



BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE INSTITUTE : CURRENT PROJECTS June 2010

1. NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

#	Status	Project Title	Funding	Time frame	Researchers / Partners	Details
1.1	3-yr project complete	Managing ecosystem change in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA)	ARC Linkage grant 450k - 3 yrs. Additional funds being sought for follow-through projects.	2007-2010	UNSW; UWS; DECCW; Univ Woll; BMCC; DPI; HNCMA	Follow-through work is necessary, including uptake of capability by managers, and is being identified in line with recommendations in the Executive Summary from the project.
1.2	Current	Researching effective partnerships between science and management, focusing on the GBMWA	PhD international scholarship; no BMWHI income	3 years from Aug 2009	Alexander Gold, PhD candidate, Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW. Supervisors JMerson, RChapple Partners: DECCW & HNCMA	Proposed case studies: - Review of scientific research projects that have attempted to influence management, including the ARC Linkage Project 'Managing ecosystem change...' - Investigation of adaptive management potential: specifically legislative boundaries and implications for science/management partnerships - Attempting to establish an adaptive management framework for Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA's Climate Change Action Plan
1.4	Commenced April 2010	Wombats in Mt Wilson	Project brokered by BMWHI. \$2,500 donated by local resident for operating costs plus in-kind on-site accommodation for field trips	2010 12 mths	Student Nicky Selles @ UWS (1 yr student project), supervised by Dr Ricky Spencer	Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase understanding of ecology and population size of wombats in the Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine area. • To inform management of the wombat population to address any problems as perceived by residents.

1.5	Commenced March 2010	Phytophthora dieback in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	Research operating funds: \$11.5 k/ year (incl 1.5k/yr BMWHI fee) Botanic Gardens Trust. PhD candidate awarded a Sydney University scholarship; top-up scholarship \$11.5k/yr	PhD 3 years 2010-2012	PhD candidate Zoe Joy-Newby. Supervisors David Guest , USyd; Ed Liew, Botanic Gardens Trust; Dan Ramp, UNSW.	<p>OVERALL AIM: To better understand the role of Phytophthora in vegetation dieback in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWH) and to facilitate better-informed policy and decision-making and risk management by assessing the level of threat that this pathogen is posing to the WHA. This project will build on the modelling capacity developed by the ARC Managing Ecosystem Change project.</p> <p>Research questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where is dieback within the GBMWH? 2. Is it caused by <i>Phytophthora</i>? Is <i>Phytophthora</i> only playing a contributory role? What species of <i>Phytophthora</i> are involved? 3. What factors are associated with the incidence and spread of this disease? 4. How bad is the disease? Does something need to be done, and if so, what?
	Commence 2010	Honeyeaters and Banksia heathlands in WHA	Hons project. Brokered by BMWHI.	Hons	Student: Michael Franklin. Core supervisor Charles Morris (UWS), co-supervisor Richard Major, Aust. Museum.	Map Banksia heath lands and assess the age structure of each in relation to Honeyeater distribution and density in the WHA. Develop guidelines for optimal fire management planning and critical habitat management for honeyeaters.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

#	Status	Project Title	Funding	Time frame	Researchers / Partners	Details
2.1	Current	Potential impacts of climate change on agri-industries and forestry.	\$22,250 RIRDC	2009 - 2010	John Merson (Lead Investigator), Evan Webster (GIS), Sarah Terkes (Research Assistant)	This project is based on recommendations from the completed "Sustainable small-scale agri-industries neighbouring the WHA in the Hawkesbury-Nepean region" project and involves two key stages: 1) an assessment of GIS-based tools to support alternative crop planning as higher temperatures and disease, resulting from Climate Change, threaten traditional farming and forestry practices throughout the region. <i>This stage is now complete.</i> 2) An assessment of the data on climate change at this regional scale, and what tools might be required to develop an effective monitoring system of key indicators for both temperature and rainfall.
2.2	Funded and current	Native agri-forestry & bio energy in the Central Tablelands	DAFF/RIRDC funded \$73,700 to BMWHI; \$70,000 to UNSW/IES	12 mths June 2010- June 2011	Project Manager: Crellis Rammelt; Investigators: Peter Ampt (USyd), John Merson, Alex Baumber	The key outputs of this project will be an assessment of the potential for new agroforestry land-uses to contribute to a bioenergy industry within the Central Tablelands region and a framework for undertaking similar regional assessments elsewhere. The project will develop scenarios and gather data that can feed into CSIRO's modeling work and will take the results of CSIRO's work to stakeholders to assess how well the scenarios match their economic, social and environmental goals. The project will also involve analysis of policy measures that could be employed to encourage uptake of bioenergy-based agroforestry in the region and to guide it in a manner that is consistent with the goals of councils, CMAs, landholders and other stakeholders.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#	Status	Project Title	Funding	Time frame	Researchers / Partners	Details
3.1	Current	Branching Out	Arts NSW 7.5k (acquitted).	2009	Project Manager Cheryle Yin-Lo	This project is part of Cheryle Yin-Lo's Doctorate of Cultural Research. It uses the eucalypt as a catalyst for historical and contemporary stories of local people's experiences, using archival material, social history and contemporary art works. The outcome is an online mixed media exhibition of dynamic and new interpretations of the people and the environment.
3.2	Current	Seasons Greetings	Blue Mountains City Council's Cultural Partnerships Program and the Australia Council for the Arts Community Partnerships Program	2009 -2010	BM Aboriginal Culture & Resource Centre, BMCC; Shiney Pictures (David Ryan), DECCW; Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre	For one year, the Aboriginal community has documented seasonal cycles in the Blue Mountains from a social, cultural and environmental perspective. The project involves all age groups and encourages the learning of youth from local Elders. Journals and visual diaries are used to record observations, stories and experiences. Exhibition launched at the Blackheath Heritage Centre, April 2010.
3.5	Not yet funded	Community and household bushfire awareness and preparedness - a Blue Mountains study	To be identified	12-18 months	Tbc Anitra Nelson (policy scientist), Grahame Douglass, UWS/NSW Rural Fire Service, Ross Bradstock (UOW), John Merson; Mark Adams (USyd) (NSW), Cheryle Yin-Lo (BMWHI) Partners tbc: BMCC, DECCW;	This project will assess communities' levels of bushfire preparedness, and identify weaknesses, strengths and local best-practice models. It aims to inform policies of community fire awareness and preparedness under climate change, and to build understanding of the adaptive capacity of communities to increasing bushfire risk. The study will include a survey, interviews, property tours and household assessments. Data will inform emergency authorities and planning agencies. Outputs will include a policy options discussion paper with key findings and strategic policy recommendations to maximise fire-preparedness of communities in the Blue Mountains.
3.7	Current	Community Dialogues: Bushfire Storytelling	Funds being sought (\$5,000)	2009-2010	Cheryle Yin-Lo	This project will document the knowledge and bushfire experiences of Blue Mountains residents. This dialogue has been identified as necessary for community 'healing', not yet adequately addressed by community or government agencies.

3.8	Current	Community dialogues: Bushfire forums	\$1,500 Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre	August 21, 2010. 10.30 am-1pm	Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre: Ross Bradstock; Liz Tasker; Glenn Meade; RFS (spokesperson tbc)	A forum to share information about bushfire ecology and management in the region, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire ecology and how it informs bushfire management • Bushfire risk management planning • Climate change implications and preparedness • Challenges of balancing fire management for the protection of World Heritage values and the protection of human life and property One forum has been held (Sept 2009, Mt Wilson), and the next is to be held in Blackheath at the invitation of the Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre.
	Sept 2010	Local Climate, Local Change conference	BMCC \$2,000	Exhibition at conference 29 August - 1 Sept 2010	Project Manager: Cheryle Yin-Lo	Research and development of exhibition (photographs, contemporary artworks, text) to highlight diverse local community initiatives responding to and addressing issues of climate change.
	Mid 2010	Lawson village redevelopment - Public Art & Interpretation	Funding: \$3000 - remaining from earlier Lawson community project (Yin-Lo and Booth)	2010	Project Manager: Cheryle Yin-Lo (Project part of Doct. of Cult. Res.)	Community workshops with a local public artist to explore design ideas for public art with environmental considerations. Research into community values and maintaining cultural heritage values. Ideas for design and research will be shared for community and stakeholder feedback. Commencement: to be confirmed mid 2010. Liaison with Karin Hartog, BMCC Major Projects Manager