

## National Heritage List Assessment

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, requires values of a place to be included on the National Heritage List before these same values can be listed under a re-nomination to the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Unit is currently assisting the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) by providing information, resources and contacts for the outstanding cultural associations, geodiversity and scenic values of the GBMWA.

This is a vital and important step if we are to see the GBMWA listed for its outstanding cultural heritage values.

Input from Aboriginal people of the GBMWA is an essential part in the process of the Heritage Listing assessment.

Please contact Den Barber or Jacqueline Reid at the WHU (see details below) for more information or if you would like to discuss.

### Q) Where in the World Heritage Area is this?



A) Yodeller Range, Widden Valley, Wollemi NP

If you would like more information about these articles, funding opportunities or other projects that the World Heritage Unit is working on, we welcome your inquiry or feedback.

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Visit our office at National Parks and Wildlife, 39 Whitton Street (cnr Camp St), Katoomba

World Heritage NSW DEC  
 Reply Paid 552  
 KATOOMBA NSW 2780

or email to [gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au)

We respectfully acknowledge the Darug, Gundungurra, Wanaruah, Wiradjuri, Darkinjung and Dharawal language groups as the traditional custodians of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



## National Park Planning Matters....

The National Parks and Wildlife Service are revising plans of management for **Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd** and **Wollemi** National Parks.

Plans of Management are legal documents created under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The plans underpin day-to-day management of national parks and reserves as they guide park managers on how to deal with issues such as fire, pest animals, weeds, threatened species, Aboriginal and historic heritage, recreation and education.

New plans are needed because key factors affecting how these three reserves should be managed have changed. New plans can better protect World Heritage values and can facilitate stronger co-management partnerships with the Aboriginal community.

We'd like to know **what the reserves mean to you**. What is their **significance** and what **key values** do you think the parks have?

If you do wish to submit comments at this stage, please ensure they are received by February 15 2010 either via post to NPWS Blue Mountains Region Planning Officer Reply Paid 552, Katoomba NSW 2780 (no stamp), or email to [blue.mountains@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:blue.mountains@environment.nsw.gov.au) or fax 4782 6199 (marked "Attention: Planning Officer").

Meeting dates for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Aboriginal Reference Group for 2010:

- Thursday February 4
- Thursday May 6
- Thursday August 5
- Thursday November 4

Please contact the WHU for further information

# CONNECTIONS

January 2010



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



CO-MANAGEMENT projects

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

Welcome to the first edition of the Connections Newsletter for 2010.

## WORLD HERITAGE UNIT UPDATE

Some highlights and achievements over the last 12 months included the following:

- The WHU Assisted in the negotiations and implementation of Aboriginal Co-management small grants funding programs for Darug and Gundungurra.
- The Official launch of the GBMWA Strategic Plan.
- Successful meetings held with the GBMWA Aboriginal Reference Group who provided recommendations to the Advisory Committee.
- Involvement in Aboriginal tourism initiatives and working closely with Blue Mountains NPWS Aboriginal Discovery.
- Building relationships between Aboriginal groups and assisting in gaining understanding and support for Aboriginal Co-management with NPWS / DECCW management and staff.
- Living Country Culture Camp 2009, Jenolan



(see more on pages 2-3).

## CONGRATULATIONS...

We congratulate the staff of the Blue Mountains National Park for their recent gold award for Ecotourism at the NSW Tourism Awards.

If you would like to discuss ideas for Indigenous Tourism, we have some funds to assist and look forward to hearing from you.

## Community Access to NPWS staff

Would you be interested in attending an 'open day' at one of our friendly NPWS offices around the Greater Blue Mountains?

We imagine this opportunity might assist with community access to discuss issues about co-management, world heritage or general National Park management with local staff, the Aboriginal Co-management and World Heritage Officers.

We'd like to assess whether you think this trial idea is of any use to local communities, you might perceive this is another talk with no action initiative or that it provides an opportunity for open, two way communication about YOUR parks and reserves.

Please let us know if you'd like to come along to one of these offices on the dates below from 10am to 12pm for morning tea and a chat:

<b>Saturday 6 February</b> NPWS Blackheath Heritage Centre End of Govetts Leap Rd Blackheath NSW 2785 Office phone: 4787 8877	<b>Saturday 27 March</b> Rylstone NPWS Wkshp Tindale Street Rylstone NSW 2849 Office phone: 6379 1368
<b>Saturday 29 May</b> Nattai Area NPWS Office 99 Menangle Street Picton NSW 2571 Office phone: 4677 0859	<b>Saturday 31 July</b> Singleton Visitor Info Ctr Town Head Park, New England Hwy Singleton NSW 2330 Office Phone: 6571 5888
<b>Saturday 25 September</b> Richmond NPWS Office Bowman's Cottage 370 Windsor Street Richmond NSW 2753 Office phone: 4588 2400	<b>Saturday 27 November</b> Kanangra NPWS Area Office 38 Ross Street Oberon NSW 2787 Office phone: 6336 1972

Please register your interest in attending with Den Barber on 4784 7309 or e-mail to [dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## SEASONS GREETINGS

Jacqueline, Den, Lois and Jo hope that all of our readers enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and we look forward to 2010!



"This experience reinforces the need for Aboriginal people to meet this way at camp to talk the way we did, not around talks inside"



Despite scorching heat, a declared total fire ban and severe fire warnings, more than 80 people, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, including kids and some NPWS staff, attended the 2009 Living Country Culture Camp, held in the Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November.

The Aboriginal Reference Group for the Greater Blue Mountains, made up of representatives of the 6 language groups who are the traditional custodians of the area, supported the event which strengthened cultural connections with Country and between people. Judging from feedback received from participants, it appears the Camp was again a great success following our inaugural Living Country Culture Camp held at Ganguddy in 2008.

The Campers took part in ceremony, enjoyed cultural dance and music from Walan Cultural Connections and Muru Mittigar performers, shared stories around the campfire, visited the Jenolan Caves, swam under the waterfall, participated in workshops, learned to throw a boomerang, dance like a kangaroo and emu, had fun with Discovery Rangers, enjoyed excellent tucker, all while absorbing the relaxing atmosphere surrounding the Jenolan Cottages camp site (approx. 8 kms before the Caves).

Due to bushfire outbreaks across the Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks, and the catastrophic fire alert in parts of NSW, many staff were called away. The World Heritage Unit based in the Blue Mountains Region, thanks and acknowledges assistance from the many Parks and Wildlife Group, Division, Regional and Area staff members, including the Jenolan Caves Trust and staff, who contributed toward the success of this Camp. We are also grateful to learn of the success of our Aboriginal Park Partnerships funding application to support the Camp.

Jenolan is a wonderful *place* and the *story* that unfolded at the camp deserves to be told. Only as a participant, could you truly appreciate the wonderful setting and celebration of culture and Country. We believe that such gatherings hold the key to continue building and strengthening relationships, provide for well being, and connect people to Country as a part of meeting some of the Co-management aspirations of the Aboriginal people within and surrounding the GBMWA.

Stay tuned for more information on the 2010 Living Country Culture Camp to be held on Country in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area next year. For details visit [www.livingcountry.com.au](http://www.livingcountry.com.au) or contact Den Barber, Aboriginal Co-management Officer by telephone on 4784 7326 or via email to [dennis.barber@environment.com.au](mailto:dennis.barber@environment.com.au)

Check out the [www.livingcountry.com.au](http://www.livingcountry.com.au) website for more pictures!



"Good to catch up and share experiences, hopes for future care of Country, teach children, listen to stories, working together as Aboriginal people for the above, teaching non-Aboriginal people culture"



"Meeting community, talking with community, yarns, dance, culture...chance to do business AND have fun, yarn and share."



"People sharing their stories and life increased my understanding of cultural values and being in such a beautiful place it makes me want to look after the Country."

