

The May 2012 meeting of Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) was held at the Port Macquarie Homestead, [Capertee National Park](#) on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 May, preceded by the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on Wednesday 9 May.



The Advisory Committee:

- ✓ agreed it was important to ensure the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area – and particularly valuation of surrounding areas and potential additional values – remains on the priority assessment list for the National Heritage List and agreed to convene a workshop at a future meeting.
- ✓ noted that under the EPBC Act the Coalpac proposal for an open cut mine in Ben Bullen State Forest had been determined to be a "controlled action" on the basis of potential effect on threatened species and migratory species and resolved to write to the Commonwealth Minister, noting that this area is within lands that could form part of the Gardens of Stone Stage 2, noting the connection between World Heritage values and threatened species - which require a network of communities, and generally expressing concern about the proposal.
- ✓ noted the tabled Draft strategic directions for horse riding in NSW national parks and reserves for consultation until 30 June 2012 which raised concerns about proposed 'wilderness pilot' and the potential impact on the integrity of wilderness areas.

The Committee welcomed and thanked Phil Cram (Facilities Manager) and Ben Boothby, (Conservation Manager) from Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa for their update and briefing of the 12 month conservation plan for year ending December 2012.



The Committee hosted afternoon tea and welcomed guests which included Donna Upton from the Capertee Valley Alliance; Doug White, Greg Shields and Fiona Bartier from Centennial Coal and the caretakers Doris and Neville. Sharon Riley, NPWS Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Office publicly thanked Fiona Bartier for her role in agreeing that Mt Airly receive the gazetted name of *Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area* meaning the eldest son & mopoke owl for her father Charlie Riley (the first Aboriginal man to get a trade).

The Committee and guests participated in a guided tour of special sites in Capertee National Park with Sharon Riley & Elwin Wolfenden

The GBMWHA 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 GBMWHA, recognised and protected for its outstanding universal values.

For more information contact the World Heritage Executive Officer
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