

**BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE INSTITUTE**  
**Aboriginal Cultural Research Program**

**MAPPING COUNTRY PROJECT: Mapping the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA)**

Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service – Blue Mountains Region (NPWS) have identified the need to integrate Aboriginal cultural values into their land management and planning processes and to develop better tools to work with Aboriginal communities for the protection and conservation of those values.

To help achieve this, the “Mapping Country” project is being implemented through a partnership of Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute (BMWHI), BMCC, NPWS and local Aboriginal communities. Two projects are being combined into the Mapping Country project - the NPWS “Indigenous Cultural Mapping World Heritage Pilot Project” and the BMCC “Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study”.

This project aims:

- < to assist Aboriginal communities to record and manage their cultural knowledge
- < to provide better understanding of Aboriginal cultural and natural values in the World Heritage Area through partnership and consultation with local Aboriginal communities

The information collected through this project will support NPWS' Aboriginal co-management policy for the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, as well as land management and planning and development assessment decision-making for BMCC.

There will be 4 main stages of the Mapping Country project:

- 1) assessing the current knowledge of Aboriginal cultural values in the study area
- 2) developing a computer-based data management system for an Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge Database for the Aboriginal community
- 3) field survey and recording (archaeological survey; ecological survey; oral histories.)
- 4) integration of the data into the existing data management systems of BMCC and NPWS in a culturally appropriate manner

*Project Co-ordinator: Shaun Hooper. Timeframe: Pilot study 18 months. 2005-2006*  
*Funding partners: Natural Heritage Trust, NSW Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC), Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Blue Mountains City Council.*

**For more information about BMWHI and current research programs go to:  
[www.bmwhi.org.au](http://www.bmwhi.org.au)**