GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 2015 meeting update

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) Advisory Committee enjoyed the wild and intimate <u>Jemby Rinjah Ecolodge</u>, Blackheath for its last meeting on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November.



GBMWHA Advisory
Committee and guests, L to
R: Geoff Luscombe, Doug
Benson, Tara Cameron, Bob
Anderson, Judy Smith, Alan
Henderson, Julia James,
Richard Mackay, Sheelah
Boleyn, Ross Scott, Olwen
Beazley, Alex Allchin,
Lenore Fraser, Robert Quirk,
and Jacqueline Reid

Members of the Committee had the opportunity to inspect the upper area directly impacted by the collapse of the coal waste and fine tailings dam at Clarence Colliery. Following the inspection and a presentation by local bushwalker Alex Alchin, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- The clean-up of the River itself, including areas downstream, should be completed as soon as possible, before the prospect of a flood spreading material further.
- Extensive monitoring of the macroinvertebrates and water quality in the River should be carried out for at least the next 5 years; and
- Regular inspections and eradication of weed species below the dam and along the River for at least 8 km should be carried out periodically for at least the next 5 years.

NPWS Regional Managers provided updates on activities across the reserves of the Greater Blue Mountains, and the Committee resolved to provide comment on the Draft Plan of Management for the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area.

Wendy Hills and Dina Bullivant, OEH, provided an update on the Tourism Master Planning process and plans for invigorating the Greater Blue Mountains National Landscape program.

The proposed Western Sydney Airport Draft Airport Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement was considered by the Committee who resolved to prepare a submission, copies of which were also provided to both the NSW and Cwth Ministers for the Environment

The Committee and guests enjoyed an after-dinner gathering to thank the Committee for their enormous contributions and particularly to outgoing Chair Prof Richard Mackay. On Saturday 28 November, members and guests travelled to Govetts Leap Lookout, Blackheath to experience the celebration of 15 years of World Heritage listing – see overleaf.

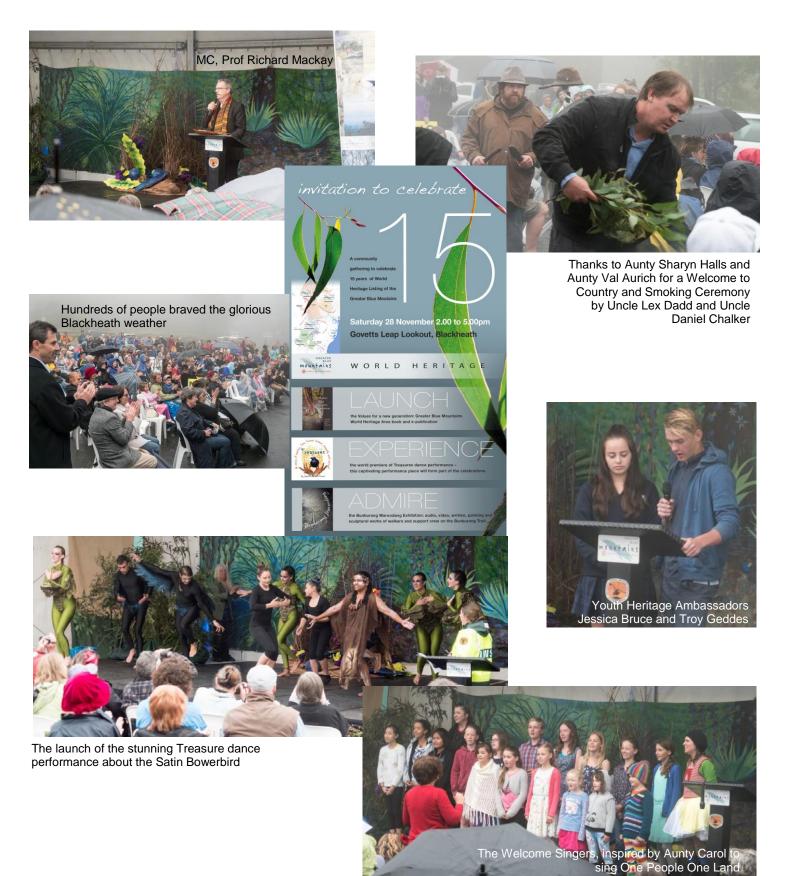
The Advisory Committee acknowledges the Darkinjung, Darug, Dharawal, Gundungurra, Wanaruah and Wiradjuri language groups as the traditional custodians of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.



Representatives of those who share connection to Country form the GBMWHA Aboriginal Reference Group who meet regularly to provide advice to the Advisory Committee.

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.



The Bunburang Maroodang Exhibition



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