

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee and guests were delighted by the hospitality and surrounds of [Wooglemai Environment Education](#) Centre at Oakdale, on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 August 2014. The Advisory Committee appreciated the welcome from Peter Nicoll (Principal, Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre) and Stephen Waite and Ross Wallis from the [Sydney Catchment Authority](#) for their information and useful presentation on the [Sydney Catchment Authority Healthy Catchments Strategy](#) and the [Special Areas Strategic Plan of Management](#) with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Committee noted that the Australian Heritage Council had received with thanks a series of [National Heritage values](#) theme-based essays from the Committee.



The Advisory Committee discussed and agreed that priorities for the current Committee term to end December 2015 are:

- ✓ Gardens of Stone Stage II
- ✓ Implementation and mid-term review of the GBMWA Strategic Plan
- ✓ Co-management, especially through finalisation and adoption of the Co-management Strategic Plan
- ✓ Planning instrument zonings and provisions for adjacent land
- ✓ Progressing the National Heritage List re-assessment

The Committee received an update on the progress of the NSW draft approval bilateral agreement, more information: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/environment-assessments/bilateral-agreements/nsw>.

The Advisory Committee looks forward to participating in a range of events and fields for the [World Parks Congress](#) in Sydney, 12-19 November 2014. Following the meeting, the Advisory Committee greeted local guests for conversations about local issues and the Committee's role.



On Saturday 28 August, the Advisory Committee and guests enjoyed a visit to Burrator Lookout and then inspected Thirlmere Lakes with Office of Environment and Heritage staff Ben Owers, Rodney Freeman and Martin Kogh who provided an overview of management issues and discussion of the water level monitoring program which is available online, Lake Couridjah for example:

[http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm?ppbm=212066&rs&1&rslf\\_org](http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm?ppbm=212066&rs&1&rslf_org)

The Advisory Committee acknowledges the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri language groups as the traditional custodians of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Representatives of those who share connection to Country form the GBMWA Aboriginal Reference Group who meet regularly to provide advice to the Advisory Committee.

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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