

**A Blue Mountains Indigenous Education Resource Package
- within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area -**

The Indigenous Education Resource Package Project is one of the specific outputs of the *Indigenous Cultural Co-management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area* (see page 3). This project offers an opportunity to investigate and support an already identified need for the development of a comprehensive local indigenous resources package. The creation of a user-friendly, local resource package that will be readily used within children's classrooms is the desired outcome of this project, as well as a longer-term objective to embed local knowledge in the primary school curriculum in public and private schools.

Funding has been jointly obtained from the federal Natural Heritage Trust. The current funding will be used as seeding for a research and consultation process to address the creation of and subsequent development of a prototype World Heritage Aboriginal education resource package. The Education Coordinator within the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, along with two consultant Project Designers, will facilitate this process and consult with cultural educators and practitioners within the local Aboriginal community.

The project is being managed in two stages, the first (August 07 - December 07) involves an assessment of existing Indigenous educational resources within the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney region, drafting a survey questionnaire and consulting with local Aboriginal cultural educators and practitioners, and teachers from selected primary schools in the region. Stage two (January 08 - June 08) will involve collating the data from the survey, reviewing instructional design options, developing a prototype resource package and testing it as a curriculum -relevant product within selected schools.

The resource package will initially focus on the two local languages, within the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney region, the Darug and Gundungurra. Once this prototype package has been developed, further financial support will be sought to support replicating it for the other language groups, within the GBMWA, the Wanaruah, Wiradjuri, Darkinjung and Tharawal Nations.

It is intended that the project supports the principle that it is of increasing importance for our children, to know the cultural heritage - the stories, songs, dances and games - of their local area.

Should anyone be working on a similar education project or has information to share, we welcome hearing from you. Please contact Bronwen Maxwell or Teeke Marloo at the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute on 4782 4557 or Den Barber on 4784 7309 for more details.

Do you have anything you would like to contribute to the CONNECTIONS Newsletter?

Perhaps you would like to provide some artwork, a photograph, poem or short story.

Please forward your contribution electronically to:

dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au

Or 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/Aboriginal Co-Management Officer dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au

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(Mon, Tues & Thur only) lois.carson@environment.nsw.gov.au

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)

World Heritage NSW DEC

Reply Paid 552

KATOOMBA NSW 2780

or email to gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au

CONNECTIONS

December 2007

Including LIVING COUNTRY and
CO-MANAGEMENT projects



NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service



**Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network
(AWHIN) meeting (Cairns) and the
2nd National Indigenous Land and Sea
Management (ILSM) Conference (Cardwell)
Queensland, October 2007**

Five AWHIN representatives from six of the language groups of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA), along with staff from the World Heritage Unit, made their way north to the Wet Tropics during October for two very important conferences. The Department of the Environment and Water Resources (DEW) in conjunction with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) hosted the AWHIN conference in Cairns. Representatives of Traditional Owners from World Heritage properties around Australia came together to network, discuss issues and share ideas. Delegates were warmly welcomed to Country by Mrs Jeanette Singleton who is a Yirrganydji Traditional Owner.

After a very busy agenda, we all boarded a bus and headed south to the little town of Cardwell for the ILS conference. The Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, representing the interests of nine tribal groups of the region, hosted the conference where we were welcomed in the Girramay language. The following four days included plenary sessions, work shops and case studies surrounding Indigenous land and sea management issues and opportunities. The conference was attended by the largest gathering of traditional owners in 2007 and all agreed it was a huge success. The five AWHIN representatives all found the conferences very relevant to Co-management of the GBMWA and grateful for the opportunity to learn about and share knowledge of Country.



AWHIN representatives from World Heritage Properties around Australia with local Traditional Owners and agency staff, Cairns QLD.



AWHIN representatives of the GBMWA from left, Wendy Lewis, Elsie Stockwell and Glenda Chalker at the entrance Conference in Cardwell, QLD.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

The staff of the World Heritage Unit would like to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and see you all in 2008!

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VACANCIES ACROSS NSW
 Interested in conservation?

The Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water invites members of local communities across New South Wales to apply for membership to a National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committee in their local area. The committees advise the NPWS on the care, control and management of national parks and other reserves within that area.

Successful applicants would be expected to attend approximately four meetings a year plus field inspections. Appointments are for four years from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2012. Sitting fees are not paid, but you would be entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses.

Applications are particularly sought from Aboriginal people; people with scientific qualifications in the area of conservation biology, wildlife management or related disciplines; or people with experience and expertise in the following areas: local government, community involvement in conservation, Aboriginal cultural heritage, rural or regional issues, ecotourism or ecologically sustainable visitor use, enjoyment and appreciation of reserves, environmental education and community involvement in environmental education, non-Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation and bushfire management.

Please note that the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water will also be seeking nominations directly from a number of organisations.

The Government is committed to increasing representation of indigenous people and women on advisory committees. Young people aged between 18-40 are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Application forms and information kits are available from the NPWS website at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/advisorycommittees. Alternatively, you can send an e-mail to reconstitution2008@environment.nsw.gov.au or call the Stakeholder Liaison Officer on (02) 9585 6084.

Please note that nominations for Regional Advisory Committee vacancies will be received for Blue Mountains, Central Coast Hunter Range and Sydney South until 31st December 2007.

The Future Direction of Co-management Workshops...

Co-management workshops and forums have been taking place throughout the entire GBMWA since early 2003. These forums are a crucial component in consulting with the six language groups and in progressing co-management of the GBMWA. These workshops provided an opportunity for the needs and views of Aboriginal peoples to be heard and respected.

The past forums have helped develop the Co-management Strategic Plan for the GBMWA and have also been a useful means by which NPWS can engage with traditional owners. However, there is more to be done and we need the continued involvement by representatives of all six language groups to continue if your aspirations are to translate into tangible Co-management opportunities. For example, one of the aspirations included in the Strategic Plan is **Getting People Back on Country**. An idea to expand the Co-management workshops to culture camps has been proposed to assist in engaging the six language groups in the process. This might be a way of involving and connecting youth to Country which was a sub theme of Getting People Back on Country.

We will be sending out a survey to you early in 2008 so that you can make comments on past workshops and let us know how you think we can improve the format of future workshop forums.



ABORIGINAL DISCOVERY RANGER

Temporary part-time and casual Aboriginal *Discovery* Ranger positions available. Applications close Friday 14 December. Contact Naomi Goosen, Discovery Coordinator on 4784 7301 or see Jobs NSW website to download all details and info:

<https://jobs.nsw.gov.au/JobDetails.asp?JobAdvertId=66619>

Chris Tobin (left), Aboriginal Discovery Ranger in 2007 with Naomi Goosen, Discovery Coordinator, Blue Mountains.

ABORIGINAL TOUR GUIDE TRAINING

DECC Visitor and Community Program Unit will deliver an introductory course in Aboriginal Tour Guide Training for local Aboriginal people of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area with the input of NPWS staff. Depending upon the response shown by interested participants, the training will be held Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 January 2008.

Please contact Den Barber on 4784 7309 for further details or to register your interest.



During 2007 and 2008, the World Heritage Unit within the Parks and Wildlife Group of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), in collaboration with the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, is managing a series of projects under the core project title, *Indigenous Cultural Co-management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA)*. The overall aim of the projects are to support the effective implementation of the GBMWA Aboriginal Co-management Strategic Plan (an outcome of the GBMWA Indigenous Consultative Forums project).

Indigenous Tourism project

You may remember visiting international student Ona Vileikis? She has almost finalised her Masters Thesis on the **Challenges and Opportunities for Indigenous Tourism in the GBMWA**. Ona focused on the Blue Mountains for her research due to travel constraints. Her report will be available in the New Year.

As a result of her work, the World Heritage Unit are working more collaboratively with the Marra Mob, the Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre (Katoomba), Blue Mountains Tourism Ltd, Blue Mountains City Council and the Discovery Coordinator (Naomi Goosen). We are very grateful for Ona's contribution.

Mapping Country

The Mapping Country database and predictive modelling tools were developed by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute with funds from the DECC, Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Blue Mountains City Council in 2006. The early version focused on the Darug and Gundungurra areas of interest and we welcome nominations from other areas to trial the Mapping Country tool.

Managing Cultural Landscapes

Liaising across the whole of DECC, Den Barber is working to ensure a consistent approach to cultural landscapes management, how this is integrated into Park Plans of Management and how staff can be better informed.

Indigenous Education package

See page 4 for more information.

For more information about any of these projects, please contact Den Barber on 4784 7309.

POET'S CORNER

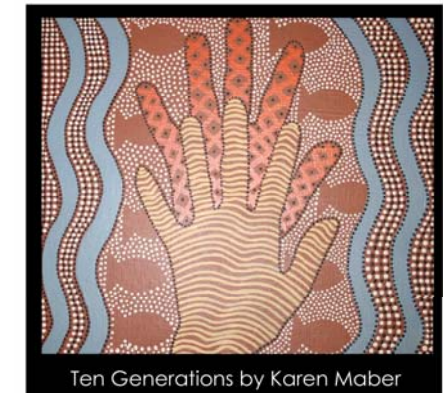
'The Ol' Ones' by Nambrimbrii R Green (Webb)

'In Days of ol' when stories were told and spoken around the fires, all would listen, not one soul could miss it, and know one would stir or move a muscle until the ol' ones first retired.

For they came through smoke or by whirlwinds, stepping simply from the fires, they held out their hands to all the clans whilst the young choked back their smiles.

Then when Euroclydon arrived and brought their law, these old were placed on trial. They were ordered, 'This or that, and this and that', but they just retraced and simply escaped, walking across sacred borders.

Today when they appear back home to where their lives had once known and tell the one time story, the fires warm they blow, the embers red they glow, the ol' ones know when to show because the young are listening by the fires.



Marra Mob Project

The Marra Mob is an Aboriginal Arts Group who work in visual arts, music and dance and formed by the local Aboriginal artists after the highly successful NAIDOC Art Exhibition held in the Blue Mountains in 2006. The Marra Mob meets regularly every fortnight to provide peer and artistic support, as well as to share culture and skills through workshops and exchange. Merchandise by the group is also available for sale in local retail outlets. This research project currently in progress and funded by Arts NSW will be completed in February 2008 is to support the group in its sustainability and to identify cultural and tourism opportunities for the future.

For more information contact Cheryle Yin-Lo, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Tel: 4782 4657.

Local Aboriginal Art is now on display at:
 Niche Nosh Vegetarian Café
 Main Street Katoomba
 (just near the Carrington Hotel)
 Opening hours 9 - 8.30pm Mon - Sat, Sun 9 - 4pm