

The Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) enjoyed a productive meeting at Jenolan Caves on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 August 2013 and very much appreciated an informative presentation of the management of Jenolan Caves, Caves House and the current EOI process from General Manager Sandy McFeeters; the expertly guided tour of the Orient Cave and the Temple of Baal with Manager Cave Operations Dan Cove; and the generous hospitality offered by staff, especially Domino Holbrook-Cove, Manager Corporate, Functions & Events.

The Committee noted, in particular:

- the IUCN's World Heritage Programme together with the World Commission on Protected Area, is preparing a State of World Heritage Report for natural sites (to be published in 2014), which will provide the first global overview of the Conservation Outlook for all 222 natural and mixed World Heritage sites. This report will appear on the IUCN website: https://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/wcpa_worldheritage/about_world_heritage/worldheritageoutlook/
- the update from various 'team leaders' preparing the draft theme-based essays to support the National Heritage List assessment of the additional values of the GBMWA.
- the final report of the *Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area values study*, as part of the Lower Hunter Regional Sustainability Planning and Strategic Assessment program, which is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/regional-development/lower-hunter/>



The location was spectacular and it was extremely beneficial for the Advisory Committee members to witness the variety of management challenges and take in the extraordinary beauty and other values of the Caves, Caves House and the surrounding karst landscape.



The GBMWA Advisory Committee is made up of scientific, technical, Aboriginal and community members appointed by the State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers. The Strategic Plan for the Area is used by the Committee to guide its operations and in providing advice to those Ministers regarding issues relevant to the Area.

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly in different locations around the million hectares of spectacular national parks and reserves that comprise the GBMWA, recognised and protected for its outstanding universal values.

For more information contact the World Heritage Executive Officer
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