



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Greater Blue Mountains Area  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2000



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting update May 2017

Jenolan Caves provided the perfect setting for the May 2017 meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee with a focus on geodiversity.

The Committee and guests enjoyed a tour of the Lucas and Orient Caves with expert guides Assoc Prof Julia James, Dr Anne Musser and Assoc Prof Armstrong Osborne before the meeting and for their presentations on the geodiversity significance of Jenolan Caves, surveying the Jenolan Cave System and the vertebrate and paleontology of Jenolan Caves.



Bob Conroy, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust Administrator provided an update on the Jenolan Caves Plan of Management and the Conservation Management Plan, Master Plan, and current projects; and with Interpretations Officer Rosie Garthwin, an update Signage and Interpretation at Jenolan Caves.

The Committee thanked NPWS Ranger Ben Correy for an overview, provided by Volunteer Coordinator Trish Kidd, of the 'Sycamore War' at Jenolan Caves where, since 2008, more than 800 participants have volunteered their time over

32 weekends to help tackle the Sycamore infestation on the hillsides above Jenolan Caves.

Vera Wong, NPWS, provided an update on the implementation of the Saving our Species program across the Blue Mountains Region and GBMWA, with a focus on the Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies.

The Committee were disappointed to learn that consultation with owners, occupiers, and Indigenous interests (as required by the EPBC Act) and other stakeholders on the National Heritage List assessment is delayed and anticipated to commence after a decision has been made on the EPBC referral on Western Sydney Airport flight paths, which may be during 2018.

Maree Abood and Alison White from Infrastructure NSW provided an overview of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Committee resolved to ensure they are invited to provide expert advice in the preparation of EIS material and to seek information about any inundation modelling for potential impacts on the OUV of the GBMWA, upstream of the Warragamba Dam.

Gundungurra ILUA Consultative Committee members Aunty Sharon Brown and Uncle Mervyn Trindall joined the meeting to provide an update on current Gundungurra Tribal Council projects and share cultural stories with the Committee.

A few members of the Committee ventured out to the majestic Kanangra Walls Lookout to learn more about the extraordinary wilderness in the southern part of the GBMWA.



The Advisory Committee acknowledges the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri language groups as the traditional custodians of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Representatives of those who share connection to Country form the GBMWA Aboriginal Reference Group who meet regularly to provide advice to the Advisory Committee.

The GBMWA Advisory Committee is made up of scientific, technical, Aboriginal and community members appointed by the State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers. The [Strategic Plan](#) for the Area is used by the Committee to guide its operations and in providing advice to those Ministers regarding issues relevant to the Area.

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly in different locations around the million hectares of spectacular national parks and reserves that comprise the GBMWA, recognised and protected for its outstanding universal values.

For more information contact the World Heritage Executive Officer  
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