

## THE BMCS PLANT STUDY GROUP

met for the first time in April 2005.

### Our aims are

- To study and expand member's knowledge of Blue Mountains flora and ecosystems.
- To work towards their preservation with field trips & other related activities, e.g., surveys and submissions.
- To share our findings publicly on the BMCS website.

The Group works together in the field identifying plants, studying their structures as well as their communities. A knowledge of botanical terms is essential.



Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly *Jalmenus evagoras* .  
photo © Robin Murray

The Hairstreak Butterfly lives in *Acacias*, however the female will only lay eggs in the *Acacia* with the ant species *Iridomyrmex*. This is a beautiful example of an intricate life cycle with two different insect species benefitting each other and dependent on the *Acacia*.

## OUT OF ACTIVITY TIMES

### The Group Co-ordinator will

- be our group representative
- Co-ordinate field trips
- Keep attendance sheets and contact list
- Update website & leaflet

## DURING THE ACTIVITY

### The Leader will

- Hold an introductory circle
  - State track conditions, risks
  - Give a brief talk about points of interest
  - Count those present at the start and again at the finish
  - Provide rest and drink stops
  - Always wait at a track junction for participants behind
  - Appoint a last person.
- AND ...
- The leader can refuse to have any person on the walk who may present a risk to themselves or other participants.

### Group participants will

- Respect the leader's decisions
- Advise the leader of any ill health, difficulties or accidents
- Stay together and not become separated from the group
- Thank the leader at the end

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## At the end of an activity

Only drive away when sure that all are present & all cars start.

## PROTOCOLS IN THE FIELD

- Prevent the spread of disease by wearing clean shoes & spray with methylated spirits
- Minimise adverse impacts on flora, fauna & ecological systems
- Respect the protection status of reserves, threatened species and rare plants.
- Do not collect any flora, fauna, geological specimens or cultural items in National Parks, Flora & Fauna Reserves etc., nor threatened and rare flora on any site.
- Field guides, keys, PlantNET & photos are the preferred identification systems.



*Leucochrysum graminifolium*  
(photographer unknown)

*Leucochrysum graminifolium* has limited distribution, being endemic to pagoda sandstone formations such as those in the Gardens of Stone National Park.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Membership of the Plant Study Group is open to members of Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc. An annual bushwalking levy to cover insurance is payable.

Visitors may take part in walks with advance notice prior to the day subject to the leader's approval & sign a risk waiver. Visitors are limited to three field trips.

Children under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult who is a member.

### Field Trips

Outings are monthly, travelling to different locations chiefly in the Blue Mountains Region. Members are encouraged to take turns to lead outings. Participants must contribute to petrol costs.

### EMERGENCIES:

The leader will, in consultation with members, decide the course of action and make any phone calls or calls for assistance.

### You Will Need

Safe, non-slip shoes, protective clothing, hat  
Backpack with First Aid Kit and sunscreen  
Water, snacks & lunch  
A plant lens & binoculars  
Field Guides, maps, notebook & pencil



*Platylobium formosum*

### TREAD SOFTLY

Use existing tracks – shortcuts cause erosion. Avoid walking in sensitive sites e.g., swamps & fragile rock formations.

Carry a bag for rubbish. If you find litter on the track, please remove it.



*E. Rossi Woodlands* photo © Robin Murray

### Membership enquiries

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*Blechnum watsii*

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# Guidelines



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