

The Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) met at Wombeyan Caves on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 November with a focus on the geodiversity values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Advisory Committee heard from expert speakers including Dr Robert Wray, Dr Dave Branagan and Dr Armstrong Osborne as well as Stephen Meehan from the Geodiversity Unit of Parks and Wildlife about their geodiversity research and project.

An update on the activities of the Australian World Heritage Area Advisory Committee, Chaired by Joan Domicelj was delivered by Richard Mackay who represents the GBMWA Advisory Committee.

The Committee resolved to write to the Ministers about their concerns for proposed legislation for hunting in NSW national parks and reserves in terms of its potential impacts on the values and other users of these areas and, in particular, the GBMWA.



What is geodiversity?

Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, minerals, soils and landforms, and the processes that have shaped these features over time. Mountains, caves, beaches, rivers, oceans and even the weather, are all elements of geodiversity.

Geodiversity provides the foundation for life; ecosystems, and the life forms within, depend on bedrock, soils, landforms and other geological features and processes for their survival. It is also important in understanding the way in which many of the Earth's systems and process work.

Geological features provide us with places to live, resources for industry, soils from which we grow food, water for consumption, opportunities for healing and places for worship, learning and inspiration.

Visit **Geodiversity, karst and caves** for more information:
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/geodiversity/index.htm>

The Advisory Committee welcomed local neighbours Mick Chalker and John Lewis who joined the evening meal for conversations on local issues and the Committee's role.

The February 2010 meeting of the Advisory Committee will be at the Katoomba National Parks and Wildlife Office focusing on the on-ground management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Community are invited to attend a morning tea with members of the Advisory Committee from 11.00am Saturday 6 February at the National Parks and Wildlife Heritage Centre, Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath to discuss local issues and broader opportunities for Aboriginal Co-management and ideas for celebrating the 10th anniversary of World Heritage Listing on 29 November 2010.

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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