

CONNECTIONS

June 2010



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



Environment, Climate Change & Water

WORLD HERITAGE UNIT UPDATE



As advised in our April 2010 'Special Edition' of Connections, Place Stories training was held over the 14th and 15th May 2010.

Aboriginal Elders and community members along with staff from NPWS took part in the training. Participants have since created wonderful Place Stories telling of connection to and values of the GBMWAH.

A PlaceStories community project page has been created on the Digital Landcare website on:

<http://ps3beta.com/project/7626>

Thanks to those who RSVPd and attended the training. See pics on page 2.

WORLD HERITAGE EXHIBITION CENTRE
Greater Blue Mountains

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Exhibition Centre at the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden will soon be open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Venture inside to learn more about the Greater Blue Mountains and be inspired by the stunning images and informative graphic displays.

Living Country Culture Camp 'The Gully' 2010

The six Aboriginal Language Groups of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWAH) plan to host a Living Country Culture Camp from Friday the 19th to Sunday the 21st November 2010.

The World Heritage Unit (WHU) of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) within The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) in partnership with The Gully Traditional Owners and Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), wish to advise you of the proposed Culture Camp currently being planned.

Following successful Culture Camps held at Dunns Swamp (Ganguddy) in 2008 and Jenolan Caves in 2009, a proposal to hold the 2010 camp in 'The Gully', a declared Aboriginal Place in Katoomba, has been put to the Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) for the GBMWAH. Subsequently, the Department would like to consult and engage with local Aboriginal people and groups who have a cultural association with the Aboriginal Place known as 'The Gully'.

A steering group for planning this event has been set up comprising of Aboriginal community volunteers, NPWS and BMCC management and staff. It is anticipated that this steering group will grow as further interest is shown by local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, groups, organisations, businesses and Government departments.



For further details or to register your interest in joining the steering group, please contact

Den Barber on 4784 7309 or e-mail to

dennis.barber@environment.nsw.gov.au

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The World Heritage Unit held **PLACESTORIES** training sessions at Blackheath for Aboriginal community members of the GBMWA and staff from NPWS.



The two day training session was held from 14th to 15th May 2010.



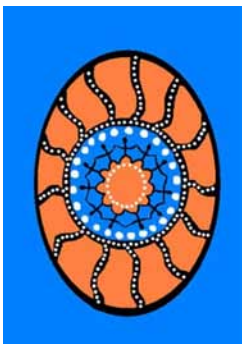
A number of 3-5 minute presentations were prepared as part of the training.



Here are some images taken over the two day workshop.



Thanks to all of the participants of this training and we look forward to seeing your Place Stories of connection to Country.



Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people working on Country by removing weeds to help restore native vegetation

Yellomundee Regional Park, Springwood Road Yarramundi, (turn left after Shaw's Creek bridge)

Sundays 10.00am to 1.00pm, LUNCH PROVIDED.

2010 work days: 13 June, 18 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November (Fishing Comp), 12 December 2010 (Xmas party)

Please bring a coffee mug, a bottle of water and a fold up chair. Don't forget to wear comfortable closed in shoes, long sleeve shirts, pants and a hat.

More info?

Vicki Lett or Keirilee James NPWS 4588 2400 or Merana Aboriginal Community Association on 45885144

Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways

As part of Aboriginal Co-Management funding provided by the NSW State Government to the Darug and Gundungurra people, a number of representatives from these groups attended the Bizant Fire Management Workshop held from Monday 24th to Friday, 28th May 2010.

The workshop was held within the Lakefield National Park in far North Queensland in Lama Lama Country as part of the Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways and their Kuku Thaypan Fire Management Research Project. (See Standley et al 2009).

The workshop began with a welcoming and warming To Country by the Traditional Custodians. There were a number of Aboriginal groups including the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation Rangers and others in attendance.



Participants were divided into groups and were rotated throughout a range of training sessions including fire and ecosystem assessment, burning session introduction, GPS refresher and Traditional Knowledge recording and multimedia training.

Day four of the workshop culminated in a joint group training involving larger scale burning in selected areas using Kuku Thaypan country, ecosystem burning prescriptions.

Kuku Thaypan burning law prescribes that these expansive areas are burnt first, very early in the year between April and May depending on seasonality. This protects surrounding ecosystems from late season wildfire by preventing this system from acting as a large potential ignition source.

The grass in this system is still mostly green early in the dry season. This ensures that the fire will travel slow and cool. Fires within this system at this time will burn out when they encounter areas within impeded drainage or topography that increases moisture.

Culturally it is against the lore to burn the canopy. Boxwood country burns are implemented before breeding seasons of possums and also before the flowering time of the Boxwood. Low intensity burns provide a range of benefits to local fauna as well as numerous insects, bats and bird species.



This Traditional Fire workshop highlighted a range of benefits relating to contemporary fire and ecosystem management. not to mention the far reaching benefits of wellbeing for Aboriginal people.

More info? Go to www.tkrp.com.au

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation requirements for proponents 2010

As you would be aware, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is required for any activity likely to have an impact on Aboriginal objects or places. DECCW issues AHIPs under Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act). DECCW's review of the Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants ("Interim Requirements") is now complete and they have been replaced with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* will provide a clearer and more definitive process to determine the right people to consult with. Consultation will be required with Aboriginal people who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and/or places relevant to the location of the proposed activity. Certainty is improved through the separation of consultation from employment and clarifying the information required by DECCW for decision making.

A copy of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* along with the associated fact sheets and questions and answers can be found at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/consultation.htm>

Q) Where in the World Heritage Area is this?



A) Buralow Campground, Blue Mountains 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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Lois Carson, Admin Assistant (Tues & Wed) 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

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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.

CONNECTIONS CAMPFIRE

Co-Management Profile

Executive Officer, World Heritage Unit, NPWS
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area



Who are you? My family and friends call me Jacq

Where are you from? Grew up in Glenbrook and now live in Valley Heights. I did spend a few years overseas in my 20's but love to call the Mountains home.

Got family? My 8 year old girl Jessey, partner Waz, 3 stepsons, a lil sista, a lil brother, 1 dog, 2 cats, 4 bunnies, 6 chickens and a fish....

What do you do? At work I try to raise the profile of our amazing landscape and I'm passionate about working with people.

What's important to you? Justice, peace & happiness.

Where's your favourite part about working in the GBMWA? Our office in Katoomba is relaxed and comfy but I prefer to be outside with good company.

Favourite location? The Bluff Lookout, Glenbrook – you can get lost just gazing into the Blue Labyrinth.

Favourite past time? Gardening, chatting, being with friends.

Favourite food? Does red wine count as food?!

Favourite sport? I used to love playing squash and now watching the kids play netball, soccer etc.

Favourite movie? Enchanted, love a happy ending ☺

Favourite music? Varies, at the moment I'm into ACDC and Dean Martin – bit weird hey?!

Favourite book? Too many but am currently enjoying authors Kathy Reichs and Lee Childs.

Anything else you'd like to share? Bit daggy, but I do love my job - its challenges and rewards, my colleagues and the people I meet and get to work with.