The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) Advisory Committee met at the Woogelma Environmental Education Centre, Oakdale for their August 2017 meeting and were grateful for the warm hospitality from the Guntawang Catholic Youth Centre volunteers.

Local NPWS staff led a field trip for the Committee and guests to see some of the Schedule 1 areas likely to be inundated if the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall proceeds. They heard more about the proposal from Water NSW staff.

The Committee welcomed Shane Smith, acting in the Joint Management Coordinator position and looks forward to the revision of the GBMWHA Aboriginal Joint Management Strategic Plan and reformation of the Aboriginal Reference Group.

The Committee heard about the joint prosecution of Centennial Coal by EPA and NPWS under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974; Centennial Coal pleaded guilty to all charges, and have shown concern at the severity of the impact of the spill into the Wollongambe River in July 2016; they spent $2.5 million on the cleanup.

The Committee supported the proposed NSW Strategic Planning Framework approach to update the GBMWHA Strategic Plan to assist in the delivery of the important work in protecting the OUV and other values of the GBMWHA.

The Committee noted the AWHAC (Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee) Chair had met with the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy in July 2017 where the Minister committed support for both AWHAC and AWHIN (Australian World Heritage Indigenous Network). The Committee wrote to the Minister expressing its support for AWHAC and AWHIN with a recommendation that AWHIN be re-engaged with a face-to-face meeting.

Archaeologist and guide Michael Jackson, with Gundungurra ILUA Consultative Committee member Aunty Sharyn Halls, shared the significance of a local rock art site with members and guests.