

The meeting of Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) was held at the [GibberGunyah Stonequarry Lodge](#), Picton on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November.

The Chair, Prof Richard Mackay, noted he had accepted the position of Chair of the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee and was anticipating his meeting with the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Robyn Parker later in the month to discuss issues of concern to the Committee including:



- the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal;
- impacts of longwall coal mining beneath upland swamps;
- water levels at Thirlmere Lakes;
- potential impacts of coal seam gas extraction; and
- assessment of the GBMWHA to allow a revised, expanded and accurate listing on the National Heritage List.

Peter Shadie and Chanci King from the [Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute](#) provided an update on relevant research projects coordinated by the Institute to enhance adaptive management of the GBMWHA, while Dr Andrew Growcock from OEH outlined the State of the Parks reporting tool which has been taken up by agencies interstate and overseas. Andrew shared interesting values and threats information as reported in the GBMWHA. The Committee welcomed members of the local community who described the major issues of local concern was the drying of Thirlmere Lakes.



The Committee attended the Opening and Welcome Ceremony of the Living Country Culture Camp 2011 held at Bents Basin State Recreation Area Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November, hosted by NPWS in conjunction with representatives of the 6 Aboriginal language groups of the GBMWHA – pictured here are Glenda Chalker, Lex Dadd, Sharyn Halls, Wayne Kraus, Jodi Cameron and Tim Eade cutting the ceremonial cake! See the [Connections Special edition](#) or go to [www.livingcountry.com.au](http://www.livingcountry.com.au) for more info.

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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