



**"Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow"**

## **Blue Mountains Conservation Society Annual General Meeting**

**7.30 pm, THURSDAY 27 March 2014  
Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls**

Business will include receipt of reports, adoption of annual accounts, determination of structure of Management Committee, election of President, Management Committee members and other office holders.

The AGM will be FOLLOWED at 8.15 pm by  
**"Heart & Soul II"**

Stay after the AGM and enjoy a cuppa and a wonderful slide show of members' photos. The initial "Heart & Soul" slide-show, at last year's AGM, had over 150 images from many members. It was magnificent! Alan Page is now assembling this year's show (see below).

**Visitors are very welcome.**

## **Be part of Heart & Soul II — send us your favourite photos, before 17 March.**

We seek images of flora, fauna, landscapes, etc. and don't mind at all seeing our members "connecting with the environment". Photos from Society events and "funny/amusing photos" will be gratefully received.

Images aren't restricted to the Greater Blue Mountains area. The Tassie Devil was snapped in the wild in Tasmania by our president, Peter Ridgeway. It is the world's largest marsupial carnivore. So images of sunsets in Cowra and Fairy-wrens in Gippsland will be warmly considered.



So don't assign those interesting and arty photos to the bottom draw to gather dust - give them their moment of fame. Please email your images, just a few please - but mention if you have others - and include the photographer, location and subject.

The image needs to be large - not thumbnail - so it will project well on the big screen. Apologies in advance if we don't use all the photos, and images will not be returned. Send photos and enquiries to BMCS Webmaster (Alan Page)  
[webmaster@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:webmaster@bluemountains.org.au)

## **New Management Committee to be elected**

At our AGM on Thursday 27th March we will elect a management committee for the year from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. All positions will fall vacant, and there are lots of other jobs to be done, on sub committees, helping with administration, campaigns, events and special projects. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help the Blue Mountains environment.

Details of the duties and responsibilities of all management positions are set out on page 12 of this newsletter. Whilst our constitution allows for nominations to be received on the night of the AGM, we really need to be organised beforehand to ensure that there will be at least one nomination for each position.

Please contact Peter Ridgeway or Tara Cameron (contact details on page 2) if you want to discuss any of the positions or wish to be nominated. Or download a nomination form from the website and send to Blue Mountains Conservation Society, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782 to arrive before 22 March 2014.

## **Can you help publicise the Society?**

We are really proud of the efforts of the Society over the past year in working to protect and conserve our beautiful environment. We run campaigns, bushwalks, bushcare, a plant group and a native plant nursery that we would like to tell people about. This may be through newspapers, social media and/or old fashioned face-to-face methods. We would love to attract more members and spread the word about what we do.

Maybe you have some ideas or are able to lend a hand?

**As a member of the management committee, I know how energising it can be to work with other volunteers for something I care about. Yes, it does involve work, but it is rewarding.**

Please contact Tara Cameron to find out more or have a chat and share your ideas! 0419 824 974.

[taracameron4@gmail.com](mailto:taracameron4@gmail.com)

## **BMCS NURSERY PLANT SALES**

**Lawson Nursery**, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, 9am to noon.

The nursery is located in the Lawson Industrial Area on the corner of Park and Cascade Streets, opposite Federation Building Materials - see map on our website [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au).

**Blackheath Community Market**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Blackheath Public School, 9am to 1pm.

**Magpie Market**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at Lawson Public School, 9am to 2pm.

Tube stock \$2.50. Larger pots available.

Enquiries Kevin Bell 4787 6436, [kevinbell@eftel.net.au](mailto:kevinbell@eftel.net.au)

**"Hut News", the newsletter of**  
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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT**  
**ISSUE OF HUT NEWS IS**  
**22 MARCH 2014**

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PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls 2782  
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**MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES**

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## Nursery News

This will be the last *Nursery News* that I write as I will conclude my ten year term as Nursery Manager after the Society AGM in March. It has been my privilege over that period to have associated with a group of happy, willing and skilled volunteers who have contributed to the success of the nursery. That success has provided most of the funds which have enabled the Society to carry out its environmental objectives. However, the success of the nursery should not be measured solely in financial terms but also in its contribution to beautifying the Blue Mountains through supply of thousands of plants to the RMS, National Parks, Council and, most importantly, the private gardeners of the Blue Mountains.

I am also grateful to those readers who have commented favourably on my articles. I have learnt a lot by writing them and I hope that Society members have also.



To conclude this *News* I am featuring an article on a plant from a genus not discussed before, namely *Solanum*. This group of plants is from a large family which includes potatoes, tomatoes, capsicums, petunias and many plants containing poisonous alkaloids such as atropine from *Belladonna*.

We have just grown for Council a quantity of *Solanum aviculare*, commonly known as *Kangaroo Apple* or *Nightshade*. It is an erect shrub up to 2m tall but usually less with hairless

green or purple stems and large, thin, long leaves. Its most conspicuous feature is its attractive blue/violet flowers, 3-4 cm in diameter, with yellow stamens. The egg-shaped fruit is initially yellow, changing to orange then red on ripening. It is easily grown from seed. The plant is commonly seen alongside roadsides and tracks and is common in the Mountains. I'm not sure on the edibility of the fruit but the common name suggests our Macropod friends might find it acceptable.

**Kevin Bell, Nursery Manager** ([kevinbell@eftel.net.au](mailto:kevinbell@eftel.net.au) 4787 6436)

Photo: *Solanum aviculare* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanum\\_aviculare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solanum_aviculare))

## Blue Mountains Waterways Event

**You are invited to the Connected Waters Symposium!** Funded by your local Environment Levy, the Connected Waters Symposium offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about Blue Mountains waterways and aquatic life. Speakers will talk about;

- **Blue Mountains waterways** (Cabomba aquatic weed control at Glenbrook Lagoon),
- **Aquatic life** (Jamison Creek recovery),
- **Local projects** (How to build a raingarden) and
- **Community education programs** (BioBlitz schools connecting with nature project at The Gully)

**When:** Saturday 22nd March 2014, 9.30 am to 2pm

**Location:** A school in the Glenbrook area (TBA)

**Presented by:** Blue Mountains City Council

The event is free. Registrations are essential and seats limited. Please register by preferably emailing [astlawrence@bmcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:astlawrence@bmcc.nsw.gov.au) or calling 4780 5553 for more event information.

### VALLEY OF THE WATERS BUSHCARE GROUP

The Valley of the Waters Bushcare Group meets on the second Saturday of each month, 9am till noon. Tools and gloves are available. Bring a drink, a snack and a sunhat. New members are welcome. Phone Karen 4757 1929.





"Not a bad lunch spot" - Emanuel at Cape Horn. Hugh Speirs

### Ostriches outdone Don Morison

A few weeks ago, Fairfax cartoonist Alan Moir depicted Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt as an ostrich, ignoring scientific evidence on climate change. Since then, there've been lots of things that could be disregarded:

- Australia continues to show temperature patterns consistently above the averages over more than a century of record keeping.
- The Climate Council has highlighted research showing that deep oceans could have suffered the most warming and that land surface temperatures are only being held as low as they are by a meteorological balance that could be temporary.
- The toll of dwellings lost to wildfire in Australia since September 2013 has climbed to more than 300. While Winmalee (with more than 190 lost) has been worst affected, few states have been unscathed.
- Politicians have been preoccupied with drought relief. Prime Minister Abbott (a bird of a feather with Mr Hunt?) has strongly emphasised that the entire substantial program to help the drought affected is still based on an assumption of no climate change.
- Climate change is "perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction". (US Secretary of State, John Kerry).
- "Australia was very much at the forefront, Australia was pioneering in this field, and I would hope that it continues to be a pioneer," (Christine Lagarde, Head of the International Monetary Fund and a former Minister in a conservative government of France).
- "If you are intoxicated with current profits, you have to keep putting off your belief in the evidence." ("Hawkeye" – now better known as US communications expert Alan Alda, in an ABC radio interview with Linda Mottram, 21/2/14)
- The climactic day of the Herald-Sun Cycle Classic, one of the most important public events scheduled for Mr Hunt's own electorate this year, was cancelled due to risk of extreme heat and fire, causing losses to small businesses.

So you may think that ostriches often have sandy head feathers, but this is only a relative measure.

## BAT NIGHT 2014

6.30 pm to 9 pm

Friday 21 March

Katoomba Falls Kiosk

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **BatNight** on **Friday 21 March** at Katoomba Falls Reserve Kiosk will be filled with fascinating fun with furry, flapping flying foxes and interesting, intriguing investigations of insectivorous indigenous microbats.

There'll be twice as many Discovery Rangers this year to help spot the microbats chasing their dinner amongst the lights at Katoomba Falls and listen to the squeaks of the swooping hunters with special Anabat detectors.

A range of speakers throughout the night - Award-winning children's author, Aleesah Darlison brings her book, *Warambi*, to life with the story of a Little Bent-Wing bat. Senior caves guide, David Hay will tell tall tales and true about wildlife at Jenolan. Marg Turton will communicate her passion for all things batty.

The BatCave will be running with workshops with Aleesah and fun-filled children's activities, craft, mask-making, temporary tattoos, etc. Flaptastic bat DVDs will highlight their flying feats, there'll be T-shirts and raffles for Zoo, Museum & Cave Tour family passes and wonderful food from the generous Rob and his team at Katoomba Falls Kiosk.

You don't have to be millionaire Bruce Wayne to love bats – it's **FREE** !! Come along any time between **6:30 – 9:00pm**, rain or moonshine. Bring the family. There's something fascinating for everyone on this night supported by Blue Mountains Conservation Society. See the real Twilight and don't get sucked into thinking all bats are vampires.

Enquiries: ring the Batphone at National Parks 4787 8877.

Photo: Lesser long-eared bat  
(T Reardon)



## Alexander Gerald Colley (O.A.M., B.Ec., HDA)

Alex Colley, the cheerful, behind-the-scenes achiever of the NSW conservation movement and tireless worker for wilderness preservation, died on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 after sixty years of voluntary service to conservation.

Alex was born in Lithgow on August 1, 1909. He began his bush walking adventures as a little boy on family picnics in the Gardens of Stone region around his home and grew to become one of the legendary Tiger Walkers. He joined the Sydney Bush Walkers Club in 1936.

He secured a Diploma of Agriculture from Hawkesbury Agricultural College and attained a Bachelor of Economics from Sydney University. Alex married another Tiger Walker, Hilma Galliot in 1950, and then built a weekend cabin on Jamberoo Mountain called 'Ti-willa', after the first mountain he and Hilma had climbed together. Some years after her death in 1980, Alex became partners with another Tiger, Dorothy Butler.

Exploring the wilderness was his passion and a few remote places are named after him, such as Colley Ridge that leads to Mt Currockbilly. Initially he led walks using only rough maps. He was still walking well into his eighties.

He was conservation secretary of the Sydney Bush Walkers for 36 years. He served as secretary of the Turramurra Branch of the Liberal Party from 1963 to 1979 and while in that role secured, with fellow Liberal members, a unanimous vote of the Party's State Council in favour of saving the Colong Caves in the southern Blue Mountains.

In 1974 he became a full-time conservationist with the Colong Committee, which he joined in 1968. He was a director of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness for forty years and officially retired from the Board in April 2008.

Through the early 1970s saving the Boyd Plateau from being planted with exotic pine trees and the Colong Caves from limestone mining were the objectives of the Committee.

In 1975, Colong gained the support of the newly appointed NSW Environment Minister, Bob Carr, for a

Wilderness Act. Over two million hectares of wilderness have since been declared under this Act, and many of these protected areas are due to the efforts of the Colong Foundation, especially the Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness.

Alex was someone who achieved much, but did so with modesty, humour and good spirits. His publications include *Blue Mountains World Heritage* and *Sustainability* which he published in his 96<sup>th</sup> year.

His commonsense approach to conservation work of undertaking only what you can effectively perform, while holding true to your vision formed the basis of his positive outlook. As a result, the Colong Foundation, although a small organisation, almost always achieved what it set out to do.

Alex's behind the scenes approach applied research to briefing papers backed up with powerful statistics and easy-to-use policy statements which Ministers and their staff could use in Parliament House or in their own press releases. He also published more of this research in the *Colong Bulletin* now in 252 editions.

Under Alex's guidance, the Colong Foundation worked to fulfill Myles Dunphy's wilderness vision of a Greater Blue Mountains National Park, securing the Nattai and Gardens of Stone National Parks in 1991 and 1994. Ultimately the Greater Blue Mountains was inscribed onto the World Heritage list of properties in 2000.

Then Premier Bob Carr wrote to Alex stating that: *'The World Heritage decision caps your work of a lifetime. Few people get to deliver anything as grand as the vast protected areas of the Blue Mountains to future generations. Without Alex there would be little wilderness protected in this State. We owe Alex a lot.'*

In 1984 he was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in 1984, he became Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Leader of the Year 1998, received a Senior Australian Achiever Award in 2000, a Centenary Medal in 2001 and he received the Australian Geographic's Conservation Award in 2001. He was, however, proudest of being enrolled into the Allen Strom Hall of Fame because it was from his

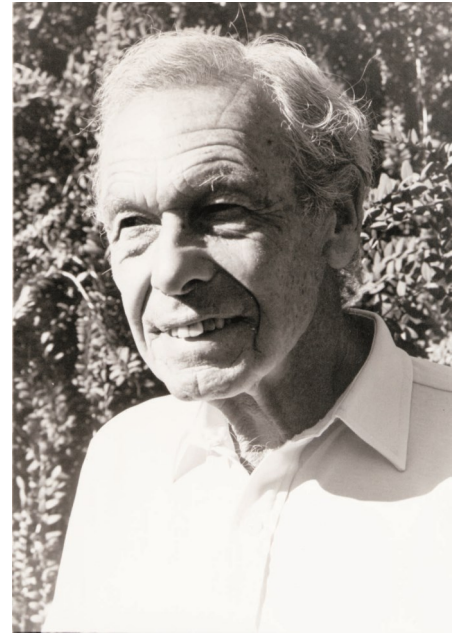


Photo of Alex Colley from the Colong Foundation Collection

colleagues. This award was given to him by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW in 2006 for his lifetime of service to conservation.

Alex was a great believer in the value of friends. He had them through his bush walking, wilderness activism, tennis, and bridge. He was also an avid amateur geologist and furniture maker, and attended adult education classes for many years on both topics. He was a subscriber to the Australian Ballet for 50 years, and also loved classical music.

Alex is survived by his daughter, Frances Colley, her husband David Hart, his grandchildren, Alexander and Louisa Colley Hart, and is missed by his many friends and admirers in the bush walking and conservation movements.

*Conservationists gathered with Alex's family at Northern Suburbs Crematorium for his funeral on 19 February 2014 and a tribute celebration is planned in the Greater Blue Mountains area for June 2014.*

*Adapted by Don Morison from the obituary penned by Keith Muir, Director, Colong Foundation for Wilderness (Read Keith's full length obituary of Alex Colley at: <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/news/2014/alex-colley-oam-tribute>*

*Further tributes from Andy Macqueen (page 8) and Wyn Jones (page 10).*

## The impact of coal wagons on human health

Peter Ridgeway

Millions of tonnes of coal are transported by rail every year in NSW. The freight lines are concentrated in suburban residential areas including parts of the Hunter, Central Coast, Wollongong and our own Blue Mountains.

According to research published by Hunter Valley activists, the uncovered, unwashed coal wagons lose between 1% and 3% of their load in transit between the mines and the port. But what impact does this have on our health?

Recent EPA studies into the impact of coal dust from wagons has been highly criticised by the scientific community, and this has led to independent testing and investigations by the Hunter Community Environment Centre. As publicised in recent media the results have been alarming – not only regarding the impact of coal dust, but also allegedly misleading statements from government departments and ministers.

### Why cover and wash wagons?

- Uncovered and unwashed coal wagons release particulate air pollution. The dangerous particulate matter less than 10 microns in size can increase by as much as 1200% as coal trains pass by.
- The Australian Medical Association notes that more people die from air pollution in Australia each year than from motor vehicle accidents. The AMA is calling for the covering of wagons in NSW in order to save lives and promote a healthy community.
- Covering coal wagons is standard in Europe and the USA. The additional cost of covering is estimated at \$5-10 per trip per wagon.

**It is estimated that over 2000 coal trains move through the Blue Mountains annually.** No data is available regarding the impact of coal wagons on the health of Blue Mountains residents. Previous attempts to obtain government data on the number of coal train movements on the Blue Mountains line have been refused. The Blue Mountains prides itself on its clean air.

Released EPA documents can be viewed in full at <http://miningleaks.com.au/hunter-coal-dust-cover-up> The EPA commissioned report has been criticised by the scientific community. Ben Ewald, an epidemiologist and medical researcher at the University of Newcastle noted: *"It looks like they didn't know what they were doing or it was a deliberate attempt not to find the dust."*

Speaking for the Hunter Community Environment Centre, Dr James Whelan has called for a parliamentary inquiry to investigate *"a systematic cover-up... to conceal the extent and nature of pollution caused by uncovered trains."*

### The petition.

Hunter Community Environment Centre (HCEC) 'Cover the Wagons' petition aims to collect 10,000 signatures calling for a NSW parliamentary inquiry. This petition is in the interest of all coal-affected communities in NSW. Blue Mountains Conservation Society is supporting the petition.

Please download the petition at <http://www.hcec.org.au/coverthewagons> (there's a link at the bottom). You can sign for yourself but we also urge you use the opportunity to visit neighbours and friends and get them to sign it too! Return signed petition sheets by **16 March 2014** to Hunter Community Environment Centre, 169 Parry Street, Hamilton East, 2303.

## Was playing field ever level? Don Morison

There has been concern in the Blue Mountains community for decades that too much freight was being conveyed by road. The shifting of fuel transport between Sydney and the Central West away from rail and onto the road was especially worrying. But it has taken a series of horrific crashes elsewhere in the state to make the public better informed about how road freight companies may have undercut rail.

Now, some state governments (including NSW and Victoria) and the media (for example in a recent ABC Four Corners report) are looking more sceptically at road freight. The use of unroadworthy vehicles and the forcing of heavy vehicle drivers to do ridiculously long shifts have been spotlighted. This comes at the same time that some companies are asking the Federal Government to import overseas drivers on work visas. Would overseas drivers be less likely to whistle-blow?

It would benefit the Blue Mountains in particular through greater environmental safety, road safety, residential amenity and reduced motorist stress to shift more cross-mountains freight by rail. At a recent Australian Labor Party forum at Lawson, some concerns were expressed that freight trains are delaying mountains passenger trains. But with a small amount of investment in better maintenance, signalling and rail traffic control, the Blue Mountains railway line could undertake a much bigger task for both passengers and freight than it does now. This should be taken up with our politicians at every opportunity.

## LEP campaign continues Angela Langdon

Blue Mountains Conservation Society held a recent public meeting at Lawson, which was designed to inform residents of the environmental aspects of the draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and provide assistance in making public submissions. Nearly 90 people were at the meeting, with residents attending from Mt Victoria to Glenbrook. Speakers included the Mayor Mark Greenhill, council staff and Society representatives.

The Society outlined that it supports the environmental provisions contained in the draft LEP, which are essential to maintaining the environmental and scenic values of the Blue Mountains. We are also pursuing amendments to improve environmental outcomes. Submissions to the draft LEP close on 5 March 2014.

However, we are very concerned about what happens next in terms of finalising the draft LEP. Council will review the public submissions and then negotiate with the Department of Planning and the Minister of Planning to finalise the LEP. This is a "behind closed doors" process and could lead to a final LEP being approved and gazetted by the Minister which is a "watered-down" version of the draft LEP. The Society emphasised that lots of submissions were needed in support of the draft LEP, especially the environmental provisions, to send a clear message to the NSW government and our local MPs.

We will continue to campaign for the best possible LEP for the Blue Mountains, and will be closely following the process for finalising the LEP. Watch for updates on the our website and in Hut News.



## Not short on sport! Christine Davies



Recently I received a post-card congratulating us on February 2014 Hut News – “the best so far regarding design, layout, photographs, and shorter and interesting stories”. (Thank you, Ron.) The writer goes on to say: “There is however a shortage of sports stories”.

A few years ago I wrote in Hut News about a junior soccer match at Lithgow when, soon after the game had finished, I noticed a number of birds on the field ... they were robins, feeding where the 10 year olds had broken the surface of the sodden ground with the spikes of their soccer boots. And every month we cover bushwalks which involve multiple sports-related activities and, this summer, sometimes talking about the England/Australia Cricket Test during the tea break.

On the subject of English cricket ... the largest insect in England is the Green Bush Cricket. It is 4 cm long and can jump **one metre into the air** – which could be an advantage when fielding in a game of cricket.



There are over 900 species of cricket worldwide and while the name of the insect and the name of the sport appear unrelated, there are some connections. The Australian Field Cricket is the most common cricket in Australia. On hot summer evenings (after stumps) you will hear their harmonies as they try to catch the attention of a female cricket.

The British Field Cricket is very rare. Habitat loss and alteration of grasslands has led to its drastic decline, to the point that during the late 1980s this species was reduced to less than 100 individuals in a single surviving colony – **on the Arundel Castle cricket ground in West Sussex**. The reason it survived there was because of bare patches in the grass (where young crickets could burrow to survive the winter) created in the banks by spectators **while they were watching cricket**. A captive breeding program was established in 1991 to save the British Field Cricket from extinction.



BMCS  
Interpretive  
Bushwalkers  
at Jenolan,  
13/2/2014.

## AN INVITATION TO ‘DESERTSONG’

Local photographer and Society member Chris Ireland extends an invitation to Consoc members to enjoy her latest exhibition, ‘Desertsong’.

‘Desertsong’ seeks the ancient sense of place common to indigenous cultures, and to our own ancestral Old European culture. In these cultures, nature and place are seen as imbued with an essence, a sacredness. Western culture has moved away from this sensibility into a relationship with nature and the land that sees them as separate, as resources, and exploitable. These works seek to re-establish a connection with nature and with the forces that shaped the land we walk today.

The ancient heart of our continent is inconceivably old and has been the sacred country of the Arrernte people for millennia.

These photographs have been taken in the Eastern and Western MacDonnell Ranges outside Alice Springs. They seek not to convey the grandeur of landscape, nor the scientific accuracy of botanical illustration. Rather they pursue the ephemeral beauty of a landscape that has been formed over aeons of geological time, places that have been shaped by climate, plants, animals and humans. They seek to immerse the viewer in the spirit of these places, and to offer hope of reconciliation and healing.

The exhibition will be held at the NPWS Blue Mountains Heritage Centre, Govett’s Leap Rd, Blackheath, and will open with drinks on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at 1 pm. The show will run until 29 April 2014.

## A walk at Jenolan

A leisurely downhill stroll in a beautiful location on a nice day, a wonderful variety of bird species, some interesting skinks basking on rocks, and numerous tame water dragons ... throw in an exhibitionist platypus in a clear blue pool, and the Thursday Interpretive bushwalkers declared the walk at Jenolan Caves Reserve a great success.

Photos: Bushwalkers pose outside Caves House (Geoff Deryn) and a Platypus feeding in the Blue Pool (Sue Nicol)



When I started this article several days ago, my mind was on whales, sharks and krill, but the topic is far broader as shown by Malcolm Moore in his recent article<sup>1</sup>. Whereas China should be congratulated for making substantial strides in protecting giant pandas and their habitat, and stabilizing Tibetan antelope populations, it is conversely castigated for failing to stop illegal trading in elephant ivory, rhinoceros' horns, tigers' bones, and bears' gall bladders and other parts.

Why should these diametrically opposed assessments exist? The answers are relatively simple. Pandas, having once been a target for big game hunters when the 'sport' of hunting carried less opprobrium than it does today, were nearly hunted to extinction. Only when the **commercial value** of pandas in terms of lending between zoos, the development of panda-based tourism, and the creation of breeding and research programs, has the tide turned. Indeed, vast portions of natural forest habitat are now protected and are being re-established. Live pandas have value!

The converse is true for ivory, horns, bones and gall bladders. Whereas the source-animals support tourism in their country of origin, poachers must kill or maim the animals to obtain the commercial products to supply the Chinese market. As Chinese wealth grows, the demand for illegal product increases and the assault on endangered species in source-countries similarly increases. It all comes down to the profits made when demand exceeds supply and smugglers and suppliers are inadequately punished. The drug market is not dissimilar!

In Australia, we criticise Chinese practices in much the same way as we condemn the Japanese (and to a lesser degree, Icelanders and Norwegians) for whaling, and some other Asian countries for depleting types of tuna and other fish species. But is our righteousness justified and uncontaminated with the taint of racism? After all, we have extinguished a large number of species and, despite a substantial level of community awareness, we are inadequately protecting the koala, Tasmanian devil, dingo and numerous other animal and plant species which impede our thirst for economic development and population growth. Furthermore, although the Asian diaspora is far reaching, it should be recognised that the US is the world's second largest importer of illegally traded animals.

The simple facts are that we deplore the killing of whales because they are a major tourist asset, we chauvinistically believe that they have chosen 'our' waters (perhaps in much the same way as many settlers and refugees have chosen to come here), they are warm-blooded intelligent mammals, some are heavily depleted and endangered, and we no longer eat them or need their blubber. We have similar feelings about other Cetaceans including dolphins, porpoises and even the Orca or killer whale.

I too abominate the killing of whales, but I find it equally repulsive when we sanction the killing of sharks because they attack the strange 'fish' in their waters, and we shoot crocodiles for taking humans who supposedly have superior intelligence. But my biggest hate of all is the massive market in krill and calamari oils. Do all

those who swallow it appreciate that krill are near the bottom of the oceanic food chain? They eat phytoplankton and zooplankton and convert them into a form which is the principal food source of whales, seals, penguins, squid and fish<sup>2</sup>.

**The equation is simple: dead krill = dead whales = dead oceans.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.smh.com.au/world/china-both-hero-and-villain-in-world-of-wildlife-conservation-20140214-hvce1.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krill>

### **Planning Reforms Update—Sue Morrison**

The NSW government's proposal to replace the current *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* with new planning legislation was stalled at the end of 2013 when the Premier rejected almost 50 amendments made to the *Planning Bill 2013* by the NSW Legislative Council (or Upper House), many brought about in response to widespread community concern.

Among almost 50 amendments was the removal of draconian provisions in the **Mining SEPP – State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007** – relating to consideration of the economic significance of resources and non-discretionary development standards for mining.

The Premier indicated further consultation on the draft legislation before it returned to the Legislative Assembly. At the time of going to press the NSW Planning & Infrastructure Minister was "considering all options on the best means to implement the reforms that would be in the interest of the community", including the possibility of using existing special Ministerial powers to bypass Parliament [Sean Nicholls, 'Fears overhaul of planning laws will be forced through', (SMH 12/2/14)]

The government has been heavily lobbied by developer groups including the Urban Development Institute of Australia which plans to fund an intensive campaign to get the *Planning Bill 2013* passed through Parliament without the Upper House's proposed amendments.

**What you can do:** Get informed. The government's rationale for the changes is outlined here: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/newplanningsystem>. The community-based Better Planning Network's response is outlined in its media releases here: <http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/nsw/pages/media/>

Volunteer to organise street stalls informing local residents about the proposed changes and what they can do to stop them (materials provided). Email [campaigns@bluemountains.org.au](mailto:campaigns@bluemountains.org.au) if you'd like to volunteer, preferably with a friend to help.

Email your local NSW MP via the Better Planning Network's website, urging them to reject the proposed Planning Bills and consider better alternatives for planning in NSW: <http://betterplanningnetwork.good.do/nsw/emailpollies/>.

You can find out more at a Public Forum on the NSW Planning Reforms hosted by the Hawkesbury Environment Network: **Friday 21st March 2014, 7-9pm** at North Richmond Community Centre, 33 William St, North Richmond.

## Living Sustainably Peter Green

Nearly five years ago, during a BMCS promotion to reduce the family environmental footprint, three members of ConSoc jointly addressed a monthly meeting about sustainable living. The presentation seemed to strike a chord with the audience. With out-of-control population growth foisted on us by government policy and big business, and negligible, if any, reduction in the per-capita footprint, that topic is more relevant than ever. I brushed up my presentation for Hut News, with 60 individual suggestions. The first 20 of those were listed in the previous edition of Hut News, and you can find them in the web site archives. A further twenty are listed here, and the final twenty will appear in the next Hut News.

From my observations and reading, substantive change in our patterns of consumption is rare, so there remains an enormous challenge to successfully halt and then reverse the progressive destruction of this planet's environment, our life support systems. It can't be overstated; this is about the life that your grandchildren will lead. The fate of planetary ecosystems is also in the balance, as we plunge into the 6<sup>th</sup> Great Extinction, an event that might well surpass 'The Great Dying' of the Permian period ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction\\_events/Permian%E2%80%9993Triassic\\_extinction\\_event](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/extinction_events/Permian%E2%80%9993Triassic_extinction_event)).

Denial and apathy have no place.

These are some steps that I have taken, as I recoiled from my typical highly consumptive lifestyle. I hope that they give you some ideas, perhaps inspiration. And, of course, we can't avoid the obvious; our total societal impact is a product of our individual footprints multiplied by our population.

## 60 Hints for Living Sustainably, 21-40

- Use natural or more chemically benign products as pesticides and cleaning products.
- Make an extra effort to recycle, and go beyond the kerbside collections. This should extend to items like batteries and e-waste.
- Use reusable shopping bags, and decline packaging when possible.
- Try to re-purpose unwanted items rather than discarding in the rubbish bin; they might just find a new home.
- Encourage your employer and fellow employees to lift their environmental performance at work and at home.
- Turn out lights in rooms not being used.
- In winter especially, close off rooms not being used.
- Don't bother to heat bedrooms.
- Two story houses should have the upstairs (typically, bedrooms) closed off (because heat rises) to avoid unnecessary heating.
- In winter wear warm clothes in the house. If you feel that you need a heater, set the thermostat much lower than people seem to need. You don't need to walk around the house in winter in a T-shirt.
- Use natural airflow in summer and winter to regulate the house temperature.
- Install double glazing, heavy curtains and pelmets to control the house temperature.
- In summer open windows and doors at night, and in the morning close them. Also, in summer, close curtains on east side in mornings and on the west side in afternoons. If away from the house on summer days, keep all curtains closed.
- In winter, close up curtains at sunset to trap in warm air. Open up on east side first as sun rises.
- Install ceiling and wall insulation. Install sarking in new homes. Ventilate roof cavity in summer.
- Use skylight tubes for darker places of the house, such as hallways or en-suites wardrobes.
- Open the fridge door for a minimum time.
- Design housing estates so that blocks are elongate east-west.
- Design house so that they are elongate east-west and face north.
- Design with eave widths that are appropriate to the house latitude and wall height. This maximises winter sun penetration while eliminating summer sun penetration.

More hints next month .....

**It's amazing to think that when Alex Colley first went to Blue Gum Forest it hadn't even been named,** and there had been no campaign to save it. He got there by walking UP the Grose! The year was 1927 and Alex was only eighteen—nine years before he joined the Sydney Bushwalkers and commenced his long and distinguished career in the conservation movement.

I didn't know Alex very well, but I know he had an important influence on me. Having grown up in bushwalking and being one of many peripheral activists in the original Colong Campaign, I disappeared to the Northern Territory to do other things for nearly two decades. Meanwhile, my mother played tennis with Alex—they both played well into their eighties. Alex knew of my bush interests through my mother, and would quietly feed her occasional Colong Foundation literature, which, although not interested herself, she would dutifully send on to me. I received it with interest, and am happy to say its influence was a significant part of the mosaic that drew me back to the south, and the Blue Mountains, to resume my bushwalking and conservation interests. A small action can have far-reaching consequences! Thank you, Alex. Andy Macqueen

## Bush track, early autumn

The air so still and sun-charged  
I'm almost afraid to move  
lest this beauty be sullied  
or turn out not to be real.

Walking down the track  
into painted light  
I'm like a pup  
open to discover the next moment  
in the shimmer  
of morning eucalypts.

All is as it should be  
all nature here  
smiling  
or benignly indifferent.

I smile too  
like a kelpie  
running after its master.

Brendan Doyle



## Loose Feathers, with Carol Proberts

Everyone who loves the outdoors knows that flying insects are most abundant in summer, so it's no surprise that many of the birds which feed on them are migrants. One of the most agile and familiar of the aerial feeders is the little Welcome Swallow, so-named because the returning birds are often regarded as a sign of spring. But at this time of year after finishing breeding they will form flocks and prepare to head north again, though they are only partial migrants with some birds remaining through winter.

You've probably seen their nest. It's an open cup of mud and grass attached to a vertical wall and usually placed under eaves, bridges, in sheds, etc. They have even been recorded nesting on ferries and travelling back and forth across a river all day long! One pair nested on a paddle steamer on the Murray cruising along the river between Murray Bridge and Morgan in South Australia. Their natural nest sites are rock walls and under overhangs, yet these days it's surprisingly rare to find them nesting in the endless cliffs of the Blue Mountains. They seem to much prefer human-built structures.

Aerial foragers like swallows and the closely related martins remain in the air for long periods, taking insects in flight. They also fly low over water, snatching insects from the surface and up to 2 cm below the surface of the water. They drink in the same way, by skimming the surface in flight.

Their relatively long wings enable such an aerial lifestyle and the agility to capture small flying prey. Imagine trying to pluck a fly from the air with tweezers! The swallow's wide bill helps, as do its "rectal bristles" - stiff hair-like feathers at the base of the bill. These are often assumed to direct insects into the bill but possibly also have a sensory function, like whiskers, as well as protecting the bird's eye.

While swallows have a deeply forked tail with long outer tail feathers (yes, the original "swallow-tail"), the closely related martins can be distinguished by their squarer or shallowly forked tail. In addition, the martins have a white rump which is visible when the birds are flying away from you (the rump being the lower portion of the back, just above the tail). Tree Martins are moderately common in the Blue Mountains and as their name suggests, nest in tree hollows. In the warmer months you can see colonies of them in open woodland where *Eucalyptus sclerophylla* and *E. mannifera* form suitable small hollows, e.g. on Shipley, Minnehaha Falls reserve or at Wentworth Falls Lake.

Much less common in the mountains are the tiny Fairy Martins with their reddish head and brighter-white rump. In more open country you'll find clusters of their bottle-shaped nests of mud, like upside-down igloos, under bridges and culverts.

Swallows are often confused with swifts (needletails) but the latter are bigger, more powerful birds with much longer, narrower curved wings like a scythe blade cutting through the air. I wrote about these amazing fast-flying birds in the March 2010 issue.

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



Tree Martins either side of a smaller Fairy Martin, photographed by Carol Proberts in the Capertee Valley.

## You can become a member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society

- **Post** this Application Form with your cheque or money order to: Blue Mountains Conservation Society, PO Box 29, Wentworth Falls, NSW 2782, **OR**
- **Join online** at: [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

(Use capitals please—even for email address)

Name(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

Address: .....  
.....PC .....

Phone(s) .....

Email .....

**I/We agree to support the aims and objectives of the Society as set out on reverse side of this membership application:**

Please sign if named above.

Signature(s) 1. ....  
2. ....  
3. ....

**MEMBERSHIP FEES** (please circle one item)

Single \$30 Concession (Senior/Student) \$20

Household \$35 Household Concession \$25

Corporate (negotiable)

Membership (circled above) \$ .....

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

Bushwalkers: please add  
\$20 per walker per annum. \$ .....

**TOTAL AMOUNT** \$ .....

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

Would you like to be involved in any of the following activities or working groups? (Please underline):

Land use/development issues; Environmental Education; Threatened species issues; Website and social media; Plant nursery assistance; Bushcare; Publicity/photography; Water quality/sourcing studies; Administration;

**ENQUIRIES:** Phone 02 4757 1872

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

## BMCS Planning and Development Resource Kit

Do you want to take action on an environmental issue in your neighbourhood or the Blue Mountains more broadly?

Do you want information about the laws and procedures relating to development and environmental protection?

Find out what **YOU** can do! Go to the Planning and Development Resource Kit  
[www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/pdrk-welcome.shtml)

## 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.

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

## Welcome to new members

Maree Giddins, Glenbrook  
Julie Henninger, Springwood  
Sandra Nichols, Bullaburra  
Lisa Parsons and family, Faulconbridge  
Cristina Ricci, Woodford  
Amanda Brien, Faulconbridge  
Phillip Brien, Faulconbridge  
Kevin Archer, Blaxland

JOIN Blue Mountains  
Conservation Society,  
or renew your membership online.  
[www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)

Down the Wallaby Track: a backward glance, with John Low

## MUSCULAR CHRISTIANITY

Frederick Vicary Pratt was a graduate of Sydney University, with honours in Latin and Greek and a gold medal in Philosophy. He was also a minister in the Congregational Church, his first charge being the country parish of Katoomba where his ministry began in 1897. What the official boundaries of that parish were at the time are uncertain but, with the rural districts of Megalong and Burratorang stretched out below him, he clearly interpreted his area of responsibilities widely. By the end of his term at Katoomba, Rev. Pratt had become something of a legend in the valleys.

Not surprisingly, with the bulk of its population of Irish convict stock, the Catholics were the first to build in the Burratorang and by the time Rev. Pratt arrived on the scene another 15 years would have to pass before a Protestant church opened its doors. In the Megalong there were no church buildings of any denomination until 1922. Services in the valleys, held when clergy from Camden or the Mountains came through, were conducted in private homes or public halls, the Megalong probably the better served with Protestant and Catholic clergy visiting from Katoomba via the Six-Foot Track. One colourful Catholic priest, a 'bit of a sportsman', is even reported to have challenged his Protestant counterparts to a horse race into the valley.

To a young clergyman full of energy and idealism the valleys must have appeared fertile ground for a pioneering ministry. Frederick Pratt was quick to take up the challenge. A strict observer of the Sabbath, the only family activity he approved on Sundays outside worship was walking, a practice he clearly enjoyed and soon put to professional use. Though his artist son Douglas (born in Katoomba in 1900) recalls the family possessing a horse and sulky, a clear memory of Rev. Pratt as a walker has survived in the valleys.

In his memoir of the Burratorang, *Rabbit Hot, Rabbit Cold* (ACT, Popinjay, 1991), Owen Pearce, of solid valley descent, writes:

"During Dad's boyhood days it was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to pay visits to the Cox's River end of The Valley via Kings Tableland twice and sometimes three times a year. His transport was his own two legs; he would walk the twenty five miles from Katoomba to Cox's River singing hymns as he strode along. Mr. Pratt always stayed with my grandparents George and Elizabeth Pearce on these visits, each of which would last anywhere up to a fortnight. He would hold a service for two Sundays running in the slab utility hall at Pearce's and during the week he would pay a visit to every family in that area." Then, he would set off again for Katoomba "singing loudly".

Sometimes, some insist, Rev. Pratt was accompanied by a friend, another enthusiastic walker, the young Douglas Mawson! Though leaving Katoomba in 1907, Rev. Pratt later visited the Mountains on a number of occasions, most notably to attend the opening of a Congregational Church in the Megalong Valley in 1922. He died in Sydney ten years later.

John Low ([grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com](mailto:grizzlybear3au@yahoo.com))

**Alex Colley the backroom warrior for Wilderness**, an eloquent writer and passionate campaigner. What was seen in the public eye was Milo Dunphy and Keith Muir but they were to be so effective at their work because Alex was there weaving words and strategies for them behind the scenes. And when he did come out in public you knew what he stood for and beware the non believers. It was Alex who cheered the most and worked the hardest for the Blue Mountains World Heritage, so don't any of you lose sight of this great work. And don't throw it away for petty and short term politics. Alex is watching from the Great Wilderness in the Sky. Wyn Jones.

## BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc: BUSHWALKING ACTIVITIES

Membership of the bushwalking group is open to Society members. The BMCS Bushwalking Guide which explains the numbered grades can be found on the Society's website [www.bluemountains.org.au](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. Bring morning tea, lunch and adequate water. If you are a new walker to Saturday walks, before attending contact the designated contact person or the Group Co-ordinator Jim Percy—phone 4758 6009, email [jp34@tpg.com.au](mailto:jp34@tpg.com.au) Check [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) for updates.

**Saturday Walks driver reimbursement:** *In an effort to ensure that car drivers are adequately compensated for the use of their vehicles a driver reimbursement policy applies (Check [www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au) Saturday Walks page for details)*

Mar 15 **Glenbrook to Springwood** via Duckhole, St Helena Crater turn-off, Lost World, Bunyan Lookout, Perch Ponds and Magdala Creek. Leader **Bart** 4739 0047. Meet Glenbrook Station Carpark 8 am. 20Km. Gr 3. Map **Penrith/Springwood**

Mar 22 **Noble Canyon and beyond.** Leader **Emanuel** 4757 1090 or 0419773906. Contact Leader after 7.00pm for details. Map **Ben Bullen/Cullen Bullen**

Mar 29 **Gardens of Stone – off track - Walk is full -** Leader **Hugh** 0423309854. Contact Leader After 8.00pm. **An alternate walk is offered. See below**

Mar 29 **Faulconbridge Ridge** to Kariwoka Ridge to the Axehead - magnificent views into Springwood Creek and the Grose. Leader **Jim** 4758 6009. Meet at Springwood Stn Carpark 9.00am. Map Springwood/Kurrajong.

Apr 5 **Pagoda Walk** - in Pagoda country every walk discovers something new. Leader **Bob** 4757 2694. Meet at Wentworth Falls Stockade CP 7.30am. 11KM. Gr 2/3. Map **Ben Bullen/Cullen Bullen.**

Apr 12 **Gardens of Stone – off track - Walk is full.** Leader **Hugh** 0423309854. Contact Leader after 8.00pm. **An alternate walk is offered. See below.**

Apr 12 **Dawes Ridge to the end of Track via Mount Twiss.** Leader **Karen** 4751 9695. Meet at End of **Glossop Rd Linden at the observatory** 8.30am. 15Km. Gr 3. Map **Katoomba/Springwood.**

(Check with the leader first, then the BMCS website ([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)) for updates)

**MONDAY LEISURE WALKS:** Short Day walks of 3-5 hours, suitable for walkers of an average fitness. Bring morning tea and lunch and adequate water. The Group Co-ordinator is Keith Dorrian, 4736 1010, [keithdor53@hotmail.com](mailto:keithdor53@hotmail.com)

Mar. 10 **Darks Cave.** Meet Leura station Car Park 8-25am. Car pool Fare \$5. Ros 4733 3880. Grade 3

Mar 17 **Nellies Glen to Devils Hole Katoomba.** Meet Katoomba Station car park 8-25am. Car pool. Robyn Hine 4739 3923. Grade 3.

Mar 24 **City Walk - Hen and Chicken Bay.** Interesting historic walk, bus & ferry. Meet Central Station 9-30 am. Bus /Ferry. Judith 4758 6310. Grade 1-2.

Mar 31 **Bus Trip - Mt Airlie.** Old Diamond Mine and Seven Hundred Sisters. **\$12-Book and pay Tony** 9625 3985. Meet behind Westpack Car Park Springwood 7-50am. Leader Narelle 4751 2465. Grade 3.

Apr 7 **River Caves Canyon** - Jewel of the Wollomi. Expect water to knee height. Walker numbers limited to number of 4WD vehicles. Book place with leader. Meet Mt. Vic Station 8.45am. Leader Maurice 0402 402 783 or 4739 4942. Grade 3.

**THURSDAY PLEASURE WALKS:** Walks 2-3 hours conducted at a leisurely pace to suit walkers on the day. Bring morning tea, adequate water and lunch if noted. Group Co-ordinator is Beverley Thompson, 4757 2076, [roybev12@bigpond.net.au](mailto:roybev12@bigpond.net.au)

Mar 13 **Medlow Bath to Blackheath.** Seven kilometres, 370 metres ascent. Views of Megalong Valley and Shipley Plateau. Take lunch. Meet outside Hydro Majestic 9.30am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2.

Mar 20 **Lapstone to Emu Plains.** Take lunch. Meet Lapstone Station east side 9.30am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942. Grade 2

Mar 27 **Bus trip to Mount Airley**—a mesa with great views. Sorry bus full. Waiting list only. Book and pay Barrie 4782 9235. Take lunch. Meet Council Depot South Street North Katoomba 7.45am sharp. Leader Narelle 4751 2467. Grade 2

Apr 3 **Moya Point Leura.** Bush track to lookout. Take lunch. Car pool. Meet cnr The Mall and Megalong Street 9.30am. Leader Tracy 0434 362 611. Grade 2

Apr 10 **Cronulla to Gunamatta Bay.** Take lunch. Meet top of escalators Central Station 9.10am. Leader Maurice 4739 4942 Grade 2.

### The Gardens of Stone Visitors Map

\$7.50 plus \$1.50 postage.

Buy the map online  
([www.bluemountains.org.au](http://www.bluemountains.org.au)) or  
write to BMCS, PO Box 29,  
Wentworth Falls 2782 with your  
cheque or money order.

**BLUE MOUNTAINS  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc**  
'Like' us on Facebook:  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
Follow us on Twitter: [bmcsnsw](https://twitter.com/bmcsnsw)



A Mud Wasp was seen putting spiders into its nest at Megalong. Typically, the female wasp catches a particular insect or spider (what depends on the species of wasp) then stings and paralyses it. She then carries it back to the nest, lays an egg on it and seals the nest. The wasp grub hatches, consumes the food provided and pupates in the cell. When the adult emerges it chews its way out of the cell. We saw the wasp on this nest

on 21 February. It is a large structure compared to the size of the insect.

At Maiyingu Marragu the previous day I came across another species of wasp on the ground with an unfortunate spider, of equal size, which it was attempting to carry, drop, circle around, carry, drop ... Not good for the individual spider, but for the wasp species, survival. Christine.



**BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC — MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014**

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**POSITIONS:** The following office bearers comprise the BMCS Management Committee. These members attend monthly Management Committee meetings, and other meetings as needed. Additional personal time is needed to effectively handle the responsibilities. A guide to the total number of hours per month (hpm) is shown in brackets after each position.

**President (15 hpm)**

- Provides leadership and direction for BMCS
- Chairperson for BMCS meetings
- Spokesperson for BMCS
- Coordinates the BMCS response to ad hoc matters with assistance from the Management Committee
- Can provide copy for Hut News
- Can participate in selected BMCS objectives where practicable

**Senior Vice-President**

**Second Vice-President  
(two positions, each 15 hpm)**

- Deputises for the President as required
- Takes responsibility for one or more nominated major projects
- Undertakes business arising at meetings, assists sub-committees when required
- Welcomes members and visitors at monthly meetings, assists with name tags and attendance book.

**Administration Officer (30 hpm)**

- Receives and distributes incoming mail from post and email
- Prepares monthly schedules of correspondence – inwards and outwards
- Manages office, including files, archives, stationery supplies, computer and other office equipment
- Manages Hut foyer displays

**Meetings Secretary (15 hpm)**

- Prepares meeting agendas and minutes.

**Membership Secretary (35 hpm)**

- Keeps membership records
- Sends welcome letters to new members
- Sends renewal notices, follows up members who become unfinancial
- Removes unfinancial members from membership
- Provides monthly membership report
- Arranges printing and postage for each member mailout
- Deposits membership fees

**Treasurer (15 hpm)**

- Responsible for BMCS finances
- Responsible for BMCS insurance
- Pays accounts.
- Maintains financial records
- Provides monthly financial report
- Arranges audit for AGM
- Acts as Public Officer

**Land Use Officer (20 hpm)**

- Convenes land use sub-committee
- Monitors changes to land use/planning legislation
- Monitors developments and impacts
- Prepares submissions
- Initiates campaigns on key issues

**Newsletter Editor (30 hpm)**

- Liaises with existing and potential Hut News contributors
- Edits/produces 11 newsletters per year

**Publicity/ PublicAffairs (20 hpm)**

- promotes BMCS issues in the media
- Attends monthly meetings and publishes a review in Hut News
- Takes photographs of key BMCS events, locations, people etc
- Provides website with news and views
- Can prepare sundry publications for distribution. Writes a monthly column for BM Gazette with input from others.

**Website Officer (30 hpm)**

- Maintains BMCS website
- Updates content of website as required
- Designs and codes new web pages
- Manages web hosting account
- Performs email-outs as required.

**Meetings Convenor (10 hpm)**

- Arranges speakers for each general meeting, after discussion with Management Committee
- Arranges hospitality, welcome, introductions, gift and supper for speakers

**Environmental Education Officer  
(15 hpm)**

- Responsible for education program
- Liaises with BMCC to promote community environmental. education
- Convenes env.ed. sub-committee
- Prepares publications, workshops, activities to inform the community about nature and conservation issues

**Plant Nursery Co-ordinator (40 hpm)**

Responsible for overseeing nursery operations at Blackheath and Lawson  
Purchases nursery materials  
Collects and maintains a seed bank of local plants  
Arranges sales and contracts for plants with government and private individuals  
Promotes the use of Australian plants in private and council gardens  
Manages nursery financial affairs

**Sustainable Population and Climate  
Change Officer (15 hpm)**

- Liaise with sustainable population groups, and maintain the profile of overpopulation in letters, Hut News articles and contact with decision makers.
- Continue with 'Sustainable ideas' each month in Hut News

- Takes an active role in political/ governmental aspects of CC policy, submissions and grants.
- Supports sustainable village models and concepts, with an emphasis on transport and food solution.

**National Parks and World Heritage  
Officer (30 hpm)**

- Liaises with NPWS about parks management matters
- Lobbies to advance and enhance conservation in, or impacting on, national parks
- Campaigns for inholdings acquisitions
- Campaigns for parks/WHA additions
- Lobbies for WHA management funding
- Monitors/comments on WHA management
- Identifies/campaigns for WHA additions

**Threatened Species Officer (10 hpm)**

- Deals with threatened species issues and prepares submissions etc.
- Promotes threatened species conservation
- Represents BMCS on the BM Threatened Species Recovery Team

**Bushcare Officer (10 hpm)**

- Liaises with NPWS, BMCC and other bushcare groups
- Represents BMCS at Bushcare Network meetings
- Advises on Bushcare issues

**Project Officer (10-15 hpm)**

- Introduces or adopts an environmental project. Can form a subcommittee and/or work with other members of the management committee. Can provide copy for website and Hut News.

**Non Management Positions:**

**Bushfire Committee Rep. (5 hpm)**

- Represents NCC on BM Bushfire Mgt C/tee and Risk Mgt Sub-C/tee.
- Attends appropriate NCC workshops

**Walks Convenor (8 hpm)**

- Sends welcome packs to new bushwalkers.
- Maintains Bushwalkers' sub-group insurance and attendance records
- Has in depth & up to date knowledge of bw insurance policy & requirements.
- Organises meetings of bushwalking co-ordinators & other interested bushwalkers.

**Management Committee  
Meeting Arrangements**

Mid-Mountains Community Centre, Lawson, 9 am to 12.15, second last Saturday of the month.

**Annual General Meeting**

Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls  
7.30 pm, 26 March 2015.