

CONNECTIONS

April 2010

GREATER
BLUE

CO-MANAGEMENT projects



NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water

SPECIAL EDITION

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL VALUES OF BLUE MOUNTAINS, KANANGRA-BOYD AND WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARKS AND THE GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

National Park Plans of Management (PoM's), National and World Heritage Listings are all ways in which Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) may be acknowledged, recognised, managed and protected. There is absolutely no doubt about the Aboriginal cultural significance of the area and the tangible evidence that has been recorded and can be found everywhere throughout.

However, it takes more than the sites, artefacts, rock art, plants, animals and the landscape itself to tell of the Aboriginal Cultural values. Plans of Management, National Heritage Listing and any future re-nomination of the GBMWA to include Aboriginal cultural heritage values must take into account Aboriginal people's perspectives and stories related to their values for this place.

In our January 2010 edition of Connections, we notified our readers of the current review of PoM's for Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Kanagra Boyd National Parks as well as the National Heritage List assessment process.

In collaboration with the National Parks Planning Officer and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), we are hoping to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ensure DEWHA and NPWS understand the significance of the GBMWA to Aboriginal people in the region.
2. To record the personal stories about Country, living history, values and significance as told by Aboriginal community members with connection to the GBMWA.
3. To seek agreement from the Aboriginal community to incorporate into the revised PoMs for the three reserves, and to feed into the National Heritage listing assessment process, words, phrases or alternative forms of expression that capture the significance and values of the area to the local Aboriginal community.
4. To provide the community with a tangible output from the project.

It is clear that workshops and other more familiar forms of consultation with the Aboriginal community will not be enough in achieving these objectives. Oral history projects around the state and throughout the nation have proven to be an effective means by which Aboriginal people have been able to tell their story and, at the same time, share their values for place.

We are therefore proposing an exciting project that will provide Aboriginal people of the GBMWA, an opportunity to share these values while recording and telling their own unique story of Connection to Country.

it's living Country!



Interested? Please see over for more details

You are invited to tell your place story....



The World Heritage Unit plan to hold **PLACESTORIES** training sessions for interested Aboriginal community members of the GBMWA.

PLACESTORIES is a software system for managing digital media, creating digital stories and publishing online.

PLACESTORIES is supporting the storytelling, networking and digital communication needs of community organisations, government agencies and others who work with communities, particularly rural and regional areas.

You don't need to be computer savvy!

All you need is some images (old black and whites or digital photos), a voice and maybe a special sound recording or music.

You will be creating a 3-5 minute presentation that you can upload to the web or keep on a CD/DVD for your family or community's personal access.

Go to: <http://www.sydneynrm.placestories.com/> to see other examples of **PLACESTORIES** including the Living Country Culture Camp featured on this link.

You can do the training yourself or nominate someone from your family, respective group or organisation to do the training.

A two day training session will be held from 14th to 15th May 2010

PLACESTORIES and National Parks staff will provide ongoing support to all participants.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE, BOOK NOW

Contact: Den Barber on 02 4784 7309 or 0439 493 116

Please contact us now so that we can assist you with content leading up to the training and to arrange catering, transport and accommodation etc

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

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