

Members of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) were welcomed to the [Blue Mountains Cultural Centre](#) on Thursday 9 May 2013 by Director Paul Brinkman for the first part of their quarterly meeting.

Carl Solomon, Director Tourism and Partnerships, NPWS, gave a presentation and update on the World Parks Congress to be held in Sydney in 2014 and the Committee agreed to maintain a strong and active interest, particularly in relation to any of the program content which pertains to the GBMWA.

The Committee thanked Ingrid Sellarulo, Experiences Project Manager, Tourism Australia for providing an update on the [National Landscapes Program](#) and her invitation to attend the National Landscapes Forum to be held in the Blue Mountains in July 2013.

Members and guests very much appreciated the thorough and informative presentation and tour of the Phytophthora research underway at Butterbox Point, Leura with Clive Barker, NPWS. The location was spectacular and it was extremely beneficial for the Advisory Committee to witness the impact of Phytophthora first hand.

The Advisory Committee and guests then joined members of the community at a 'meet and greet' session held at the [Conservation Hut, Wentworth Falls](#) where a number of issues were raised and discussed including the impacts of a proposed Standard Instrument LEP (SI LEP) on the GBMWA; ensuring research and monitoring and associated resources are prioritised for the GBMWA; and the potential impact from the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

On Friday 10 May, the Advisory Committee visited Echo Point, Katoomba where NPWS Glenn Meade, Tim Lanyon and Arthur Henry spoke about some of the challenges for upgrade and ongoing maintenance of the walking tracks at the Echo Point precinct, Katoomba.

The remainder of the meeting was spent at Hartley Historic Site, including an informative tour with Manager Steve Ring of the significant heritage works that have been achieved and the ambitious current program to revitalise and improve the Site.



View from Butterbox Point



Impact of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*

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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