

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) Advisory Committee held its final 2014 meeting on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November at the Mountains Heritage Hotel, Katoomba, Blue Mountains. The Committee and guests enjoyed meeting delegates of the World Parks Congress Field Trip hosted by the [Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute](#) and shared heritage stories from around the world.



The Advisory Committee congratulated staff from the Office of Environment and Heritage on their efforts in delivering, presenting and participating in the [World Parks Congress](#) (WPC); the associated Field Trips and Excursions to the Blue Mountains; as well as supporting a number of presentations and side events including:

- ✓ The [Gathering in the Gully](#) where more than 300 Indigenous people from five continents met to share knowledge about conserving nature and culture.
- ✓ [Dunphy's Kowmung Adventure](#), a re-enactment of Myles Dunphy and Bert Gallop's historic 1914 journey across the Blue Mountains, launched on Friday 26 September and concluded at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre on Sunday 5 October 2014. See the [wrap up video](#) as presented to the WPC.
- ✓ Presentation of the Bush Trackers Program to the World Parks Congress and viewed the [Bush Trackers YouTube](#).

The Advisory Committee appreciated the updates and advice from Bob Conroy, Director Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust on the status of the [Jenolan Karst Conservation Reserve Draft Plan of Management](#); and Louise Clifton, Manager Marketing and Visitor Services, The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah on the development of the [Botanist Way Discovery Centre](#)



The Advisory Committee congratulated Prof Ann McGrath and Andrew Pike (Ronan Films) for their 2014 United Nations Assoc of Australia Media Award in the Special Category of "Promotion of Indigenous Recognition" for *Message from Mungo* available to order online from: <http://www.ronanfilms.com.au/feature/9901/message-from-mungo.html>

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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