

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

HUT NEWS

Nature conservation saves for tomorrow



Blue Gum Forest - a threatened future, part 2

Wyn Jones

Our walk continued into Blue Gum Forest through the trees stripped of leaves by a hot burn, heading west where the understory was completely burnt. The trees were shedding bark which protected them from killing heat. Blue Gums have about 1-2 cm of smooth bark to protect them from too much heat, though it is not enough to prevent epicormic bud death, I suspect.

And as we have seen before, many of the large trees showed little or no epicormic growth on most of the trunk, the crown being the only part which was greening up. Taking lunch at my most favourite spot by the river, my past self conversed with the reality of the present: for this place had changed. The lovely river she-oaks had gone, and the river course had changed, the former course being blocked by huge sand and gravel deposits, combined with boulders and fallen tree trunks. And the Blue Gum saplings on the shingle bank were completely gone – burnt, and transported to the ocean.

It was good to visit the old log book cairn on the Mount Banks side of Blue Gum. This is the Hungerford portion of the forest which was saved in 1932. Here the crowns were intact, but the undergrowth completely burnt, with deep sand deposits from the flood washed over the entire floodplain. I felt some relief that the fire did not generate so much heat here.

Returning to the Big Tree, we were aware that it had lost most of its crown, which was lying in a heap beneath. I kept looking up at this tree which is a symbol of the forest, and is probably the oldest tree there - hundreds of years old, maybe a thousand? And although it has tiny green shoots in some of its remaining branches it is not healthy. It may take some

years yet to wither and die. Part of me promised these magnificent trees AND the valley that they should not suffer another fire, for this forest is my soul, your soul, our heritage.

Climbing up Perrys Track, I fought sadness and elation, step after step. With my friends in 2006, I had measured 2000 of these forest trees, which included the giants and the saplings risen from the fire before 2006. The giants included a few, very old warrior trees. Yet most are now gone, or are going. We must measure them again though this will be a forensic analysis of the forest, one which will be handed on to the next generation of forest guardians. I never imagined I might be doing it again so soon after 2006, if indeed at all. (Continued page 4).



Part of the Grose River. Large gravel deposits, fallen trees and bank erosion on the north side. The river has reverted to a former southern channel and in the process, removed all the blue gum recruitment from the last two fires

About us

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) is an incorporated voluntary group of about nine hundred members helping to conserve the World Heritage Blue Mountains region. It was originally the Katoomba and District Wildlife Conservation Society, formed in 1961.

We are governed by a management committee and much of our conservation work is undertaken by sub-committees and campaigns. We also have a native plant nursery, several bushwalking groups and a Bushcare group.

Become a member

You can become a member by

- Contacting our membership secretary, Ross Coster on 02 4739 2987
- Emailing Ross at membership@bluemountains.org.au
- Sign up on our web page www.bluemountains.org.au or scan this with your mobile:



Visit us

www.bluemountains.org.au

Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Twitter: bmcsnsw

The Management Committee

There are 22 positions on the management committee and a full list of members occupying those positions can be found on the web page at bluemountains.org.au.

The principals are:

President: Tara Cameron, taracameron4@gmail.com,
0418 824974

Senior Vice President: Madi Maclean,
gos@bluemountains.org.au

Second Vice President: Alan Page,
leuralan@hotmail.com

Contact us

- By mail at PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782
- By phone at 02 4757 1872 (leave a message)
- By email at bmcs@bluemountains.org.au

Welcome to new members

The Society welcomes the following new members:

Jennifer Eggleton

Greg and Denise Thompson

Bradley Smith

Shani Tiger

Brenda and Frank Taffel

Evelyn and Ken Robinson

Amy Appleton

Marcus Pabian

Peter Powell

Robert Hunter

Maria Porter

Lesley and Chris Shanley

Lynette and Roger Blane

Sandy Moffat

Diane and Hugh Smith

Caroline Nelson

Dirk Romeyn

Joanne Bishop

There are approximately 907 members.

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Society meetings

Planning meeting, 8 August, 2020

The Society's goals for the the coming three to five years were revisited by the management committee at a facilitated planning meeting on Saturday 8 August. Those goals were based on specific threats to achieving the Society's mission 'to help protect, conserve and advocate for the natural environment of the Greater Blue Mountains'.

Some of the threats to be focussed on are:

- Inappropriate development
- Inappropriate fire management
- Inappropriate tourism
- Extreme climatic events
- Invasive plants and animals

The resulting key areas of activity were identified as:

- Land use
- Protected areas
- Bushfire
- Climate change
- Sustainable tourism
- Nursery
- Bushcare
- Bushwalking
- Community awareness and education
- Organisational capacity - membership, finances and volunteers.

The committee then discussed 3 -5 year goals for these, identified some short term outcomes and what activities were needed to achieve them. We also discussed developing our currently informal relationship with the Aboriginal community and agreed to ask people how they would like to be involved.

Much more detail than can be included here about activities was discussed and the facilitator compiled a summary. The committee would publicly like to thank Pip Walsh for facilitating the meeting.

Monthly meeting, 22 August, 2020

The following is a summary of key topics and issues discussed at the normal monthly meeting:

- The Society's submissions as follows:
 - The draft amendments to the Blue Mountains National Park Plan of Management
 - To the Independent Planning Commission about Narrabri coal seam gas
 - To Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) about seniors' multi living dwellings
 - To BMCC about environmental resources used for tourism infrastructure
 - To Department of Planning, Industry and Environment about the State Strategic Plan for Crown Lands
 - Letters:
 - To BMCC about Faulconbridge mallee land clearing
 - To BMCC about weeds and bush regeneration
 - To BMCC about Lincoln's Rock
- Plans to hold talks for members through platforms such as Zoom
- Work to have Katoomba Airfield included in the National Park

From the Plant nursery

Paul Irwin

Plant Sales

The nursery will be accepting plant orders via email from the 1st September as there is no date yet for the re-opening of the markets. Orders for collection in Katoomba can be placed by emailing plantnurserybmcs@outlook.com

Maintenance person

We are looking for a volunteer to assist with doing minor repairs to the nursery glass and shade houses. We normally meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but the work could be completed at any time. If you are interested in helping the nursery in this manner, please contact Paul Irwin, email address plantnurserybmcs@outlook.com.



Is this the future of the Grose Wilderness?

Katoomba Airfield - lease decision to be reconsidered

Tara Cameron

The Society is concerned to learn that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is to make a fresh decision on the lease proposal for an aviation hub including helicopter tourist flights at Katoomba Airfield. It is particularly appalling that an unnamed Department spokesman told the Gazette that discussions would be held with proponents - the community appears to be shut out.

The proposed lease attracted over 1,500 submissions, with more than 85 per cent opposing it. A petition with over 12,000 signatures was presented to state parliament and was discussed in the Legislative Assembly on 1 August 2019. The petition asked -

"the Legislative Assembly to incorporate the Katoomba Airfield into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an emergency airfield".

This remains the Society's and broader community's goal. More information can be found on the Society's website at <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/#airfield>

Blue Gum Forest - a threatened future (cont. from page 1)

If we are to look after this forest and the Blue Gum species, we need to know about it here, on this alluvial flat. It is almost all Blue Gum - *Eucalyptus deanei* - which forges the micro-contours of the flat over centuries. Yet, this recent rare combination of events changed things with the large deposits of sand and mud, combined with drought effects, loss of saplings and weakening of many trees through the heat of the fire. (continued page 1).

It shows in the basal scars of the trees themselves, and the response of the crown shoots forming, one hopes, a productive new crown. It will also show in their ability to produce new seeds, the new generation. This only happens on some of the largest, healthiest trees.

Blue Gum Forest must not have another fire like this. It must be actively protected. Grose Valley, one of the most frequently burnt places in the World Heritage Area, requires a reduction in fire. It is so damaged. These places take a lot longer than houses to rebuild. Ecosystems don't recover from these events in one human generation, maybe not even in hundreds of years.

Yet I lament. So few people know what they are looking at in the Blue Horizon. They are not seeing how the pieces of nature's puzzle fit together. They do not understand. Yet we humans wonder about these places: forests and trees outlive us manyfold. Let us together look after these Gifts of Nature, the gift of the forest called Blue Gum.

Move money out of fossil fuels

Clare Power August 2020

One of the actions suggested in the recently published BM Conservation Society climate action flyer is to move money out of fossil fuels. Information about how to achieve this is provided below.

Investigate whether your bank account, superannuation and investments fund fossil fuels

One of the best websites for investigating whether your money is funding fossil fuels is Market Forces (<https://www.marketforces.org.au>). Market Forces was launched in January 2013 and is affiliated with Friends of the Earth Australia and the BankTrack international network. The purpose of Market Forces is to inform people so they can make financial decisions that protect rather than damage the environment or contribute to climate change. Market Forces have compiled a comparison table of over 120 banks, credit unions and building societies. It outlines whether they have a record of funding fossil fuels.

Make the change to ethical, fossil fuel free banking, investments and superannuation

Market Forces have developed a useful and practical guide titled 'How to switch banks and make it count'. The Market Forces comparison table provides information to help you select where you might move your money to. But the first step is to put your bank on notice. Let them know that because of their record on fossil fuels you are thinking of moving to another financial institution. Ask them if they will join the increasing number of corporations divesting from fossil fuels. If you do move to another financial institution, tell people about it: your friends, family, colleagues. Also, reinforce the practice of the institution you have switched to, and tell them why you chose them.

Support campaigns encouraging corporations and institutions to divest from fossil fuels

In 2012, Bill McKibben and 350.org kick-started a global divestment campaign which has had a huge impact on financial institutions as well as the viability of fossil fuel projects. For example, a campaign urging insurance companies not to support the Adani coal

mine has been very effective, and in May 2020, a global coalition of 42 faith institutions divested from fossil fuels, calling for a just recovery that puts people and planet at its heart.

Your personal campaign might extend to initiating conversations with organisations you belong to regarding the financial institutions they support.

More information about divestment at all scales can be found at sites such as 350.org, Go fossil free (<https://gofossilfree.org/>) Stop Adani (https://www.stopadani.com/take_on_adani) and Market Forces.

Flora and Fauna Monitoring Program

Wentworth Falls Flora Sites

Richard Lowson

The flora program has been expanded from three to six sites enabling us to produce a more representative picture of the plant communities between Wentworth Falls and Lawson. It will also capture the impact of climate change and urbanisation on the Blue Mountains. This is all due to our use of the Field Manual for monitoring flora sites by Rob Smith, Jan Allen and Wyn Jones, Blue Mountains plant ecologists.

The native vegetation map, Katoomba 8930 (Tozer et al, Cunninghamia 11(3): 2010) produced by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change covers an area of 2430 km² and captures 39 plant communities. Within the Wentworth Falls to Lawson area this can be whittled down to a more manageable six communities.

Our six sites include three in dry sclerophyll forest and three judged sensitive to the changing climate. They are the tablelands Blue Mountains heath, a hanging swamp and a hinterland moist gully forest. The last is best described as an interface between the dry sclerophyll forest and a riparian complex associated with a perennial mountain stream.

The three Wentworth Falls sites were set up last year as pilot studies. They are all within easy walking distance from the Conservation Hut. They have strong similarities and may be variously described as

Blue Mountains ridge top forest or Blue Mountains sandstone forest within the generic heading of a dry sclerophyll forest. For non-botanists like me sclerophyll refers to a type of vegetation that has hard leaves only a short distance apart and with a leaf orientation parallel or oblique to direct sunlight. The word comes from the Greek sklēros (hard) and phyllon (leaf).

Each plant community identified in the NSW Native Vegetation Mapping Program is characterised by a list of representative species. No single monitoring site will capture a complete set of these representative species and there will also be a number of ‘ring-ins’. The table below lists species recorded at our three sites.

There are a couple of stand-outs. Surprisingly *Angophora costata* is not considered to be representative of the dry sclerophyll forest. It is however quite prevalent as young specimens towards the southern escarpment. While the representative species, *Telopea speciosissima*, is not present at our three sites, it is prevalent on the upper side of the Nature Trail in the vicinity of Valley Road.

A prognosis for the health of the area with a changing climate is that there may be an increase in the heath component following frequent fires or drought.



Xanthorrhoea sp.
Photo Mark Baker

The program is administered by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute and is sponsored by Scenic World (Environmental Program), Blue Mountains City Council, State and Federal Departments of the Environment and the PL Hagl foundation. The Wentworth Falls group is one of four contributing to the program. We meet at the Conservation Hut at 10 am every Thursday and you are welcome.

| Representative species present | Representative species not present | Other species present |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Trees</i> | | |
| <i>Eucalyptus piperita</i> | | <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> |
| <i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i> | | <i>Angophora costata</i> |
| | | <i>Eucalyptus ligustrina</i> |
| <i>Shrubs</i> | | |
| <i>Banksia serrata</i> | <i>Acacia terminalis</i> | <i>Acacia longifolia</i> |
| <i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> | <i>Amperea xiphoclada</i> | <i>Banksia cunninghamii</i> |
| <i>Hakea dactyloides</i> | <i>Banksia spinulosa</i> | <i>Dillwynia retorta</i> |
| <i>Isopogon anemonifolius</i> | <i>Bossiaea heterophylla</i> | <i>Woolisia pungens</i> |
| <i>Lambertia formosa</i> | <i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i> | <i>Xanthorrhoea media</i> |
| <i>Leptospermum trinervium</i> | <i>Lomatia silaifolia</i> | |
| <i>Persoonia levis</i> | <i>Monotoca scoparia</i> | |
| <i>Petrophile pulchella</i> | <i>Persoonia laurina</i> | |
| <i>Platysace linearifolia</i> | <i>Telopea speciosissima</i> | |
| <i>Climbers:</i> | | |
| | <i>Billardiera scandens</i> | |
| <i>Groundcover</i> | | |
| <i>Caustis flexuosa</i> | <i>Dampiera stricta</i> | <i>Dianella caerulea</i> |
| <i>Entolasia sp.</i> | <i>Lomandra glauca</i> | <i>Epacris pulchella</i> |
| <i>Lomandra obliqua</i> | <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> | <i>Lepidosperma urophorum</i> |
| <i>Patersonia sericea</i> | <i>Xanthosia pilosa</i> | <i>Petrophile pulchella</i> |
| | | <i>Poa sieberiana</i> |
| | | <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> |

Deaths of Wombats - part 2

Cathy Cavanagh interviews Anna Culliton

Anna Culliton is a registered wildlife carer and Wires



volunteer in the Kanimbla Valley. Her work with wombats is particularly significant in the Kanimbla where a history of poor farming practice, rabbit plagues and drought has affected biodiversity. Among the populations of wild animals that have managed to survive is the bare nosed wombat

otherwise known as the common wombat. As for all native animals in Australia wombats are protected.

1. What are the main threats to wombats in this area?

Anna: Humans are wombat's greatest enemy. Habitat destruction, shooting, road kill, poisoning.....and of course, climate change, drought, fire and flooding. Here in the Kanimbla Valley we are experiencing a devastating outbreak of **sarcoptic mange** and it is affecting the entire wombat population.

2. How do wombats contract sarcoptic mange?

Anna: Mange is caused by a mite. If humans get it, we call it *scabies*. White folk brought it to Australia on the ships. It is highly contagious, and unfortunately wombats have the ideal conditions for the mites' breeding cycle

We used to think of wombats as solitary animals but as we learn more we see they actually do a lot of sharing. The mites are transferred from burrow to burrow. Foxes are big carriers and they spend a lot of time in wombat burrows. But there are no foxes in Tasmania and yet mange is rife throughout the island.

3. What happens to a wombat if it contracts mange?

Anna: It's a slow process, but the wombat will scratch itself to death. It will become blind and deaf and won't be able to thermoregulate. The mite burrows under the skin where the female lays thousands of eggs and then the eggs hatch. The wombat suffers from hair loss, skin thickening and crusting. Open wounds

become infected and there is an increased risk of blowfly strike. They soon become unable to move freely, lose weight and die a slow, painful death.

4. How can mange be treated?

Anna: Unfortunately, we can't just eradicate mange from the environment. Individual wombats can be treated in their habitat, and so local environments and their population can be treated. A lot of research is being conducted and different treatments are being debated. For now a registered wildlife carer is licensed to use *Moxidexin* which is made for cattle and red deer. A 20 ml dose is administered either directly onto a wombat by a pole with a scoop at the end and poured down the wombat's back.

But first of all, you need to find the wombat and be able to approach it without it disappearing. The alternative is a flap installed at the burrow's entrance with a dose of Moxidexin.

The medicine needs to be applied every 5 to 7 days for at least 8 weeks and then followed up over the next couple of months. However as soon as a wombat with mange comes into the treated area it all starts again.

5. Are you optimistic about the survival of wombats in the Kanimbla and surrounding areas?

Anna: No and yes... Right now it's overwhelming and devastating, but sometimes I get to see something so positive. More members of the public are reporting them to wildlife groups when they come across a sick wombat.



A bare nosed wombat with mange. Photo: Anna Culliton

Blue Trail Village Scenes 5

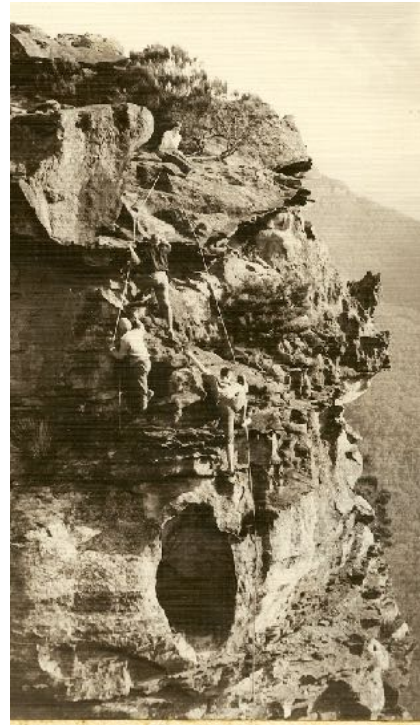
Moods of the Boars Head, Katoomba

Don Morison (copyright)

Boars Head has been a name used, at least since 1882, for a feature in Katoomba. It was described in the Katoomba and Leura Illustrated Guide of 1940 as “The perfect presentation of the head of a great boar, the beetling snout, the slavering jaws, the curved tusks”.

Today, Cahills Lookout and the Narrow Neck fire trail are increasingly visited areas of Katoomba and a meet and greet ranger from National Parks & Wildlife Service has given information to visitors to the fire trail on certain days. Very few prominent features in the Blue Mountains can be so easily photographed against such a variety of completely natural backgrounds - all the more so since the State Government purchase of Ngula Bulgarabang has apparently ruled out development on that outstanding plateau. It provides a forest backdrop across Nellies Glen from the Boars Head.

The vicinity is worth revisiting to appreciate the changes in the Boars Head appearance according to the weather and the time of day.



Left:: From Cahills Lookout at sunset (Christine Davies)

Top right: Eleanor Dark, Eric Dark, Osmar White and Eric Lowe on the Boar's Head Rock 1931 – first ascent of the rock by rope. Provenance: Photo by James (Jim) Starkey, copy donated by his daughter Jane Chadwick and son Ian: the Starkey Collection, Blue Mountains City Library - Local Studies

Bottom right: From Cahill's Lookout on a misty morning (Christine Davies)

A Few of My Favourite Things

Alan Page

*Regrowth on Eucalypts and Kookaburras laughing,
Dawning at Butterbox, Grose walls gleaming,
Scribbly Gums shedding while Magpies sing,
These are a few of my favourite things.*

Lachlan Garland

Dew on a perfect spider web;
The smell of damp recently burnt bush (only
after a small burn);
Magpies warbling in the morning;
Large black cockatoos – particularly yellow-
tails.

Margaret Baker

The cacophony of Channel-bills safely home
for the summer;
A tuxedo-dressed Wonga Pigeon heading to a
soiree;
The chatter of Flying Duck Orchids enjoyed
with a friend;
Choirs of majestic Grass Trees carolling after
fire.

Ian Brown

Fog in the trees...best of all the smoke-mist
curling when the fog first blows in from the
sea.
Winter light as sharp as cut glass, snow-clouds
adrift and showering on the western hills.
The amusing antics and calls of cockatoos...
chuckling gang-gangs, buzzing glossies and
creaky-door blacks.
New growth on the eucalypts, backlit on a
summer morning.
Lyre-birds ringing out their repertoire from
deep in the valley.



*Flying duck orchid (Caleana major)
Photo. Mark Baker*

This moment, this place

Ross Bridle

May we never take for granted
The beauty of this land
As no artist can do justice
To art by Nature's hand.
That landscape there before you
Is lost in random glance,
But to look again with artful eyes -
Now galleries of Nature's art perchance.
The multitudes of light and shade,
The many hues of green,
The ancient shapes and forms of stone -
All brushstrokes, rarely seen.
Forget about the trials of life -
Explore the bushland, sit and ponder.
And on that walk be mindful -
Each moment-of the beauty "over yonder"

School in the time of Covid and other winter stories

**Julie Humphreys, Blue Mountains Steiner School,
Hazelbrook, July 2020**

My youngest son is in year 9. I told him I was going to teach my class of 7 year olds about the water cycle. "Don't do that mum, they teach the same stuff every year. It's so boring"

Our lesson starts when we venture into our bush playground and explore all the plants, animals and topography of the land, including our beautiful rock knoll sitting in the middle of our school. It is a place of historical and indigenous cultural significance.

On our weekly bush walk, the children love to run and explore the bush. This week they find local fungi growing and we talk about the differences between edible and non-edible fungi/mushrooms.

Winter in the Blue Mountains: The questions I ask myself, what are the local plants showing us at the moment? How are they changing during these cold months? What do we need to know in order to be safe (ie not eating any old fungi we find). What is the bush telling us?

I start telling a story with the golden banksias featuring food for birds and insects. Perhaps they will light our way as the wintery moon shines down upon their golden combs? An old fellow appears in my stories. One of those people, with a lot of bush 'know-how'. He teaches a newcomer to tread gently on the earth. I bring a billy can into school and we all take turns at spinning the billy and hardly a drop is spilt!

Thus 'centrifugal force' is introduced into our vocabularies and our experiences.

One drop that is spilt finds its way into our stories. It becomes our water drop friend, Azul. She travels across the Tasman sea to the land of the long white cloud. She has ambitions to be part of a pure water

glacier but she has an aversion to being part of hot bubbling, sulphur smelling volcanos. She lands on the southern island in the form of rain where she is tumbled down an icy river and evaporates and heads back to Australia.

She gets stuck with some other water drops and feels giddy from becoming hail. Eventually she ends up in a beautiful waterhole in the Jenolan River and takes a ride in the scales of a rainbow trout.

In the playground, I hear the children discussing Azul's adventures. "No, she didn't actually freeze, she evaporated..." It's the last day of term 2, 2020, the toughest term I've ever endured (Life in the time of Covid). The constancy of school, grounding the ever changing ebb and flow for everyone. I write, "Water' on the board. What can it do? I ask the children.

Water:

Flows. falls.

Evaporates, travels. freezes, steams.

Changes shape

Makes sounds

Gives life.

Fills up every space.

You can't make holes in it!

It is any age.



I think I've done my job for now. Tell that to the water cycle cynics.

Walks Program

The three month walks program appears on our web page: <https://www.bluemountains.org.au/bushwalking.shtml>

Saturday walks

Saturday Walks are usually a full day, longer walk at a faster pace. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water.

Co-ordinator: Harold Thompson phone: 0409 010737 email: harold.thompson@bigpond.com

| Date | Walk description | Contact | Meet at | Grade |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------|--|-------|
| Sept. 12 | Butterbox Point, Mt. Hay. 7km. Mt. Wilson/ Katoomba map | Harold 0409 010737 | Leura School roundabout. 8.30 am | 3 |
| Sept. 19 | Sassafras Ridge to Sassafras Creek, Springwood. 8 km. Map Springwood | Diana 0432 619305 | Faulconbridge Stn. car park 8.30 am | 3 |
| Sept. 26 | Birdwood Gully and and Springwood Creek. Map Springwood | Alice 4739 3086 or 0425 738766 | Springwood Stn.carpark 8.30 am | 3 |
| Oct. 3 | Lost city, two dams and a mine. 10 km. Map Lithgow | Harold 0409 010737 | Mt.Vic Stn. carpark 8.30 am | 3-4 |

Monday walks

Monday walks are short day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. The Group Coordinator is Keith Dorrian 0411 162345

| Date | Description | Contact | Meet at | Grade |
|----------|--|---|--|-------|
| Sept. 7 | Nepean River Walk Emu Plains. Pleasant walk from station along river, across F4 bridge, back, along eastern side of river to new pedestrian bridge (Yandhai Bridge) and back to station. Approx 6 km. | Keith 0411 162345 | Emu Plains Station 9.20am | 2 |
| Sept 14 | Walls Cave and Canyon, Blackheath. Approximately 9 km including along roads from station | Keith 0411 162345 | Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 8.40 am. | 2 |
| Sept. 21 | Valley Heights to Sun Valley and return | Maurice 4739 4742 | Valley Heights rail commuter car park 9.45 am. | 2 |
| Sept. 28 | Victory Track from Faulconbridge Station to Springwood Station. Nice Rainforest walk. | Ros King 0417 261465 | Faulconbridge Station car park, south side 9 am | 3 |
| Oct. 5 | Medlow Bath. Meandering in Medlow | Pat Whitehead 0429 003639 4787 5230 | Medlow Bath station, north side 8.40 am | 2 |

Tuesday walks

Tuesday walks are medium day walks of 3-5 hours suitable for walkers of average fitness. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. Co-ordinator: Sue Nicholls phone: 0434 258242 email: suerosn@bigpond.net.au

| Date | Description | Contact | Meet at | Grade |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| Sept. 8 | Pulpit Rock lookout- Zig Zag track- Bushrangers Cave 4 km | Maurice Kerkham, 4739 4942 | Mt. Victoria Stn. 9.41 am | 2 |
| Sept. 15 | Balzer Lookout and Hanging Rock 14 km PLB required. | John Trotter 4754 2185 | Blackheath Stn. 9.35 am | 3 |
| Sept.22 | Wentworth Falls Lake circuit 6 km. | Judith Dyer 4758 6310 | Wentworth Falls Stn. 9.20 am | 1 |
| Sept. 29 | Sir Henrys Parade - Sassafras Ridge Trail, Rock engravings. 11 km. PLB required. | John Blanche 4742 4637 | Faulconbridge Stn. South side. 8.46 am | 2 |

Thursday walks

Thursday Walks are walks of 2 - 3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch .

Co-ordinator: Beverley Thompson, phone: 4757 2076, email: denfenella12@bigpond.com

| Date | Walk name | Contact | Meet at | Grade |
|----------|--|----------------------|---|-------|
| Sept 10 | Porters Pass, Blackheath. | Tracy 0434 362611 | Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am | 2 |
| Sept. 17 | Echo Bluff, Lawson | Keith 0411 162345 | Lawson Bowling Club 8.45 am | 2 |
| Sept. 24 | Horseshoe Falls, Hazelbrook. | Keith 0411 162345 | Hazelbrook shopping centre 8.45 am | 2 |
| Oct 1 | Sunset Rock and Henry Lawson Walk, Mt Victoria. | Tracy 0434 362611 | Mt. Victoria Stn. 9.50 am | 2 |
| Oct. 8 | Lapstone to Emu Plains | Maurice 4739 4942 | Lapstone Stn. east 9.30 am | 1 |

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

Are you concerned about environmental damage or a development related activity in your neighbourhood but don't know who to contact?

The Society's Planning & Development Resource Kit may help you.