

## **Blue Mountains City Council Initiatives in Threatened Species Protection**

### **Threatened Species Officer**

Blue Mountains City Council employs a Threatened Species Officer to deliver a Department of Environment and Conservation project funded by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to raise awareness and involve the community in activities that will assist in the conservation of endemic threatened species ie species occurring exclusively in the Blue Mountains. The target species include the Blue Mountains Water Skink, the plants *Epacris hamiltonii*, *Leionema lachnaeoides*, *Eucalyptus copulans* and the Dwarf Mountain Pine (*Microstrobos fitzgeraldii*) as well as the Giant Dragonfly (not endemic). This is being achieved by building on the Councils existing programs for supporting community interest in the environment such as the Bushcare, Landcare, and Bushbackyards programs as well as through community education and awareness raising programs. In addition an incentive program targeted at landowners with threatened species on or adjacent to their land will encourage private landholders to improve habitat quality for threatened species on their properties. The position also helps to facilitate co-operation and co-ordination between all the various government agencies with an interest in threatened species protection or responsibility for threatened species on land under their jurisdiction in the Blue Mountains through the Blue Mountains Threatened species Recovery Team

### **Bushcare, Landcare, and Bush Backyards**

The Blue Mountains City Council's Bushcare, Landcare, and Bush Backyards programs help to preserve and maintain threatened species habitat on both council and private land by encouraging the community to take active custodianship of bushland in Council reserves and on private property. They are assisted by the BMCC's Green Team, which includes the Bush Regeneration Team and the Noxious Weeds Team. Joining your local Bushcare or Landcare group or signing up for the Bush Backyards program is a great way for Blue Mountains community members to do their bit for the environment and threatened species protection.

### **Endangered Ecological Communities**

Blue Mountains City Council is engaged in projects or seeking grant funding for projects protecting Endangered Ecological Communities throughout the Blue Mountains including the Temperate Peat Swamps on Sandstone in the upper Mountains and the Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, the Sydney Turpentine and Ironbark Forest, the Sun Valley Cabbage Gum Forest, the Blue Gum Riverflat Forest and the Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forests in the lower Mountains.