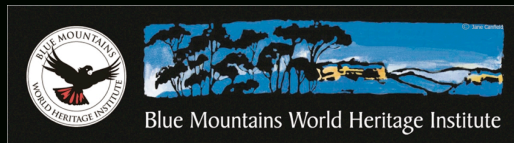


Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

**Mission**

To broker & facilitate research & community  
engagement that supports the conservation  
and management of the Greater Blue  
Mountains World Heritage Area



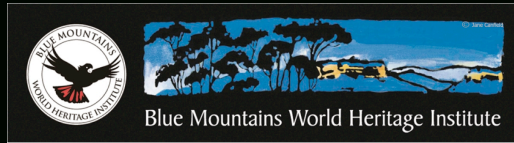
## Goals

- Identify **knowledge gaps**
- Define, broker & facilitate **research & community engagement**
- Build partnerships & ensure **uptake of knowledge** into policy & management



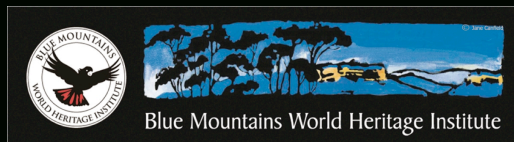
## Why BMWHI?

- Power to convene & broker across multiple tenures, sectors & disciplines
- Capacity to bridge the gap between community, research, policy & management – management oriented research
- Reinforcing the scientific credibility behind policy & management decisions
- Support innovation in the conservation of the GBMWA
- Access to land managers & researchers to see how findings can be adopted into management practice
- A repository of knowledge accessible to all
- A capacity to tackle contentious issues that may be difficult for individual members



## Project overview

- 5 active projects – 2 natural/cultural heritage; 1 sustainable development; 2 community engagement - pipeline needs rebuilding
- In past 12 mths –
  - 13 grant submissions/ funding bids
  - 1 successful;
  - 1 invitation to full proposal;
  - 6 unsuccessful;
  - 5 pending



## Project overview

Some observations

- Increasing competition for limited research funds
- Low profile and perceived narrow geographical focus
- Narrow vulnerable funding base
- Need to deliver concrete member benefits - ROI



## Sharpening our focus

Research Strategy 2009-12



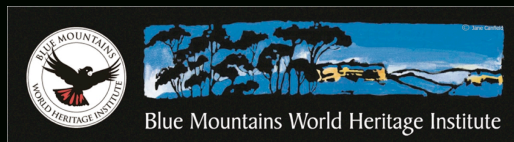
Top 15



Flagship Programmes

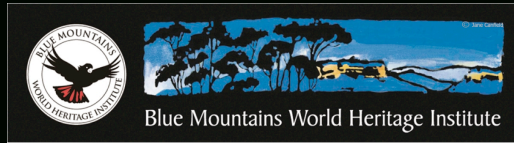


Pilot Flagship Project - Low Carbon Tourism



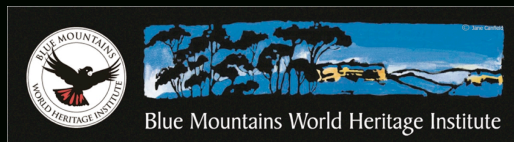
## Futures Forum – May 2011

- Influential thinkers to help position the future for BMWHI
- Opened up future partners and supporters
- Focus on touching the emotional connections with the Blue Mountains
- Tangible ideas
- 10 point renewal plan



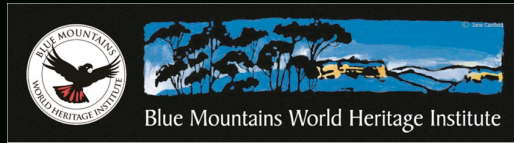
## Flagship Programs

- Coping with Climate Change
- Establishing an effective buffer zone
- Healthy Ecosystems and Communities



## Coping with Climate Change

- Helping this area deal with the anticipated impact of climate change
- Understanding & promoting how GBMWA can be part of coping with climate change



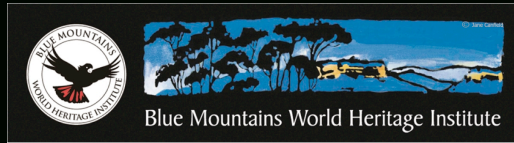
## Establishing an effective buffer zone

- The WHA has no formal buffer zone
- Development pressure pushes right up to the boundaries
- An effective buffer zone needs to be realistic and acceptable to multiple stakeholders
- Advocacy for sympathetic land-use planning & decision-making



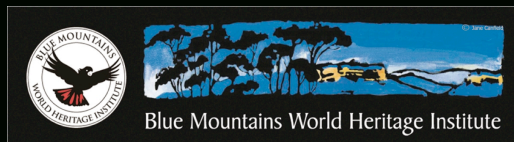
## Healthy Ecosystems and Communities

- GBMWHA - the lungs and kidneys of Sydney
- Ecological health & resilience as well as community and individual health
- Branding the GBMWHA: a 'Healthy Ecosystem and Communities Laboratory'?



## Corporate approaches/support to members

- Community Dialogues
- Top up Scholarships
- BMWHI Internships
- Research Seminars
- Knowledge Hub



## Low Carbon Tourism

### Promoting clean energy tourism in the GBM

- Tourism underpins the regional BM economy (4m visits; nearly \$½ billion p.a) yet benefits not directly returned to GBMWA as the foundation tourism asset
- Australia's move to low carbon living
- GBM an early adopter for clean tourism – showcasing the benefits of low carbon regional tourism
- A vehicle for messaging values & encouraging buy-in from the tourism sector
- Benefit flow back to GBM



## Low Carbon Tourism

### Promoting clean energy tourism in the GBM

- Fed Dept of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency (\$210,000)
- Project developed as seed funding for a larger LCT proposal in GBM. Aims to lay the groundwork for a clean energy future for tourism in GBM with mechanisms piloted to return benefits to GBMWhA.
- Proposed components: Awareness/Demand Survey; Open House – multi-stakeholder platform on clean energy and LC opportunities; Carbon Footprint Analysis for tourism industry in BMs; Scoping Report; Communications Campaign

