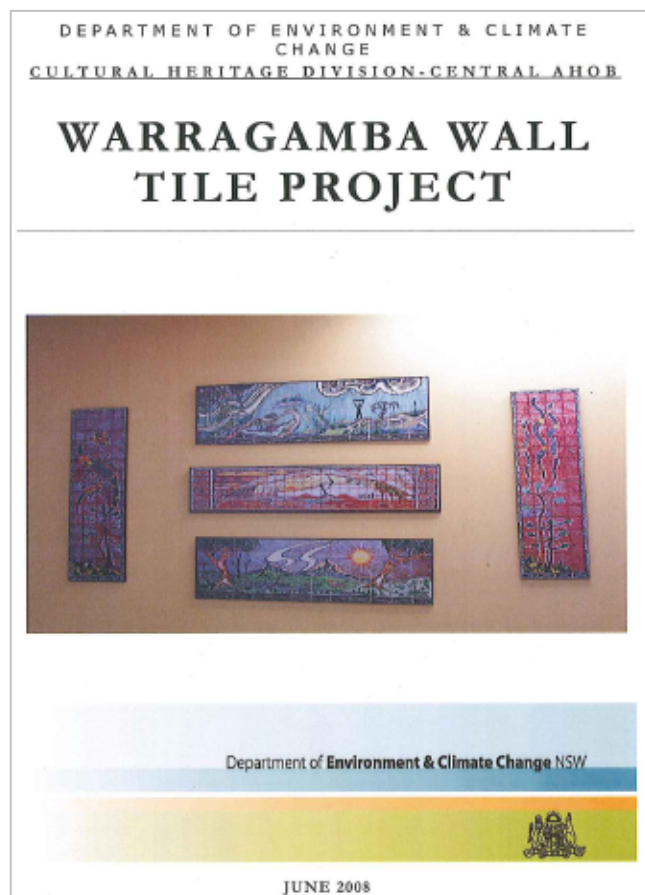


In the April and August 2007 editions of the Connections newsletter we described the *Return and Renewal of Water Stories* project. The project was aimed to reconnect Aboriginal people's participation and renew their association to the Warragamba Dam, Burratorang and surrounding valleys and areas. Aboriginal people have had a strong association to the area in a traditional, historical or contemporary context.

The Central Aboriginal Heritage Operations Branch has now completed the project and the **Warragamba Wall Tile Project** report is available from Chris Ingrey on 9585 6163.



KOORI CONNECTIONS PROFILE

GBMWA AWHIN Rep
Member of: Gundungurra
Aboriginal Heritage
Association Incorporated
and The Gully Traditional
Owners



Who are you? Sharyn Halls
Who's your mob? Gundungurra

Where you from? I went to school in Bankstown but spent many weekends and holidays in Blackheath and Mt Victoria (where my Mum and Dad met). I'm now living in Wentworth Falls.

Born where, when? I was born in Paddington Hospital in Sydney – a long time ago!

Got family? I have a son and daughter and three beautiful grandchildren.

What do you do? As much co-management stuff with NPWS and Blue Mountains City Council with the Gully, and community work, where possible. In the 1980's I used to cook for Aboriginal kids that attended camps in Cootamundra.

What's important to you? Family first. Everyone's basic human rights and getting people back on Country, as well as enjoying life.

Where's your favourite part of the GBMWA? It has to be Kings Tableland but I also have very fond memories of camping with my family down in the Megalong Valley.

Favourite past time? Just being out in the bush.

Favourite bush tucka? Fresh water and kangaroo.

Favourite Footy Team? I'm not happy with their ethics but I'm a long time Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs fan and pretty fond of little Willy Tonga who I knew at Cootamundra.

Favourite Movies? *Dancing with Wolves* and *The Last Mohicans*. I've just seen *Australia* which was confronting to see how families would have been affected at that time.

Favourite Music? I used to be really into Bob Dylan when I was younger now I'm pretty broad on music, I like Barnes and Blues music.

Got any advice? If you feel passionate about something you can't just sit back without making an effort to realise your dream. You can't wait for someone else to make your dreams a reality – it won't happen if **you** don't get out there to **make** it happen.

CONNECTIONS

December 2008



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



GREATER BLUE

CO-MANAGEMENT projects

Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW

Welcome to the final edition of the Connections Newsletter for 2008.

WORLD HERITAGE UNIT UPDATE

We'd like to thank Jo Barrett for the excellent support she provided during her secondment to the Admin Assistant role whilst Lois Carson worked with the Asset Management System Team, recording asset information for the whole of the Blue Mountains Region. Welcome back Lois!

NEWS FROM KINGS TABLELAND

We congratulate the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Incorporated (GAHAI) with their successful application to the Indigenous Heritage Program early this year. The GAHAI continue their valuable work in the Kings Tableland area of the Blue Mountains National Park, recording a number of sites and preparing a report which will be available by the end of the year.

On **Tuesday 15 December**, Dave Lambert, Rock Art Conservator with DECC, is joining the GAHAI mob on Country to assist with graffiti removal. If you'd like to join them and get some expert training, please contact Den Barber on 4784 7309.

Please remember that we are available to assist with funding applications for site survey work and other projects enabling community to look after Country.

CONGRATULATIONS...



The **Gully Traditional Owners Inc** has won an inaugural Premier's Excellence Awards Recognising Leadership in Aboriginal communities for their inclusive and positive community-based organisation which has established a co-operative management committee with the Blue Mountains City Council to manage the Gully in Katoomba, an Aboriginal Place under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act*.

INVITATION TO ALL DARUG PEOPLE

Please note that the next **Darug Peoples Advisory Committee** meeting will be open for Darug people wishing to attend and for nominations to be received for new members of the Committee following recent resignations. **Saturday 6th December 2008 at Parramatta Park from 12.00 to 3.00pm.**

Please register your details in attending with:
 Den Barber
 Aboriginal Co-management Officer
 4784 7309 or 0439 493 116 by Friday 5th Dec.

BLACKFELLOWS HANDS SHELTER AND COMPLEX DECLARED AN ABORIGINAL PLACE

An important aspect of local Aboriginal history, just north of Lithgow, has been officially recognised as an Aboriginal Place – granting it additional protection under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* and assuring the Wiradjuri people an ongoing link with their cultural heritage. Blackfellows Hand Shelter is the 40th Aboriginal place to be declared by the NSW Government in the past 10 years. There are currently 65 Aboriginal places across NSW, with a number of other potential places being investigated. Declaration of an Aboriginal place doesn't change the status of the land but may limit use as far as preventing activities that may destroy damage or deface the Aboriginal Place.



Wiradjuri Dancers at the Celebration on Saturday 8 November

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.

Jacqueline Reid, Executive Officer Ph: 4784 7326 Mob: 0414 456 765 or jacqueline.reid@environment.nsw.gov.au
 Den Barber, Aboriginal Co-Management Officer Ph: 4784 7309 Mob: 0439 493 116 or dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au
 Lois Carson, Admin Assistant (part time only) Ph: 4784 7327 or lois.carson@environment.nsw.gov.au

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

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.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Jacqueline, Den and Lois wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and hope to see you all in 2009!



AWHIN delegates at Katoomba

Aboriginal World Heritage Indigenous Network (AWHIN) Conference and Living Country Culture Camp 2008

AWHIN delegates who are the Traditional Custodians from World Heritage properties across Australia visited the GBMWSHA from Thursday the 23rd to Monday the 27th October 2008. Greater Blue Mountains AWHIN and Aboriginal Reference Group representatives hosted this year's conference with delegates attending from World Heritage Areas including the Wet Tropics, Fraser Island, Gondwana Rainforest, Shark Bay, Kakadu, Tasmanian Wilderness, Purnululu, Riversleigh, Willandra Lakes and Great Barrier Reef. After arriving in Sydney, delegates made their way to Katoomba for the conference held at the Youth Hostel on the Friday. A Welcome to Country and AWHIN dinner was held that night at the Carrington Hotel with local Gundungurra and Darug Community Elders and members along with local dignitaries.



Main camp site, Ganguddy

Delegates travelled to Dunns Swamp (Ganguddy) within Wollemi National Park of Wiradjuri Country as part of a Living Country Culture Camp on the weekend, hosted by the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wiradjuri and Wanaruah language groups of the Greater Blue Mountains. This provided AWHIN delegates with an opportunity to relax and meet with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people from all over the GBMWSHA for a weekend of informal cultural exchange, activities and celebration.

AWHIN delegates then returned to Katoomba and Jenolan Caves for further sightseeing and to wrap up business as part of the AWHIN Conference on the Monday. The AWHIN agreed to Interim Terms of Reference and nominated Margaret Freeman from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Hank Horton from the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area as representatives to the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee, expected to be inaugurated in early 2009. The next AWHIN meeting will be held alongside the 3rd Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference at a venue to be confirmed by the Commonwealth Government.

The World Heritage Unit are planning a Living Country Culture Camp in Spring 2009. We invite you to participate by suggesting a venue or be involved in some way, please contact Den Barber on 4784 7309 for this or information regarding the AWHIN meeting.

Check out the www.livingcountry.com.au website for more pictures!



AWHIN delegates arrive at the camp for smoking ceremony.



Kids enjoyed the variety of activities at the Camp



AWHIN Delegates at Echo Point, Katoomba



The weather and water were perfect for a paddle at Ganguddy



Campers were invited to create a commemorative artwork



Den, Sandy Holmes & Wendy Lewis at the closing ceremony which acknowledged the Discovery and Mudgee Area staff of NPWS

