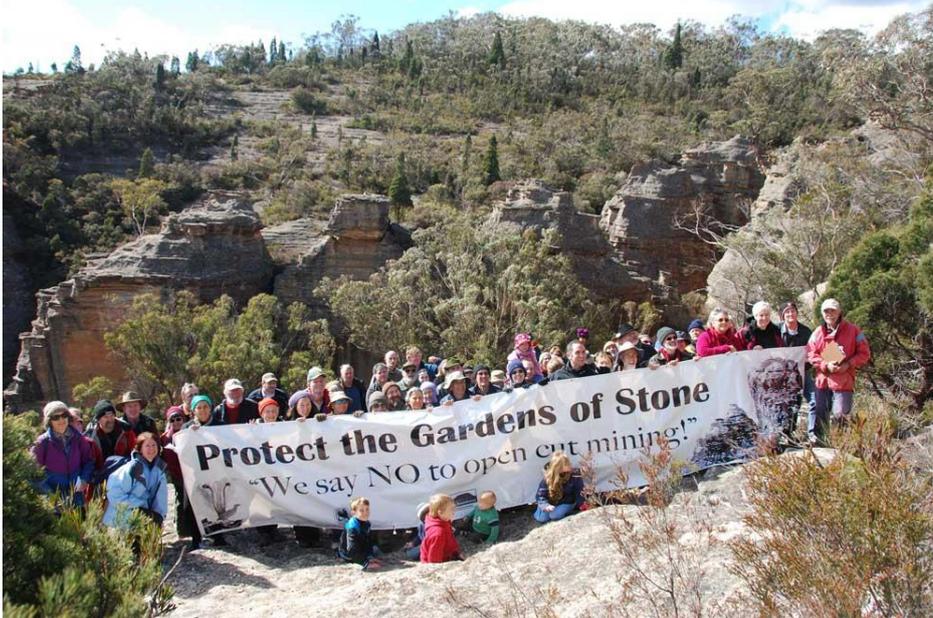




*"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"*



## Gardens of Stone event a huge success

With your help, we staged a very successful event on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at the site area of the Gardens of Stone that is currently under threat. Over 120 people were in attendance!

A strong contingent of concerned local residents from Bathurst, the Blue Mountains and Lithgow came to the event and people travelled from as far as Mudgee, Wollongong, Maitland, Gloucester, Newcastle and over 40 people joined us from Sydney.

Our event highlighted that supporters say "No!" to open-cut mining in the 'Gardens of Stone' and, there is overwhelming support from around the state to protect this area.

Tara Cameron, Vice President gave a great talk to supporters and reaffirmed "The iconic Gardens of Stone is the sort of area that should be off limits to open cut mining. Coal mining has caused enough multiple cliff collapses in parts of the Blue Mountains."

Pepe Clarke, CEO of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW asked us to reflect that the precious sandstone formations of the 'Gardens of Stone' took 25 million years to create and can be destroyed in just 21 years of mining activity.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the ground for their phenomenal efforts and to the many state and local environment groups who supported our event.

Justin McKee, 'Gardens of Stone' campaigner.

**SALES OF NATIVE PLANTS GROWN  
BY OUR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS  
WILL RESUME IN AUGUST.  
WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS.**

Protect the Gardens of Stone –  
What can you do?

SEE PAGE 3

## Blue Mountains Conservation Society MONTHLY MEETING

Friday, 24th June, 7.30 pm

At the Conservation Hut (end of  
Fletcher Street, Wentworth Falls)

## Showcasing the Gardens of Stone

Come along to our June monthly meeting to see a series of beautiful slideshows set to music showcasing the Gardens of Stone area.

This won't be a powerpoint lecture, but an opportunity to be enthralled by the beauty and wonder of the region. We will present a number of short slideshows focusing on flora, fauna, the new State Conservation Area Mugii Murum-ban, as well as the site under threat from Open Cut mining in Ben Bullen State Forest.

See photos from the recent banner action, bushwalking shots, landscapes, pagodas and close-ups of plants. Be immersed in the Gardens of Stone, socialize with other members, and get involved in our work to stop the new mine.

**Visitors are very welcome**

## Winter Magic

The Society will have a stall at the Winter Magic Festival on Saturday 18 June. You'll find us in Katoomba Street near the Carrington. Do call in and say hello to our volunteers.

## BEAT THE TAX MAN

June—time to beat the tax man and make your \$2 plus tax deductible donation to Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

Cheques please to The Treasurer, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 or go to [www.bluemountains.org.au/donations.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/donations.shtml)

"Hut News", the newsletter of  
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## HUT NEWS EDITORIALS

The deadline for the next issue of Hut News  
is **18 June 2011**

## MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

Lachlan Garland 4757 1929

[membership@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:membership@bluemountains.org.au)

PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782

## 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

**Highway Plants:** On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, the planting contractor for the RTA took 4,700 plants for re-vegetation along the Great Western Highway at Wentworth Falls. Now that the "switchover" has taken place you will see our plants on the high side of the road. We did not supply the *Lomandra* cultivar "Tanaka" bordering the edge of the road as we only grow local plants. The next batch of plants are due for Spring this year with the remaining two for early next year when that section of the highway should be completed. This project, carried out in collaboration with Wildplant Rescue, started two years ago when we began collecting seed from the area and it has been very satisfying to see it brought to fruition. The planting contractor (ESD) guarantees 80-90% survival rate but the early frosts may have caused them some concern.

**Sales:** Our last appearance at the Lawson Magpie Markets brought \$407 but we will now close for all sales until August. Our glass-house at Blackheath is filled to capacity with seed-raising trays and pots of cuttings which are happily sitting on heated beds and are being regularly misted by our automatic irrigation system. When our volunteers return in August there will be plenty of seedlings to prick out to provide more plants for sales and contracts later in the year. Before the winter break we moved all our stock from Blackheath to the comparatively warmer climate at Lawson to overwinter and grow in time for Spring sales. Look for some new additions on our web-site and alerts in *Hut News* when sales resume.

**Seed Collection:** The winter months provide a good opportunity to collect seeds from those plants which hold their seed such as *Hakeas*, *Banksias*, *Leptospermums*. For others such as Waratahs, Wattles, Pea plants, Grasses and Sedges we have to keep a watch over the year on their ripening pods and sometimes there are only a few weeks of opportunity to collect their seed before dispersal. We maintain a seed bank which includes information on the date of collection and location but we are always looking to expand this to cover more species and areas of the Blue Mountains so we welcome donations of seeds from members. They can be brought to the nursery or markets or posted to me at PO. Box 81, Blackheath 2785. Most seeds retain viability for several years but others, such as Waratahs, must be sown fresh. Sometimes, a certain species may not produce any seed for one or more years, as we have found with *Lomatia silaifolia*, so if you have any seeds of this plant, which is in demand, we would be grateful for some.

**Featured Plant:** This month it is *Zieria arborescens*, commonly known as the Tree Zieria or, unflatteringly, "Stinkwood", because of the strong smell from its crushed leaves or branches. Many describe its odour as "unpleasant" but I don't find it so and it is certainly preferable to the acrid stench of cigarette smoke. It is the largest of the local *Zieria* and may grow to a lovely shaped tree to several metres high. There are magnificent specimens growing naturally in the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden at Mt. Tomah and it was their featured winter plant last year. The genus has typically opposite 3-foliate leaves which in the case of this species are narrow (20-25mm), elliptically shaped up to 10cm long. It is widespread in damp Eucalypt forest from Queensland to Tasmania. The small, white flowers with 4 petals and 4 stamens (which distinguish this genus from *Boronia* which has 4 petals and 8 stamens) appear in Autumn to early Winter. It makes a lovely specimen tree for a semi-shaded part of your garden and we will have nice specimens, which we have grown from cuttings, for sale in Spring. Its leaves have been reported as being toxic to cattle causing atypical interstitial pneumonia, otherwise known as "Panting Disease" so you are advised to keep your cow away from it. The genus *Zieria* is named in honour of the Polish botanist, Jan Zier who died in 1796. In German his surname means "adornment or embellishment" which seems appropriate for this particular tree.

Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager



## Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



Over 1088 hectares of public forest within this uniquely scenic and biodiverse area are now at risk of exclusive occupation and destruction by open cut coal mining.

### What can you do?

Cate Faehrmann, MLC for the Greens, addressed our recent event and reminded us that we must continue to get the message of our opposition to the open-cut mine proposal out there.

Here are three easy ways you can do this:

#### 01. Write a letter to your local paper and tell them about your concerns

It's a good idea to outline what you are writing about in the first sentence. e.g. "I am opposed to the 'Coalpac Pty Ltd Consolidation Project' proposal, Castlereagh Highway, Cullen Bullen NSW because..."

Here is a list of some points you could choose to follow on with:

- > I support the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's wish to add Ben Bullen SF to the conservation reserve system as a matter of priority; it is an area with outstanding natural values.
- > If this proposal is approved, the features and stability of the Gardens of Stone may be threatened by partial or total collapse, compromising our region's tourism.
- > Our iconic Lyrebirds use the sides of pagodas in this area to nest and raise their young. Mining will completely remove their food habitats.
- > Habitats for the Regent Honeyeater, Tiger Quoll, Powerful Owl and at least 32 threatened native animals, five of which are listed under the EPBC Act, will be completely removed.
- > The large open-cut will create significant dust and air quality issues which will directly affect local residents.

Don't forget to outline the 'end point' of your letter which could be something like:

- "I call on the NSW Government to reject this mining proposal" and/or
- "I call on the NSW Government to act to protect the region within a State Conservation Area."

Remember to keep your letter to a limit of 200 words which is about 2/3 of an A4 page if you're writing it by hand.

Go to 'opinion' on their website and use their submission form or just post the letter:

- Blue Mountains Gazette: PO Box 21, Springwood 2777
- Bathurst Western Advocate: 163 George Street, Bathurst 2795
- Lithgow Mercury: PO Box 91, Lithgow 2790

#### 02. Write a letter to your state paper

Post a copy of the letter you send to your local paper to the state paper that is most likely to print it: Sydney Morning Herald GPO Box 3771 Sydney NSW 2001, or by email: letters@smh.com.au

#### 03. Write a letter to your local Member of Parliament (MP).

Your local MP is unlikely to represent an issue until a lot of people are communicating to them about it directly. There is a form letter in this edition of Hut News which you can complete to make this happen. Feel free to make copies and have others sign it as well!

## From The President

Greetings! I want to take this opportunity to thank the people who went to the Coalpac open cut mine protest banner drop. In particular a very special thanks to those who helped out on the day.

What a fantastic result, 120 people!! And it sounds like it all ran pretty smoothly.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend as I was at a discussion meeting looking at the Plan of Management for the new Capertee National Park. This Park has threatened plant communities and is the home for a number of threatened birds, in particular the Regent Honeyeater. It also has views to die for. As well as the Capertee Valley itself, there are distant views of massive cliff lines and also the back of the new Muggii Muram-ban State Conservation Area. Currently access is restricted but if you do want to visit call National Parks at Blackheath and get information. It is well worth it. How access will be managed in the future will depend on the Plan of Management.

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather, but not the wind. The Jamison Valley looked particular beautiful today, with brooding clouds continually changing the colour of the escarpments. It is a great time of year to get out and go for a walk.

**Lachlan Garland, 0415 317 078**

### Environmental Liaison Officer

The Society has decided to contribute to the annual funding of the Environmental Liaison Officer based in Sydney at the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC). This person co-ordinates the work of environment groups in NSW including; NCC, National Parks Association, Total Environment Centre, Colong Foundation, the North Coast Environment Council and the Wilderness Society. The officer helps us examine legislation as it goes through Parliament and work on possible amendments. The role also involves co-ordinating joint work such as the 'Natural Advantage' election platform that all the groups used in the lead up to the State election.

As a completely voluntary group, it is helpful for us to have the support of larger groups. The ELO opposition helps make this possible. *Tara Cameron.*

## Two new books on the Blue Mountains By Jim Smith

One of the pleasures of being an author is receiving letters from readers who have been inspired by your books. One such letter that I treasure is from 'Joe'. He wrote this after reading my book "The Blue Mountains Mystery Track-Lindeman Pass":

*...a repetition of the joy I got out of your "Six Foot Track" book... your books are full of the spirit of walking in our Mountains-there is an enthusiasm and pure joy beyond the written words, that filters through and fills me with the vastness of the Mountains.*

The true subject of my books has always been what is "beyond the written words". Special interest books on the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal history and environment of the Blue Mountains are not commercial propositions that can be sold through bookshops. Den Fenella Press relies on direct sales of limited editions to people who love the Blue Mountains. These are a pleasure to look at and hold, and convey some of the "vastness of the Mountains". People who are prepared to pay for these books prior to publication are 'publishing partners' rather than just customers.

Below are details of the new books. Only a few hundred copies of each will be printed. I will take orders from members of the Society for three weeks after the distribution of this newsletter.

### **The Six Foot Track: Journeys 1887-2000**

The Six Foot Track, a 42km walking track in the Blue Mountains, between Katoomba & Jenolan Caves, is a challenge that has attracted many thousands of people since its opening in 1884. Some of these walkers and horse riders recorded their experiences of adventures and humorous incidents, as well as their recollections of the people they met, the scenery and the Jenolan Caves. Published in 1985, my first book on the Six Foot Track: "From Katoomba to Jenolan Caves" included all the accounts by travellers on the track that I had found up to that time. This new book includes 20 new tales and many previously unpublished historical images. The cultural significance of the track, and its changing environment, to both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people is discussed.

Some of the accounts in this book are from previously unpublished diaries (including the first publication of Lady Carrington's diary from 1887) and others are reprinted for the first time from obscure books, newspaper and magazine articles.

This book is available in two editions. The special edition has some of the photos in colour or sepia and clearer definition of the black-and-white historical images.

### **Gungarlook**

If you have ever been to the McMahon's Point Lookout, out from Wentworth Falls, or the Burragorang lookout, out from Oakdale, and wondered about the Aboriginal people who lived in the awesome and mysterious Burragorang Valley, this book will give you some of their history.

In 1991, I published "Aborigines of the Burragorang Valley" the first history of the Gundungurra people who lived in the valley which now forms the main catchment for Sydney's water supply. The book included a short section on the Aboriginal Riley family. When Ivy Brookman (née Riley), who grew up in the Burragorang Valley at Gungarlook farm, read this, she began to write to me about her family stories and genealogies. She eventually produced, over a 12 year period, more than 5000 pages. I have edited these to produce a history of the largest family of living Gundungurra descendants. Ivy is the great grand daughter of Dundowra or George Riley (c1833-1906) whose descendants lived in the Burragorang until it was evacuated in the mid 1950s.

Ivy and her sister are the last surviving people who lived on an Aboriginal reserve in the Burragorang Valley. Her fascinating reminiscences of life in the lost valley are complemented with archival research on the Rileys from my doctoral thesis.

George Riley was one of the first Aboriginal people to vote in NSW elections and was involved in one of the first Aboriginal land claims in the State. His eldest son John Riley is one of the heroes of the book, surviving very difficult times to raise a large family, while continuing to care for the cultural sites of his people.

Ordering details.

1. Six Foot Track-black-and-white edition-- \$20.
2. Six Foot Track-colour edition-- \$30.
3. Gungarlook-\$25.

All prices include GST and postage. Books are available by mail order only from Jim Smith, 65 Fletcher St Wentworth Falls, NSW, 2782. Payment by cheque or money order only, made out to Jim Smith. Receipts issued and books signed on request.

### **The Pilliga Scrub: coal seam gas threat**

Cate Faehrmann, Greens Member of the Legislative Council NSW Parliament House has contacted the Society to raise awareness of a gas field threat to the Pilliga Scrub. This unique area near Narrabri is the largest remaining temperate woodland in NSW. It contains many threatened animal and plant species such as the Pilliga Mouse, Black-striped Wallaby and South-eastern Long-eared Bat.

Eastern Star Gas, headed by former Nationals Leader John Anderson, has plans to develop a massive coal seam gas field of around 550 gas wells in the State Forests of The Pilliga. If approved, the gas project is set to clear over 2,400 hectares of native vegetation and will forever change the landscape of the Pilliga.

The project has been determined a 'controlled action' by the Federal Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, and this could be the best chance of protecting this highly significant area.

Please visit Cate's campaign page ([catefaehrmann.org](http://catefaehrmann.org)) to take action and help save the Pilliga Scrub. You can send an email to Minister Tony Burke, asking him to protect the Pilliga shrub, by filling out the form at the bottom of the campaign page.

In 2002 Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest was listed as an ‘endangered ecological community’ under the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. This special vegetation community is found only in the Blue Mountains Local Government Area where it is associated with the volcanic diatreme at Sun Valley. The community is characterised by Cabbage Gum (*Eucalyptus amplifolia*) which is rare in the Blue Mountains, but common on the Cumberland Plain.

Late last year the NSW Scientific Committee re-assessed the conservation status of this community. The Committee found that the community’s scarcity, coupled with existing threats to this community, are such that they determined to upgrade its conservation status from ‘endangered’ to ‘**critically** endangered’. This is the first ecological community in the Blue Mountains LGA to be listed as **critically** endangered at state level. Importantly, the Scientific Committee’s Final Determination for this community makes it very clear that both disturbed and intact remnants of this community have high conservation significance, “disturbed or modified remnants are still considered to form part of the community, including remnants where the vegetation, either understorey, overstorey or both, would, under appropriate management, respond to assisted natural regeneration ...”.

Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest occurs on private land and in Council managed reserves. The Scientific Committee notes that occurrences of this community have not been comprehensively mapped. Blue Mountains City Council’s (2002) vegetation mapping covers the known range of this community but only some remnants of this community are mapped. Other Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest remnants are mapped as either disturbed vegetation or as remnants of different significant or non-significant vegetation communities. During a recent study undertaken for Blue Mountains City Council (Smith and Smith, September 2010), we found what we considered to be a small outlying occurrence of this community near Cripple Creek at Warrimoo.



The Scientific Committee notes on-going threats to this community including clearing of native vegetation, severe fragmentation, trampling and grazing by horses and other livestock, herbicide and fertiliser application, weed invasion, feral animals, altered fire regimes, climate change and restricted distribution coupled with extremely small patch size. If these threats are to be adequately managed, it would be a good idea to firstly determine and comprehensively map just where this community does occur, on both private and community lands.

#### References

- Blue Mountains City Council (2002). Native vegetation mapping of the Blue Mountains City 2002. Report and GIS layer. Blue Mountains City Council, Katoomba.
- NSW Scientific Committee (2011). Final Determination to list Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community. NSW Scientific Committee, Hirstville.
- Smith, J. and Smith, P. (2010). Scheduled Vegetation Verification in Local Environmental Plan 1991 Area of Blue Mountains Local Government Area. P & J Smith Ecological Consultants, Blaxland. Unpublished report to Blue Mountains City Council.

## THERE IS HOPE

 Rob Baigent

It is very easy to get despondent about the apparent lack of progress in tackling greenhouse gas pollution, but there are changes happening which could snowball.

The British government has recently announced that it is aiming for a 50% reduction on 1990 emission levels by 2030 (Britain has already made reductions of more than 20%.) Prime Minister David Cameron also announced that Central Government emissions would be cut by 10% in twelve months.

New Zealand has announced a target of 50% emissions reduction on 1990 levels by 2050.

Jeremy Grantham, head of GMO one of the worlds biggest funds managers based in New York, recently stated “that no compound growth is sustainable. If we maintain our desperate focus on growth, we will run out of everything and crash.”

Grantham went on to ask “how can the world deal with such an unsustainable surge in demand. It’s not just peak oil, but peak everything that is the greatest challenge facing our species.” Part of his answer was that “We all need to adjust our behaviour to this new environment” and “It would help if we did it quickly”. (Some people are a bit slow to realise what is happening around them, but it is good to see the recognition now!)

In Australia we have Geoffrey Cousins and other high profile business people such as Jan Cameron who are helping to change attitudes about a sustainable future.

Unfortunately our governments seem to be the slowest to change and need continual prodding to make even small changes that are way behind some areas of business, and many other countries’ actions.

The talk by Guest Speaker Alan Fairley at the BMCS Monthly meeting in April was of particular interest to GoS2 supporters, because more than 10% or 23 of the 210 species in his popular book "Seldom Seen - Rare Plants of Greater Sydney" occur in the GoS2 proposal area. 21 of those species occur in Newnes State Forest, and at least seven in Ben Bullen State Forest, including *Acacia asparagoides*, *Acacia matthewii*, *Banksia penicillata*, *Boronia rubiginosa* (formerly included in *Boronia ruppilii* now restricted to north western slopes of NSW), *Leucochrysum graminifolium*, *Prostanthera hindii*, and *Zieria fraseri var compacta*.

Whereas Newnes State Forest is perhaps the western extent of many Sydney and Blue Mountains species, Ben Bullen State Forest contains unique elements of both eastern and western flora including some of the rare Capertee Valley species. Whilst both are on Narrabeen sandstone, Newnes SF is dominated by Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus seiberi*), Broad-leaf Peppermint (*E. dives*), and Blue Mountains Ash (*E. oreades*), whereas Ben Bullen SF is largely dominated by Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*) and Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*).

Newnes SF is home to more Proteacea species, including the Waratah and 6 Banksia's (*B. cunninghamii*, *ericifolia*, *marginata*, *penicillata*, *serrata*, *spinulosa*), while Ben Bullen SF has no Waratah's and only two Banksia's (*B. cunninghamii*, *B. penicillata*). However Ben Bullen SF appears to have more members of the Lamiacea family (*Prostanthera cryptandroides*, *P. hindii*, *P. howelliae*, *P. rhombea*, *P. saxicola*, *P. stricta*) and Rutacea family (*Philothea obovalis*, *P. myoporoides*, *Correa reflexa*, *Boronia microphylla*, *B. anethifolia*, *B. microphylla*, *B. rigens*, *Leonema lamprophyllum*, *Phebalium squamulosum ssp. ozothamnoides*, *Zieria aspalathoides*, *Z. cytisoides*, *Z. fraseri var compacta*, and *Z. laevigata*). Ben Bullen SF also appears to have more Hop Bushes, including *Dodonaea viscosa ssp. cuneata*, *D. triquetra*, and the fern-leaved Hop Bushes *D. boroniifolia*, *D. multijuga* and *D. sinuolata*.

Whilst Newnes SF has probably been studied more comprehensively, Ben Bullen SF has also been the subject of numerous flora assessments over many decades as part of many mining proposals. The accountability of these studies is however questionable. Rarely have we seen any of the "Seldom Seen" species above recorded in Flora Assessments for mining proposals in Ben Bullen SF, nor any of the other ROTAP species listed for the area. Sadly the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) appears to accept mining Flora Assessments as gospel, despite the many obvious omissions pointed out to them over the years by BMCS and LEG.

A classic example is LEG's recent discovery of 800 *Persoonia marginata* (Vulnerable) plants in Ben Bullen SF, some just 127 metres from the Cullen Valley Mine open-cut. *P. marginata* was not recorded on the Flora Assessment submitted by Coalpac for its recent EPBC Act referral, nor is this population recorded on the NPWS Wildlife Atlas. Whilst it is conceivable that the occasional plant might be missed, it is difficult to comprehend how any competent environmental consultant could possibly miss 800 plants, distributed

sometimes quite densely over more than 200 hectares, often next to forestry and mine access tracks, power and rail line easements.

Another example involves one of the most spectacular wildflower displays that Ben Bullen SF has to offer - a sheltered northerly slope covered in Spring with deep-pink flowers of *Boronia rubiginosa*, purple flowers of *Prostanthera hindii* and *Prostanthera howelliae*, white flowers of *Ochrosperma oligomerum*, flanked by the exquisitely scented white flowers of *Logania albiflora*, with splashes of yellow-orange *Dillwynia acicularis*. Nearby a rock ledge is embroidered with white and pale mauve flowers of the groundcover Mint Bush *Prostanthera saxicola*, occasional white flowers of what we think is *Boronia anethifolia*, and pink flowers of *Zieria aspalathoides* and *Zieria laevigata*.

This same site has been undermined by a long-wall mining panel, is encircled by cliff-falls and riddled with mine subsidence cracks. Yet to the best of our knowledge none of the above species (except for *Ochrosperma oligomerum*) is listed on the Flora Assessment for that particular mine, and few are listed on the NPWS Wildlife Atlas as occurring in Ben Bullen SF. The long-term damage done by long-wall mining to this niche habitat may not be known for decades, but there is every likelihood that root disturbance, sub-surface drainage and other factors will negatively impact upon this unique plant community.

We know of only one isolated population of *Zieria fraseri var compacta*, about 30 plants on the edge of an Invincible Colliery high-wall. Similarly two patches of *Philothea myoporoides* plants, 15 plants in total, occur right on the edge of a proposed Invincible high-wall. The only others we know of are seven plants at Cape Horn. In the same area two plants of *Rulingia dasyphylla* occur, the first recorded in the Lithgow area that we are aware of.

Another unusual plant is *Leonema lamprophyllum ssp. orbiculare* (ROTAP: Recommended 2R-P3). One clump occurs near the Coalpac Banner Drop site above Invincible Colliery high-walls. (continued on page 7)



Photo: *Leonema lamprophyllum ssp. orbiculare*

## The Kimberley: "A global treasure"

On 7 May, the Society hosted a meeting at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts to help concerned locals participate in the country-wide campaign to protect the Kimberley in Western Australia. Nearly 100 Mountains people attended and threw their support behind efforts to protect the area from the construction of a gas processing plant.

In an unlikely long-distance alliance, the public forum voted to urge Federal politicians, including the Environment Minister Tony Burke, not to support the planned development in an area that many hope will gain World Heritage listing.

Former NSW Environment Minister Bob Debus described the pristine Kimberley coast line as "a global treasure". He said the area was unique in that there had been no extinction of mammals, and it is the last refuge for many endangered species.

The audience was told that there was no particular reason for having a gas plant at the planned James Price Point site, which was being pushed by just one of the gas producers, Woodside, in conjunction with WA Premier Colin Barnett.

Former Judge, Murray Willcox said the effect of the development would be to provide cheap energy and access to gas, which would open up a rash of development of bauxite mining in the Kimberley. "My children and grandchildren should have this wonderful wilderness that we enjoy," Mr Willcox said, "No area is Australia is more deserving of World Heritage listing than the Kimberley."

Lachlan Douglas, son of outback documentary maker Malcolm Douglas, represented the Save Our Kimberley group. Mr Douglas was impressed with the large turnout for the event, and the overwhelming support for the campaign to stop the gas plant.

"We can't win this issue alone," he said. "Please tell your friend down the road, your uncle in Melbourne and everyone you know about what is happening in the Kimberley." He thanked the organisers, which included the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and local Labor party members, for their support.

Tell Minister Burke **NO** to a gas plant at James Price Point and **YES** to NATIONAL HERITAGE protection for the Kimberley: The Hon Tony Burke MP, Minister for the Environment, PO Box 6022, Canberra ACT 2600, [Tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au)

See [www.wilderness.org.au](http://www.wilderness.org.au) (the Wilderness Society's website) for more information on the campaign.

Tara Cameron, Vice President, 0419 824 974

## Rare Plants of Ben Bullen SF

(continued from page 6)

Only about a dozen other isolated patches of five to 30 plants occur, mostly in the southern part of Ben Bullen SF, an area which is also under threat from open-cut mining. It grows in rocky heath with *Allocasuarina nana*, *Calytrix tetragona*, and the occasional *Acacia asparagoides* (ROTAP 2R) and *Prostanthera howelliae*. It is a beautifully compact shrub about 1.5m high and has very shiny almost circular small green leaves with a lovely scent, which helps to find it when not in flower. It has white phe-

balium-like flowers, and sometimes grows with Alpine Phebalium (*Phebalium squamulosum* ssp. *ozothamnoides*) which also has small rounded leaves but yellow flowers.

*Melichrus erubescens* occurs in isolated pockets, including along the ridge above Invincible Colliery. It has red flowers, unlike the other two *Melichrus* species in the area which have cream flowers. *Kunzea parvifolia* only occurs in one place in Ben Bullen SF, on Tyldsley Hill above Cullen Valley Mine. The only other location we know of in the Lithgow area is on RTA road reserve 6km north of Cullen Bullen. *Styphelia triflora* is quite common in the Coalpac project area, as is the red flowering form of *Correa reflexa*, but unfortunately both are not plentiful elsewhere in the Lithgow area.

Some other unusual plants in Ben Bullen SF include *Derwentia blakelyi* (V), which we know from only 7 sites, all in highly accessible lowland areas at risk from open-cut mining, trail-bikes, 4WD's, grazing, and road/power/phone line maintenance activities. *Derwentia perfoliata* and *D. derwentiana* often grow in the same area. Perhaps less common in the Blue Mountains is Purple Goodenia (*Cooperhooia barbata*) which grows in fairly large colonies in parts of Ben Bullen SF, unfortunately mostly in the Coalpac proposal area. They are stunning in full flower, and the leaves have a spicy aroma. Lastly the Varnished Wattle *Acacia verniciflua*, more often seen further west.

Of curiosity value are a white-flowering form of *Indigofera australis* sighted near Invincible Colliery, and *Calytrix tetragona* with yellow sepals growing amongst a larger patch of *Calytrix* with the normal red sepals.

The risks that flora and fauna values in Ben Bullen SF have been exposed to by long-wall mining over the last 3 - 4 decades has been positively frightening. But the latest spate of open-cut mining proposals will be the nail in the coffin for this area. The current government and industry tactic appears to be one of cover-up and denial - what the people of NSW don't know exists, won't be missed. That is exactly why we all must let the government know in the loudest possible voice that the people of NSW do care, these species are valued and will be missed, and the extraordinary biodiversity values of GoS2 and Ben Bullen SF must be protected as a State Conservation Area.

## Landuse Committee

The Society's Landuse Committee meets once a month in Springwood. New members are always welcome so give us a call if you are interested! The Landuse committee is currently working on:

- Review of Local Environment Plan 1991 to make sure environmentally sensitive lands in the Blue Mountains get protected and not developed
- Opposing the construction of a new \$30 000+ steep downhill bike track through endangered ecological communities
- Watching out for inappropriate development and land clearing applications
- Lobbying for funding for weed control and protecting Fitzgeralds Creek from sewage discharge

Contact Ann Cantwell 4751 3215

Everyone, without exception, eats – and the majority of us enjoy the process. So it is heartening to know that by choosing our food thoughtfully we can significantly improve both the natural and social environments in which we live. How so, you may well ask?

First, for many people the food they consume accounts for the largest single component of their environmental footprint - more than half is quite likely for many Australians. This food component of our footprint, unlike many other things in life, is something that we really can make decisions about. This is very empowering once you think about it, for while a government may well ignore your submissions to halt a dirty fossil fuel power station, you as an individual can still choose to buy and/or grow food that is as environmentally sound and sustainable as we know how.

Second, we can make these food choices day after day, so the effect is sustained - it's not just another one-off gesture. What's more you can do it with lots of other people so that the effect is multiplied. In this, it is worthwhile bearing in mind that the environmental impact of the total Australian population is nothing other than the sum of our individual impacts. We are not alone, our individual choices are significant, they add up over time and are multiplied as more and more people become conscious of how important food choices are to our health and our environment. In the Blue Mountains thousands of people already choose to shop at the predominantly organic BM Food Cooperative. Australia wide the organic food segment is the fastest growing segment of the market.

So what are the broad rules for achieving a small food footprint?

- (1) Most importantly, choose locally grown produce over food transported across vast distances at enormous cost in fossil fuels. That is, minimise food-miles!
- (2) Eat predominantly low on the food chain (grains, pulses, vegetables, and fruit); meat and dairy take far more land, energy, and water to provide the same nutrition. Furthermore, a predominantly plant based diet also aligns nicely with nutritionists' recommended food pyramid for good health!
- (3) Avoid heavily processed and packaged foods; these foods provide no better nutrition (often far worse) and

cost us dearly in energy and materials.

- (4) Eat with the seasons, rather than fashion and habit.

In relation to point (1) we need to encourage the growing of **local** food at all levels: home, street, community, region, and state. While minimising the carbon emissions from transport is very important, there are many other reasons to support this practice. It effectively builds community ties and cohesion, it enhances food security and resilience by minimising the need for imports, and it frequently means you will actually know where your food comes from, who grew it, and how.

We also need to encourage food production that is based on small scale environmentally integrated methods – in this, think in terms of organic systems such as: Fukuoka's "*natural farming*", Permaculture's "*designs and systems*", and Biodynamic's "*the farm as an organism*". All these systems are based on "holistic understanding", and attempt to work with nature. Well managed organic systems that avoid harmful chemicals have been shown to build abundant soil life, store carbon effectively, enhance ecological biodiversity, and use water extremely efficiently. This is very different to the dominant paradigm of the last century, namely broad acre crop monoculture based on the heavy use of synthetic (and often highly toxic) chemicals. This has proven a sure recipe for the environmental degradation of natural habitats, the soil, and our waterways.

Now you may say that there is nothing new in the above, it has all been known for a long time. Well, that's true, but knowledge DOES NOT EQUAL action. We should never confuse being aware of an issue with actually doing something about it! So let's all make informed decisions about food, and act on those decisions. This is a vital part of leading an examined life.

*Note: This brief article barely scratches the surface of the many issues involved, but it is simply the first in a series on Food and the Environment. Later in the year, in conjunction with other Blue Mountains organisations, we also hope to run a number of practical workshops and events with a strong focus on food sustainability, environmental implications, and community resilience.*

Craig Linn, Project Officer – Food and Environment



Photos (L to R)  
Summer garden bowl; Broccoli cut and come again; Coxs Orange Pippin Apple spring pollination.

## Loose Feathers, with Carol Proberts

The past two years have seen exceptional rains throughout inland Australia with flood waters entering Lake Eyre and other inland lakes. Whenever this happens, we notice a distinct reduction in bird species here in the more coastal parts of the country. This especially applies to the nomadic waterbirds - ducks, coots, egrets, ibis, etc. In addition, the highly mobile White-browed Woodswallows, grassland species like Brown and Rufous Songlarks and the White-winged Triller (which are normally uncommon migrants in the Blue Mountains) are usually absent in a wet year. It's a paradox that a good season usually means fewer species for us in the wetter parts of Australia.

Now, some of those birds which went missing to take advantage of the flourishing inland conditions have started returning. And over the next year or two we should start seeing them in greater numbers than before, after possibly having bred several times in succession.

This was dramatically illustrated at the end of April when 77 Straw-necked Ibis turned up at Wentworth Falls. The flock, which included many immatures, remained for a week feeding on the golf course, Pitt Park, the Grammar School grounds and whatever other grassy fields they could find nearby. Big stately birds with long curved bills, their wings and back are a beautiful iridescent black, unlike the more familiar White Ibis which have become a fixture in Sydney's city parks.

Straw-necked Ibis are often found on wet paddocks in farmland doing a handy job of cleaning up locust populations. For this reason they're sometimes called the "Farmer's Friend". Flying in a long line or V formation stretching across the sky, they travel hundreds of kilometres to breed in the Murray-Darling Basin and the Macquarie Marshes when conditions are suitable.

Birdwatchers know that sewage treatment works can be great places to visit. The Lithgow sewage ponds are a good example, being normally a wonderful place to see various waterfowl. In December 2008 - before the inland rains - we counted 78 Hardheads (White-eyed Ducks), 64 Hoary-headed Grebes, 56 Australasian Shovelers, 41 Grey Teal, 34 Pink-eared Ducks and 10 Blue-billed Ducks on the ponds. But for the past couple of years, most of these birds have been absent and the ponds have been eerily empty. So it was with a sense of excitement that I recorded, last week (middle of May), the first Hardheads, Blue-billed Ducks and Hoary-headed Grebes there in many months. The Pink-eared Duck, an extreme denizen of inland floodwaters, will be the last to come back.

Since the flock of Straw-necked Ibis appeared at Wentworth Falls, more have turned up in Hartley Valley where they had been absent for over a year. I'm looking forward to a good spring and more "returning deserters".

**Carol Proberts** [origma@westnet.com.au](mailto:origma@westnet.com.au)



## 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 \$30 Concession (Senior/Student)\$20  
Household \$35 Concession (Senior/Student)\$25  
Corporate (open to negotiation) \$100

Bushwalkers only:  
(\$20 per walker per annum) \$.....

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

Send my copy of Hut News by  
Please tick box  mail  internet only

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$.....

Note: All fees include GST at the relevant rate.

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](mailto: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**

Photo: Straw-necked Ibis at Pitt Park, Wentworth Falls. Photographed by Arwen Ximenes

**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.



Down the Wallaby Track — a backward glance, with John Low  
**HONOURABLE JOHN**

The Hon. John Lucas (1818-1902) was a large man, both in physical stature and opinion, a 'colourful' 19<sup>th</sup> century politician whose character was complex and often contradictory. In the NSW Parliament, while his confrontational, even bullying, style made him enemies, his liberal outlook on many issues achieved valuable and enduring results. A commitment to public parks, for example, preserved land in Sydney and throughout NSW and his enthusiasm for the caves at Jenolan proved critical to their survival.

In the early 1860s, before the railway made them easier of access, Lucas visited the Jenolan Caves (or 'Binda Caves' as he preferred to call them, after a neighbouring property) on several occasions, camping there for days and making extensive investigations of their underground mysteries. His continuing and active interest resulted in Jenolan being designated a public reserve in 1866 and its early protection from the incursions of miners.

In 1863 he penned a long article for the *Sydney Morning Herald* that was notable especially for an enthusiastic description of his exploration of a 'New Cave' only recently discovered and his collection and removal from Jenolan of "some hundred specimens of the crystals". These "crystals" he displayed in his office and at other venues by request and later lost in the Garden Palace fire of 1882.

Despite this unashamed pride in plunder and the fact that he left his signature on no less than a dozen cave walls, ironically Lucas soon turned his attention to the prevention of Cave 'vandalism'. He was instrumental in having Jeremiah Wilson appointed as 'Keeper of the Caves' in 1867 and in the passage of regulations against the removal of 'souvenirs' in 1872. In recognition of his work in promoting and protecting Jenolan, the 'New Cave' that had so excited him in 1863 (and in which you can still see his signature in bold graffiti) was renamed the 'Lucas Cave'.

The Blue Mountains clearly exerted a strong attraction for Lucas. In the 1870s, following the construction of the western rail line, he cemented his affection for the region by purchasing 40 acres on the eastern escarpment and building a country residence there. Sited above the 'zig zag' and serviced by the Lucasville Platform, his home commanded panoramic views over the Cumberland Plain.

Trains no longer navigate the arms of the Z and Lucas and his home are long gone but the Lucasville Platform, from which visitors would climb through bush and garden to the house, survives. Though somewhat more humble than the dramatically beautiful Lucas Cave, standing on this small stone platform with the plains to the fore and the Mountains behind, the air tangy with the smell of the bush and perhaps, just beyond sight, the sound of a raven calling, can just as readily (even with the constant hum of the expressway) trigger the imagination and lead us back to a significant, if complicated, figure in Blue Mountains history.

John Low ([johnlow@iprimus.com.au](mailto:johnlow@iprimus.com.au))

Photo: John Lucas at Lucasville (2nd from left)

**BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

'Like' us on Facebook: Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
Follow us on Twitter: [bmcsnsw](#)

## 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](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) or can be posted on request. For more information call Maurice Kerkham 4739 4942 email [mauricekerkham@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jp34@tpg.com.au)

- June 11 **Mt Victoria ramble - Witch's glen through to Zigzag to Reinert's Pass.** Contact Liz 4754 4966. Meet Mt Victoria Station 8.30 am. Approx 8 km. Grade 2/3.
- June 18 **Mount Mouin via Black Horse Ridge, and Medlow Gap,** 400 metre steep climb. Meet at Blackheath Station CP. (phone for time). Bill 4758 8545. Approx 14 km. Grade 4. Jenolan/Jamison maps.
- June 25 **Surprise Walk - one of Bob's favorites or a new adventure? Bob** 4757 2694. Meet Wentworth Falls Carpark 8.30. More details, contact Bob.
- July 2 **Faulconbridge to Springwood Victory Track to Namantia Falls then the mystery cave and walk out via Wiggans Track.** Karen 4751 9695. Meet Corridor of Oaks, opposite start of walk 9am. 7km. Grade 2/3. Katoomba map.
- July 9 **Lawson—Dante's Glen and Fredericka Falls.** Some slippery rock walking. Meet Lawson Bowling Club 10 am. Bill 4758 8545. Grade 3. Map: Katoomba

**MONDAY LEISURE WALKS:** Short Day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of an average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Judith Dyer, 4758 6310, [judithbushwalker@hotmail.com](mailto:judithbushwalker@hotmail.com)

- Jun 13th **Bridge to Bridge**—circular walk through parks and beside Nepean River. Lunch at O'Donahue's. Meet Emu Plains Station 9am. Judith 4758 6310. Grade 1.
- Jun 20 **Lockleys Pylon and Du-Faurs Buttress.** Walk through forest and over heath to amazing 360 degree views. Meet Leura Station carpark 9.30. Car pool. Judith 4758 6310. Grade 2.
- Jun 27 **Whale Rock & Devlin's Creek, Cheltenham.** Walk through Lane Cove & Pennant Hills Parks. 6km. Meet Strathfield Station 9.15. Contact Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 2.
- July 4 **The Coleseum,** Medlow Bath. Great views over Megalong Valley but rock scramble and some bush bashing. Meet outside Hydro Majestic 9.40 am. Phil 4787 5560. Grade 3.
- July 11 **Christmas in July Lunch.** 12.30, Everglades historic house, Leura. \$35 pp. BYO. Bookings and payment by June 20 to Judith 458 6310.
- July 18 **BUS TRIP to Kurnell Reserve.** Picturesque coastal views. Book and pay Keith 4736 1010, \$12 pp. Meet Civic Centre, Springwood 9.40. Leader: Norm 4784 1554. Grade 1/2.

**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](mailto:platypusprotected@yahoo.com.au)

- June 9 **Faulconbridge Point.** Fire trail walk with great view at the end. Meet Faulconbridge Rail Station Car park 9.15 am. Car pool. Bring lunch. Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 1/2.
- June 16 **Bonnie Doon.** Track traverses a variety of vegetation types, from Nelly's Glen Lookout. Meet Katoomba Station car park 9.30. Joan c/o 4782 1215. Grade 2.
- June 23 **Lockley's Pylon.** Most spectacular Grose Valley views. Meet Leura Station carpark 8.30. Car pool. Bring lunch. Maurice 4739 4942.
- June 30 **Blue Gum Swamp.** Lovely walk through blue gum forest. Bring lunch. Meet behind Springwood Civic Centre 10.05. Car pool. Robyn 4751 6328. Grade 2.
- July 7 **Radiata Plateau.** Reasonably flat walk downhill through heath to breathtaking lookout. Meet Katoomba Station car park 9.30 am. Joan c/o 4782 1215. Grade 2.
- July 14 **Jack Evans Track,** Glenbrook. Descent to Erskine Creek. Meet Glenbrook Station carpark 9.30 am. Car pool. Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 2.
- July 21 **Christmas in July luncheon.** Venue to be advised. No walk. Gail 4782 1215.

### Welcome to new members

Wes Maley, Wentworth Falls  
Anne Maley, Wentworth Falls  
Malte Ebach, Wentworth Falls  
Milinda Tursky, Wentworth Falls  
Nakia Belmer, Winmalee  
Madi Maclean, Katoomba  
Robin Woods, Bowen Mountain  
John Wulff, Bowen Mountain  
Chris Alderson, Cambridge Park  
Nick Franklin, Katoomba

### THURSDAY BUS TRIP

The trip to Kanangra Walls had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers at the time when a booking commitment had to be made. I have made a tentative booking once again. This time for a trip to Noble Canyon on August 25. The cost will be \$12 and booking and payments must be made by JULY 15. This way we will ensure a firm booking of the bus. Those interested please ring me on 4757 3416 or email on [simbow@tpg.com.au](mailto:simbow@tpg.com.au).

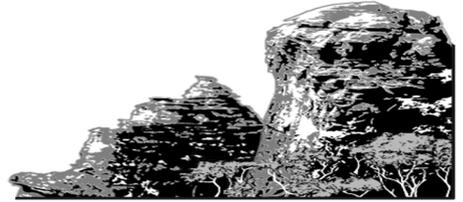
Simone Bowskill

**The Greater Blue Mountains World  
Heritage Experience**  
[www.worldheritage.org.au](http://www.worldheritage.org.au)



# Protect the Gardens of Stone

“Say NO to open cut mining!”



To: Local Member of Parliament

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

C/- The Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
P.O. Box 29  
WENTWORTH FALLS, NSW 2782

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ P/Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ MP,

## Act to protect the Gardens of Stone from open-cut mining

I ask you to make representations to Mr. Bradley Hazzard, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, calling on him to reject the 'Coalpac Pty Ltd Consolidation Project' proposal, Castlereagh Highway Cullen Bullen, NSW. This 'consolidation' involves extending open-cut and highwall mining into a large area of the publicly-owned Ben Bullen State Forest (BBSF), NSW and will impact the adjoining lands of the Gardens of Stone.

I am opposed to the development of the proposed Coalpac open cut mine because:

- If approved, the mine would scalp all biodiversity from 1088 hectares of mainly old growth forest and wildlife habitat in the BBSF and, turn its geodiversity into piles of waste rock.
- I support the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service wish to add BBSF to the conservation reserve system as a matter of priority; it is an area with outstanding natural values.
- Permitting this proposal would see the NSW Coalition Government privatising and liquidating a large part of public land, whereas I expect state forests to be protected from destruction in perpetuity.
- The Gardens of Stone's iconic and unique sandstone pagodas provide a safe haven for a variety of native flora and fauna; it is a biodiversity hot-spot. If approved, their features and stability may be threatened by partial or total collapse, compromising the region's tourism.
- Our iconic Lyrebirds use the sides of pagodas in this area to nest and raise their young. Mining will completely remove their food habitats.
- Habitats for the Regent Honeyeater, Tiger Quoll and Powerful Owl and at least 32 threatened native animals, five of which are listed under the EPBC Act, will be completely removed.
- The large open-cut will create significant dust and air quality issues which will directly affect local residents.
- The open-cut poses risks to the quality and quantity of westward-flowing surface water, and the quality of eastward-flowing groundwater.

**I also ask you to make representations to the Hon Robyn Parker, Minister for the Environment, requesting that she takes the steps necessary to protect the region within a State Conservation Area.**

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

This section will not be forwarded to your local MP

*Please complete and sign this letter and post it to us at the BMCS so we may deliver it to your Local Member of Parliament in person. To complete the sections near 'To' and 'Dear' simply write the name of your local Member, E.G.: Mrs. Roza Sage or Mr. Paul Toole. If you do not know who your local member is we can complete this for you.*

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive correspondence from BMCS about this letter.