

CONNECTIONS

including LIVING COUNTRY and
CO-MANAGEMENT projects



NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service



GREATER
BLUE

mountains

WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Department of Environment and Conservation NSW



Update from the World Heritage Unit – April 2007 -

Gary Pappin, Aboriginal Co-management Officer is sadly leaving us after 10 months of working hard to build networks and relationships around the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA). Gary was instrumental in organising the Mungo field trip and has developed and reviewed a number of documents including the Draft Aboriginal Co-management Strategic Plan, the Draft Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes Management Plan and the memorandum of understanding between the National Parks (now part of the Department of Environment Conservation) and the Darug people.

Gary has taken a position with the Roads and Traffic Authority as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer based in Wagga Wagga. The position is much closer to home, as well as making it easier for him to study cultural heritage and politics at the nearby Charles Sturt University – a lifelong dream of his.

More generally, the World Heritage Unit has been negotiating a number of funding proposals to continue co-management projects within and around the GBMWA (see overleaf).

If you have relevant projects we are more than happy to assist with developing and supporting funding applications.

Protecting our Places Grants Program

The objective is to “protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life”

A number of information workshops are held across the state and cover:

- How Aboriginal community groups have successfully undertaken environmental projects.
- How you can protect and care for your country.
- Workshop your ideas for an environmental project.
- What makes a good application.
- Developing a budget and planning project reports.
- How to access assistance in completing your application for funding.

More information is available from

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/pop.htm>

We would like to support your attendance to the workshops at Mt Druitt on Monday 23 April or Toronto on Wednesday 2 May. Bookings should be made a minimum of one week before the session date. **Please call the World Heritage Unit on 4784 7326 for more information.**

The draft **Blue Mountains Region Pest Management Plan** is currently on exhibition. Ring 4784 7300 for more information.

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Following the recent State elections, the Hon Phil Koperberg MP is the new Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water. The Government has decided to change the name of our Department to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) which will take effect on 23 April 2007.

The Director General said of the new Department “I am sure there will be enormous dividends for regulation, mapping, science, policy, conservation and service delivery to the community as we work in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities and other groups”.

Return and Renewal of Water Stories

Sharon Riley, DEC's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, is working on a project with the Sydney Catchment Authority, Education Team, relating to the interpretation of wall tiles that contain Aboriginal art at Warragamba Dam. Sharon is organising a visit to Warragamba Dam on Wednesday 9 May to view the wall tiles and discuss opportunities for involvement in the interpretation and oral histories of the water stories of the catchment lands and beyond.

Please contact Sharon on 4784 7320 by Friday 27 April to register your interest.

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Darug Peoples MOU with DECC

The Darug Peoples MOU was developed with representatives of the Darug people and DEC, following representations to our previous Minister. It is an agreement with a cohesive group of Aboriginal people who have approached DEC in order to progress co-management of DEC managed parks and reserves. The MOU simply acknowledges that the Darug People have an interest (albeit not a formal or legal interest) over lands covered by the MoU.

The Darug Peoples MOU is not a formal or legal document and is not an exclusive arrangement between the Darug people and DEC. The MOU provides for other Aboriginal people who have an interest in these parks and reserves to also be consulted. The boundaries identified in the MOU are a guide only. Both parties to the MOU are very clear about this.

The Darug Peoples MOU should not have any implications for Native Title or Lands Rights issues as it is simply an agreement or framework for how to develop policies and guidelines for encouraging and supporting co-management on DEC managed lands.

We would eventually like to develop one agreement with both traditional owners and Land Councils for all DEC managed metropolitan parks and reserves, an approach we have recently formalised on the Central Coast after about 4-5 years of negotiations.

DEC welcomes the opportunity to negotiate similar MOUs with other language groups. Please contact the World Heritage Unit on 4784 7326 or gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au for more information.



DEC supports the formation of **co-management committees** in order to improve formal lines of communications and involvement of the local Aboriginal community in the management of parks and reserves.

Living Country funded projects

Aboriginal Employment & Training Program, Yengo National Park

This program, coordinated by the Central Coast Hunter Range Region, will provide 26 weeks employment and training for 4 unemployed Aboriginal people. Participants will attend training courses to include 4WD operation, chemical handling, chainsaw operation, first aid and front end loader certificate. On-ground experience will include weed control, facility and maintenance, walking track construction, fire trail maintenance, vegetation clearing, cultural site protection and minor public contact experience. Field Officer skills training and experience will enable participants to apply for future positions in NPWS.

For more information contact Jeff Betteridge, Ranger Yengo, on 4320 4219

Aboriginal Discovery Ranger

The Blue Mountains Region Discovery program has employed a part-time Aboriginal Discovery Ranger to enhance the indigenous experience for a range of Discovery Activities.

For more information contact the Discovery Coordinator, Naomi Goosen on 4784 7301.

Recording Sites in the Kings Tableland and Blue Labyrinth area

The Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc will record over 470 Aboriginal sites in the Kings Tableland/Blue Labyrinth Area of the Blue Mountains National Park. The project will initially record the fragile pigment art sites. The project will enrich scientific and cultural understandings of Indigenous occupation of the region and assist in better management.

Contact the World Heritage Unit for more info

Gundungurra Children's Song Book

This is a collaborative project between Gundungurra Language Revival Group and Blue Mountains People for Reconciliation and the NSW Reconciliation Council. It is supported to meet the expressed needs of local Gundungurra people to revive stolen language and culture in order to regain a strong sense of identity and pride. The Song Book will also meet requests from local schools and Link-Up NSW for resources produced in local languages to support learning about local Aboriginal peoples' languages and cultures.

Contact the World Heritage Unit for more info

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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A/Executive Officer jacqueline.reid@environment.nsw.gov.au

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Visit our office at National Parks and Wildlife, 39 Whitton Street (cnr Camp St), Katoomba
The World Heritage Unit now has a reply paid postal address (no stamp needed)

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