

THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

OCT 2021 - ISSUE 57



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

OCTOBER

13,21 & 27 Nursery Propagation

2 Tree Day at Burnum Burnum

6 Spotighting in the Royal

9 Spring Gathering

12 Garawarra Farm Walk

23 Nursery Gardening Group

26 Rutherford Post Fire Survey

NOVEMBER

10, 18 & 24 Nursery Propagation

1 Kingfisher Pools Walk

17 Spotighting in the Royal

22 Nursery Gardening Group

DECEMBER

8 & 16 Nursery Propagation
Bushcare BBQ

Bushcare is following NSW Public Health Orders with regard to corona virus (COVID-19). As the health and wellbeing of staff and our community is vitally important, Bushcare has taken the position that our events may be cancelled as a precautionary measure during this time.

Cover image *Isopogon anemonifolius*
- Emma Brame

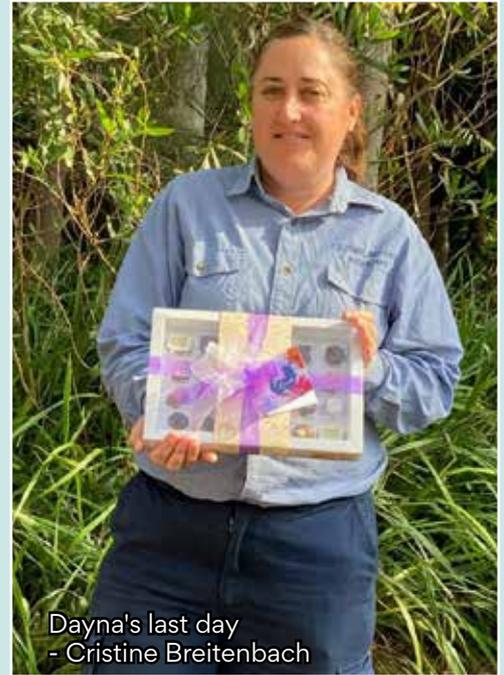
Bushcare Update

By Bill Howse

Spring has sprung, and we have already had several warm days. The weeds are already growing, but at least we have some beautiful natives flowering at this time of year.

Once again, we have had some staff movements. Our other Invasive Species Officer, Linda is on maternity leave after welcoming her little baby girl. Kevin is now permanent in his role of Bushland Coordinator. Erin Fardy will be joining us again as the Invasive Species Team Leader whilst Nathan is with the Science Unit. Dayna has departed for new challenges and no weekend work with Georges River Council, we all wish Dayna all the best on her new adventure over the bridge.

Unfortunately, COVID has wreaked havoc this year once again, and has cancelled many of our work days and events. We are hopeful that this latest outbreak will end soon and we get back to killing weeds and planting natives, especially our social gatherings and special bushcare events that we have so greatly missed over the past few months.



Dayna's last day
- Cristine Breitenbach

Working from home hazards

By Bill Howse

Working from home in a studio in the back garden means a short walk to work with no traffic or red lights, instead of the slow 40 minute drive I'm used to. We have a mango tree that the flying foxes raid and we occasionally get a mango or two off it, and it is home to a number of other animals. Recently, a family of Noisy Miners have been busily raising their chicks in there. We have enjoyed watching and listening to all the activity. Until now...

The chicks are now fledging and learning to fly. The once nice walk to the studio is now an arm-flailing run whilst being dive bombed by several overprotective adults.

I spent father's day, and the next few days, rescuing someone else's child (pictured right) from the ground as it hasn't quite mastered flight. We are hoping it learns soon as the parents don't appreciate the help.



Noisy Miner chick - Michelle Rose

The Role of Bushfires

By Lloyd Hedges

Bushfires have been a part of Australia's reality for millennia after the continent separated from Antarctica and drifted north so the bush has had a long time to adapt to it.

The plants that adapted to the new reality thrived. Those that did not, failed, and so new ecosystems evolved. There are different fire regimes in different parts of the country. In the far north with just two seasons, the Wet and the dry, fires usually start after the vegetation has dried out late in the dry season. In the arid zones fires are infrequent as there is only enough vegetation to support a fire after the occasional wet year or two. In our area, the temperate coastal zones of southern Australia, and similarly in the West the fires start because of the erratic nature of our rainfall. A year or two of good rain will produce plenty of vegetation only to be followed by years of low Summer rainfall. As the vegetation dries most of us who live near the bush are on tenterhooks.

Down the line after large fires and the human disasters are dealt with the talk turns to the fate of the rare and endangered plants. Many specimens may have been lost and there is some gnashing of teeth. But! There is usually little attention to the discovery of species that



Controlled burn - Kevin Seymour



Actinotus forsythii - Louis Petrucco

have never been seen before in the area. Fire ephemerals like *Commersonia hermanifolia* and *Actinotus forsythii* have popped up after the 20/21 fires down the coast of Sydney and orchid species discovered. Orchids flower and thrive after the fire removes competition. Many other species from many families that have subsoil structures like bulbs, corms and rhizomes. Fires rather than reduce actually increase the number of species in most locales.

The amount of species being driven out of the shire by the lack of cool control burns is only now getting to be understood.

The Bees (and the Birds)

By Bill Howse



Female *Xylocopa* sp. - Bill Howse

With the start of spring here, it won't be long before we hear the charming tones of the Channel-billed Cuckoos and get the free wake up calls from the Koels. Spring also means the return of some of our colourful bees to our gardens and reserves.

The peacock carpenter bee (*Xylocopa* sp.) is one of our largest local bees, getting as large as 20mm. As its name implies, the peacock carpenter bee is a metallic blue-green or green in colour, although it may even appear purplish from some angles. A large stocky bee, it is often heard by its loud low-pitched buzzing while flying between flowers. The male has white or yellow face markings. The Peacock carpenter bee nests

by hollowing out stalks of grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea*), or soft wood such as *Banksia*, *Casuarina*, *Melaleuca* and *Leptospermum*. The female excavates a tunnel with her jaws and picks up and dumps the wood shavings outside.

Teddy bear bees (*Amegilla bombiformis*) are another stocky bee, slightly larger than a European honeybee, resembles a bumblebee in shape and is covered in orange-brown fur. The abdomen has several dark hairless bands, seven in the case of males, six for females. They nest in a long burrow, located in soil or earth, such as a creek bank in natural areas, or rubble in gardens, with some overhanging shelter. Teddy bear bees appear to be more attracted to yellow or cream flowers such as *Hibbertia* sp. and *Pomaderris* sp.

Blue banded bees (*Amegilla* sp.) are amongst our most beautiful Australian native bees. They are about 13mm long and have metallic blue bands of fur across their abdomens, five in the case of males, four for females. The females nest in a shallow burrow in clay soils or sometimes in mud bricks. Blue banded bees also like yellow flowers but will also favour blue or purple flowers.

Planting a range of natives in your garden or reserve will help to increase native bees, and other pollinating insects you see. *Melaleuca*, *Banksia* and *Leptospermum* are great small-to-medium bushes that provide plenty of nectar. Prolific flowers produced by *Eucalyptus* and *Angophora* are highly attractive to a wide range of native bee species. In fact, when gum trees are in flower nearby, few native bees may be seen on other shrubs. Mature trees are also an important source of resin for Stingless Bees and Resin Bees.



Male *Xylocopa* sp. - Bill Howse

Grey Headed Flying Foxes - The Key To Diversity

By Nathan Clare

The Sutherland Shire is home to three grey headed flying fox (GHFF) camps where large numbers of GHFF rest during the day before heading out at dusk to feed on pollen and nectar and arrive back in the early morning. The camps tend to be less populated in the cooler months where most will head north to seek warmer conditions and food before returning south to seek cooler conditions to raise their young in the spring and summer. During this time the camp



Mother and Pup - Nick Edards

populations can swell into the thousands and it's easy to think that the population is thriving but in fact the GHFF population has been decreasing significantly due to loss of habitat and urbanisation. As a result GHFF are considered vulnerable to extinction and protected under State and Federal legislation.

GHFF are considered a keystone species as the role they play in our ecosystem is so vitally important to increasing genetic diversity and therefore resilience in our bushland. During feeding GHFF can fly up to 50km a night where they pollinate plants and spread seeds into different areas which increases the diversity of genetic material and therefore the health of our bushland. Compared to bees which are also important pollinators but only fly up to 5km away from their hive, its easy to see how important the GHFF role in pollinating our plants is. So as our natural areas become increasingly fragmented and we are seeing islands of vegetation that are becoming further and further apart, our smaller nectar and pollen feeders are having difficulty travelling between them and the GHFF may be the key to maintaining genetic diversity and health of our bushland.

A New Adventure

By Nathan Clare

An exciting new adventure has begun for our Invasive Species Officer Linda Brown as she welcomed her new baby in September and will be away on maternity leave.

When Linda joined the Bushland Unit she brought with her a wealth of environmental knowledge, an extremely strong work ethic and an eagle eye for plant identification and has achieved so much in her time here. More than that, though, she has become an integral part of the unit, forming many friendships and now we can't imagine life without her.

We all wish her well and look forward to meeting the new member of her family soon.



Linda's last day - Cristine Brietenbach

Walk the Endangered Ecological Communities of Menai

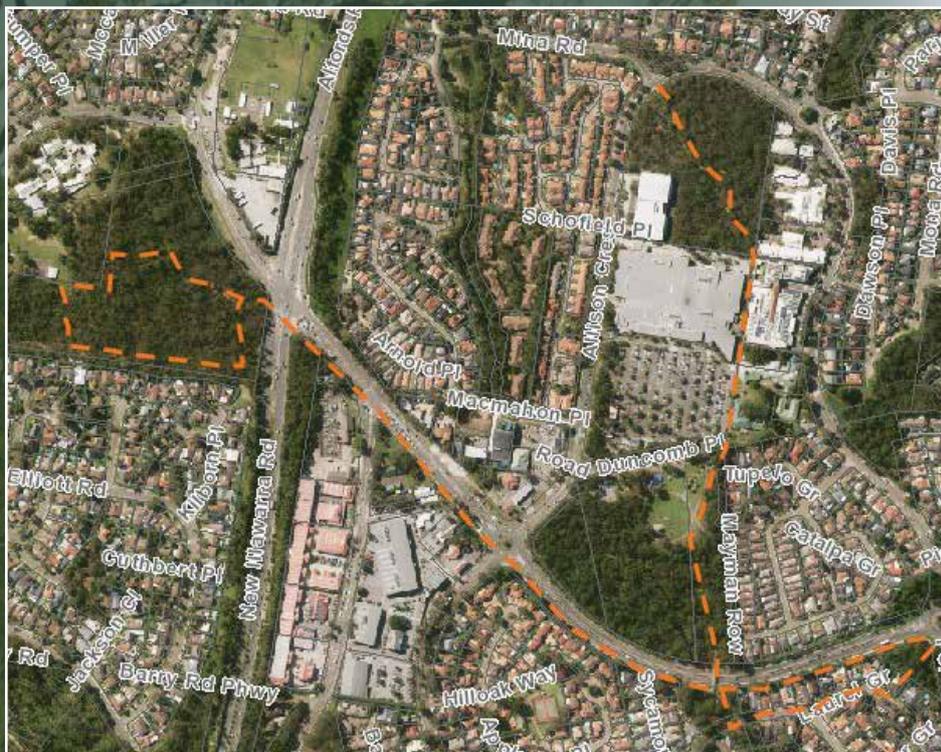
By Dayna Mellor

The Menai Bushcare groups work in bushland listed as Endangered Ecological Communities. This means that the vegetation is at risk of extinction so they are pretty special.

Parc Menai and Forestgrove Reserve contain Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest and Menai Conservation Park and Hall Drive Reserve contain Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest. Both vegetation types occur in areas that are transitional between the clay soils derived from shale and the sandy soils derived from sandstone.

We would love more volunteers to help care for these amazing reserves. To register your interest please go to <https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Bushcare-Volunteers>

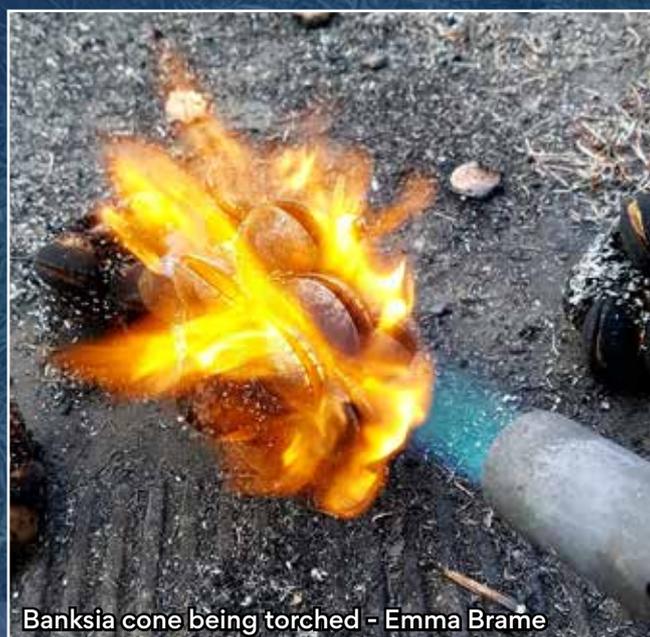
You may like to take a walk through the reserves and see what our Bushcare volunteers have been doing. The tracks in Hall Drive Reserve are not paved but the other reserves all have footpaths and are mostly flat.



Barbequing Banksias

By Emma Brame

As most Australian plant enthusiasts will know, bushfires are required in natural bushland for plants to reproduce or regenerate. Heat from bushfires cause capsules or woody cones like Banksia species to open and release their seed. In the nursery, we have experimented over the years and have found the best way to replicate this is by burning the cones on a BBQ with a flame torch. This is done in a safe manner with PPE and very long tongs being careful not to “overcook” cones and keep the seed intact. Smoke from bushfires can also trigger seed germination. Smoked water is often used in nurseries but we have found great success with using Eucalyptus leaves in a bee smoker to replicate this. This has proved very successful with Grevillea species and also the ever-popular *Actinotus helianthi*.



Banksia cone being torched - Emma Brame

A new biological control for Madeira Vine...?

By Bradley van Luyt

Many of you have gone on a weedy wander with our friend Diego Bonetto, The Weed Forager. Diego has shown us the subtle delights of a mouthful of Chick weed, the refreshingly bitter crunch of Sowthistle and acidic zing of Turkey Rhubarb but we had yet to be introduced to the culinary possibilities of what I think of as one of our worst weeds - *Anredera cordifolia* also known as Madeira Vine.

This climbing succulent from South America is a bugger of a thing. It climbs, covers and smothers just about anything. It's big heart shaped leaves and increasingly large and heavy clusters of aerial tubers drag down many of the trees it climbs in the disturbed areas of our bushland remnants.

It's hard to kill. We can dig its tubers out but we always seem to leave a bit for it reemerge and bring

us back to square one. Its glossy leaves seem to repel herbicide and when we do hit it with herbicide (one way is to scrape the stems and apply neat glyphosate based products) it can die off a bit but then come back to haunt us while we are distracted by other weeds. And though it doesn't produce seed in Australia it seems to grow enough aerial tubers on its vines that will always have enough propagation material to continue infesting the bush despite of our best efforts to pick up every fallen fragment of the wretched stuff.

What to do? Do we leave it? No, we can't. We just can't. It will take over and it will kill our trees and it will destroy biodiversity. Do we spray it with ever increasingly powerful doses of herbicide? That might work but how much are contaminating our environment in the process? I'm not anti-herbicide by any means but I certainly like the idea of not using more than we have to. What to do??

What if we eat it??? Could we be the biological control like the cactoblastis moth on the Prickly Pear? We wouldn't eradicate it but we could certainly go some small way toward controlling it. Diego has recently been showing recipes for the stuff on his blog and Instagram feed. He collects the leaves and then sautés them in a pan with some oil and dresses them before serving them as a side dish, akin to the steamed greens we might get in a Chinese restaurant. Diego also says we can also roast the in-ground tubers like a spud. There are just two ideas we could use to control this weed.

I carve spoons from privet and this has now skewed my view of a weed. When I don't have my Bushcare hat on I look at woody weeds as a resource rather than a problem. Now I'm seeing weeds as food. This is a dilemma for me and I feel like I am questioning my faith. To quote Diego from a recent post: "The bottom line here is: we spend lots of effort, money and time to grow food in this country that is effectively destroying the ecosystem (wheat, rice, corn, and so forth) due to the exploitative agricultural dogma of monoculture. At the same time, we spend lots of time, money and effort in eradicating perfectly good edible species from our native ecologies, by applying herbicides and destroying the produce. This questioning of mine has been going on for years, and Madeira vine is a point in case that cannot be ignored."

Weeds for food? Food for thought?

You can follow Diego and his weedy wanderings and wonderings here: <https://www.diegobonetto.com>



Madeira Vine - Diego Bonetto

Eastern Curlew Returns

By Julie Keating

Migratory shorebirds that fly the East Asian Australasian Flyway, which extends from Australia/New Zealand all the way up to the sub-arctic via Asia, undertake the longest known migration journey of any species. Last year a new world record was set by a bar-tailed godwit from New Zealand. It travelled non-stop from breeding grounds in Alaska, back to its southern summer home in New Zealand, a distance of over 12,000km that took 11 days to complete, non-stop, no cruising, flapping the whole way, travelling at an average speed of close to 90km/h.

Port Hacking is seeing the return of the migratory shorebirds that breed up around the sub-arctic. This means the search is on to find birds with leg flags, which helps better understand their movements and habitat requirements.

Some exciting news was that in October 2019 a female eastern curlew arrived that had a leg flag on to say she had stopped off at Tiaozini, Dongtai, Jiangsu, China. 2 days previously a leg flagged bar-tailed godwit took a day of rest at Maianbar and its flag showed that on its way up to the breeding grounds it had stopped at Chongming Island in China.

In 2020 Port Hacking hosted a bar-tailed godwit for 2 weeks that landed here after its non-stop flight from Alaska back to Australia. The leg flag had a code that could identify the individual bird and the flag showed the bird had been caught as a first year bird back in 2014 at Manns Beach Corner Inlet Victoria. This bird spent two weeks recovering here in Port Hacking from the long flight and putting on weight to be able to continue on to its summer home in Victoria. Then a caspian tern turned up which had been flagged as a chick at Mud Island in Port Phillip Bay Victoria in 2017.



Eastern curlew - Julie Keating

This year, the female eastern curlew returned and we have now found out more detail about her. The leg flag she carried was able to show she was in China in the northern autumn of 2018, her first flight after hatching around Siberia in the previous spring/summer. That year the team in China, which included a team from the UK, only flagged two 1st year eastern curlews on their journey south, one female and one male. So we were able to pinpoint just which bird this was and records have been created to show her movements to increase our knowledge of this critically endangered species. The person that put the flag on her from the UK was also notified and he was so happy to hear that she is faring well.

How can we all help?

Give them space. Let these shorebirds feed and rest undisturbed. Keep an eye out ahead so you keep 100m of space between you and the birds. Don't chase them. Remember dogs are not permitted either on or off lead on the beach or tidal flats around Maianbar. If we think about it from the bird's perspective, every time they are startled and forced to fly, they use up valuable energy. If this happens too often, especially prior to migration, then they may not have enough fat reserves to be able to leave for migration or even worse, run out of energy halfway across the ocean whereby they will fall out of the sky and drown.

We are so lucky that these amazing birds use our shores. Grab some binoculars and look from a far.

News from the Nursery

By Cristine Breitenbach

The great thing about gardening and nursery work is that no matter what is going on in the world or whatever the season, there is always work to be done. Last year in similar circumstances we took the opportunity to rearrange the nursery and install new fencing.

This year, I think for the first time ever we have emptied the benches of all plants. The health of the plants deteriorates faster on the benches than in the general nursery stock. This is due to the fact that air flow under the tubes and the spacing of tubes, dries the stock out at a faster rate. Part of our general duties in the nursery besides topping up the benches is also to rotate plants on and off the benches based on how they are coping. This is particularly important for plants that may not naturally grow in full sun conditions.



Empty Benches - Cristine Breitenbach

With all the plants removed, the rust was quite obvious on the benches and sign stands. Holger has remedied this and now we are looking forward to restocking the benches, as it is actually a bit sad seeing them empty.

New signs have also been installed throughout the retail section of the nursery, to help customers locate plants.

The Fray

Bushcare's Shire partners are active all year round and continue to host events. All welcome volunteers to help run the programs that help protect the Shire's natural areas. Contact the groups direct if you wish to find out more information or participate

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

(SUTHERLAND GROUP)

Sutherland APS group, meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7.45pm at the Gynea Community Centre, 39 Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland>

Website: <http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>

Contact Ralph Cartwright on 9548 1074



MENAI WILDFLOWER GROUP

Meetings and propagation workshops are held at the Illawong Fire Station For activities check out our Website and Facebook page.

Website: www.menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au



BOTANY BAY BUSY BEES

The group meet and work on the mornings of the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month, excluding December & January, 9.00am to noon at various locations within the park. Habitats range from coastal heath to tall woodland. Morning tea is provided and tools supplied. Call Kamay Botany Bay National Park to enquire: 9668 2010. The group meet at the visitors centre in the Park.



ROYAL NATIONAL PARK (FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL)

If you are interested in our program please contact Royal Area office on 9542 0632 or email: royal.nationalpark@environment.nsw.gov.au. For

more about Friends of Royal check their web page: www.friendsofroyal.org.au/

BUSHCARE WORKDAYS

Workdays can be cancelled at short notice. (B) etc after the time denotes the first initial of the Bushcare Officer responsible for the group. See page 8 for contact detail.

1ST SATURDAY

Lucas Heights Conservation Area, 8.00am (J)
Gunnamatta Park 8.30am (Bill)
Wanda Beach, Cronulla 8.30am (S)
Whitton Street, Heathcote 8:30am (B)
Burnum Burnum Sanct., Jannali 9.00am (D)
Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda 12.30pm (S)
Columbine Close, Loftus 1:00pm (B)
Tea Tree Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (Bill)

2ND SATURDAY

Fremantle Place, Yarrawarrh 8.00am (B)
Forbes Creek, Woronora 8:30am (Bill)
Freya St, Kareela 8:30am (S)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 9.00 (D)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10:30am (S)
Ingrid Rd/Anitra Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (D)
Drysdale Place Res., Kareela 1:00pm (Bill)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarrh 1.00pm (B)

3RD SATURDAY

Burraneer Park, Caringbah 8.30 am (J)
Corinth Road, Heathcote 8.30am (B)
Hall Drive Reserve, Menai 8.30am (S)
Beauford Park, Caringbah 1.00pm (J)
Bangaroo, Bangor, 1.00pm (B)
Sesquicentenary Pk, Heathcote 12.30pm (S)

4TH SATURDAY

Bottle Creek, Heathcote 8.30am (B)
Akuna Avenue Oval, Bangor 8.30am (S)
Maandowie Reserve, Loftus 8:30am (Bill)
The Esplanade, Cronulla Point 8.30am (J)
Gooyong Reserve, Bangor 12.30pm (S)
Ninth Avenue North, Loftus 1.00pm (B)
Crescent Creek, Woronora 1.00pm (Bill)
Various reserves, Maianbar 1.30pm (J)

1ST SUNDAY

Carina Bay, Como 8:00am (J),
Bass & Flinders Point, Cronulla 8.30am (Bill)
Myra Creek, Loftus 8.30am (B)
Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve 9.30am (J)
John McKinn Park, Cronulla 1.00pm (Bill)
Oyster Creek Gully, Jannali 1:00pm (J)
Upper Forbes Creek, Engadine 1:00pm (B)

2ND SUNDAY

Caravan Head Res., Oyster Bay 8:30am (B)
Fernleigh Road Res, Caringbah 9:00am (Bill)
Forbes Creek South, Engadine 1:00pm (B)
Kareela Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (Bill)

3RD SUNDAY

Prince Edward Park, Woronora 8:30am (Bill)
Hakea Street, Yarrawarrh, 8.30am (B)
Honeysuckle Reserve, Jannali 8:30am (J)
Paruna Reserve, Como West 9.00am (D)
Grays Point Reserve 12.30pm (J)
Bundeena Res, Bundeena 1.15pm (D)
Nelson Street, Engadine 1:00pm (B)

4TH SUNDAY

Darook Park, Cronulla 8.30am (Bill)
The Glen Reserve, Bonnet Bay 8:30am (D)
Savilles Creek, Kirrawee 8.30am (J)
Lantana Rd Res (Banksia), Engadine 1.00pm (D)
Marina Crescent, Gymea Bay 1.00pm (J)
Rutherford Reserve, Burraneer, 1.00pm (Bill)

1ST MONDAY

Brigalow Place, Engadine 1.00pm (D)
Taren Point Shorebird, Taren Point
9.00am(D)

2ND MONDAY

Delta St, Sutherland 9.00am (Bill)
Koolangara Res, Bonnet Bay 9:00am (D)

3RD MONDAY

Port Hacking Rd Res., Sylvania 9.00am (D)
Australia Rd, Barden Ridge 9.00am (Bill)

4TH MONDAY

Loftus St, Bundeena 9.00am (Bill)
Young Street Reserve, Sylvania 9.00am (D)

1ST TUESDAY

Dunoon Place Reserve, Bangor 9.00am (Bill)
Menai Conservation Park, Menai 9.00am (D)
Surrey Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (Bill)

2ND TUESDAY

Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (Bill)

3RD TUESDAY

Forest Grove Drive, Menai 9.00am (D)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 9:00am (Bill)
Corea Steet Reserve, Sylvania 1.00pm (D)
Darook Park Sth, Cronulla 1.00pm (Bill)

4TH TUESDAY

Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (D)
Hungry Point Res, Cronulla 12.30pm (D)

1ST WEDNESDAY

Windy Point, Cronulla 8.30am (S)
Bundeena Reserve, Bundeena 9.00am (J)
Prices Reserve South, Woronora 9.00am (Bill)
Simpson Rd, Bundeena 11.30am (J)

Bushcare is currently following the lead of Federal Government and NSW Health with regard to corona virus (COVID-19). As the health and wellbeing of staff and our community is vitally important, Bushcare has taken the position that our events may be cancelled as a precautionary measure during this time.



Don't forget our Facebook page. It is a hub to share information, photographs and video amongst users. Log onto Facebook, search 'Sutherland Shire Bushcare' and 'like' the page.

To join Bushcare please go to

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Bushcare-Volunteers>



2ND WEDNESDAY

Cabbage Tree Point, Bundeena 9.00am (B)
Constables Point, Maianbar 9.00am (J)
Green Point Rd Res, Oyster Bay 9.00am (S)
Alcheringa Reserve 9.00am (Bill)
Gooyong Reserve, Bangor 1.00pm (Bill)

3RD WEDNESDAY

Croston Rd, Engadine 9.00am (B)
ANSTO, Blue Trail, Lucas Heights 12.00pm (J)
Dunwell Avenue, Loftus 1.00pm (B)
Albert Delardes Reserve, Illawong 9.00am (S)

4TH WEDNESDAY

Forest & Corella Roads, Kirrawee 9.00am (B)
Newcombe Street, Maianbar 9.00am (J)
Wattlebird Reserve, Caringbah 9:00am (Bill)

1ST THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (J)
Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve 9.00am (J)
Louden Avenue, Illawong 9.00am (B)

2ND THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (J)
Parc Menai 8.30am (B)

3RD THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (J)
Eighth Avenue, Loftus 8:30am (B)
Savilles Creek Reserve, Kirrawee 9.00am (J)

4TH THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (J)

1ST FRIDAY

Coonong Creek Reserve, Gymea 8:30am (J)
Ewey Creek, Miranda 8.30am (B)

2ND FRIDAY

Ninth Avenue Reserve, Loftus 9.00am (B)

3RD FRIDAY

Farrer Place, Oyster Bay 8.30am (B)
Kyogle Place, Grays Point 8.30am (J)
Gunnamatta Foreshore, Cronulla 1.00pm (J)

4TH FRIDAY

Kiara Road South, Yowie Bay 8:30am (B)
Shiprock Reserve, Lilli Pilli 9.00am (J)
Community Nursery, Gymea 9:00am



Bushland Activity

Bookings are essential and made on Council's website. **NOTE: For events in National Parks entry fee applies.**

Special Events

SPRING GATHERING

Saturday 9 October
10:00am - 12:00pm
Online webinar

The Bushcare gathering is a chance to catch up with other Bushcare groups, listen to a couple of guest speakers.

RUTHERFORD RESERVE POST FIRE SURVEY

Tuesday 26 October
9:00 - 12:00pm

Location: Rutherford Reserve, at the end of Woollooware Rd. After a successful burn in spring 2018, Rutherford Reserve is thriving. Now is a perfect opportunity to review and update the species list for the reserve and to update our own identification skills.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Saturday 13 November
9:00am - 11:00am
Burnum Burnum Sanctuary

There's no doubt this is one of Australia's longest running environmental programs and participation is available to all. To register, please go to: <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10025813>

BUSHCARE XMAS BBQ

December

We are unsure if we will be able to host the Christmas BBQ this year, as we are waiting to see what will be possible closer to the date. We may host a smaller BBQ for long-serving volunteers similar to last year. More details to come.



Ninox strenua (Powerful Owl)
- Les Brown

Bushwalks and Guided Nature Walks



KINGFISHER POOLS WALK

Monday 1 November
8:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare for a guided walk along the Bullawarring walking track through Heathcote National Park with noted nature expert Steve Anyon-Smith. Bring binoculars if you have them, water and morning tea. This track is graded 4. Bookings are essential.

GARAWARRA FARM TRAIL

Tuesday 9 November
10:00am - 3:00pm

Join Bushcare for a guided 8km walk through Garawarra Farm in the Royal National Park with noted nature expert Steve Anyon-Smith. Bring binoculars if you have them, water, morning tea and lunch. Bookings are essential. The walk is graded medium to hard, with a few long hills.

SPOTLIGHTING IN THE ROYAL

Wednesday 17 November
8:00pm-9:30pm

What goes bump in the night? Come along and help spot the wildlife that go to work when we go to bed. Be sure to book early as this event fills quickly. BYO torches please and all children under the age of 16 are to be accompanied by an adult.

TO BOOK GO TO:

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

**AND SEARCH FOR
BUSHCARE EVENTS**

Boneseed Time

By Nathan Clare

It's that time of year again when Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera*) is in flower, allowing us to easily identify plants that may have been by unnoticed during the year. Boneseed is a subspecies of Bitou Bush that is not restricted to the coast and will happily grow in both disturbed and undisturbed sites. Seeing the impact of its sibling, Bitou Bush, on coastal environments, Boneseed has been placed under a total eradication order across New South Wales under the Biosecurity Act. As such Boneseed is Sutherland Councils number one priority weed with the aim to prevent it from becoming widespread. So between August – November take a second look at any yellow flowers you may see around the Sutherland Shire and report any boneseed to Sutherland Shire Councils Invasive Species Officers on 9710 0333. For identifying characteristics and further information on Boneseed visit the Weedwise website and search for boneseed or visit the link <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Boneseed>



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