The Blue Mountains Region Advisory Committee (RAC) joined the 42nd meeting of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) Advisory Committee at Katoomba to share information and resources and gain a clearer understanding of respective roles and responsibilities of the committees.

The meeting was pleased to note that consultation with owners, occupiers, and Indigenous interests (as required by the EPBC Act) and other stakeholders on the National Heritage List assessment is anticipated to commence during 2018.

The Committee congratulated the Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust on the works to upgrade the Jenolan Café and noted the formal opening of the café by the Minister (Hon Gabrielle Upton MP) and local member (the Hon Paul Toole MP) planned for 29th May 2018.

The meeting also congratulated NPWS for the successful Yellomundee Culture Camp 27-29 April 2018 with over 150 participants at Yellomundee Regional Park. It included a celebration of the Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place, workshops on interpretation stories, the Firesticks program, bushcare program, the reformation of an Aboriginal Reference Group and the creation of a reference group for the Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place, see more at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tXIaeQ-4sg

2020 will see the anniversary of World Heritage listing of the Greater Blue Mountains and the meeting was pleased to hear of plans to celebrate the anniversary from Sabrina Roesner of the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre with the next World Heritage Artist in residence program and agreed to stay informed and involved in celebrations.

All agreed the combined meeting was a success and will plan at least one combined meeting per year in different areas across the GBMWHA/Blue Mountains Branch.

Members visited Echo Point and thanked Dave Crust and NPWS staff for an overview of the current hazard reduction program across the Greater Blue Mountains.

Members enjoyed an historical tour of parts of Katoomba lead by member Ruth Longdin.

For more information contact the World Heritage Executive Officer 0419 307 099 or gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au