

CONNECTIONS

Including LIVING COUNTRY and CO-MANAGEMENT projects



NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



GREATER BLUE

mountains

WORLD HERITAGE AREA



Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW



August 2007

Update from the World Heritage Unit

Happy NAIDOC! We hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy the *Looking Forward Looking Blak* activities this July.

Since Gary Pappin left in May, **Den Barber has been acting in the Aboriginal Co-management Officer position.** Den usually works in DECC as Ranger, Cumberland South and descends from the Mudgee area of Wiradjuri. Den is continuing Gary's work building networks and relationships with Aboriginal communities around the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA). A lot of you probably already know Den or have met him around the place. He is keen to get out and about to meet with all representatives of the six language groups and is looking forward to the next Co-management workshop.

Den would like to extend a sincere invitation to discuss or raise any concerns or issues surrounding Co-management within the GBMWA or to just simply have a yarn.

Within DECC, Den has been facilitating and organising an Aboriginal Community Engagement Strategy workshop as well as organising a meeting between the various Divisions and Groups within DECC and the LALC's of the Sydney region.

More generally, the World Heritage Unit has been:

- ✓ negotiating a number of funding proposals to continue co-management projects within and around the GBMWA;
- ✓ progressing development of the GBMWA Exhibition Venue to be located at the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden; and
- ✓ supporting the GBMWA Advisory Committee and the Darug Peoples Advisory Committee.

"Directions for Developing Sustainable Indigenous Tourism in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area"

Herdis Hølleland, a Norwegian student, worked with the World Heritage Unit during June, continuing the work of Ona Vileikis and Paul Glass (see Connections December 06).

Herdis prepared a report which provides a starting point for creating and developing a framework for the tourism industry in the GBMWA. The main aim was to develop strategies for incorporating Indigenous cultural tourism into the general activities offered to tourists visiting the GBMWA. For a copy of this report please contact Lois Carson in the World Heritage Unit.

Co-management Workshops SEPTEMBER 2007

The World Heritage Unit is hosting the first Co-management workshop for 2007 to be held on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September at Gibber Gunyah Lodge, Picton.

We acknowledge the workshop will be held on Dharawal country and invite all representatives of the six language groups of the GBMWA: the Dharawal, Darkinjung, Darug, Gundungurra, Wanarua and Wiradjuri groups.

Discussions at this meeting will include:

- ✓ Where we've been and where we're going
- ✓ Update on Co-management projects (such as Indigenous Tourism, Indigenous Education, Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategic Plan)
- ✓ A Partnerships Workshop (see below)

If you would like to attend the Workshop, please contact Lois Carson 47847327 or Den Barber 47847309 **before Friday 7 September** so we can send you more information.

The Partnerships Workshop will be hosted by the Policy, Planning and Programs section of Parks and Wildlife on Sunday 16 September at the Co-management Workshop (see above).

DECC wants to encourage greater partnerships with Aboriginal communities for the management of national parks and is currently developing a State-wide policy to guide current and future partnerships with Aboriginal people.

The Partnerships Workshop will explore various issues, including how to negotiate park partnerships with Aboriginal communities, cultural resource use and culture camps in parks. The workshops will help to form policy for all National Parks in NSW.

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Graffiti removal in Thirlmere Lakes

An Aboriginal art site in Thirlmere Lakes National Park was recently defaced by graffiti. DECC will be working with the Dharawal community to remove the graffiti as soon as possible. Tharawal LALC, Field officers from the Nattai Area and Rock Art Conservator Dave Lambert will be involved. Dave will demonstrate to field officers and community members' techniques for graffiti removal from the site with minimal impact. For more information and an opportunity to participate, please contact **Mark Simon, Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Officer, NPWS, on 4677 0859 (ext 1)**

Cultural Heritage Assessment Battleship Tops

The Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc. (GAHAI) successfully completed this project which includes a significant report that outlines the archaeological and Aboriginal significance of the Kings Tableland area in the Blue Mountains National Park.

Of the eleven sites recorded, four shelter sites with rock art and stone artefacts, two sites had evidence of occupation in the form of stone tools with another two shelters being more open, and three other sites were recorded as axe grinding groove sites.

These findings at Battleship Tops provide important and intact links to aspects of traditional culture for community.

GAHAI hope to continue with recording of sites within this area pending on future funding applications.

For enquires on this report please contact the World Heritage Unit.

Gundungurra Children's Song Book

Wonderful news! Production is almost finalised of 500 CDs for the children's activity book - "**Fun & Games in Gundungurra**". Two of Aunty Joan's great granddaughters, Jessica and Maddison Collier are featured on the CD.

A free copy will be provided to all Schools and Libraries in the Blue Mountains. The song book will eventually be for sale from the National Parks "Heritage Centre" at Blackheath and the bookshops - "Turning Page" at Springwood and "Megalong Books" at Leura.

MOCS (Mountains Outreach Community Services) will be organising a launch late August. For enquiries please contact **Lyn Bevington on: 4758 6811.**

Return and Renewal of Water Stories



A section of Byram Mansell's 1960 wall tiles

Following on from our last newsletter (April 2007), the Sydney Catchment Authority Education Team are still keen to conduct a tour of Warragamba Dam. DECC's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer, Sharon Riley, would like to organise the visit to view the wall tiles and discuss opportunities for involvement in the interpretation and oral histories of the water stories of the catchment lands and beyond. **Please contact Sharon on 4784 7320 to register your interest.**



Aboriginal Employment & Training Program, Yengo NP

On-ground training has been provided to a number of participants in the program for weed control, facility and maintenance, walking track construction, fire trail maintenance, vegetation clearing, cultural site protection and minor public contact experience. Field Officer skills training and experience will enable participants to apply for future positions in NPWS. **For more information contact Jeff Betteridge, Ranger Yengo, on 4320 4219**

← Participants installing interpretive signage in Yengo NP

If you would like more information about these articles, funding opportunities or other projects that the World Heritage Unit is working on, we welcome your inquiry or feedback.

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Visit our office at National Parks and Wildlife, 39 Whitton Street (cnr Camp St), Katoomba
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