

The November 2008 meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) was held at Lithgow, near the Newnes Plateau.

The Advisory Committee resolved to urge the State and Federal Ministers to take a proactive approach to further research of the value of the dingo as a top carnivore that helps to control feral cats, foxes and pigs following presentations from Professor Chris Dickman, Sydney University, who discussed his research on the dingo: *kill, cull, or conserve?* And Brad Purcell, PhD candidate at the University of Western Sydney detailed his research entitled "*Order in the pack: Ecology of Canis lupus dingo in the southern Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area*".

The Advisory Committee will advise the State and Federal ministers its concern for the indicative highway route option from Mt Victoria to Marrangaroo over the Newnes Plateau which could have impacts on the catchments of the Grose and Wollangambe Rivers – both part of the GBMWA and that there is also high potential for negative impacts on significant vegetation, wildlife habitat and recreational amenity of the Newnes Plateau.



Newnes Swamp by Helen Sharrock

The Committee and observers participated in a tour of the Newnes Plateau, visiting some Newnes Swamps and a number of scenic lookouts. Thanks to Doug Benson, Haydn Washington and Karen McLouglin for the informative maps, enthusiastic guiding and sharing their knowledge of the unique vegetation. The Committee members then joined in the celebration of the declaration of the Blackfellows Hand Cave as an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.



Wiradjuri dancers at the Blackfellows Hand Cave celebration by Helen Sharrock



The February 2009 meeting will be held at St Albans to investigate the Great Old North Road as part of the serial Convict Sites nomination for World Heritage Listing.

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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