on them. Mr Barilaro, is that to be our legacy?

This is a time when our decisions can have so much influence on the richness of life for all species that will be alive for the coming centuries and beyond. It is our responsibility to speak out for the corroboree frog and others who cannot speak for themselves. Extinction is forever.

Photos: Drought-affected land on the Monaro tableland; Platypus pool in Snowy River at Dalgety; Donkeys at Jincumbilly.

Wildflowers in the Blue Mountains



***Grevillea sericea* (Pink Spider Flower)** is a shrub endemic to NSW which flowers from early autumn through to spring. Flowers in the Upper Blue Mountains are often a darker pink. Grevilleas are good bird attracting plants in your garden, but avoid the hybrids with larger flowers which attract only larger, more aggressive, birds who chase the others away. Photo by Alan Page.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

www.bluemountains.org.au

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Follow us on Twitter: [bmcnsnw](https://twitter.com/bmcnsnw)

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”.

School Strike for Climate Action Clare Power

Along with approximately 80,000 others, I attended the School Strike for Climate Rally in the Domain on Friday 20th September. Over 500 people attended the rally in Springwood and organisers estimate over 300,000 people participated across Australia. At least 1200 businesses gave their workers time off to attend the climate strike and many unions and schools supported the strike. The numbers at rallies in Australia have doubled since the strike held in March this year.

I was so impressed by the speakers at the rally and the way that climate justice shone through as a major organising principle. The rally began with a Welcome to Country and then was mc'ed by two very articulate and passionate secondary school students, one of whom was Daisy Jeffrer. Their call for action emphasised the need for everyone to be included in the movement and this means a just transition to renewables to provide job security for people in the communities still reliant on work in fossil fuel based industries. The next speaker was an Aboriginal man, Gadrian Hoosan, who had travelled from the Northern Territory to come to the rally and he spoke about the impact of mining, coal seam gas and climate change on his community. This experience was echoed by Marlie Thomas, a secondary school student and young *Gamilaraay* woman from Gunnedah, who said all aspects of her life are affected by climate change and she explained the dire situation with water in her region.

Salome, a young Pacific climate warrior joined on stage by representatives of many Pacific nations, talked about the plight of her region which is experiencing the brunt of climate change and led us in a chant of 'we are not drowning, we are fighting'. Two different union representatives also spoke and reiterated the call for a just transition. The final speaker was a feisty young primary school student, Andrea, who, among many great points, was angry that our Prime Minister is in the US but is not going to represent Australia at the UN climate summit.

Australian strikers are calling on Governments to commit to:

1. No new coal, oil and gas projects, including the Adani mine
2. 100 per cent renewable energy generation and exports by 2030
3. Fund a just transition and job creation for all fossil-fuel workers and communities

Millions of people around the world mobilised in rallies for urgent climate action today. All of this inspired by the actions of one young school student, Greta Thunberg, who reminds us: When we start to act, hope is everywhere. So instead of looking for hope - look for action. Then the hope will come.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, addressed the U.N.'s Climate Action Summit in New York City on Monday 23rd September 2019. Here's the full transcript of Thunberg's speech, beginning with her response to a question about the message she has for world leaders.

"My message is that we'll be watching you.

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.

"You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.

"The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.

"Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO₂ out of the air with technologies that barely exist.

"So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.

"To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise — the best odds given by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] — the world had 420 gigatons of CO₂ left to emit back on Jan. 1st, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.

"How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO₂ budget will be entirely gone within less than 8½ years.

"There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.

"You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.

"We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.

"Thank you."

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

BYLONG MINE REJECTED Clare Power

On September 18, the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) announced it had refused approval to the proposed KEPCO controversial coal mine in the Bylong Valley. This follows a long battle by many members of the Bylong community and surrounds, their supporters and conservationists.



As with the Rocky Hill mine at Gloucester which was rejected in large part due to its impact on climate change, the Bylong mine was similarly rejected due to "unacceptable" groundwater impacts and "problematical" greenhouse gas emissions. The IPC stated that "The project is not in the public interest because it is contrary to the principles of ESD [ecologically sustainable development] - namely intergenerational equity because the predicted economic benefits would accrue to the present generation but the long-term environmental, heritage and agricultural costs will be borne by the future generation".

Lock the Gate Alliance spokesperson Georgina Woods said, "This is the right decision from the Commission and it shows New South Wales is getting its priorities right, safeguarding strategic farmland and water resources from destruction and depletion for coal mining. "It was the wrong place for a coal mine, and this is the wrong time for NSW to be opening up new areas for coal exploitation as the world shifts away from coal in a bid to halt global warming." At this stage, KEPCO seem unlikely to appeal the decision.

The IPC's Statement of Reasons for refusing the mine is available here: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2018/10/bylong-coal-project/determination/bylong-coal-project-ssd-6367--statement-of-reasons-for-decision.pdf>

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society wrote a number of submissions, and spoke at an enquiry in Mudgee in 2018, against the proposed mine and shares the joy that this mine will not go ahead.

Blue Mountains Council Wins Climate Council Award for Local Climate Action

In two years, the Climate Council initiative "Cities Power Partnership" has grown to become Australia's largest local government climate action program. Representing 110 different council areas from right around Australia, the Cities Power Partnership has supported and empowered communities to take action on climate change into their own hands.

Each member council has pledged a variety of different actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transform Australia's energy landscape, within four categories: renewable energy; energy efficiency; sustainable transport; working together and influence.

To celebrate the exciting two year milestone, the Climate Council held a birthday party and awards night, acknowledging the local heroes who are transforming Australia's climate and energy landscape. Among the prize winners was our own Blue Mountains City Council!

The Project Financing Innovation Award: In anticipation of a carbon tax, Blue Mountains City Council had built a reserve of money to contribute towards future liabilities for landfill gas.

When the carbon tax was scrapped, the council identified that lack of funding was a key barrier in getting carbon reduction projects underway. So, they used the reserve money to create a \$1.6 million dollar **Carbon Revolving Reserve**, which is a special fund set up to finance renewable energy and climate projects. The Carbon Revolving Reserve has so far contributed \$1.7 million dollars towards energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, delivering combined annual savings of \$300,000 and attracting \$300,000 of grant and co-funding.

Representatives from the Blue Mountains City Council, accepting their award for Project Financing Innovation, 2019.



New Chapter for Bylong Proposal—Don Morison

The relevant Independent Planning Panel has rejected a proposal for a new coal mine in the Bylong Valley. The Bylong Valley is immediately adjacent to our Society's Area of Interest, on the northern fringe of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. While this decision could be subject to appeal, the panel's finding represents a significant victory for the Mudgee Environment Group after many years of campaigning with the full support of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and many others.

Predictably the usual tabloid media outlets have attacked this decision, ignored the issues that led the panel to its decision and besmirched the environmental values of the land near the World Heritage area that may now be saved from destruction because of this outcome.

Reaction to this turn of events in Kandos, Rylstone, Bylong and other communities around the site of the rejected mine has, of course, been mixed. Much of the reason for this lies in the failure of governments to plan for the transition of rural work forces away from coal mining. A New South Wales parliamentary lower house committee, chaired by the Independent Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, has recently commenced an enquiry into energy with specific emphasis on alternative employment in communities currently engaged in coal mining. Our Society has forwarded a submission to the enquiry in which we address this term of reference.

Economic Growth at Any Cost? Ross Coster Part 3: Is There an Alternative?

“Right now, Australia and the world are facing a pollution and extinction crisis that threatens us all. A major driver of this crisis – and a major barrier to solving it – is the structure and rules of our economy. Today, Australia’s economic system treats our planet and people as capital to be traded, extracted and exploited. It is profoundly damaging our living world.”

This is a quote from an Australian Conservation Report entitled: “It’s time to make our economy good for life”. Download it here: <https://bit.ly/2misGJm>

The ACF want us to re-shape our economy away from destruction, tax pollution, remove subsidies for destructive industries, measure what matters to people and the biosphere, push businesses to improve their practices, and work together to achieve these goals. I commend the report to you.

We currently do some amazingly destructive things here in Australia.

We dig up coal in open cut mines, destroying the surface lands, leaving behind huge voids that will become toxic salt lakes. We dig coal out of underground seams using longwall machines, fracturing the rock strata above, pumping out gigalitres of water laced with salts and metals, releasing fugitive gases that pollute, all so we can burn coal for electricity or ship it overseas by rail and ship for someone else to burn. (One gigalitre is a billion litres, 1,000,000,000)

We drill down into deep underground coal seams, fracture them with pressurised liquids, pump out more salt-laden water, pollute and lower water tables, all so we can extract gas, pipe it to Gladstone, and use 10% of it liquefying the rest for export.

We run our transport fleet on imported fuels, extracted with ever greater environmental impact overseas, polluting the air we breathe as we go.

We fly interstate on a whim, to see a show or do some shopping, belching greenhouse gases as the plane burns dinosaur juice that has finite supplies.

We use finite coal and gas to heat and cool our homes, heat our water, cook our food.

We can do much better!

I dream of a future where we run our economy on electricity from the Sun and wind. We can export energy as electricity by undersea cable to our neighbours, and as liquefied green hydrogen by ship to the world.

We can travel to Canberra, Melbourne, Newcastle and Brisbane on High Speed trains running on green electricity. We can use heat pumps to heat and cool our homes, heat our hot water, supply industrial heat and cooling, use induction cook tops to cook our food, all running on green electricity.

We can electrify our transport networks, using electric buses, trains, taxis and cars, and run them all on *our* green electricity, not imported fuels. We can recycle our own used paper, plastic and metals, not ship them overseas or throw them into landfills.

All of these initiatives will generate jobs, replacing polluting industries with clean, green industries.

Australia is uniquely placed to be the greenest nation on earth. We have abundant Sun and wind, raw materials to build anything we need to transform our economy, and a highly -educated and hard-working population that can get the job done.

What we need of course is for government and business to grasp the opportunity and propel us into this utopian future, not hold us back with misinformation campaigns, cheap political point-scoring, and dreams of endless destruction to achieve endless economic growth.

Wildflowers in the Blue Mountains



Boronia floribunda
(Pale Pink Boronia)

During a bushwalk, coming across the unmistakable perfume of a Boronia and searching for its source is always a delight but, in October in the upper mountains, *Boronia floribunda* is the queen of them all. Look for it (or rather, sniff for it) now.

The Latin word “Floribunda” means “abounding in flowers” or “flowering profusely”.

(Alan Page’s photo shows the detail in the flowers and leaves)

Inner Landscape - Workshops for Environmentalists

How do we respond to the world unfolding around us? We can feel powerless, lost in a larger system that we cannot control. It is natural to want to detach from these feelings, as they are deeply uncomfortable.

Joanna Macy (environmental activist, author and scholar of Buddhism) wrote: “*Feeling pain for the world is as natural to us as the food and air we draw upon...we are not closed off from this world, but integral components of it...that pain is the price of consciousness in a threatened and suffering world.*” I see this ‘pain for the world’ affecting many people. In response to this, I have started a community group in the Blue Mountains.

This group aims to support people in their own diverse actions and work, and if they are not yet active, inspire them to start.

Earth Healers is currently based in Katoomba but looking to expand to mid and lower mountains in the coming months. We meet monthly. Cost is \$5 per session (donation).

Victoria Walker
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www.innerlandscape.com.au/

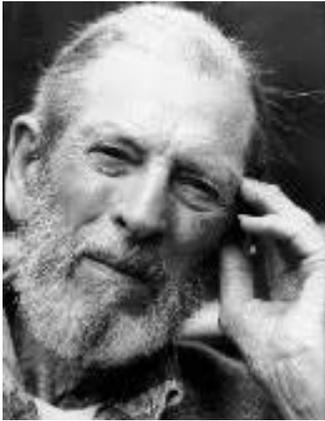


Women and men of the past built the foundations of modern-day Blue Mountains environmentalism. Their stories can inspire us.

It's our turn now!

Christine Davies

2. Myles Dunphy (1891-1985)

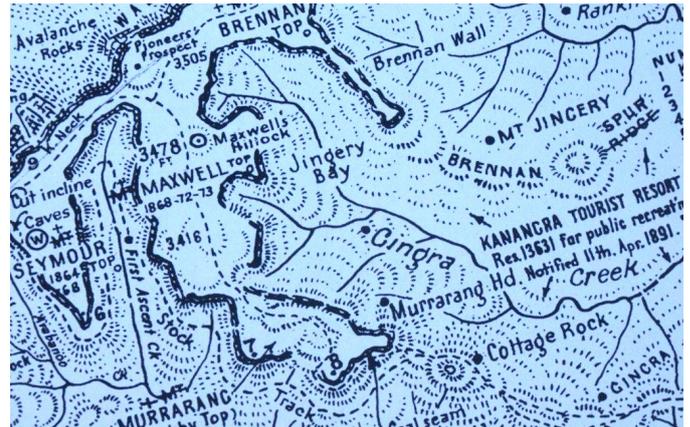


The graphic (right) shows part of a hand-created map of some of the most rugged countryside in the Blue Mountains. It is a lasting link with Myles Dunphy, a bushwalker and conservationist. He was one of the first people to envisage anything like the national park and reserve system that we now call Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Before the days of aerial photography, satellite navigation or other modern assistances to surveying, Myles created the most detailed Blue Mountains maps of his time by bushwalking and recording what he observed. He was certainly someone capable of applying himself to very long periods of solitary demanding work. But also he was one of the most charismatic environmental activists Australia has known.

Myles Dunphy was active in the creation of the Mountain Trails Club and the Sydney Bushwalking Club. He was a leading figure in the campaign to raise funds to purchase the Blue Gum Forest in 1931 and 1932 when it became known that a private developer wanted to fell the forest to install a walnut plantation.

After he married Margaret Peet in 1925, the couple eventually settled in Oatley, a suburb with a long association with the Dunphy family where a major reserve is now named after Myles. When their son Milo (later founder of the Total Environment Centre) was 20 months old, Myles and Margaret pushed him in a pram during a 15 day trek from Oberon to Mount Kanangra and back.



It was in 1934 that Myles first announced his dream for a Greater Blue Mountains National Park system. The public reserve that had been created at Blue Gum Forest turned out to be the beginning of one of the most important conservation projects in modern Australian history. The fulfilment of Myles Dunphy's vision materialised in various steps during Dunphy's later life and after it. One of the most important measures he saw was the creation of Blue Mountains National Park in 1959.

Myles received the Officer of the British Empire award in 1977 and the Fred M Packard award from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in 1982. In any era, the physical and mental energy displayed in Dunphy's arduous and often solo bushwalks, plus his success in activist campaigns, would be impressive. It is perhaps from his ability to seem equally at home in an office or in a Blue Mountains canyon that we can take the most inspiration.

Read more in Myles Dunphy's biography at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dunphy-myles-joseph-12446>

A selection of sketch maps by Myles Dunphy can be purchased from Colong Foundation for Wilderness. <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

THINGS TO DO IN LEURA

In the morning before the tourist buses, observe the currawongs tumbling down Megalong Street, shooting up to greet the sun, skidding over rooftops.

At noon listen to the green torpor of the valley, the track quiet, save for the scrunch of shoe on stony path; wait for the coming of the brown dove.

When evening comes and the day is done, shout! Those cockatoos will be rolling the light over the escarpment, chasing it into tawny-feathered dusk.

John Low

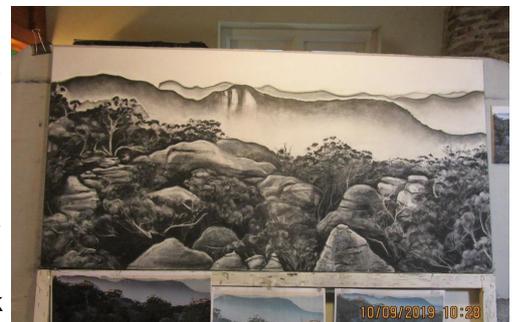
Lithgow Gallery supports Gardens of Stone

By Janine Kitson, Gardens of Stone Alliance

Blue Mountains artist Rachel Szalay was commissioned by Lithgow's Gang Gang Gallery to paint the work entitled 'Gardens of Stone'. The painting raised \$800 to support the EDO, NSW at their Gala Fundraising Dinner in September.

The stunningly beautiful black and white pastel is similar to a traditional Chinese ink wash painting and magically captures the mystery of Lithgow's pagoda landscape. Yet the Indigenous message of *Yindya-ma-rra Nganga-dha Walawalang* "Respect, look after this stony rock place" still resonates through the black and white pastel artwork.

Rachel Szalay's fabulous art work can be seen at www.rachelszalay.com The Gang Gang Gallery is at 206 Main Street, Lithgow. For more information gggallery.com.au



Water Disaster Will Confront Climate Sceptics Opinion Piece by Don Morison

In the weeks following Cyclone Tracy in Darwin, more than 30,000 people were evacuated because the city was temporarily unable to provide the majority of its residents with the necessities of life, drinking water paramount among them.

A different and possibly less temporary disaster is staring inland NSW in the face, 45 years later. Among the most vulnerable inland cities are Tamworth (62,000 people), Bathurst (42,000 people), Dubbo (39,000 people) and Armidale (25,000 people). A shrill blame-game is already underway as to what should have been done to prevent the looming water disaster. A point overlooked by some of the loudest is that dams are of very little use in any catchment that is likely in the future to go several years at a time with no significant rainfall.

More interesting than the blame-game is what will be done in places where it is too late to build dams or other infrastructure to avert the failure of conventional water supplies.

It is not fanciful to suggest there will be major population reductions in certain places if the current pattern of minimal rainfall continues. A major priority needs to be to have enough people in place to protect the topsoil and protect environment-friendly infrastructure during the extreme heat and dryness which may well be coming to the inland.

The topsoil of inland NSW is one of our most precious resources – for country dwellers and city dwellers alike. There are multiple questions which should now be asked:

- Would education and enforcement be easier if water restrictions were introduced through all city and country areas of NSW?
- What fleets of road and rail tankers are available if local supplies need to be supplemented by the transport of water to our inland cities?
- How much water is being used in coal-fired power generation, coal mining and gold mining which could be diverted to other uses if those activities were temporarily scaled back?
- Has government planning for an inland water crisis been so tardy that extended periods of water restrictions and power restrictions could now be our only viable alternative?



North of Leeton in February 2019. Recent rain filled dams and ditches, but did not stop the topsoil blowing away. (photo by Christine Davies)

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

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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.

How To Be Part of the 3.5% That Will Bring About Climate Action Robin Mosman

Well, the Student Strike is over, but in spite of attracting crowds of 300,000 or more, there has been no response from the government. Scott Morrison didn't even attend the UN Climate Emergency Summit, though he was in New York at the time.

No surprises there really. Given the intransigence of the current government on this issue we've always known what we're up against. However, encouraging recent research by American historian Erica Chenoweth (check her TED talk) has shown that non-violent campaigns across the world, from 1900 to 2006, succeeded once they achieved the **active and sustained participation of just 3.5% of the population**, and lots succeeded with far less than that.

Australia's population at the end of July this year was 25,112,478. By my calculations, 3.5% of this number is approximately 879,000. Given that polling by the Lowy Institute shows that most Australians are genuinely concerned about climate change, it seems clear that all we have to do to get some real climate action is to turn that "concern" into "active and sustained participation". We showed that 300,000 of us at least are "active" by attending the Strike. What we now have to do to succeed in our campaign is to sustain that activity, and enable another 579,000 of our concerned fellow citizens to get active too.

In order to support the Student Strike, I recently started a group called Grandparents for Climate Action Now. At first, our only action was to support the Strike, to make it as big and influential as possible. So we had printed, and distributed, hundreds of leaflets and posters to advertise the events organised for Springwood and in Sydney.

As time went on, we began to think of what we could do after the Strike. We decided to create a website that would focus on actions grandparents could take to help maintain the momentum provided by the Strike. It will offer a smorgasbord of targeted actions, for example, reading particular information to be better informed, signing petitions, attending rallies, writing to politicians, running street stalls, lobbying businesses, continuing to support the students in some of their actions etc. There are many things that can be done, something suitable for every person. The important thing is, to keep on taking some action, the more visible the better! And tell your friends and family what you're doing!

To help you become part of Australia's 3.5%, we will be researching activities and listing them on the website. Enter your email address on the site, and new ideas will be automatically forwarded to you as we find out about them. www.grandparentscan.wordpress.com

We're on Facebook too at Grandparents CAN

Date for your diary: Friday, 15 November 2019 MICK DARK TALK FOR THE FUTURE

(co-hosted by Varuna Writers Centre and Blue Mountains Conservation Society)

The Speaker will be Dr Joelle Gergis.

"As Australians we're all aware of the power Mother Nature wields — bushfires, storms, floods and drought. Some say it's always been this way while others put the increasing frequency of these events down to climate change. A decade ago, the award-winning climate scientist Joelle Gergis set out to resolve this question by reconstructing Australia's climate history for much of the last thousand years. This work went on to win a Eureka Prize in 2014. It became the basis of her book 'Sunburnt Country: The History and Future of Climate Change in Australia' in 2018." (ABC RN Breakfast, 5 April 2018)

"A researcher in the University of Melbourne's School of Earth Sciences, Dr Gergis has been intimately involved in the Australian contribution to the most recent Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, leading the Working Group charged with improving understanding of Australasian climate variability. More recently she led the landmark South-Eastern Australian Climate Reconstruction Project (SEARCH), for which she and her colleagues were awarded the 2014 Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research, and earlier this year she was selected as a lead author for the Sixth IPCC Report, due to be released in 2021." (Sunburnt Country review: Joelle Gergis on a fraught future with climate change. James Bradley, Sydney Morning Herald, 20 April 2018)

There will be further information and how to book soon on our website, by facebook and email and in November Hut News.

BLUE TRAIL QUESTION 3 – Why is there so much emphasis on the non-indigenous history of the Hartley Valley?

In 1824, the Wiradjuri leader Windradyne accompanied a group of his followers on a long march eastward across the mountains to meet Governor Thomas Brisbane at Parramatta. An act of diplomacy there largely ended a series of conflicts known as the Black Wars. As with dispossessions of indigenous people elsewhere, it would take nearly 200 years for knowledge of the circumstances of Windradyne’s campaign to become widespread among non-indigenous Australians.

Following the timeline to 1962, this writer was a primary school child reading a text book called “Together in Social Studies”. Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth at Mount York! They were the go. They were the pin-up boys of the history of NSW. And William Cox built the road to Bathurst so quickly. Never mind that the economic development of the Central West required that the road be improved in multiple places, most notably in the early years by William Lawson who became military commandant of Bathurst. Readers may note that the endless upgrading of the Great Western Highway continues to disrupt lives today.

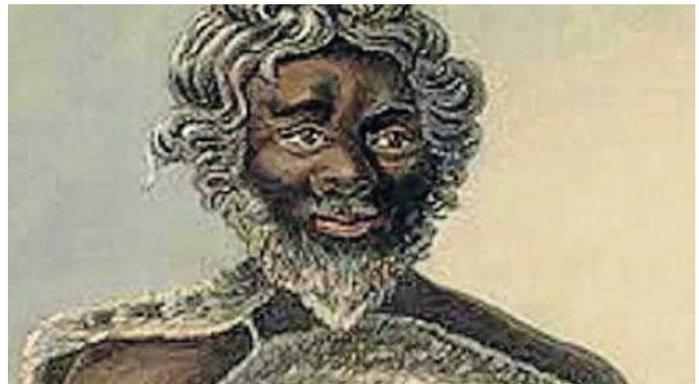
Hartley Historic Village! In the 1830s, Hartley was the main non-indigenous settlement between the Nepean River and Bathurst. A tour of the village will take in impressive structures that imposed non-indigenous justice and non-indigenous religion on the First Australians who were still living in the area after the end of Windradyne’s campaign and Windradyne’s death in 1827.

Some of the saddest episodes in the area’s history of racial conflict occurred in and around Hartley. In 1815, a stockade was erected at nearby Glenroy after an indigenous raid on a supply camp, probably by those whom the road construction and accompanying activity had displaced. In the late 1830s and early 1840s, numerous indigenous people died from illness spread by blankets that were handed out as welfare by the authorities at Hartley.

In summary, some of the historical interpretation in that particular corner of the Blue Mountains still carries the flavour of the 1950s and 1960s. Today there is an opportunity to tell the stories differently.

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/



Images (above)

A 2019 view of Hartley Courthouse which became the major symbol of colonial domination along the Bathurst Road in the 1830s and 1840s. (Photo by Christine Davies)

A likeness of the early 19th century indigenous leader Windradyne, published in the Sydney Gazette.

(On page 1) A now disused road bridge which once carried the Great Western Highway across the River Lett.

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

Welcome to new members

William Wong
Teresa Towpik
Simon Nicholas
Mary Lawley
Andrew Ford
Jennifer Tierney
Jacqueline Wagner

Katy O’Neill
Gary O’Neill
Jessica Terzaghi
Sergei Terzaghi
Anton Terzaghi
Anna Terzaghi

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)

- Oct 12 **Legendary Donkey Mountain.** Leader **Harold 0409010737**. Contact leader for details. 8k, Gr 3/4, Map Cullen Bullen.
Oct 19 **Megalong Cemetery to Swing Bridge**, along the Six Foot Track. Leader Alice 47393086 or 0425738766. Meet Wentworth Falls Stn. CP 8.30am. 15k, Gr3. Map Hampton.
Oct 26 **Lockleys Pylon.** Leader Geoff (congratulations! on his first walk as leader). Meet Leura school roundabout. 8.30am. 9k, Gr 3. Map Katoomba. Contact Geoff on geoffs.asc@gmail.com
Nov 2 **Reintis Coal Mine.** Leader Harold 0409010737. Meet Blackheath stn CP. 8.30am. 9k GR 3, Map, Mt Wilson.
Nov 9 **Kanangra Walls.** Contact leader Hugh 0423 309 854 or huespe47@gmail.com. Sealed roads all the way. Not a long or difficult walk - to one of the most spectacular of regions. Map, Kanangra.

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

- Oct 14 **Asgard Swamp and Thor Head..** Mt Victoria Station 9.50 am. Car pool fare \$5. Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2.
Oct 21 **Coxs Rd and Lockyers Line of Road, Mt Victoria.** Walk on historic roads. Meet Mount Victoria Station 8.50 am. Car pool. Eddie Roberts 4784 2691. Grade 3.
Oct 28 **Lapstone to Emu Plains.** Lunch at "O'Donahues". Meet Lapstone Station 10 am. Maurice 0402 402 783. Grade 2.
Nov 4 **Prince Henry Cliff Walk, Leura.** Pick up the track near Gordon Falls, walk to Echo Point. Back to Leura via Leura Cascades. Some street walking. Approx. 12Kms. Meet Leura Station car park 8.30 am. Maree Giddins 4784 20343 0427 390 645. Grade 3.
Nov 11 **Grand Canyon, Blackheath.** Magnificent canyon walk. Many steps. Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.45. Car pool. Mave Roberts 4784 2691. 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

- Oct 10 **Katoomba Airfield to Point Pilcher.** Meet Medlow Bath Station northside 9.30am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Carpool. Take lunch. Grade 2
Oct 17 **Evans Lookout to Govetts Leap, Blackheath.** Meet Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Carpool. Take lunch. Grade 2
Oct 24 **Sculptures by the Sea.** Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.30am. Leader Chris 0413 107 912. Take lunch. Grade 1
Oct 31 **Bus trip to Kiama.** Book and pay Tracy \$15, 0434 362 611. Meet rear of Westpac Bank, Springwood 8am sharp. Pick up down the highway. Leader Leonie 0402 663 476. Grade 2
Nov 7 **Chester Road, Jamison Creek, Weeping Rock, Wentworth Falls, Rocket Point.** You may get wet feet. Meet Stockyard Car Park, Wentworth Falls 9.30am. Leader Beverley 4757 2076. Carpool. Take lunch. Grade 2
Nov 14 **Blair Athol Coal Mine and Cemetery, Mount Victoria.** Meet Mount Victoria Station 9.50am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Carpool. Take lunch. Grade 1.

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

Wildflowers in the Blue Mountains

Look now for flowers of ***Clematis glycinoides*** (Headache Vine), a woody climbing shrub. Maybe one of our experts can tell us if this is the species flowering at Wentworth Falls Lookout at the end of September? It is spectacular.

The species gains its common name from a folk use as a supposed remedy for headaches. The aroma from the crushed leaves is inhaled, appearing to relieve headaches as a result of the highly irritant properties of the resulting fumes. This process was explained by herbalist Cheryl Williams: The uncomfortable sensation of breathing in the ammonia-like fumes has been described as "the head 'exploding', the eyes 'watering' and intense irritation of the nasal passages" – such that the initial headache was quickly forgotten. Wikipedia.

Image: ***Clematis glycinoides***. Photo by Alan Page.

