ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Meeting report February 2009

The Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA) met at St Albans on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 February, following the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on Thursday 5 February.

The Advisory Committee resolved to support recommendations from the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting (see the April 2009 Connections newsletter for more information) regarding repatriation, priority acquisition of private land at Wentworth Falls for its cultural heritage values, interpretation and signage to include more information on the Country of the 6 language groups of the Greater Blue Mountains and that the 2009 Living Country Culture Camp will be held at Jenolan Caves from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November.





The Advisory Committee were joined by several members of the local community for afternoon tea (despite the indoor temperature of 41 °c) and for conversations on local issues and the Committee's role.

The Advisory Committee learned that the draft Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement should be endorsed by the Environment Protection Heritage Council later in 2009; heard an update from the Steering Committee organising celebrations for the 50^{th} Anniversary of the Blue Mountains National Park and the 10^{th} Anniversary of the listing of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in 2009 and 2010 respectively; received an update regarding the Tourism Taskforce Report which recommends an MOU between Tourism NSW and NPWS and changes to the NPW Act to allow commercial activities in Wilderness and changes to permissibility; and agreed to the applications to the Commonwealth's Caring for our Country funding program for a range of projects in the Greater Blue Mountains.



The Advisory Committee participated in a tour of the Old Great North Road, one of the 11 Convict Sites in Australia's World Heritage serial nomination.

The May 2009 meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held at Baerami (Hunter Region) with a focus on tourism and national parks.

Inspection of a section of the Old Great North Road

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 by telephone on (02) 4784 7326 or via email to gbm.worldheritage@environment.nsw.gov.au



