



The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

Catalogue of Projects

** note list of abbreviations at end of document*

Year	Project Title	Funding	Partners /researchers	Overview
2004-2007	Development Alternatives for Lawson	\$37,000 – Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) \$50,000 Integral Energy	John Merson, Michael Kachka (energy), Sandy Booth (water), Cheryle Yin-Lo (community engagement)	The project explored more sustainable options for industry and businesses in the town of Lawson. In partnership with Blue Mountains City Council, we developed an integrated water plan to pursue environmental restoration, protection and enhancement in urban areas and downstream World Heritage Areas. With funding from Integral Energy we conducted energy audits and distributed compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout the township, with the aim of achieving lower energy usage.
2004-2008	Sustainable Small-Scale Agri-Industries Neighbouring the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	\$260,000 Rural Industries Research & Development Council (RIRDC)	Peter Ampt (FATE program at UNSW), Rob Mulley (UWS), Roger Attwater, Howard Wildman, Shaun Hooper, John Merson and Sandy Booth	The project identified the agri-industries located in the Hawkesbury Nepean region and documented their economic, social and environmental impacts, with the overriding aim being to facilitate the long-term sustainability of agri-industries along the north-eastern boundary of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) in a way which complements and enhances the values of the neighbouring protected conservation area and Sydney catchment. Work also involved practical on-the-ground trials of three integrated technology systems to assist future sustainability. Key findings included the identification and testing of methodological tools found to be relevant to producers with a range of different production and marketing strategies. These tools included Landscape Function Analysis (LFA), which provided a quantitative means for assessing the ecosystem services generated onsite by different forms of horticultural production, and has the potential to link specific production systems to implications at a regional landscape scale. Innovation with fungal products is another tool with potential to utilise on-farm organic wastes, contributing to saleable products, with residues that potentially reduce a common orchard disease. LFA and organic waste conversion, applied in conjunction with GIS analysis, provide a complementary set of tools that operate at different spatial and temporal scales. These types of initiatives contribute to the resilience of the local production systems, reinforcing opportunities for diversity and sustainability.

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2004-ongoing	The Landscape of Blue Mountains Rock Art	\$14,400 Wollemi Pine International	Paul S.C. Tacon, Wayne Brennan, Graham King, Matthew Kelleher	The project is focused on documenting the Aboriginal rock art sites (drawings, stencils, paintings and engravings) of Wollemi National Park. and describing cultural change in the region over the past few thousand years. The project involves extensive ongoing Indigenous community consultation and participation. In addition to their cultural significance for Aboriginal communities, as well as their scientific significance, the results are of great value to park and World Heritage Area managers and interpretation officers, tourists and others with an interest in Aboriginal culture, rock-art and the World Heritage Area. This research is ongoing.
2005-2006	Nature Through Fresh Eyes	No direct funding to BMWHI	Multicultural Residents Association (MRA), Mountains Community Resource Network (MCRN) and Cheryle Yin-Lo (BMWHI)	The project provided an opportunity for multicultural residents in the Blue Mountains to participate in guided bushwalks with Aboriginal interpretive guides and explore their artistic response to the natural environment and discover what the World Heritage Area means to them.
2005-2006	Mapping Country (pilot study): Indigenous Cultural Mapping within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	\$332,000 comprising: \$100,000 HNCMA (funds from NHT), \$75,000 NSW NPWS and \$157,000 BMCC	Shaun Hooper, John Merson, Teekee Marloo, Wayne Brennan, Elly Chatfield, Jo Rogers, Edward Smith and Nicola Hooper in partnership with DECC, BMCC, Darug Tribal Council, Darug Custodian and Gundungurra Tribal Council	The project documented and mapped the Indigenous cultural heritage values of the Blue Mountains region of the GBMWHA. Led by a local Aboriginal community member, we aimed to increase awareness of Aboriginal cultural and natural values in the World Heritage Area. The information collected through this project supported the Aboriginal co-management policy for the GBMWHA, as well as decision-making for the World Heritage Area and the surrounding Local Government Area.
2004-ongoing	Integrating Community Cultural Development (CCD) principles into the programming of BMWHI	Australia Council for the Arts, NSW Ministry for the Arts, University of Western Sydney PhD scholarship \$25,000/yr	Cheryle Yin-Lo (BMWHI)	<p>Community Cultural Development (CCD) is based on use of the arts for creative expression of community values. The arts can encourage new ways of thinking about environmental problems, and create a 'space' for negotiation over complex and contentious environmental issues.</p> <p>A CCD position based at BMWHI and filled by Cheryle Yin-Lo, was for the 1st years funded by the Aust Council then the Min for the Arts. From 2007-2010 Cheryle's work is funded through a UWS Scholarship from the Centre of Cultural Research to undertake a workplace-based Doctorate of Cultural Research at BMWHI.</p>

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		(2007-10)		
2006-2007	Mid Mountains Community Collaborative Government Framework	\$18,800 Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC)	Sandy Booth, Cheryle Yin-Lo and Lauren Terry (BMCC)	The project developed a Community-Government Collaborative Framework for the Mid Mountains, involving all interested people and parties in workshops during February and March 2007. The workshops identified new ways in which mid-Mountains communities and the BMCC can communicate and work more effectively together for mutual benefit on important issues and matters of community interest and concern. The framework consisted of practical directions and activities for the mid Mountains and Lawson, consistent with the 25 Year Vision for the Blue Mountains. It also included ways to enable: more effective and regular two-way communication; more consistent approaches to providing and exchanging information and views; improved and more co-ordinated, integrated planning and decision-making; improved co-operation and collaboration generally; and a strengthening of respect and trust.
2006-2007	Assessment of the Indigenous Heritage Values of the GBMWhA	\$10,000 Federal Dept of Env & Water (DEW) - Indigenous Heritage Assessment Section	Joan Domicelj, Shaun Hooper, John Merson and Paul Tacon	The project researchers undertook a desktop study to identify all significant documents relevant to the Indigenous heritage values of the GBMWhA. This project involved examining the quantitative data to find an aggregate of the number of sites on the AHIMS database (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation), and additional sites that are not yet on this database. For the most important contemporary site, Eagles Reach, in Wiradjuri country, Graham King provided an assessment of its cultural significance, and Prof Paul Taçon, one of the world's leading authorities on rock art and who has worked on the Eagles Reach site, to provide an evaluation of its national significance; an historical time line of Indigenous traditions, with accounts of traditional and contemporary ceremonies that continue to be practised in the region by the Aboriginal communities.
2007	Horticultural Waste Reduction and Conversion through Microbial Bioremediation	\$15,000 Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL)	Howard Wildman and Roger Attwater	The project involved the testing of an organic waste conversion tool as tested in the sustainable agri-industries project (see above).
2007	Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Six Foot Track between Katoomba and	\$10,000 NSW Department of Lands	Shaun Hooper and Teekee Marloo	The project was a survey of Indigenous heritage sites along the Six Foot Track, produced as a GIS map layer.

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	Jenolan Caves			
2007-2008	Marra Mob	\$10,000 Arts NSW	Cheryle Yin-Lo	The project assisted a group of Aboriginal artists to develop a business plan for increased artistic and cultural tourism opportunities.
2007-2008	Aboriginal World Heritage Education Package (sub-project of co-management projects below)	\$17,500 Natural Heritage Trust	Bronwen Maxwell (BMWHI), Teekee Marloo, Chris Tobin, teachers and practitioners from the local community and Aboriginal reference group	The project assessed the resource materials needed to support local Aboriginal Education in primary schools. The research identified resources currently available or that require further development.
2007-2008	Indigenous Co-Management Projects	\$100,000 Natural Heritage Trust	Jacqueline Reid, Den Barber (NPWS), Bronwen Maxwell, Chris Tobin and Teekee Marloo	The project had five sections which were jointly developed by BMWHI and the DECC World Heritage Unit of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service: (a) GBMWHA Aboriginal Community Engagement Forums (b) Development and implementation of a GBMWHA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Landscapes Management Strategy (c) Development and implementation of the GBMWHA Indigenous Tourism Guidelines (d) Extending the Mapping Country project (above) (e) GBMWHA Indigenous Education project (above)
2007-2010 3 yrs	Managing Ecosystem Change in the (GBMWHA)	\$450,000 Australian Research Council Linkage grant. \$75,000 NPWS DECC \$45,000 BMCC \$33,000 UWS \$30,000 Policy & Science, DECC. In-kind partners: NSW Dept Primary Industry, HNCMA	Chief Investigators: Richard Kingsford, David Warton, Shawn Laffan and John Merson (UNSW), Rob Mulley (UWS), Rosalie Chapple (BMWHI), Tony Auld (DECC), Ross Bradstock (UOW), Daniel Ramp (UNSW) Post-grad students incl: Fiona Thomson (PhD UNSW), Jack Pascoe (PhD UWS)	The project focused on identifying the conservation importance and spatial impacts of drivers of change (frequent fires, climate change and invasive species) on biodiversity in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The project aims to assess the impact of drivers of change on biodiversity and ecosystem condition in the GBMWHA, with the following principal aims: 1. To quantify the past, present, and future effects of anthropogenically-related drivers of change on biodiversity and ecosystem processes at different spatial scales within the GBMWHA; 2. To quantify the effectiveness of the current protected area in representing and conserving regional biodiversity, identifying areas of relative importance (hotspots) for biodiversity; 3. To identify and document the sensitivity of bioindicators to drivers of change within the GBMWHA; 4. To develop a strategic monitoring programme for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem condition in the GBMWHA based on the spatial distribution of

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		Total project value: \$1,400,000 (including in-kind)		bioindicators and pressures from anthropogenic drivers of change, satisfying World Heritage classification requirements; 5. To develop an adaptive environmental management framework that delivers conservation policy and management outcomes to government and community.
2008	The Streetwise Project	\$15,000 Arts NSW (auspiced grant)	Peter Adams, Alan Lloyd, Cheryle Yin-Lo	The project comprised a word and image portrait of the Blue Mountains by Peter Adams and Alan Lloyd. Peter Adams captured the heart and soul of the Blue Mountains through its people. Working with writer Alan Lloyd, he set out to make a portrait in images and words of a unique community. More than 20,000 images were shot and 80,000 words written, resulting in a remarkable book and photographic exhibition opened by the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir.
2008	The Impact of Climate Change on Australian Tourism Destinations	\$22,000 DRET and Sustainable Tourism CRC via University of Canberra.	J Merson & R Chapple (BMWHI) and UNSW post-graduate students	The project was part of a national project assessing the impacts of climatic change on tourism in World Heritage areas. It involved a desktop assessment and building economic models and scenarios. The 5 case studies included the Wet Tropics, Kakadu, Barossa Valley, Victorian ski-fields and the Blue Mountains. BMWHI provided a review on: (a) current knowledge of tourism activities in the BM (statistical data etc) (b) current knowledge of climate change especially relating to biophysical impacts, and (c) in light of the above reviews to ask "so what for tourism?" ie a review of the degree to which the tourism sector is reliant on resources & the current climatic conditions of the region; and how might environmental resources affect tourism.
2008-2010	Branching Out	Arts NSW \$7,000	Cheryle Yin-Lo	The project involved meetings with collaborators to set up digital storytelling training.
2009-2012	Researching effective partnerships between science and management, focusing on the GBMWA	International PhD scholarship	Alexander Gold, PhD candidate, Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW. Supervisor J Merson. Partners: HNCMA.	Proposed case studies include: - 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. <i>Research refocused:</i> 1. Analysis of the HNCMA's vulnerability assessment of key natural resource assets. Reviewing how HNCMA has responded to climate change adaptation by analysing a vulnerability assessment they conducted in 2010.

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				<p>Analysis includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty surrounding future climate change projections • Difficulties trying to define vulnerability using a risk matrix • Analysis of the approach as a top-down approach to assessing vulnerability <p>2. Trial of a different mode of assessing vulnerability, focusing on the Capertee Valley. This research will feature workshops to be held later this year. The research is not yet complete, but if it goes ahead, it will feature the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario planning to integrate local knowledge into future scenarios • Harvesting local experience as to how landholders have adapted to past change • Analysis of the process as a bottom-up, contextual approach to assessing vulnerability <p>3. Assessment of the adaptive management of the HNCMA's on-ground projects. Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An output vs. outcome focus • Identifying uncertainties and assumptions as the focus of project monitoring – supporting continuous improvement and the HNCMA becoming a learning organisation • Highlighting positive progress made in certain locations where the HNCMA has developed the networks necessary for adaptive management. Suggestions are made for the next round of HNCMA investment planning.
2009-2010	Bushfire Storytelling	No direct funding	Cheryle Yin-Lo	This project documented the knowledge and bushfire experiences of Blue Mountains residents. This dialogue was identified as necessary for community 'healing', not yet adequately addressed by community or government agencies. The outcomes of the project are available to view on the BMWHI website.
2010-2012	Native Agri-Forestry and Bio-Energy Project for the Western Edge of the GBMWA	\$173,700 from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Rural Industries Research and	Investigators: Peter Ampt (FATE Program USYD), Alex Baumber (UNSW) John Merson and Crelis Rammelt (UNSW/BMWHI),	The Central Tablelands Bioenergy Assessment project is a 3-phase project that aims to assess the potential for a bioenergy industry in the Central Tablelands of NSW through Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs), interviews and workshops, landholder surveys, and spatial analysis through GIS modelling. Specific project goals are to examine options for species to be used, potential social and economic benefits, contribution of a bioenergy industry to natural resource management goals, incentives and barriers for uptake of such land uses, and possible guiding policy mechanisms. Phase 1 of the project focused on the Central Tablelands of

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		Development Corporation (RIRDC)		NSW as a case study for assessing the contribution that agroforestry may be able to make toward the development of a bioenergy industry, as well as towards regional natural resource management (NRM) goals. PRAs were undertaken with stakeholders in Bathurst and surrounds in a 3-day workshop in April 2010. Interview results were codified and analysed to reveal trends and identify opportunities, and the project team composed a synthesis report. Additionally, Industry and Investment NSW investigated pine forestry as a source of biomass, and CSIRO looked at bioenergy industry potential in the region.
2010-2012	Phytophthora dieback in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	\$11.5 k/ year top up scholarship from private benefaction; \$1.5k year Botanic Gardens Trust; Sydney University scholarship	PhD candidate Zoe Joy-Newby. Supervisors David Guest, USyd; Ed Liew, Botanic Gardens Trust; Dan Ramp, UNSW; & DECCW.	Aim: To better understand the role of Phytophthora in vegetation dieback in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) 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. Research questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where is dieback within the GBMWA? 2. Is it caused by Phytophthora? Is Phytophthora only playing a contributory role? What species of Phytophthora 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?
2010-2013	Living in a World Heritage Site: a Case Study	No BMWHI funding. Technical support & advice on research focus	Kristal Coe (PhD student Fenner School, ANU)	Research explores community attitudes to living in a WH site using the GBMWA as a case study. Community interviews used to analyse costs and benefits, perceived and real. Research will contribute to our understanding of how WH inscription affects local residents and behaviour, both positively and negatively.
2011-2012	Phytophthora Street Theatre	Blue Mtns City Council Cultural partnerships program \$9,000	Cheryle Yin-Lo	This project will focus on the Phytophthora, which is gradually causing dieback in the World Heritage Area and also threatening the significant Wollemi Pine. This project will be working with a local circus and performance group (Ruby Bloomers) to bring these concepts across to the general public. Using visual spectacle and educational material to increase public awareness about the interrelationship of human activities and ecological health and the spread of the disease.
2011	Literature based research on	BMWHI facilitated – no direct funding.	UNSW IES Masters Student Projects	Courtney Gum (IES Masters candidate) - links between nature and human health/well-being. Kym Moore (IES Masters candidate)– quantifying the economic value of GBMWA

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	various topics			provisioning ecosystem services – water. Georgia Carthy (IES Masters candidate) - assessment of Buffer Zone options. Flo Parker (IES Masters candidate) – quantifying the economic value of GBMWhA provisioning ecosystem services – carbon.
2012	Literature based research on various topics	BMWHI facilitated – no direct funding.	UNSW IES Masters Student Projects	Amy Dula (IES Masters candidate) – review of adventure endurance events in protected areas; focus on Wild Endurance event in GBMWhA; recommendations to NPWS & BMCC.
2012	Understanding & responding to the threat of <i>Phytophthora</i> in the GBMWhA	NPWS-OEH grant \$40,000	BMWHI managed research in partnership with NPWS-OEH.	Literature search and research on best practice approaches to the management of <i>Phytophthora</i> risk in natural systems. Project convened a forum to facilitate exchange between scientists, land managers and community behavioural experts to review approaches to the management of risk in GBMWhA. A report was compiled in June 2012: “ <i>Phytophthora: understanding & responding to the threat of Phytophthora in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area</i> ” which offered a series of recommendations to the NPWS.
2012-2013	Community Fire Stories - a lesson in time	Federal DSEWPC Your Community Heritage Grants. National Disaster Risk funding- RFS; NSW OEH, BMCC. Total project \$88,727 (YCH 22,727, RFS 40,000, OEH 23,000, BMCC 3,000).	BMWHI with OEH and RFS as partners. Laura Zusters & Alex Gold (research & filmmaking).	Focus on social research into 1957 Leura fires. Oral history and community awareness event; related short film documentary. Project aimed to raise community awareness of historic fire events to improve community resilience to future fire related risk and hazards. Project examined the question of whether the community is more resilient to fire risk than 50 years ago and what lessons have been learned since the catastrophic fires of 1957. How has knowledge and science influenced community behaviour since 1957? Project film screened at community events, Katoomba, Glenbrook for 2,600 people. More than 4,000 YouTube views and more than 500 DVDs sold. Project produced accompanying publication and web based platform.
2013	Wild Dog Management Tour	BMWHI providing technical and administrative support to the tour	Suzanne Stone, Defenders of Wildlife (USA) supported by Brad Purcell, UWS.	Visit and seminar tour by Suzanne Stone from DoW. Using large predator examples for the USA (wolves) the issue of dingoes, ecosystems and livestock predation are explored. Non-lethal management techniques reviewed and discussed to seek a balance between livelihood protection and conservation.
2013	Investigating the capabilities	Australian Center for	Simit Raval (UNSW), Ros Taplin (ACSMP)	This project aims to assess the impacts of mining in the Blue Mountains National Park through hyperspectral remote sensing. Recent findings of high levels of heavy

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	of hyperspectral remote sensing in detecting fugitive metals around the Yerranderie Silver Mine in the Blue Mountains National Park	Sustainable Mining Practices (ACSMP); School of Mining Engineering UNSW- \$30K internal grant. Supported by BMWHI with no funding provided..		metals in some water courses in the National Park generate serious concerns about the remediation of old mines. This project will employ hyperspectral remote sensing of the Yerranderie mine area to identify heavy metal pollution. Supplementary ground-based sampling, laboratory based testing and airborne imaging will be done. The procedure developed could also be used for other sites with waste problems at reduced cost.
2013	Critical review of BMCC Local Environmental Plan	BMCC funded review - \$20,000	John Merson & Alex Gold.	NSW State Govt plans to introduce generic LEPs threaten to weaken the BMCC LEP which has specific provisions aimed at protecting the values of the GBMWA. BMWHI will undertake a critical review of the issues associated with the current LEP and assess the implications of proposed changes.
2013-	Ecology, policy and management of wild dogs in the GBMWA	BMWHI top up PhD scholarship \$10k/yr for 3 yrs. \$6k Central West CMA. UNSW supporting field work	Daniel Hunter (PhD student, UNSW). Supervised by Mike Letnic, and co-supervised by Rosalie Chapple.	<p>Interdisciplinary research/fieldwork to quantify the effects of predators (wild dogs, foxes, cats and quolls) on small to medium sized mammals as well as larger macropods and how this, in turn, can induce trophic cascades and influence various other aspects of ecology. There is an urgent need for more research into predator effects on ecosystems due to the significant amount of resources dedicated to their management in the case of invasives and conservation in the case of the quoll. Research findings will better inform NRM and park management policy and practice. Work carried out in three field sites within Yengo, Blue Mtns/Kanangra and Wollemi National Parks.</p> <p>Initial results indicating that removing dingoes positively affects fox and cat abundance. This in turn negatively affects small mammal abundance and diversity. The key observation at this stage of the research is that where you have dingoes, you also have a healthier ecosystem with less invasive mesopredators and more native small-medium mammals.</p>
2013-2016	Revegetation Capertee National Park	Env Trust Grant. \$20k to BMWHI	Alex Baumber working closely with HNCMA ,CVA, OEH Mudgee & Greening Australia	<p>Revegetation trials in woodland- riparian habitats in Capertee NP. Project aims to assess the most cost effective ecological restoration in the context of important woodland bird habitat with high densities of macropods. BMWHI has prepared and implemented experimental design, support implementation and will then monitor results.</p> <p>Project is being augmented through a parallel UTS project to monitor macropod behaviour with respect to grazing, browsing and impact on the revegetation plots.</p>

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2013-2014	The Bleichert Ropeway-A Community Study of Industrial Heritage	C/wealth Your Community Heritage Grants - \$23,600 grant + in kind contributions from NPWS & Scenic World	BMWHI managed project in partnership with Scenic World OEH NPWS.	<p>Bleichert Ropeway is an historic part of the industrial heritage of oil shale mining in the Jamieson Valley of Blue Mountains national Park. Project aims at documenting the heritage of the historic ropeway and engaging the community in future conservation &/or interpretation. Ropeway crosses private land (Scenic World) and National Park (NPWS).</p> <p>The project will raise community awareness of the region's mining heritage and the fascinating story of the Bleichert Ropeway. A field survey will be conducted with the support of UNSW, Scenic World, NPWS and members of the Springwood Bushwalking Club. The survey will accurately inventory remaining heritage items in the valley using a state of the art, table-based recording system. Additional historical records will be linked to the inventory to ensure a complete and accurate record of the Ropeway. A report will be prepared documenting the Ropeway and making recommendations on its cultural significance and conservation/interpretation. A community event will be held at Scenic World to report back on the project. As a spin off to the project we will also produce a computer simulation of the Ropeway to illustrate its operation and how it failed.</p>
2013-2016	Low Carbon Tourism: Building Sustainable Communities	Low Carbon Living CRC \$228K over 3 yrs; BMLOT \$20,000 (\$5K cash); BMCC \$20,000 (\$5K cash).	BMWHI led consortium of partners including: LCL CRC: OEH; BMLOT; BMCC; National Landscape Programme; Rail Corp; TAFE etc.	<p>Project aims to reduce the carbon footprint of the tourist industry, and will use an incentives scheme to encourage greater efficiency, and to enhance the tourist experience. A trial will be carried out in the Upper Blue Mountains focused on the six villages and Grand Cliff Top Walks initiative. Visitors will be encouraged through rewards to reduce their individual footprint by selecting tourist services from a smart phone app on the basis of their carbon rating. The tourism businesses on the other hand will be encouraged to lower their carbon rating to save costs and in order to attract more visitors. The project will also help businesses improve their rating through free technical advice and support. It will be evaluated after two years and if successful, the scheme will be introduces in other National Landscape areas around Australia, where tourism is a major industry.</p> <p>Project design has focused on two interrelated components: the first being to work with the tourism industry to reduce its carbon footprint through improved and more sustainable operations. Free audits and action plans are being conducted with a range of businesses across different sectors in the Upper Blue Mtns. The second component aims to develop the consumer demand for low carbon tourism services/experiences through awareness and incentive programmes supported by BMLOT, BMCC and OEH. The project is being piloted in the Upper Blue Mountains with aspirations to roll it out to the GBM National landscape and over time to other National landscapes across Australia. The project is an enabling initiative aimed at catalysing change in the tourism industry and ultimately community wide change toward a more sustainable low carbon future.</p>



The Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

Catalogue of Forums and Events

Year	Event	Funding	Partners / Researchers	Overview
2004	1 day Research Planning Workshop	No funding. Held at the Australian Museum.	55 participants representing a range of expertise and organisations concerned with policy and management of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWHA).	<p>The aims of this workshop were to (a) delineate the key policy and management issues relating to the World Heritage Area; (b) establish which of the key issues the Institute should focus on over the next 5 years, and broadly define an integrated research program for addressing them; and (c) initiate an annual interdisciplinary forum for information exchange relating to science, cultures, policy and management in the GBMWHA.</p> <p>The outcome of the workshop was a discussion paper that positioned the Institute in the region, identifying needs for the Institute to address within broad categories of research (ecosystem management, social and governance issues, and development impacts along the edge). In particular, the discussion paper identified key policy and management issues relating to the GBMWHA, and a strategic research strategy for the Institute for the next few years, providing a framework for research projects and other activities.</p>
2005	Climate Change and Fire in the GBMWHA: 1 day Workshop and Forum	No BMWHI funding	DECC, SCA, Rural Fire Service, BMCC, UWS, Australian Museum, USYD, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, World Wide Fund for Nature, BMCS and HNCMA	<p>The workshop was organised by BMWHI and attended by thirty people from a range of organisations concerned with the potential impacts of climate change on the ecosystems of the greater Blue Mountains and in particular, the complexity of fire management. The purpose was to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to share information about current research efforts relating to climate change and fire in the region, and to identify existing gaps in knowledge. Recommendations were sought from the group regarding projects for BMWHI to facilitate or implement.</p>
2005	Bushfire and Conservation Through Engagement	\$5,000	NSW Nature Conservation Council, BMWHI	<p>The survey and workshop, regarding bushfire and nature conservation, was conducted in collaboration with the NSW Nature Conservation Council.</p>

2006	Rock Art Lives On! Exhibition	\$8,500 BMCC Cultural Partnerships	Blue Mountains Folk Festival, BMCC, Cheryle Yin-Lo	Presented at the Blue Mountains Folk Festival, this exhibition included photographs highlighting the discovery of unique Aboriginal rock art sites and the various rock art forms in the GBMWA as well as contemporary responses by local Indigenous artists.
2006	“Sustaining Our Social and Natural Capital” ANZSYS Conference	No funding	Co-hosts: BMWHI; ALARPM; SOLA; ISCE Events, Mansfield, USA	This conference sought to celebrate the initiatives we are involved in, while critically considering how we can learn from others’ experiences to enhance our own practice. Plenary sessions and follow-on workshops were organised around the following thematic clusters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience, ecology and governance; • Cultural knowledge and heritage; • Creativity, organisation and complexity; • Systems thinking and dynamics; • Social sustainability and community; • Livelihood, innovation and opportunity; • Language, learning and transdisciplinary practice; • Engineering systems and infrastructure design.
2006	“Finding common ground”: A day of dialogue about wilderness areas in the Greater Blue Mountains	No funding	Co-facilitators: The Blue Mountains Wilderness Network and the BMWHI. Participants included: Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members, environmental groups, government agencies, and university academics.	This unique and significant forum was held at Blackheath Public School on Sunday 7 th May and brought together a broad representation of people to share dialogue around the various understandings of the term ‘wilderness’ and what this might mean for the long-term management of wilderness areas in the Blue Mountains. The forum titled ‘Finding Common Ground’ was jointly organised by the Blue Mountains Wilderness Network and the BMWHI. Fifty-five people attended the forum, which opened with a joint ‘Welcome to Country’ from Aunty Mary Cooper-King for the Gundungurra Nation and Carol Cooper for the Darug nation. Different perspectives on the use of the term ‘wilderness’ and its connotations were then presented by Traditional Owners David King (Gundungurra), Chris & Jactina Tobin (Darug), Shaun Hooper & Graham King (Wiradjuri), along with eco-philosopher Val Plumwood, anthropologist Deborah Bird-Rose, conservationist Peter Prineas and researcher Haydn Washington. The gathering then split into four groups to discuss common ground, differences and how to move forward, and the day was capped off by a final session bringing everything together, chaired by Stuart Hill from the University of Western Sydney. The shared motivation for protecting the wild natural areas of the Blue Mountains was highlighted. It was acknowledged that we have different ways of communicating, and to move forward we need to respect those differences. Suggestions for moving forward included further shared events such as forums to focus on enabling effective co-management, and preparing an art exhibition presenting historical and contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives of nature in the Blue Mountains. The meeting closed on the common ground of shared enthusiasm by Traditional Owners and conservationists to work together in alliance to protect the Blue Mountains.

2007	Grose Valley Fire Forum	\$9,100 DECC	DECC, Rural Fire Services, BMCC, BMCS, BMWHI, NCC, local community members, Blue Mountains World Heritage Advisory Committee, GBMWA Advisory Committee	The Institute was invited by the NSW Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus, to organise a forum of representative community members and fire authorities to address issues arising from management of a fire in the Grose Valley in the Blue Mountains in November 2006. The forum had the following aims: to brief the community on the management of the Grose Valley fire and the framework and context for the management of fire generally within the World Heritage Area; to identify any issues that relate specifically to the management of the Grose Valley fire, and that haven't already been captured and/or responded to within the debrief report; to identify longer term and landscape scale issues relating to the management of fire in the GBMWA, particularly in this time of climate change; and to develop an action plan, which responds to any unresolved issues identified above. The forum report contains an action plan addressing a broad range of issues and questions. The full report is available at www.bmwhi.org.au
2008	Making Our Mark: Aboriginal Youth Art Exhibition	\$800 BMCC	Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre (ACRC), Aboriginal artists and Cheryle Yin-Lo.	To help celebrate 2008 National Youth Week in the Blue Mountains, the public was invited to view lino prints by young local Aboriginal artists. Local Aboriginal cultural practitioners, Graham King and Shaun Hooper worked with Aboriginal youth aged 9 to 18 years, helping them share their creative ideas about Aboriginal culture and explore their artistic talents by teaching them how to design, cut and produce a lino print.
2009	Mt Wilson Community Fire Forum	\$2000 Mt Wilson Progress Association	Speakers (Partners): Dr Rosalie Chapple (BMWHI), Professor Ross Bradstock (UOW); Glenn Meade and Tanya Strevens (NPWS, DECC)	<p>Aim: The forum shared information about bushfire ecology and management in the region, with a focus on:</p> <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 with protection of human life and property <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Joe Landsberg, ex-CSIRO scientist and Mt Wilson resident, chair. • Dr Rosalie Chapple, BMWHI, giving a background on the Institute and current projects. • Professor Ross Bradstock, Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires at the University of Wollongong, giving a scientific approach to predicting and managing the risk of bushfire. • Mr Glenn Meade, Regional Operations Coordinator Blue Mountains, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, speaking about the many facets of bushfire risk management and the role of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. • Dr Tanya Strevens, Senior Project Manager, Management Effectiveness Unit, Parks and Wildlife Group, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

2009	Golden Gumtree Postal Run		Bronwen Maxwell and Wyn Jones. Partners: Blue Mountains CONSOC, NPWS, BMCC	<p>The objective of this project was to enrich the relationship between schools and the World Heritage National Park, and encourage communication between schools about our shared environment.</p> <p>School activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation and observation of the natural world • Walking in World Heritage National Park areas • Weather monitoring of climate changes • Creative writing and/or drawings in a diary • Artistic interpretations from diary observations • Creation of “sense of place” postcards • Postal run celebration campfire in school grounds
2010	Science & Management Research Forum		Partners: NPWS & DECCW	<p>The forum served as a showcase of current research to support Park Management in the Greater Blue Mountains. Presentations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental / decision-making interface – Alex Gold • Predicting and preventing the spread of Lantana – Alex Gold • Managing for Ecosystem Change in the GBMWA – Rosalie Chapple • Large scale fauna modelling: applications for management – Gilad Bino • Dieback in the GBMWA and the role of Phytophthora – Zoe-Joy Newby • How climate change could affect plants and their dispersal options – Fiona Thomson
2010	Community Fire Forum and Science Showcase	\$1500 BANC	Partners: Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre (BANC), RFS, NPWS, DECC	<p>Residents of the upper mountains were invited to a free information forum about bushfire ecology and management with a focus on bushfire ecology and how it informs bushfire management; bushfire risk management planning; climate change implications and preparedness; and challenges of balancing fire management for the protection of World Heritage values with protection of human life and property</p> <p>Forum Presenters included Professor Ross Bradstock on <i>Bushfire risk in a changing world: consequences for our local environments</i>, and Dr Liz Tasker on <i>Monitoring fire regimes in the Blue Mountains</i>; Mr Glenn Meade, Regional Operations Coordinator Blue Mountains, DECCW; Inspector Paul McGrath, Rural Fire Service.</p> <p>Directly after the fire forum, as part of National Science Week 2010, the BMWHI and Blue Mountains <i>Discovery</i> co-hosted Living Science: free presentations on ecological research in the Blue Mountains. Presentations were delivered by Dr Rosalie Chapple, on <i>Modelling and managing for ecosystem change in the Blue Mountains</i>; Fiona Thomson on <i>How do plants disperse in the Blue Mountains?</i>; Gilad Bino on <i>Predicting mammal distribution based on modelling habitat</i>; Dr Brad Purcell on <i>Feral pig movement and management in the Blue Mountains</i> and <i>The importance of top carnivores around the world and how this can help dingo management in Australia</i> (2 talks); and Zoe-Joy Newby on <i>Plant dieback in the Blue Mountains – the role of Phytophthora</i>.</p>

2011	Bringing Together Science & Management Forum		Partners: NPWS, DECC	A showcase of current and recent research was held at the Blackheath heritage Centre to an audience of land managers of the GBMWA. Presentations included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuing the ecosystem services of the GBMWA - Flo Parker & Kym Moore Apex predators endemic to the GBMWA - Rosalie Chapple for Jack Pascoe Potential new bioenergy agroforestry systems for the NSW central tablelands - Crellis Rammelt Fire and climate change in the GBMWA - Kate Hammill Mitigating the impact and risk of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> in the GBMWA - Michelle Barton <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> Dieback - Zoe-Joy Newby
2011	World Heritage and Climate Change Workshop, Korea	Co-hosted by IUCN and Cultural heritage Authority of Korea.	BMWHI participation through Peter Shadie with case study presented by Dan Ramp (UTS).	Workshop aimed at developing a capacity development programme for WH and Climate Change in Asia. BMWHI case study on Managing Ecosystem Change in the GBMWA presented. Participation in workshop deliberations and final report.
2012	WildEndurance Forum	BMWHI facilitated – no direct funding.	BMWHI facilitated research – Peter Shadie and Amy Dula (UNSW IES Masters student)	Forum focused on managing impacts and opportunities from endurance events in natural areas. Wild Endurance, NPWS, BMCC, BMWHI including presentation by UNSW IES Masters student presenting on “ <i>Environmental management of endurance running events in the GBMWA</i> ”
2012	Phytophthora Forum	See above	See above	BMWHI convened forum bringing together scientists, policy makers and land managers to review knowledge of Phytophthora risk and develop management and community awareness recommendations. See project details above.
2012	Future of World Heritage Symposium	BMWHI travel support \$600 (50%). 50% paid by IUCN Switzerland.	Symposium organized by IUCN Australia. Presentation by Peter Shadie on strategic futures for WH and role of BMWHI.	Symposium organized in Cairns at national scale to celebrate the 40 th anniversary of the WH Convention. BMWHI promoted and represented with fruitful discussions on BMWHI being promoted as a WH Centre of Excellence.
2013	Community Fire Stories- a lesson in time	See above	See above	Two major community events linked to the Fire Stories project (see above). Edge Cinema, Katoomba & Glenbrook Cinema, Glenbrook. Screenings of film documentary and engagement with local fire authorizes and land managers. Attended by 2,600 people.
2013	Community Fire Stories- a lesson in time	See above	NCC Fire Conference. BMWHI poster and presentation. Peter Shadie (BMWHI) & Glenn Meade (NPWS)	Fire Stories project presented through conference programme as well as a poster session.

2013	Festival of Walks	Part of the Low Carbon Tourism (LCT) Project (see above)	BMWHI led consortium of partners including: LCL CRC: OEH; BMLOT; BMCC; National Landscape Programme; Rail Corp; TAFE etc.	Community launch of the Festival of Walks, The Gully, Katoomba (05 October, 2013). BMWHI stall to engage community interest. LCT project includes Grand Cliff Top Walks initiative as a pilot for the project. BMWHI an official guest as part of the launch.
2014	IUCN World Parks Congress Community Stakeholder Forum	BMWHI participation. No direct funding	BMWHI participating in WPC. Hosting a field trip linked to LCT Project	BMWHI participated in community stakeholder forum to engage on the one in ten year IUCN World parks Congress being staged in Sydney, Nov 2014. Various opportunities for engagement explored.
2014	Low Carbon Tourism Forum	LCT Project (see above)	BMWHI led consortium of partners including: LCL CRC: OEH; BMLOT; BMCC; National Landscape Programme; Rail Corp; TAFE etc.	Business and community Forum held Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba (18 March 2014). Forum attended by 50 and aimed at raising awareness of the LCT project and recruiting new business partners to the initiative Early evening Forum followed by inspection of Carrington sustainability initiatives.
2014	World Heritage Day	BMWHI participation. No direct funding	BMCC, OEH, others	Community information and celebration to mark WH Day. Conducted at Blue Mtns Cultural Centre, 03 May, 2014. BMWHI featured in programme and on expert panel to raise community awareness.
2014	Leura Harvest Festival	BMWHI participation. No direct funding	Slow Food Blue Mountains; BMLOT	BMWHI stall, Leura Mall (10 May, 2014) to engage community members and recruit support to the Institute.
2014	Research Forum	BMWHI hosted Forum. Catering provided by OEH	BMWHI, BMCC, OEH, BMWHI Board & Res Cttee, BMtns CONSOC, UNSW, UWS, USYD, Cornell University, Science for Wildlife	Regular BMWHI Research Forum held OEH Heritage Centre, Blackheath (19 May 2014). Facilitated dialogue between researchers, policy makers and managers. Opportunity to plan for WPC Field Trips.

Abbreviations

ACRC	Aboriginal Culture and Resource Centre
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
ALARPM	Action Learning Action Research and Process Management Association
ANU	Australian National university
ARC	Australian Research Council
BMCC	Blue Mountains City Council
BMCS	Blue Mountains Conservation Society
BMWHI	Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute
CCD	Community Cultural Development
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre
DECC	NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change
DEW	Department of Environment and Water Resources
DRET	Department of Resources, Environment and Tourism
FATE	Future of Australia's Threatened Ecosystems
GBMWA	Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
GIS	Geographic Information System
IES	Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW
HNCMA	Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority
MCRN	Mountains Community Resource Network
MRA	Multicultural Residents Association
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
OEH	NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
PLDC	Penrith Lakes Development Corporation
RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
RIRDC	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
SCA	Sydney Catchment Authority
SOLA	Society for Organisational Learning Australia
TCMS	Total Catchment Management Services
UNSW	University of New South Wales
UOW	University of Wollongong
USYD	University of Sydney
UWS	University of Western Sydney