



HUT NEWS

"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"

From the President

With the Federal election campaign in full swing, it seems a good time to mention some of our efforts in getting the pollies to protect the environment of the Blue Mountains. We have asked the Macquarie and Calare candidates some questions about local issues and eagerly anticipate their answers (see page 3). Additionally, in a positive move, I have recently attended a number of meetings with environmental groups such as NCC and NPA about the next State Election. We are going to work together to get some action on issues ranging from national park funding, climate change and planning reforms.

Members will be very aware of our Gardens of Stone Stage 2 campaign. The latest development in our work to protect the Newnes plateau, Mt Airly and surrounding areas, is the development of an A5 double sided visitors map. Project Officer Karen McLaughlin has been working hard to produce this beautiful map which will be packed full of information about places to see, flora, fauna and geodiversity.

On a more personal note, I am looking forward to meeting many members at our next monthly meeting on Saturday the 28th of August, and our picnic on Sunday the 26th of September. These events are a great opportunity to get together, learn about beautiful birds and enjoy being in nature.

Speak to you next month.

Tara Cameron

Email: domtara@bigpondcom
Mobile: 0419 824 974.

Administrative help!

Our admin officer Rob Baigent needs some help, specifically someone willing to collect the mail from Wentworth Falls Post Office and do some sorting once a week. Please contact Rob on 4759 3104.

MONTHLY MEETING: Saturday 28th August 2010

Outback Desert Comes to Life

"I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of drought and flooding rains". Earlier this year we were reminded how these flooding rains can utterly rejuvenate our sunburnt country. As the extensive floods gradually worked their way down many of the inland river systems, they generated an incredible explosion of life in areas that have been drought affected for many years.

With water lying everywhere, the water birds started to arrive from the far corners of the continent. How they know is one of the great mysteries of nature. Pelicans gather in their thousands to breed on islands in Lake Eyre and other large lakes such as Wyara in south-west Queensland. Plus finches, parrots and doves started nesting, frogs and small mammals thrived, and so much more.

Carol Proberts and Jill Dark, both experienced outback travellers with a special appreciation of the arid zone and its flora and fauna, were lucky enough to witness this rare event. We in turn are fortunate that they will share with us this experience, via a talk and slide show, at our next meeting. (Note that for this month we are having our meeting on Saturday morning).

Carol and Jill have been long aware of the outback's natural wealth, and have made many trips there. Carol will focus on south-west Queensland where the lakes and floodplains of the mulga and Channel Country have come to life after the floods. Her emphasis is on the flourishing birdlife. Jill's part of the presentation will include some of our interesting, beautiful, and sometimes unique, plants, both when the rains have come and when they've failed. The fascination that this vast country exerts is always there. Their exhilaration will be infectious. (Read more on page 3.)

Each monthly meeting begins with an update of the Society's work. The meeting is also an opportunity for members to meet each other and discuss environmental issues that they are concerned about.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Monthly Meeting

9.30 am, Saturday 28 August

Wentworth Falls School of Arts, cnr Great Western Highway and Adele Street, Wentworth Falls

Visitors are very welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 26 September, 11 am to 3 pm. BMCS PICNIC DAY. Our annual picnic will again be held at Wilson Park, Wentworth Falls. Bring along your family and a picnic lunch. There will be tug-a-war and sack races, good company, music from the Gang Gang Bush Orchestra, and lots of fun. Make a note in your diary. The picnic will replace our usual monthly meeting.

Saturday 27 November, 6 pm. BUSH DANCE Dance to the music of the Gang Gang Bush Orchestra and celebrate 10 years of Blue Mountains World Heritage. Mid Mountains Community Centre, Lawson.

"Hut News", the newsletter of
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HUT NEWS EDITORIALS

The deadline for the next issue of Hut News
is **20 August 2010**

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

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BUSHCARE GROUP

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

New members are always welcome.
Phone Karen on 4757 1929.

Nursery News

Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager

Plants for sale: We will be opening our Lawson nursery (corner of Park and Cascade Streets, opposite Federation Building Materials) for public sales on **Wednesday 4th August** from 9am to noon. If you can't make it during the week, don't despair as we will be at the **Lawson Magpie Markets on Sunday 15th August** from 9am to 2pm and also at the **Blackheath Community Markets on Sunday 5th September** from 9am to 1pm. A big variety of local plants in forestry tubes and small pots will be available. Bring a box and return any tubes or pots you may have and we will give you 10c each off your purchases. We are also preparing some advanced plants in large pots for those who want to make an immediate impact in a garden. These will be available later in the year. We will be keeping our prices at bargain level and there will be our famous \$1 specials to tempt you.

Recycle those pots: As mentioned above we like to re-use tubes and pots after cleaning otherwise they end up as landfill as Council do not include garden pots in their recycling through concerns they may be contaminated with herbicides and insecticides. We purchase our new pots from Garden City Plastics who have initiated a nursery container recycling program in conjunction with NGIV and Polymer Processors. This pilot endeavour has been in operation since early 2009 with a mobile compactor picking up from wholesale nurseries but, at this stage, limited to the Melbourne metropolitan area. Hopefully, this scheme will be extended to the Sydney area and it may be possible for Council to collect these pots and transfer them for recycling. All the black plastic pots are made from recycled polypropylene which is infinitely recyclable for use in nursery containers. In the meantime, return your pots to us. It's good for you (financially), good for us, and good for the environment.

Species List: The plant species list on the Society web-site is currently being updated as we add new species or delete others for which there has been little or no demand. Just to mention a few new additions to whet your appetite, we have added two new wattles, commonly found in the Lower Mountains, *Acacia amoena* and *A. parvipinnula*, both of which are described in *Native Plants of the Lower Blue Mountains* by Baker, Corringham and Dark. These two pretty wattles add to 27 others of this species we have listed and by choosing a good selection of these you will be guaranteed of having some yellow colour in your garden all year round. Come and talk to us and we can suggest suitable species for your garden wherever you live in the Mountains. Kevin Bell.

Wild Blue calendar

Ian Brown, a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society, has produced a Wild Blue calendar for 2011. Many of you will have seen or purchased Ian's book "Wild Blue", published in 2003, and will be aware of the quality of Ian's images.

This limited edition (500 copies only) calendar contains 14 (and a half) powerful and diverse photographs of the Blue Mountains, near and far, landscape, forests, rivers and wildflowers, all new and never before published.

The calendar will be available from retailer outlets soon, or if you would like to find out more or purchase direct, contact Ian Brown, Windy Cliff Press, PO Box 30, Mount Victoria, 2786, phone (02)4787 1420.



Sunday 15 August 2010
From 12 midday
Belmore Park
(next to Central Station)

Join a Walk near you and help us convince our political leaders to: Walk with the people. Not the Big Polluters.

<http://www.walkagainstawarming.org>

Water, Sand and Feathers

On the first page of this issue of Hut News is an introductory summary about a presentation and slide show to be delivered by Carol Probeta and Jill Dark at the next ConSoc meeting. I am sure that this will arouse much interest in our ornithological membership, so here is some additional interesting information about our great outback and its cycles of plenty and drought. I hope that you all noted that this will be a Saturday morning event, a ConSoc initiative for those who find those cold night time meetings just too challenging to venture out for.

You don't need to be an aficionado of the writings of Dorothea Mackellar to thoroughly understand that the Australian outback is characterised by cycles of boom and bust, "of drought and flooding rains". Earlier this year, exceptional rains in Queensland, central Australia and far northern NSW resulted in extensive floods which gradually worked their way down many of the inland river systems, including the Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo, Cooper and Diamantina, eventually flowing into the Darling River basin or Lake Eyre. This is giving rise to an incredible explosion of life in areas that have been drought affected for many years, and giving joy to more than the farmers.

As the waters spread and rejuvenated the landscape, one of nature's great spectacles started to unfold, with the water birds arriving from the far corners of the continent. How they know is one of the great mysteries of nature. In no time the flood plains become carpeted in green herbage and thick grass growth. Finches, parrots and doves start nesting, frogs and small mammals proliferate and more birds arrive in droves to feed and breed. Pelicans gather in their thousands to breed on islands in Lake Eyre and other large lakes such as Wyara in south-west Queensland. As spring approaches, masses of wildflowers appear and large flocks of nomadic birds, including Budgerigars, Zebra Finches, Crimson and Orange Chats, songlarks and normally elusive inland honeyeaters bring the "desert" to life in a frenzy of activity.

Carol and Jill are both experienced outback travellers, each having a special appreciation of the arid zone and its flora and fauna. On Saturday 28th, in a '2-for-the-price-of-1' bargain, together they will present a talk and slideshow on their outback experiences in this very special year.



Part of a massive Pelican rookery on an island in Lake Wyara in south-west Queensland in April 2010. About 30,000 Pelicans gathered on islands in the lake to breed. Photo by Toni Sherwin of Kilcowera station.

Katoomba-based birding guide Carol first discovered the beauty of the outback 16 years ago at which time she resolved to make an inland journey at least once a year, which she has continued to do ever since, usually travelling and camping alone. The exceptional conditions this year prompted her to organise and lead two trips for small bird watching groups into south-west Queensland to see the lakes and floodplains of the mulga and Channel Country coming to life after the floods. Carol will talk about the flourishing birdlife that her groups experienced on these trips.

Jill first travelled to the inland in 1976, a year when Lake Eyre was full and birds and flowers were in profusion. Many trips all over the country followed in good years and bad, but the fascination the bush exerts is always there. Jill has always had a great interest in plants as well as birds and will talk and show pictures of some of our interesting, beautiful, and sometimes unique, plants.

Peter Green, Publicity Officer

The Federal Election and our environment

Members of the Society are obviously keen to know about the environmental policies of the candidates running in the Federal election. Therefore, the Management Committee decided to write to the Labor, Liberal and Greens candidates in the seats of Macquarie and Calare to elicit their views on the issues below.

In developing these questions, we aimed to focus on local issues, rather than asking about broad environmental

policies which have already been publicised through the media.

- How do you intend to protect the nationally endangered shrub swamps in places such as the Newnes Plateau? Do you support subsidence protection zones around these swamps to see that no damage is done?
- Do you support the listing of the Gardens of Stone area on the National Heritage List? Will you work actively

to achieve this?

- How do you see Climate Change affecting the Blue Mountains? What do you think needs to be done in our area to combat Climate Change?

The Society will be posting the answers from the candidates on our website on Thursday 12 August 2010

www.bluemountains.org.au

Sustainable Living Competition

The competition is now drawing to a close with only a few entrants still to get their final energy and water consumption information to me. So far it looks as though some of the contestants have made big improvements to their sustainable living habits. I will publicise details when all the data has been collated and the winner has been notified.

We plan to have an award ceremony for the winner at the Society Picnic Day on **Saturday 26th September** where the winning household will be presented with a trophy and their prize details. The prize package is \$2000 from BMCS towards energy- and/or water-saving devices, a 1.5kW solar PV system from Aussie Solar and the labour component of installation of rainwater tank, solar water heater or other system from GoEnviro Plumbing. Representatives from our two commercial partners will be present at the picnic and will be willing to discuss what they can do to help improve home sustainability.

The Society is considering running the competition again next year and is now looking at ways to attract more entrants. As part of this process I was recently sponsored by BMCS to attend a one-day workshop called "Cultivating Sustainability". The workshop was subtitled "Behaviour Change for Sustainability Advocates". Participants were introduced to the Key Determinants of Sustainable Behaviour – self-awareness, personal effectiveness, and social responsibility. Subsequently most of the time was spent looking at ways to change/influence peoples behaviour.

Four processes by which peoples' actions may be changed were examined:

Habit Change – it is necessary to disrupt the old habit before a new behaviour will be adopted, and then this needs to be reinforced. Perhaps we can make use of this by publicising how much energy and water are now costing households and showing that it is possible to make significant savings based on this years competition results.

Social Norm Activation – 'our perception of what is normally done in a situation'. We can use the data from the current competition to show that 'other' people in the Blue Mountains are saving huge amounts of money, energy and water.

Values Activation – perhaps we can appeal to people's values of environment, community, collaboration, innovation, and achievement to generate greater participation.

Cognitive Dissonance – 'the feeling of temporary confusion or discomfort that occurs when some new information clashes with an existing belief'. We may be able to use this by showing that it is possible to save a lot of money **and** help the environment by changing behaviour.

I found the workshop quite useful – many ideas and concepts that were new to me - and can see some ways it could help to make a future competition more effective.

There were 24 people in the group and I gained considerable benefit from discussions with some of them. There were groups from The City of Sydney (apparently it is no longer Sydney City Council!) and Macquarie University, both of which organisations are achieving significant improvements in sustainable practices.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Rob Baigent.

Good News for Wildlife

Here is some good news for native wildlife!
Congratulations are due to Blue Mountains City Council for encouraging responsible cat ownership.

Keep Your Cat Safe & Sound Indoors & Protect Our Wildlife in the Blue Mountains is the title of a new fact sheet.

It has some interesting facts, such as cats can find sleeping lizards with their strong sense of smell and bells on collars do not always work, because native animals don't associate the sound of bells with danger.

There are lots of positive suggestions on how to care for a cat responsibly by keeping it indoors day and night, or by building a cat enclosure in a garden. The Responsible Cat Owner Fact Sheet is available in the Council foyer, RSPCA and on BMCC's website under 'Animal Control'.

More Good News for Wildlife!

Wildlife Protection Areas are likely to be introduced later this year in the Blue Mountains, under the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998*.

The Act enables Councils to set aside public land for the protection of wildlife and to prohibit cats and/or dogs from these areas, which are known as Wildlife Protection Areas.

Whilst National Parks *ideally* give protection to wildlife by restricting human activities and prohibiting cats and dogs, Wildlife don't know about boundaries and choose to live in other bushland – and backyards!

Urban bushland is home to many wild animals who are vulnerable to predation by cats and dogs, and at risk of cat and dog diseases e.g., Toxoplasmosis is a disease carried by cats which is spread through faeces to native mammals. Also, disturbance to habitat and behaviour of native animals occurs from the presence of cats and dogs e.g., the breeding habits of ground and shrub nesting birds are interrupted.

Our native wildlife deserve the best protection possible. Wildlife Protection Areas will conserve biodiversity, assist vegetation recovery on bushcare sites, improve water quality in creeks and streams (no dog/cat faeces) and promote awareness and human co-existence with wildlife.

Bushland areas for consideration as WPA's may include public bushland areas acting as large Buffer Zones bordering the National Park, public land with high densities of stray and feral cats and dogs, public land with threatened flora and fauna, and bushcare sites

The Draft Policy now on exhibition proposes that category 1 lands will prohibit both cats and dogs and that category 2 lands will prohibit cats and allow dogs on a leash on formed tracks

This is an important initiative by Council that is worthy of support. Some other Councils with Wildlife Protection Areas include Pittwater, Warringah, Hornsby, Gosford, North Sydney – it is worth looking at their websites to see how Wildlife Protection Areas work.

Meredith Brownhill

Welcome to new members

Ben Greene, Bullaburra
Phoebe Allwell, Wentworth Falls
Susan Lamont, Springwood
Wendy Goldsmith, Springwood

You wouldn't read about it: climate scientists right

Extract of an article by Rodney Tiffen, SMH 26 July 2010

Chances are, you have not heard much about Climategate lately, but last November it dominated the media. Three weeks before the Copenhagen summit, thousands of emails from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia were published on a Russian website.

The research institute was a leading contributor to the fourth Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, and some of the leaked emails showed the scientists in a poor light. The scandal was one of the pivotal moments in changing the politics of climate change. By casting doubt on the integrity of scientists, Climategate helped puncture public faith in the science.

You might imagine the media would be keen to report on authoritative conclusions about allegations they had found so newsworthy in December. But coverage of each of the (three) reports has been non-existent in many news organizations and in others brief or without prominence.

At best, the coverage of the inquiries' conclusions added up to a 20th of the coverage the original allegations received, which leaves us to ponder the curiosities of a news media that gets so over-excited by dramatic allegations and then remains so incurably uninterested in their resolution. The newspapers that gave greatest play to the allegations tended to give less attention to the findings. The columnists who gave greatest vent to their indignation have not made any revision or correction, let alone apologized to the scientists whose integrity they so sweepingly impugned.

It is a common criticism of the media that they prominently publish allegations, but give less coverage to the prosaic facts that later refute them. But rarely is the disproportion so stark. Rarely has such an edifice of sweeping accusation and extravagant invective been constructed on such a slender factual basis. And rarely does it do such damage.

Rodney Tiffen is emeritus professor of government and international relations at the University of Sydney.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area celebrates its 10th birthday!

10 years ago, on the 29th of November 2000, the Greater Blue Mountains Area was given the gift of World Heritage status from the UNESCO community, listing our place as one of outstanding value to the world.

To celebrate this auspicious event a number of activities to engage the community will be conducted, over the next few months, under the theme "*Put Yourself in this World Heritage Picture*".

'Make a Wish for World Heritage' is one of these activities. Everyone is invited to make a wish, on the enclosed wishes postcards, of what they would like for the future of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

All these wishes will be collected, recorded and placed in the 'wishing well' until the Listing Day community celebration at Govetts Leap on Monday **29th November 2010** (watch this space). when they will be placed into the ceremonial campfire and symbolically released.

An overall aim is to raise the profile of and increase identification with the World Heritage and Patrimoni (youth heritage guardians) emblem (pictured above) and to involve as many as possible, stakeholders, land managers, school students, visitors and the broader community living around the GBMWhA in this joint celebration of our special place.

For further information please contact the NSW NPWS World Heritage Unit: Jacqueline Reid, Executive Officer, 4784 7326, Bronwen Maxwell, Special Projects Coordinator, 0414 751 354.



MARINE PARKS UNDER SIEGE



In coming weeks the NSW parliament will consider a Shooters Party Bill for a five-year moratorium on the creation of new marine parks and sanctuary zones within existing marine parks in NSW.

The Labor government has given its 'in principle' support to the Marine Parks Amendment (Moratorium) Bill. It would put a freeze on the vital protection provided by marine sanctuaries for our turtles, dolphins, seahorses and hundreds of other marine plants and animals. This move goes against the overwhelming scientific and community support for marine parks. These multiple use areas balance fishing in the majority of the park with a series of protected sanctuaries where marine life can breed, mature and grow.

If you're as outraged as I am about this proposal, please visit www.marineaction.org.au and send key politicians an email showing you strongly disagree with the five-year moratorium on new marine parks and sanctuaries in NSW. Pepe Clarke, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

ENERGY MATTERS OUT WEST

Lis Bastian reports from central NSW that Central Tablelands Water, the water supply authority for 14 towns and villages in the region, has joined the Bottled Water Alliance.

Tony Perry, the General Manager of CTW, told his board that he felt "very strongly that the growth of bottled water is becoming an environmental disaster. The manufacture of bottles for water squanders a non-renewable resource – oil. The Department of Environment and Climate Change estimates that 200ml of oil is used to produce, package, transport and refrigerate each litre of bottled water. As a result, at least 50 million litres of oil are used in the manufacture and distribution of bottled water in Australia every year."

Other good news stories of environmental action out west, including the Mount Panorama electric vehicle challenge, can be found on the Shiny Halo website of the central NSW councils at www.centroc.com.au/shinyhalo

COMMENT - by Brian Marshall

From coal to nuclear 'nirvana':

Or a passport to oblivion?

Part 3 (Moving forward?)¹

Julia Gillard has blinked and 'Goliath' is ecstatic! Over the MRRT's (Mineral Resource Rent Tax) first two years of operation (2012-2014), the estimated 'lost' revenue compared with the anticipated \$12 billion revenue from the RSPT (Resource Super Profit Tax) ranges from \$1.5 to \$3.2 billion, or 12.5 to 27% respectively. And now, despite government appeasing 'Goliath', 'junior' miners are crying 'what about us'! They will no doubt negotiate concessions through the Policy Transition Group headed by Martin Ferguson and the former BHP chairman Don Argus. Perhaps this is the 'trickle down' effect whereby government revenue and the national interest are progressively sacrificed on the altar of imminent elections?

Appeasing big business and moving to the right, as with the 'East Timor (non-)solution', could be an electoral ploy in that the Coalition responds by moving even further to the right. It might work, but as a general strategy it could also backfire. This is because Gillard must soon address greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) despite three adverse factors. One, government will continue to be pilloried for the highly compromised and deferred Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), so moving to the right is not an option. Two, even if possible, nothing could be gained from driving the Coalition to a more extreme climate change position than unfettered 'business-as-usual'. And three, government's capitulation in the face of a big-ticket scare-mongering campaign will not be lost on big business; on critical issues, lobbying and negotiation are likely to be usurped by scare-mongering and opinion polls via a relentlessly destructive media.

Sanity demands that Australia moves to renewables as advocated in Part 2. Yet 'all Australians' benefitting from exploitation of finite coal, gas and uranium resources, although conceptually rational (see Part 2), signals ongoing commitment to 'dirty' coal and the gas-powered transition to 'clean' coal or nuclear energy, without comparable commitment to renewables.

The energy shortfall

The Owen Enquiry² into NSW's electricity supply reported a potential baseload shortfall in 2013-2014. Submissions believing that peak and intermediate plant would suffice, or that the shortfall would develop later than 2013-14 were acknowledged. Government adopted the time-line and planned for new baseload generating capacity. Subsequent analysis, using the lower projected economic growth and the national Renewable Energy Target (RET) for 20% renewable electricity by 2020, demonstrated that the shortfall would start in 2017 and only reach 3,800 GWh by 2020. And by including rational end-use energy efficiency measures, local cogeneration inputs and demand side response (aka peak load management), NSW could attain an electricity generation **surplus** of 12,000 GWh by 2020, at far lower cost and with significantly lower GGE than coal- or gas-fired generation³.

Bottom line: the energy shortfall is fallacious. Its espousal by those wedded to coal- and/or gas-fired power generation has spawned economically and environmentally unsound decisions.

The nuclear option

Nuclear power is a focus of conflict. Yet a growing number of Australians believe it is the answer to our GGE-producing coal dependence. Argument is intense and multifaceted, and ranges from genuine concerns, through emotive scare mongering and scientific analysis, to barely disguised or blatant commercial self-interest. I will try to cut through the (mis)information!

Statistics such as the energy content of 1 kg of uranium (if reprocessed and fully utilized) equates with about 3.5 million kg of coal are of little value. The significant factors are: conventional nuclear power (CNP) based on ²³⁵U has the potential to replace fossil fuel (coal and gas) power generation; CNP does not emit GGE when generating electricity, and its life-cycle⁴ emissions are far less than coal- or gas-fuelled plants and approximate those of renewables such as hydro, wind and solar; CNP is safe and reliable, and its generation costs approximate or are less than the those of some renewables; CNP construction times and costs are relatively high; CNP facilitates nuclear weapons proliferation and increasing risk of nuclear war and terrorism, reactor meltdown is now less likely but leaks and other accidents continue, waste storage remains unresolved, plant location is socially contentious and water requirements are enormous (780-1340 GL/annum for a 1000 MW plant)^{5,6}; and Australia has about 30-40% of the world's recoverable uranium resources.

Other than the recoverable resources, most factors are contentious. For example, how can CNP, based on finite uranium resources, replace GGE-producing coal and be preferred to renewables? Estimates suggest that **high grade** uranium ore will last 40-70 years at current consumption rates. If consumption escalates this could fall to a couple of decades or less. The use of lower grade resources with the increased costs of mining and concentrating would increase the fuel price and reduce nuclear power's competitiveness. Industry variously argues that the effect on generating costs would be minimal, nuclear reprocessing enhances CNP efficiency, ²³⁸U (abundant) or thorium could be used in fast breeder reactors, Generation IV thermal and fast reactors will resolve many concerns, and then there is fusion power. Unfortunately, theory, experiment and pilot projects are not matched by commercially successful plants, Generation IV reactors are not scheduled to contribute until 2030, and despite nearly 60 years of research, fusion power has yet to be commercially harnessed.

A second example comprises construction times and capital costs. The industry argues that Generation III+ plants are designed for and should be constructed within a 4-year period; China expects to achieve the 4-year minimum; Europe and the US with previous experience anticipate 6-10 years; and Australia without prior experience would be looking at 15 years or more. Construction delays cause cost blow-outs. Industry claims a cost of US\$1000-2000/kWe or about \$1.5-2.0 billion for an 1100MW reactor; China expects to achieve this but the US anticipates costs of US\$3500 to >7000/kWe amounting to \$4-8.5 billion; Australian costs would be much higher. The Chinese political regime has the capacity to overcome the construction delays and labour costs which partially affect the US and would certainly produce major blow-outs in Australia.

Space precludes looking at other factors. I offer two quotations and a bottom line: (continued on page 7)

COMMENT Part 3 (Moving Forward?)

*“Contrary to what the proponents of nuclear energy keep telling us, nuclear power isn't clean. It isn't cheap. It isn't secure and there's still no safe way to deal with nuclear waste”*⁵.

*“Based on existing technology, nuclear power is neither a short-term nor a long-term solution to global warming...Nuclear power is a diversion from genuine solutions to global warming”*⁶.

Bottom line: a nuclear solution for Australia is prohibitively expensive and would be an environmental, social and political nightmare; but as a cynical rider, apply the MRRT to uranium and export it before the price drops!

Overpopulation

Asylum-seeking ‘boat people’ who qualify for refugee status count towards Australia’s humanitarian refugee commitment. The rest are sent ‘home’. Despite this, ‘boat people’ are a political football. Polarising issues are fanned by the media, are exploited by the legal profession, give voice to xenophobia, and have regrettably entered the overpopulation debate regardless of successful asylum seekers annually comprising less than 1.5% of permanent migrants. ‘Boat people’ may be a political nightmare and an energy-sapping diversion, but in the context of overpopulation and Australia’s very high per capita GGE their significance is negligible.

Overpopulation is where an **organism** (i.e. humankind) exceeds the **carrying capacity** of its **habitat**. Carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals an ‘area’ can support within its natural resource limits, whilst preserving the social, cultural and economic environment for present and future generations. These simple definitions hide much uncertainty. For example, Australians have impacted on their habitat to a degree where numerous species are extinct and others are seriously endangered – does this matter, or are we solely concerned with the habitat’s contemporary capacity to sustain us? Similarly, in continents where many are starving and subject to extreme cruelty, should we conclude that the local carrying capacity has been exceeded? Also, as many Australian Aborigines have a lower standard of health and are subject to constraints which do not apply to the ‘white’ community, does this mean that they have exceeded the carrying capacity of their lands, or that we have usurped their lands?

Where is this heading? Perhaps nowhere beyond emphasising that conceptual definitions are easy to erect, but reality is more complex and inevitably gives rise to winners and losers as humans jockey for material advantage.

Australia exports coal, gas, metals, wool and timber, exports and imports food⁷, and imports most of the goods which support its standard of living (clothing, electrical and electronic equipment, white goods, cars/trucks/buses/trains, furniture, steel, defence equipment, medical and pharmaceutical needs, etc.) For much of recent years, Australia has run a substantial trade deficit⁸. Our standard of living reflects the export of **finite** resources and the credit-based consumption of imported manufactured goods. We are living beyond our means and are unsustainable; increasing our population of consumers will exacerbate the problem.

Rudd was comfortable with 36 million by 2050, yet if our current 2% growth rate continues, the population will exceed 50 million by 2050. Business may be happy with this (more

fodder to their consumption mill), but Julia Gillard has distanced herself from the ‘big Australia’ concept and is emphasising a balanced sustainable population (BSP). The big questions are what numerically constitutes a BSP, and how do we achieve it? Perhaps by moving forward, but from a sustainability viewpoint it entails moving backward!

GGE, population growth, standard of living and economic growth track each other; increasing any of the last three has a substantial impact on GGE. The Rudd government pledged GGE-reductions to 95% and 40% of the 2000 levels by 2020 and 2050 respectively. With predicted populations of 25 and 36 million for 2020 and 2050, **per capita** emissions would need to fall from ~29t(tonnes) to 21t at 2020 and 6t at 2050. However, because of the longstanding link between GGE, population growth and economic growth, Penny Wong believes that reconciling **population increases** and pledged **GGE decreases** relative to 2000 involves breaking the nexus, **not** reducing the population⁹. One can invoke technological advancements and carbon pricing to partially ameliorate GGE increases, but the combined population effects and pledged reductions would require enormous per capita GGE reductions of ~3.5% per year over the next 40 years¹⁰. And this disregards our current growth rate of ~2, which by 2050 gives 50 million rather than 36! It also ignores Australia’s **optimum population** being assessed as 10 million at its present standard of living and 21 million at a more ‘modest’ standard¹¹.

Bottom line: the only practicable answer is to stabilise the population at or close to its current level (22.4 million on July 19) before the difficult becomes absolutely impossible!

Australia’s lead, need and greed

Even before the Bali convention, when Australia was supposedly in the forefront of the battle to mitigate climate change and act as a broker between developing and developed economies, the rhetoric was largely chauvinistic. Europe, some US States, China and Japan were already acting whereas Australia was ‘talking the talk’ but not ‘walking the walk’! By the Copenhagen convention, chauvinistic rhetoric collapsed in the face of the CPRS’s outrageous polluter-concessions and an uncompromising Senate. Now, despite its ‘pledges’ to reduce GGE, Australia has dropped the ball on climate change, has effectively embraced ‘business-as-usual’, and is ignominiously leading from the rear!

Australia needs to focus on quality of life rather than standard of living. It needs a realistic carbon price and full commitment to renewable power generation, accompanied by a plan to phase out ‘dirty’ coal-fired power. As a corollary, it needs to stop wasting funds on ‘clean’ coal, despite nonsense perpetuated by Peter Cook¹². It also needs to abandon the notion of nuclear power generation, since this is incompatible with the Australian ethos of exploit it but ‘nimby’. It must embrace population stabilization by balancing immigration and emigration and removing direct financial inducements to have children. It needs to reject growth based on finite resources and a trade deficit, and abandon the unsustainable notion of infinite economic growth. And finally, it needs a government which will **lead**, rather than pandering to big business, responding to opinion polls and ‘shock-jocks’, and fostering short-term lowest-common-denominator self-interest.

The ‘lucky country’ is well endowed with finite resources including coal, gas, iron ore and uranium. (*continued page 8*)

COMMENT Part 3 (Moving Forward?)

Its greedy consumer economy demands that these resources be rapidly exploited and exported, irrespective of adverse impacts on GGE, population-growth, water resources, and future generations when the 'gravy train' is exhausted. 'Miners and consumer businesses' would argue that 'we' must grab the opportunity while it lasts (and to hell with the consequences!), but is this true? Should we really be creating outrageous standards of living, and perpetuating the beliefs that finite-resource-based growth is sustainable, greed will forever be sated, and we are seemingly entitled to this by 'divine right'? I think not! But regardless, 'dirty' coal dominates our power and is massively exported while any residual conscience is salved by the 'clean' coal placebo; gas is exported despite our failing to sufficiently use its transitional potential to phase out 'dirty' coal and smooth 'peak oil'; and now we have the uranium conundrum. Do we opt for Australian nuclear power and/or do we export uranium to counter other countries' use of coal? Do we justify our actions by saying its best for the world's environment? Or do we acknowledge our self-indulgent greed and the philosophy of grab a dollar and to hell with tomorrow?

Bottom line: "If you stop growing then you stop the economy growing and you stop the aspirations of every Australian growing" Andrew Forest, CEO, Fortescue Metals¹³ – self-belief 10, self-interest 8, interests of 'every Australian' 2, a sustainable future 0 – God bless Andrew and all his relations for keeping us in our proper stations!¹⁴

Nuclear 'nirvana' or a passport to oblivion

Coal, iron ore and gas will continue to be exported because government hopes to lock-in a revenue stream from the MRRT (subject to the Senate!) Nuclear energy will never dominate Australia's power supply due to the abundance of coal, gas, increasingly sophisticated renewables, political pragmatism and the Australian ethos. Australia's uranium will be increasingly exported because government will not forgo the income, will not risk major confrontation with the mining industry, and can salve consciences with the argument

that, in partially supplanting coal, it will reduce the GGE of developing economies. But we will continue to supply coal in the hope that their economies will grow even faster!

Nuclear expansion will increase the world's risk in terms of accidents, terrorism and warfare. Australia and others will justify causing the increased exposure by placing faith in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, other 'paper' assurances, monitoring, and sanctions against non-compliers. They do this knowing that sanctions don't work and enforcement through (nuclear) warfare is using what we abhor to avoid what we fear! Hobson's choice as faced by the US over Iran and North Korea.

Buddhists see nirvana as 'enlightenment' involving freedom from worldly concerns such as greed, hate, and ignorance. Nuclear 'nirvana' is an oxymoron, as indeed is 'visionary politician'.

'Passport to oblivion' flows from Martin Rees' comments about our capacity to destroy the planet (see Part 1). Brinkmanship can lead to nuclear holocaust, but incremental planetary destruction can stem from the global pursuit of unsustainable growth (population, economic and GGE) and loss of Earth's finite resources. Australia could take the high ground and lead by example. Are you a betting person?

What to do!

Email, phone or write to the Prime Minister (Julia Gillard <laborconnect@australianlabor.com.au>; (02) 6273 4115; Suite MG 41, Canberra, ACT 2600) and express your concern that GGE and climate change are being inadequately addressed. Some possible points: a carbon price is essential and 2012+ is too late; consensus and action to curtail GGE are incompatible; massive concessions for polluters are irrational; no more coal-fired power plants, including those on the drawing board; commercial 'clean' coal is not scheduled until 2030 (if ever) – renewables work now; zero carbon is better than zero credibility¹⁵, voters reward courage not pragmatism.

Dr Brian Marshall.

Endnotes:

¹ Limited references – the fully referenced article is available from the editor or the author.

² http://www.treasury.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/13340/Owen_Inquiry_-_Main.pdf

³ Rutovitz, J and Dunstan C. 2009, *Meeting NSW Electricity Needs in a Carbon Constrained World: Lowering Costs and Emissions with Distributed Energy*. (Prepared as part of Project 4 of the CSIRO Intelligent Grid Research Program by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney.); or see <http://igrid.net.au/node/190>.

⁴ 'Life-cycle' includes GGE associated with plant construction, mining and processing the fuel, plant operation, disposal of used fuel and other waste products, and decommissioning.

⁵ <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2010/2910830.htm>

⁶ Mark Diesendorf 2009, *Climate Action*, UNSW Press pp40-43.

⁷ Michael Lardelli, *Can we feed a "Big Australia"?* <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/52706>; despite exporting food, Australia is not self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables and is unable to sustain its domestic and export markets for red meat, pig meat and poultry under drought conditions; a population of 36 million by 2050 would be unsustainable on present indications.

⁸ <http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/>

⁹ Penny Wong cited in <http://www.population.org.au/index.php/population/statistics/432--population-problems-down-under>.

¹⁰ Albert Bartlett, *Population problems down under*, <http://www.population.org.au/index.php/population/statistics/432--population-problems-down-under>.

¹¹ The Optimum Population Trust; accessed through <http://www.population.org.au/index.php/population/affluence/carrying-capacity/142-carrying-capacity>.

¹² Peter Cook, Chief Executive CO2CRC for Greenhouse Gas Technologies, *Benefits in store*, SMH July 22 2010 Letters p14.

¹³ Cited in: Lucy Battersby, *Big employers state their case for a bigger Australia*, SMH July 23 2010 Business day p5.

¹⁴ With apologies to George Bernard Shaw – see <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/shaw/works/sandc.htm>

¹⁵ Paddy Manning, *Zero carbon plan better than two zero credibility choices*, SMH July 24-25 2010 Weekend Business p6.

Loose Feathers, with Carol Proberts

We tend to think of most birds as breeding in spring but it's surprising how many species start nesting as early as July and August. For birds that don't migrate, the first whiff of spring comes soon after the winter solstice in late June when the days start to lengthen. This increasing amount of daylight triggers changes in birds' hormone levels which leads them to start defending a territory more intensively, increase their singing and begin the demanding job of reproduction.

Some of the birds who will already have nests underway as you're reading this include the Australian Magpie and Australian Raven with their bowl-shaped stick nests, the tiny Spotted Pardalote who nests in a tunnel in an earth bank, the White-browed Scrubwrens of the forest floor, and the Thornbills - Brown and Striated, with their little dome-shaped nests.

Keep an eye out for birds carrying nest material, which is often the only way you know there's a nest nearby. There are many ingenious strategies used by small birds to camouflage their nests. The White-browed Scrubwren is so expert at hiding its nest in dense low vegetation that it's virtually impossible to find, even if you see the bird coming and going. In contrast to this, the Yellow-throated Scrubwren builds a large hanging nest in the rainforest - easy to see but usually not noticed due to its resemblance to a tangle of flood debris caught up in a branch.

Last month, Christine Davies wrote about Bell Miners and their favoured food of lerps (carbohydrate-rich secretions of the nymphs of psyllids, tiny sap-sucking insects living on the eucalyptus leaves).

Lerps are a significant food item in the diet of many other Australian birds. Pardalotes are largely lerp-feeders and you'll sometimes hear the little clicking sounds as they pull the lerps off the leaves in the canopy. Thornbills, parrots and lorikeets will take lerps, as do most honeyeaters including the aggressive Noisy Miner, a close relative of the Bell Miner.

Bell Miners however, are unique in that they tend to take the lerp covering the insect, but not the insect itself. And by chasing away all other species they effectively protect the population of psyllids which then proliferate, damaging the trees.

As Christine pointed out, Bell Miners are commonly referred to as "bellbirds", but there is another Australian bird with a more orthodox claim to this name. The Crested Bellbird is a bird of dry woodland habitats on the western plains. Its ventriloquial bell-like "*pan pan pallella*" is a sound evocative of the outback.

Other birds which have a bell-like call include the Spotted Pardalote and the musical notes of the Crimson Rosella.

Carol Proberts *origma@westnet.com.au*

Please, don't feed the ducks!

Recently I came across a WIRES volunteer wading in the duck pond at the Memorial Park, Blackheath. The stirred-up water stank! She had caught five domestic ducks for relocation to a farm sanctuary. Four remained. During the hour I was there, six individuals or families came with bread to feed the ducks. And I learned why, by feeding the ducks bread, we're not doing the ducks or the environment a favour.

It is illegal to release domestic birds into the wild. There is no natural food for ducks in Blackheath duck pond.

Unlike native ducks, domestic ducks cannot fly to find food and have to rely on people to feed them.

Wild ducks need to eat green foods that grow naturally in their environment. Birds who become dependant on handouts will stop foraging for their natural foods or become too unfit to try.

Bread is "junk food" for birds and too much bread can lead to overweight and malnutrition as well as other problems.

It is usually "feast or famine". The



ducks go hungry in bad weather and are overfed when the weather is fine. Leftover rotting food pollutes the water and breeds diseases and parasites. Too many faeces in the water cause more pollution and disease. Polluted water flowing from the

Blackheath duck pond to the Grose Valley could carry disease downstream.

The bottom line is: Don't feed the ducks; and if you see any person dumping domestic fowl in public parks, don't hesitate to report them to Council. Christine.

More info: WIRES 4754 2946.

Membership Application Form

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1.
2.
3.

Address:
.....PC

Phone(s)

Email

MEMBERSHIP FEES (please circle one item)

Single \$25 Concession (Senior/Student)\$15
Household \$30 Concession (Senior/Student)\$20
Corporate (open to negotiation) \$100

Bushwalkers only.:

(\$20 per walker per annum) \$.....

Donation (tax-deductible) \$.....

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$.....

Note: All fees include GST at the relevant rate.

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; Web or database management; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Society administration.

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.

ENQUIRIES: Phone (02 4757 1872

Email: membership@bluemountains.org.au

Please cut out and forward this form with your cheque or money order to:

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.
PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782

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.



Plastiki sails to save the oceans

The Plastiki, a catamaran constructed from 12,500 recycled plastic bottles reached Sydney in late July after a four-month voyage across the Pacific Ocean to raise awareness of the dangers posed to the marine environment by plastic waste.

Plastic was invented a century ago, and since then, all of the plastic produced is still somewhere on the planet, in some form. A lot of it has been allowed to pollute the world's oceans, with devastating effects on marine life. This is one of the messages that the Plastiki's voyage aimed to underline.

The UN Environment Program estimates that plastic debris causes the deaths of more than 1 million seabirds and more than 100,000 marine mammals every year. In 2006, the UN concluded that every square mile (260 hectares) of ocean contained 46,000 pieces of floating plastic.

We Australians are contributing to this catastrophe. A rare eight-metre Bryde's whale was washed up recently near Cairns. Its stomach was found to be jammed with almost six square metres of plastic, including supermarket bags, food packaging, three large sheets of plastic and fragments of garbage bags.

A floating Great Pacific Garbage Patch, about six times the size of England and containing up to 100 million tons of plastic waste is trapped in the Pacific Ocean. The plastic in the oceans and seas - disintegrated by sunlight into little particles called nurdles - are so small they can hardly be seen, which makes them all the more deadly to sealife.

What can be done? Environmentalist David de Rothschild, Plastiki crew member, said "We need to start designing more efficiently, understanding materials and re-engineering plastics at the end of their life cycles so that they're reclaimed and reused, reducing our impact on the natural environment." He also called for Australians to vote for whoever "is going to give nature a voice".

Local campaigns like "Drink Tap Water" are very positive. Can our young people come up with other great ideas to save the oceans from plastic pollution? Brendan Doyle.

Outside my window

Yesterday's sunrise, golden clouds behind the trees. A golden cumulus cloud speeds past on a high wind. Today the colours are that of a Gang Gang, bright pink and grey. It all so quickly fades.

Reading **Loose Feathers** ... "... nests underway .. thornbills .. keep an eye out for birds carrying nest material ..."

A sudden movement ... a tiny thornbill takes a strand of sugar-cane mulch from the pot by my window and flies with it into the National Park.

A fellow bushwalker, Jenny Miller, sent me this photo, taken in her garden at Glenbrook in late July, of a red grasshopper on a daffodil leaf. It is red all over, including the antennae. For those seeing this in black and white you will have to imagine (or colour in) the green leaf and bright pinkish red grasshopper. Not good camouflage! But perhaps the bright colour is its

defence.

On the web I discovered Leichhardt's Grasshopper which is found in Kakadu and Arnhem Land and whose strong colours - red, blue and orange - warn would-be predators that it tastes bad.

The people of Western Arnhem Land call the grasshoppers Alyurr, children of the Lightning Man Namarrgon, a powerful ancestral being. The peak time for lightning is November/December during the 'build-up' to the wet when spectacular dry thunderstorms light up the skies. At this time of year, Leichhardt's grasshopper is said to be out and about looking for the lightning in its new gaudy outfit.

I wonder what is known about the little red grasshopper at Glenbrook?

Time for another cup of tea, then I must finish this newsletter. Christine.

Down the Wallaby Track — a backward glance, with John Low JUST AN OLD WATER TROUGH



In a street running off the Great Western Highway at Woodford there is a small redundant horse trough. Though largely ignored by passers-by it reminds us of when the horse was still a part of everyday life and the sound of hooves was still heard in the streets of our towns. It also has an interesting association with the early history of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed a growing public concern for the welfare of domestic and working animals and the preservation of Australia's native flora and fauna. For many, both issues became profoundly linked and this was certainly so with Bernard and Ruth Schleicher who settled in Hazelbrook near the entrance to the Horseshoe Falls Reserve at the end of WWI. Their subsequent community involvement bore witness to their awareness and passionate commitment.

Bernard was a teacher of languages, mathematics and history who taught for a time at the Stratford Ladies College in Lawson (now just a ruined tower in San Jose Avenue). Both he and his sister Ruth were prolific letter writers whose opinions on a whole range of issues,

including animal protection, bushfire and forest management and the preservation of native animals and plants, appeared in the press over the next few decades. In 1930 Bernard became Secretary of the Hazelbrook Reserves Trust, a position he held for thirty-eight years. Some twenty years later he established a Blue Mountains Fauna & Flora Protection Society at Hazelbrook and, as its long serving President, persuaded the Mayor of the Blue Mountains, Alderman Frank Walford, to convene a meeting in Katoomba in the early 1960s to form a similar group there. The result was the birth of what has now become the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

In the 1930s Bernard also initiated a Lawson-Hazelbrook-Woodford Branch of the RSPCA and was elected its Chairman. As part of that organisation's long and on-going concern for ensuring adequate animal watering facilities the branch erected troughs in both Hazelbrook (ca.1938) and a little later in Woodford. While the Hazelbrook trough is gone, the one in Glen Street, Woodford, has stubbornly survived the passing of the working horse.

Bernard Schleicher, a devout Anglican, died in 1971 and a memorial rock pool and fountain were dedicated to him in the grounds of St. James Anglican Church, Hazelbrook. Neither the church nor the memorial now survives. The Woodford water trough, even in its present state of decay, still retains an echo of past times and speaks to us of the compassion and idealism of our forebears. "We need more ruins", wrote the English nature writer, the late Roger Deakin, and their witness to "a living past". I hope its reminder that value can be found in the old and 'ruined' will continue to inform our present sense of community for some time to come.

John Low <johnlow@iprimus.com.au>

In search of the Southern Emu Wren

Just a few years ago, whilst walking in heathland at Saltwater Creek, Ben Boyd National Park, I came across a Southern Emu Wren. It's a beautiful little bird. The tail is sparse and long, almost twice the length of its body. Fortunately I was on my own and became captivated for a number of minutes.

Recently our Thursday Interpretive walkers were taken to Long Swamp at Lawson by a young lady who knows a bit about birds - Carol Proberts. She showed us where we might find this elusive and shy little wren. No luck that day. Today I headed off on my Pat Malone to the same area. Once more I was frustrated, but hopefully another time!

Between May and September it's good to select an area to do some bird-

watching, by oneself of course. Usually it's possible to come away with something to keep you happy.

Today was no exception, after no luck with the Emu Wren. On the ridge, I was about to get into the car, when two small birds, who were certainly not shy captured my attention. The Eastern Yellow Robin and Rock Warbler seemed quite happy, moving around close to each other on the fire trail. Hanging sideways on tree trunks, with its yellow breast, the robin seemed to invite you to have a good look.

The Rock Warbler is the only bird confined to NSW. Having discovered on numerous occasions, that if you stand still (as happened today) he will get so close to your feet its possible to reach



down and touch him. Not that I would.

No Emu Wren, but a nice finish to the day, thanks to these two rather nice accommodating little birds.

Ron Hyslop, June 2010.

*Photo by David Cook
Canberra Ornithologists Group
<http://photogallery.canberrabirds.org.au>*

BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY 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 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. Before attending ring the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy 4758 6009 or email jp34@tpg.com.au

Date	Details	Contact	Meet at	(km)	Grade	Map
Aug 14	Crayfish Pool - delightful spot on Kanuka Brook and other highlights of the BMNP - Red Hands gully and Campfire Creek	Liz 4754 4966	Glenbrook Station carpark, 8.20 am	12	3	Penrith
Aug 21	Mount Banks and area – historic location as the end of Caley's epic exploration of 1804 with spectacular views into the Grose	Bill 4758 8545	Mt Vic Station CP 8:30 am	12	2/3	Mt Wilson
Aug 28	Martins Lookout to Lost World via the Kings Link Track. Steep down and up with rocky bits.	Ros 4733 3880	Springwood Station Car park North side 9.15 am	6	3	Springwood
Sep 4	Wiggins track, Glenbrook Crk, Magdala Trk - round walk and return to Springwood	Bob 4757 2694	Springwood Station CP Nth side 8:30am	11	3	Springwood
Sep 11	Further off track adventures with Hugh. Party Limit. Book in by the preceding Thursday.	Hugh 0423309854	Contact leader for details. ~10 km, mostly off track.		3/4	Mt Wilson
Sep 13-17	Deep Pass mid week camp. Walk in approx 1km. Delightful campsite with a variety of walks	Jim 4758 6009	Contact leader for directions and possibilities	Various	Variable	NPWS Brochure

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 Judith Dyer, 4758 6310, judithbushwalker@hotmail.com

Date	Details	Grade	Contact	Meet at
Aug 16	Lake Woodford from Hazelbrook. Water views and circular walk	2	Judith 4758 6310	Hazelbrook Station 9am
Aug 23	Furber steps to Golden Stairs, Katoomba. Jamison Valley Views, landslide site	3	Ros 4733 3880	BMCC Chambers, Civic Place, 9.30am Car Shuffle
Aug 30	Victoria Falls, Mt Victoria. Superb bush cliff views and cascades.	2/3	Phil 4787 5560	Mt Victoria Station 9.45am ***car pool***
Sep 6	Bantry Bay, Middle Harbour. Spectacular water views	2	Ros 4733 3880	Top of escalators Central Station 9.30am
Sep 13	Golden Stairs/ Ruined Castle, Katoomba. Unique rock formation, view of Mt Solitary	3	Eddie 4784 2691	BMCC Chambers, Civic Place 8.45am *** Car pool***

THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS: Walks of 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 Gail Schwedler 4782 1215 platypusprotected@yahoo.com.au

Aug 12	Castle Head, Katoomba. Short walk on Narrow Neck, track through heath to Castle Head below.	2	Joan c/o 4782 1215	BM Council Chambers carpark 9.30am
Aug 19	Paradise Pool, Linden. Exceptionally beautiful pool, beach and waterfall.	2/3	Maurice 4739 4942	Linden Station, north side, 9.15 am
Aug 26	Sun Valley. Firetrail descent, interesting rock formations, creekside walk to cars	2	Joan c/- 4782 1215	Valley Heights Station carpark 10.05 am
Sep 2	Jelly Bean Pool & Blue Pool Glenbrook Short walk to pools on Glenbrook Creek	2	Maurice 4739 4942	Glenbrook Station carpark 9.30 am. Car pool
Sep 9	Govett's Leap to Pulpit Rock Blackheath. Clifftop walk with spectacular views to Pulpit Rock	2	Phil 4787 5560	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre 9.45 am
Sep 16	Leura Cascades Round Walk Easy cliff top walk via lookouts. Some steps. Great views	2	Joan c/- 4782 1215	Cnr Megalong St & Leura Mall 9.30 am
Sep 23	BUS TRIP La Perouse Cost \$10.00 to be paid on booking. Visit to La Perouse for walk in Botany Bay and visit to museum	2	Simone 4757 3416	Council Depot South Street Nth Katoomba 8.00 am sharp

Blue Mountains Conservation Society Bushwalking Group practices minimal impact bushwalking.. Minimal impact bushwalking means do nothing. Take nothing but photographs. Leave nothing that shows where you have been.