

BLUE MOUNTAINS SWAMPS



Swamps act like giant sponges that supply water to Blue Mountains waterfalls. Our waterfalls can keep flowing because these natural sponges release water gradually over time.



Blue Mountains
Water Skink



Giant
Dragonfly
Photo: Xuella Sledge

Blue Mountains Swamps only comprise a total area of land of less than 3,000 hectares compared with the 1,000,000 Ha of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. These swamps generally comprise small areas of land and are very fragile ecosystems. As the urban footprint of the Blue Mountains expands to the edges of the plateau, these swamps are coming under increasing pressure from land clearing, weed invasion, increased nutrients in streams and bore water extraction.

Blue Mountains Swamps play a vital part in maintaining the water flows in our creeks and waterfalls by storing water over time and releasing it slowly over time. Swamps also act as filters, purifying water prior to release into creeks and rivers helping to keep our aquatic ecosystems healthy. Two endangered plant species *Epacris hamiltonii* and *Microstrobos fitzgeraldii*, rely on the moisture from seepage from hanging swamps for survival. Threatened animal species include Giant Dragonfly and Blue Mountains Water Skink.

BLUE MOUNTAINS SWAMPS



Endangered

As well as being home to an array of threatened species, our Blue Mountains Swamps were listed as an Endangered Ecological Community in 2004 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Comm) providing protection through legislation.

How you can look after Blue Mountains Swamps

- Avoid planting invasive weed species (such as ivy and montbretia) in your garden—a weeds of the Blue Mountains booklet is available from Blue Mountains City Council.
- Minimise use of fertilisers.
- If you have a swamp on or next to your property, make sure you have a wide strip of native vegetation next to it. This acts as a buffer against anything that may threaten the swamp such as weeds, nutrients or sediment.
- NEVER MOW on or near the swamp.
- Prevent sediment entering our waterways — cover piles of dirt and bare patches of soil.
- Always walk around NOT THROUGH swamps.
- Keep your cat/dog inside at night.

Join your local Bushcare or Swampcare Group.

For more details ring (02) 4780 5623 or email:

bushcare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Swamp Care

- Swampcare is an educational and event based program for people interested in preserving Blue Mountains Swamps. It consists of:
- awareness of Upland swamps and the threatened species that inhabit them.
- Practical workshops to provide community volunteers with the specialized skills needed to rehabilitate fragile and degraded swamp.
- On-ground work days rehabilitating Upland Swamps.
- of impacts on Upland swamps throughout the landscape.
- Giant Dragonfly and Blue Mountains Water Skink Monitoring Program

How can I get involved ?

Get on the Swampcare e-mail distribution list to receive updates on Swampcare workshops, presentations, monitoring programs and workdays by emailing mhensen@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Get involved in Swampcare activities and help preserve our unique Blue Mountains Upland Swamps

Swampcare is a Bushcare initiative



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