

THE BMCS PLANT STUDY GROUP

met for the first time in April 2005.

Our aims are

- To study and expand members' knowledge of Blue Mountains flora and ecosystems.
- To work towards their preservation with field trips & other related activities, e.g., surveys and submissions.
- To share our findings publicly on the BMCS website.

The group works together in the field focusing on plant features to identify their species and their plant communities. A knowledge of botanical terms will develop with experience.



1 Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly *Jalmenus evagoras*
photo © Robin Murray

The Hairstreak Butterfly lives in *Acacias*, however the female will only lay eggs in the *Acacia* in partnership with the ant species *Iridomyrmex*. This is a beautiful example of an intricate life cycle with two different insects.

Plant Group Co-ordinator will

- Act as our group representative
- Co-ordinate field trips
- Complete attendance sheets and maintain contact and email lists.
- Update website & leaflet

DURING THE ACTIVITY

The Leader will

- Hold an introductory circle
- Provide walk attendance sheet for everyone to sign
- State track conditions and risks
- Give a brief talk about points of interest
- Count those present at the start and again at the finish
- Provide rest and drink stops
- Always wait at a track junction for participants behind
- Appoint a last person
- The leader can refuse to have any person on the walk who may present a risk to themselves or other participants.

Group participants will

- Respect the leader's decisions
- Advise the leader of any ill health, difficulties or accidents
- Stay together and not become separated from the group
- Thank the leader at the end

At the end of an activity

Only drive away when sure that all are present & all cars start.

PROTOCOLS IN THE FIELD

- Participants agree to remain with the group during the activity and not to leave the walk without advising the leader.
- Prevent the spread of disease by wearing clean shoes & spray with methylated spirits
- Minimise adverse impacts on flora, fauna & ecological systems.
- Respect the protection status of reserves, threatened species and rare plants.
- Do not collect any flora, fauna, geological specimens or cultural items in National Parks, Flora & Fauna Reserves etc., nor threatened and rare flora on any site.
- Field guides, PlantNET, iNaturalist and the use of plant keys and photos are the preferred identification systems.



Actinotus forsythii Painting © Jelena Emmerick 2025

Actinotus forsythii is seen in widespread displays after bushfire, growing on ridges in skeletal sandstone soils. After that flowering it will not be seen until the next bushfire, however many decades may pass.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the Plant Study Group is open to members of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

An annual bushwalking levy to cover insurance whilst on field trips is payable by members. The cover will cease if members leave the group and walk alone.

Non-members may attend field trips as visitors with advance notice, subject to the leader's approval, and if they sign a risk waiver.

Children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult who is a member.

Field Trips

Monthly outings visit natural areas in the Blue Mountains and nearby National Parks, and Reserves. Members are encouraged to take turns to lead outings. Participants must contribute to petrol costs.

You Will Need

- Safe, non-slip shoes, hat, protective clothing, backpack with First Aid Kit and sunscreen.
- Water, snacks & lunch.
- A plant lens & binoculars.
- Field Guides, maps, notebook & pencil.

EMERGENCIES:

The leader will, in consultation with members, decide the course of action and make any phone calls or calls for assistance.

TREAD SOFTLY

Use existing tracks – shortcuts cause erosion.
Avoid walking in sensitive sites e.g., swamps & fragile rock formations.
Carry a bag for rubbish. If you find litter on the track, please remove it.



Plant group at work (Kathryn Crawford)

Membership enquiries

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Email: membership@bluemountains.org.au

Website: <http://www.bluemountains.org.au>

To contact Plant Study Group

<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/psg/index.shtml>



Blue Mountains Conservation Society

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Guidelines



*PSG 11 October 2025 - Winmalee Bushland
(Meredith Brownhill)*

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