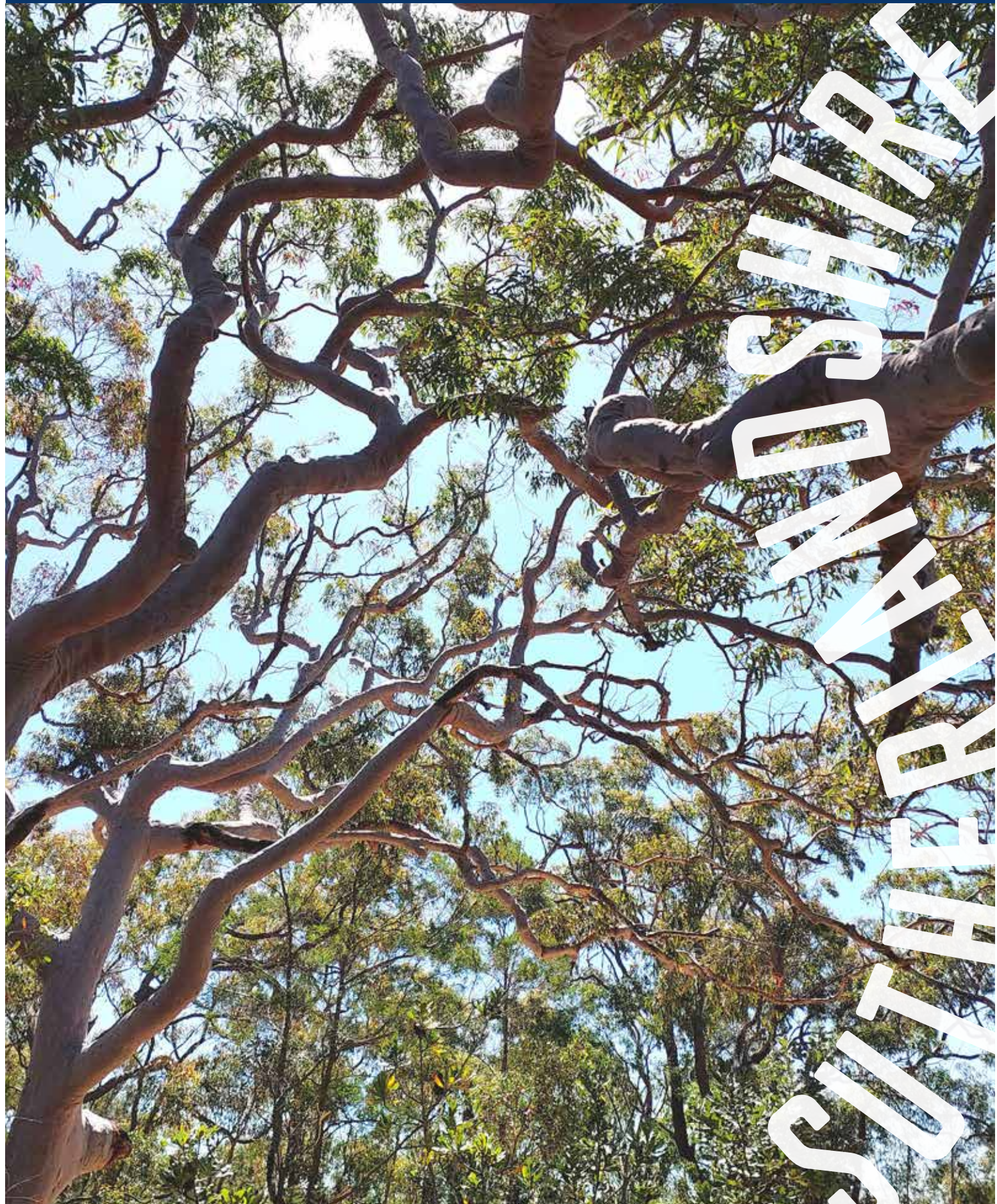


BUSHCARE **BULLETIN**

JULY 2026 - ISSUE 76



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

JULY

8, 16 & 22 Nursery propagation

9 Scamper through the jungle

14 Aboriginal bushfood walk

16 Junior bird watching

26 National Tree Day

29 Bush Whackers

AUGUST

12, 20 & 26 Nursery propagation

11 Aboriginal bushfood walk

16 Bonnet Bay Wildflower Walk

27 LHCA walk

SEPTEMBER

9, 17 & 23 Nursery propagation

8 Aboriginal bushfood walk

16 Spotlighting walk in Woronora

20 Bushcare Fair

27 Bush Whackers

OCTOBER

17, 15 & 28 Nursery propagation

8 Scamper through the jungle

13 Aboriginal bushfood walk

22 LHCA bird walk

24 Bushcare Gathering

Cover image - Grays Point - Emma Brame



Sabrina with an asparagus crown
- Jason Salmon

Bushcare update

By Jason Salmon - Team Leader Bushcare

We have some career realignment news. Our wonderful Bushcare Officer Sabrina Thompson has downed tools on a professional level and is transitioning to retirement, which will allow her to rejoin us as a volunteer. This won't be the first time Sabrina has been a Bushcare volunteer. She signed up way back in August 1994 working in Yarrawarrah near her home on Fahy Creek. With a change in life trajectory, Sabrina went to TAFE and obtained a bush regeneration qualification and transitioned from volunteer to a professional Bush Regenerator with the National Trust and then Toolijooa, working on sites all over Sydney. When the job came up closer to home at Sutherland Shire Council she jumped at it and the rest is history. Over her career, Sabrina has made an outstanding contribution to around 27 Bushcare sites, helping to restore the natural environment while building and supporting dedicated volunteer groups. On behalf of all the Bushcare family, I would like to congratulate Sabrina on her retirement and welcome her back as a volunteer.

I have some sad news to report in that Bushcare volunteer Lloyd Hedges very recently passed away. Lloyd was a volunteer at Lowden Ave and Albert Delardes Reserve Illawong. He was a very active member of Menai Wildflower Group and a staunch advocate for native bushland in the Shire. Lloyd was also a avid propagator running a nursery at the tip and successfully growing pink flannel flowers, something he was most proud of.

We have numerous events coming up including National Tree day on 26 July at Bonna Point, Kurnell, Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda, and Banksia Reserve, Engadine. Also the Bonnet Bay Bushwalks are fast approaching, held in August each year, these are very popular and showcase several large bushland reserves in Bonnet Bay and as a bonus are lead by expert guides including local botanist Dan Clarke as well as our wonderful Bushland Unit staff. Another major event biennial Bushcare Fair returns in September, this year at Biddy Giles Reserve Kirrawee.

That's enough from me for now, enjoy the Bulletin!



Bushcare Fair

20 September - 10am - 3pm - Biddy Giles Reserve

Stronger together: Paddle Club, Bushcare and Biosecurity in action

By Linda Brown - Invasive Species Officer

The Sutherland Shire Paddle Club recently brought the community together for a morning of learning, connection and hands-on conservation at their clubhouse at Burnum Burnum Sanctuary, Woronora. Members and local Bushcare volunteers gathered over morning tea before diving into an interactive session focused on managing priority weeds and pest animals.

The presentation introduced participants to priority weeds—species listed under the Biosecurity Act that are not yet widespread across New South Wales or Greater Sydney. These plants pose a serious threat to local ecosystems if left unchecked. Sutherland Shire Council's goal is to prevent their spread by excluding, eradicating or carefully managing them, depending on the species.

A key message of the session was that everyone in the community can play a role. By learning to recognise and report priority weeds, residents can actively support local conservation efforts. And the good news? You don't need to be a botanist.

Participants were shown how easy it is to use the iNaturalist app, a free tool that allows users to photograph plants or animals and upload sightings in seconds. The app's built-in AI helps identify species with impressive accuracy. If a reported sighting is flagged as a priority weed or pest animal, Sutherland Shire Council is automatically alerted.



Another valuable resource shared was the WeedWise website and app, which provides detailed information on identifying features, control methods and the biosecurity status of priority weeds. Together, these tools empower residents to confidently recognise and respond to potential threats in their local environment.

Importantly, the session also covered the identification and reporting of priority pest animals. Participants learned how to recognise invasive species such as cane toads and red-eared slider turtles, both of which can cause significant harm to native wildlife and ecosystems. Understanding how to spot these species and report sightings is vital in preventing their establishment and spread in the region.

Following the presentation, the group headed out to explore the nearby wetland—bringing theory into practice. This site has been carefully tended by the Bushcare group since 2023, and participants were able to see firsthand the impact of ongoing restoration work and weed management efforts.

Events like this highlight the power of collaboration. By working together, local clubs, volunteers and Council Teams can protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Sutherland Shire for years to come.



A spotlight on Savilles Creek

By Grace Lonergan - Bushcare Officer

Savilles Creek Bushcare is located at the end of Hovea Place in Grays Point, where the site borders the Royal National Park. Because of this location, the site forms an important bushland edge and habitat corridor, connecting local reserves with the larger surrounding national park.

The group first started back in 2007, which means the site has now been running for 19 years. In the early days, the area was heavily impacted by woody weeds such as privet, lantana, camphor laurel, senna and many more. A lot of the initial work involved gradually removing those larger problem weeds, so the native vegetation had a chance to recover.

Since then, the site has improved immensely. These days, the group is mainly working on ground layer weeds, which is a huge shift from where the site first began. It shows just how much progress has been made over time through consistent work each month. The group currently has five active volunteers, who meet twice a month at the end of Hovea Place and the end of Bligh Street. Their ongoing work helps maintain the improvements that have already been made, while continuing to support native regeneration and habitat restoration along the creek line.

One of the special things about Savilles Creek is the amount of wildlife that lives here. Volunteers have seen goannas, water dragons, swamp wallabies, parrots, small birds and even a lone male koala. Powerful owls have also been recorded in the area. With the site sitting right alongside the Royal National Park, the work done here helps to protect the creek line, and also the habitat that wildlife needs to thrive.

A recent hazard reduction burn was carried out by the RFS and National Parks on part of the site four weeks ago, on the Hovea Place side. While fire can look confronting at first, it is also part of the natural cycle for many Australian bushland areas. Over the coming months, volunteers will be able to observe how the site responds after fire, including which native plants reshoot, what seedlings emerge, and how the ground layer recovers.



Savilles Creek
- Grace Lonergan

This will also create an important opportunity for follow-up Bushcare work. After fire, some weeds can take advantage of the open space and extra light, so ongoing maintenance will be important to keep the bushland in good condition.

One of the interesting things about sites like Savilles Creek, is that the changes don't happen overnight. They happen slowly, through regular sessions, following up, and continuous care to maintain the bushland. Each session might feel like slow progress, but over 19 years those small steps have made a huge difference.

As part of the site spotlight, I interviewed one of the founding members, Carole Bowyer. Carole has been volunteering with Bushcare for 29 years this December and has been involved with Savilles Creek since the group began. Carole first became involved after receiving a letter from Council about a street meeting for residents to discuss the formation of a Bushcare group. She thought it sounded interesting and decided to give it a try. Almost three decades later, she is still contributing her time and knowledge to Bushcare.

When reflecting on the long-term changes at Savilles Creek, Carole remembers the bush area at the end of Gore Avenue being densely covered in privet, which blocked the view of the creek. Over time, the group worked to get on top of the weeds and began planting native species. As the site improved, the area also started to self-seed from the Royal National Park, allowing volunteers to gradually venture further up the creek.



Marie and Carole in 2008
- Jason Salmon

Like many Bushcare sites, Savilles Creek still has its challenges. Carole noted that leeches, deer and the steepness of the site can make the work difficult at times. There is also evidence of people using the bushland to dump rubbish, which creates extra pressure on the area and the volunteers caring for it.

Despite these challenges, Carole said she really enjoys seeing the bushland looking good, meeting with her fellow Bushcare volunteers, and watching other people enjoy the area for bushwalks. She also loves seeing children playing in the creek, which is a simple but lovely reminder of why these places are worth caring for.

For anyone thinking about joining Bushcare, Carole says it is a great way to meet new people, get some exercise, and learn more about native plants and weeds.

After 19 years of Bushcare at Savilles Creek, the site is a lovely reminder of the long-term impact volunteers can have on our local environment. What was once an area dominated by woody weeds is now a much healthier site, with the focus shifting to maintenance weeding, finer weed control and supporting natural regeneration. It is a real credit to the many volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to care for this beautiful site over many years.

Vines, vines, vines.

By Justin Polley - Bush Regenerator

Invasive vines are among the most persistent and damaging weeds in bushland. Their ability to grow rapidly, smother native vegetation, and spread across large areas makes them a key focus for our Bush Regeneration Team. Effective vine control is essential to protect biodiversity and maintain healthy ecosystems.

Invasive vines tend to block sunlight resulting in decreased photosynthesis for lower strata native plants. They quickly establish and cause a disruption to ecosystem balance, out compete native vegetation for vital resources including nutrients and water. Vines can also add excessive weight to the tree or shrub structure which can cause structural damage and weight stress, while also having a constricting effect on nutrient transporters on the trunk which in turn causes growth restriction. Finally, they can have an enduring presence in the soil seed bank resulting in successive generations of these species reoccurring. Some of the more common vines we target in the Shire include balloon vine, madeira vine, morning glory and turkey rhubarb to name a few.

Some of the basic controls methods we use are hand removal which involves physically removing all portions of the vine, cut and paint which involves cutting the vine to ground level and applying herbicide to the cut stem, scrape and painting which involves scraping segments of the vine at intervals and applying herbicide, foliar spray application to control localised ground outbreaks where natives are not present. Skirting vines at chest or ground level and leaving the vine in the canopy is preferred to pulling the vine down because this minimises physical damage to the tree canopy, reduces canopy disturbance and allows gradual restoration of natural processes. Control methods are various due to numerous factors including the specific weed being targeted, the size of the outbreak, the location of the outbreak and the sites potential for further regeneration.

Over the past six months the Bush Regeneration Team lead by Chris Banks have worked tirelessly along Tivoli Esplanade Como to bring under control vigorous vine growth. The team have focused on minimising vine canopy growth, removal of tubers and airborne propagules and treating emerging seedlings to exhaust the extensive seed bank. During this period, we have managed to remove multiple truckloads of vine vegetation. Over time we have seen a reduction in vine growth overall however on-going works are required to maintain the current levels of achievement.

Vine control can seem daunting, especially in heavily infested areas, but steady, methodical work delivers real results. Every vine treated is a step toward restoring the balance of the bush. By working together and maintaining ongoing care, Bushcare volunteers play a vital role in protecting and rebuilding our natural landscapes.

News from the Nursery

By Cristine Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader



VCN meeting - Liz Bulley

In April, the SSC Community Nursery hosted a Volunteer Coordinators Network meeting at Kirrawee Library +. The event is facilitated by Local Land Services and is open to community nurseries in the Greater Sydney area, that host volunteers. We had 23 attendees representing 13 councils and other organisations. Participants each spoke in our round table discussions, giving everyone an opportunity to share their success's and ask questions from others in the industry. Sutherland Shire Council was well represented in this by our two trainees Troy

and Lilly. This was a first for both and they spoke well about their time with Council and all the experiences they have had.

We then heard from three guest speakers:

- Hugh Littlefield- Plant Biosecurity officer with LLS, speaking on Plant Bio space,
- Linda Brown- Invasive Species Officer with SSC, speaking on flora biosecurity threats in the nursery industry and
- Graham Avery- Aboriginal Heritage officer with SSC, speaking on local Aboriginal plant use.

Kirrawee Library + was a great venue for the meeting and after a lunch break everyone came to the GyMEA nursery for a tour of our facilities and the opportunity to ask lots of questions. Everyone had a great day and a big thank you goes out to Mel for organising the venue and catering for the day.

From professional learning at the VCN to guiding a group of 18 preschool students around the nursery, means our days at the nursery are always interesting. We started the visit with a touch and feel of *Banksia* cones, *Spinifex* seed heads and the fruits of *Xylomelum* (Woody pear) and *Hakea* species. Then we went for a walk around the nursery including being in the glasshouse with the misting system on, visiting the huge *Ficus obliqua* at the back of the nursery and smelling the fragrant foliage of *Prostanthera* (mint bush), *Platysace* (Apiaceae family/carrot smell) and *Backhousia citriodora* (lemon myrtle). To round out the tour for the little people, we went for a walk around the Pollinator garden, that Bill and his wonderful volunteers maintain at the front of the nursery, on the lookout for animal statues and garden gnomes.



Preschoolers learning to be bush regenerators - Emma Brame



Bunting - Cristine Breitenbach

Visitors to the potting shed have been pleasantly surprised by the new colourful bunting now decorating our workspace. My daughter Astrid, who is also a Bushcare volunteer, is a keen sewer (I am not!). The majority of the fabric that has been used for the bunting has come from offcuts from other projects and repurposing old bags and curtains. The theme of native flowers, indigenous print and insects is a colourful and appropriate way to brighten our propagation area.

Recently we received a request by the Blue Mountains Wildplant Rescue Service (BMWRS) for a tour of our nursery, with a particular focus on growing ferns. Initially involved in simply rescuing and rehoming wild native plants, BMWRS opened its own propagating nursery in 1998 in order to supply larger numbers of truly local plants for Bushcare groups, landscapers and the local Council. To this end, they have recently been trying to propagate ferns of their local area.

Emma our resident fern expert, was able to show them around our facilities and teach them the methods we use here. They were thrilled with her generosity in sharing all the knowledge she has gained over the years surrounding the vast number of different species, that we grow and all their different stages of growth.



BMWRS nursery tour
- Cristine Breitenbach

Fascinating Features of Ferns

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

Ferns are some of the oldest plants on Earth, thriving long before flowering plants appeared. Their unique growth habits, reproduction methods, and leaf structures make them fascinating plants for both gardeners and botanists alike. Here are a few fascinating fern facts.

Ferns reproduce through spores, rather than seeds. Spores are reproductive structures that do not contain an embryo. These spores are produced inside a sporangium, which is a small case that bears spores. Ferns have a unique life cycle involving two stages.

After a spore germinates, it forms a small structure called a prothalli, which then produces what is known as gametes, containing the reproductive cells, allowing the fern life cycle to continue. The female structure is called archegonia, and the male structure is called antheridia.

Ferns can be described as either monomorphic or dimorphic.

Monomorphic ferns have fertile and sterile fronds that are similar in size, shape, and division. Dimorphic ferns produce distinctly different fertile and sterile fronds, often varying greatly in appearance.

Some ferns display pinkish or purplish tones due to the presence of anthocyanins. This is a natural pigment that can protect plants from stress and strong sunlight. *Doodia* and *Blechnum* species are known for showing these colourful new growths.

There is a handful of ferns that can be easier to propagate (not to mention faster) by bulbils. Bulbils are small bulb-like structure produced on a fern frond that can develop into a new fern. *Asplenium bulbiferum* and *Polystichum australia* are both species which produce bulbils.

There are certain fern species with special fern adaptations. The two most common ones being lithophytes and epiphytes. Lithophytes are fern that grow on rocks, cliff faces, or rocky surfaces such as *Pyrrosia rupestris*. Epiphytes are ferns that are attached to other plants without being parasitic such as *Asplenium austalasicum*. They use other plants as the host for support.

Ferns can have interesting features and terms. The term hyaline refers to plant tissue that is thin and translucent, a feature sometimes used when describing fern scales, leaf margin or structures like prothalli. A well know feature of ferns many people might know but not know the botanical term is for when a new frond emerges and is tightly coiled. This is called crozier. As they mature, the fronds slowly unrolls protecting the delicate tip of a frond.

Ferns are remarkable plants with ancient origins, specialised reproductive strategies, and a huge diversity of forms. From colourful new growth to plantlets growing directly on fronds, they offer endless fascination for plant enthusiasts and native plant growers alike.



Histiopteris incisa
- Emma Brame

Working with weeds? Beyond waste.

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

I've written extensively on using weeds in my Working with Woody Weeds Workshop and our other creative ventures and here I go again. This time however it's not quite so crafty.

Organic waste is a large part of our waste stream generally (up to half of domestic waste can be composted ie garden and food stuff) and green waste (the garden stuff) it is the largest component of waste that we generate in our job (think of all those white bags we all fill every day). Green waste to landfill is a waste of a valuable resource. Not only of the material itself but the space it takes up. Space is the ultimate commodity in landfill. And once green waste in the ground, compacted to squash all the air space out to fit more in, it starts to decompose anaerobically ie without oxygen. This generates large amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide. It's not a good idea to put green waste into landfill.

Be that as it may we're still making it, so what can we do with it? If you mow/shred *Biden* (with seed removed!) it rots down to make great compost. Privet and other woody weeds like box elder make great spoons. My chooks love to eat trad and our good friend Diego Bonetto loves to eat just about any weed! But a few chooks, a spoon carver and a weed forager can't deal with all the waste we generate, so what happens to it? When we throw it away, where is "away"?

Some weeds might be left on site to dry and die but most get brought back to our depot for disposal. Bags are emptied and the regen truck tips into big concrete bays at our Parks Operations Depot at Kirrawee but then what happens?

I asked one of the managers at the depot what happens and he said it goes to SOILCO to get processed. What's Soilco, and what's the process? Sick of my questions he put it to SOILCO, and Soilco responded!

".....All green waste received by SOILCO is processed through our advanced composting systems, including our In-Vessel Composting (IVC) technology and Aerated Static Pile composting systems. These controlled biological processes are specifically designed to safely and effectively treat organic material, including weeds, seeds, pathogens and other organic contaminants.

During processing, the composting material is maintained at temperatures exceeding 55°C for an extended period, in accordance with Australian Standard AS4454 (composts, soil conditioners and mulches). Maintaining these temperatures ensures the destruction of viable weed seeds and plant pathogens, significantly reducing any risk of regrowth or spread once the material has been fully processed.

SOILCO's composting operations are independently audited and regulated by a number of government and industry bodies, including the NSW EPA and NSW DPI, to ensure compliance with strict environmental, biosecurity and product quality standards.

The incoming green waste is transformed into high-quality composted organic products that are used across agriculture, landscaping, rehabilitation projects, sporting fields and environmental improvement applications throughout NSW. By diverting green waste from landfill and converting it into valuable recycled organics, the process supports circular economy outcomes and improves soil health, carbon retention and water efficiency.

Further information on SOILCO's technology and processing systems can be found here:

- In-Vessel Composting Technology

<https://soilco.com.au/innovation/technology/in-vessel-composting/>

- Process Control and Monitoring Systems

<https://soilco.com.au/innovation/technology/control/>

SOILCO is also certified under internationally recognised quality and environmental management systems, supporting our commitment to safe, sustainable and compliant organics recycling operations.

SOILCO would also be more than happy to host a site tour for Council staff or bushcare representatives if there is interest in seeing the process firsthand and learning more about how the material is managed from receipt through to finished product.

So there you go!

All greenwaste gets composted. Even the seeds! Ever stuck your hand in a pile of grass clippings? Felt the heat? That's the body heat of the microbes breaking down our waste. The compost systems at Soilco are of such a scale that the heat generated is enough to sterilise all seeds and other propagules that go into our big white bags. Diverting our weeds from landfill makes great use of what would otherwise be a waste material, saves space for those intractable that can't be reused or recycled and reduces emissions of greenhouse gases. Win win!!!



Green Waste - Bradley van Luyt



Green Waste being chipped - SOILCO



Turn pile - SOILCO

BUSHCARE WORKDAYS

Workdays can be cancelled at short notice. (BvL) etc after the time denotes the first initial of the Bushcare Officer responsible for the group.

1ST SATURDAY

Gunnamatta Park 8.30am (GL)
Wanda Beach, Cronulla 8.30am (ST)
Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda 12.30pm (ST)
Tea Tree Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (GL)

2ND SATURDAY

Lucas Heights Conservation Area, 8.00am (JS)
Maandowie, Loftus 8.30am (GL)
Freyja St, Kareela 8.30am (ST)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10.30am (ST)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarrah 1.00pm (ST)

3RD SATURDAY

Burraneer Park, Caringbah 8.30 am (GL)
Hall Drive Reserve, Menai 8.30am (ST)
Beauford Park, Caringbah 1.00pm (GL)
Corinth Road, Heathcote 12.30pm (ST)

4TH SATURDAY

Akuna Avenue Oval, Bangor 8.30am (ST)
The Esplanade, Cronulla Point 8.30am (GL)
Biddy Giles Park, Kirrawee 12.30pm (ST)
Dents Creek, Gymea Bay 1.00pm (GL)

1ST SUNDAY

Carina Bay, Como 8.30am (GL)
Bass & Flinders Point, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
Burnum Burnum Sanct., Jannali 9.00am (ST)
The Crescent Creek, Woronora 1.00pm (BH)
Oyster Creek Gully, Jannali 1.00pm (GL)
Kingswood Road, Engadine 1.00pm (ST)

2ND SUNDAY

Kareena Park, Caringbah 8.30 (ST)
Fernleigh Road Res, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)
Kareela Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (BH)
Coora Rd Reserve, Yowie Bay 12.30pm (ST)

3RD SUNDAY

Prince Edward Park, Woronora 8.30am (BH)
Honeysuckle Reserve, Jannali 8.30am (GL)
Paruna Reserve, Como West 8.30am (ST)
Dawson Place, Menai 1.00pm (BH)
Grays Point Reserve 12.30pm (GL)
Buckinbah Place Reserve, Lilli Pilli 12.30pm (ST)

4TH SUNDAY

Darook Park, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
The Glen Reserve, Bonnet Bay 8.30am (ST)
Savilles Creek, Kirrawee 8.30am (GL)
Banksia Res, Engadine 1.00pm (ST)
Marina Crescent, Gymea Bay 1.00pm (GL)
Rutherford Reserve, Burraneer, 1.00pm (BH)

1ST MONDAY

Whitton Street, Heathcote 8.30am (BvL)
Taren Point Shorebird, Taren Point 9.00am (ST)
Columbine Close, Loftus 1.00pm (BvL)

2ND MONDAY

Delta St, Sutherland 9.00am (BH)
Koolangara Res, Bonnet Bay 9.00am (ST)

3RD MONDAY

Hakea Street, Yarrawarrah, 8.30am (BvL)
Port Hacking Rd Res., Sylvania 9.00am (ST)
Australia Rd, Barden Ridge 9.00am (BH)
Nelson Street, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

4TH MONDAY

Young Street Reserve, Sylvania 9.00am (ST)

1ST TUESDAY

Myra Creek, Loftus 8.30am (BvL)
Dunoon Place Reserve, Bangor 9.00am (BH)
Menai Conservation Park, Menai 9.00am (ST)
Upper Forbes Creek, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)
Surrey Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (BH)

2ND TUESDAY

Caravan Head Res, Oyster Bay 9.00am (BvL)
Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (BH)
Forbes Creek South, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

3RD TUESDAY

Forestgrove Drive, Menai 9.00am (ST)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)
Sesquicentenary Pk, Heathcote 8.30am (BvL)
Darook Park Sth, Cronulla 1.00pm (BH)

4TH TUESDAY

Bottle Creek, Heathcote 8.30am (BvL)
Loftus St, Bundeena 9.00am (BH)
Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (ST)
Hungry Point Res, Cronulla 12.30pm (ST)
Brigalow Place, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

1ST WEDNESDAY

Windy Point, Cronulla 8.30am (ST)
Green Point Rd, Oyster Bay 9.00am (BvL)
Bundeena Reserve, Bundeena 9.00am (GL)
Prices Reserve South, Woronora 9.00am (BH)
Simpson Rd, Bundeena 11.30am (GL)

2ND WEDNESDAY

Cabbage Tree Point, Bundeena 9.00am (BvL)
Constables Point, Maianbar 9.00am (GL)
Alcheringa Reserve 9.00am (BH)
Gooyong Reserve, Bangor 1.00pm (BH)

3RD WEDNESDAY

Croston Rd, Engadine 9.00am (BvL)
Albert Delardes Reserve, Illawong 9.00am (GL)
Gooyong Riverside, Woronora 9.00am (BH)
Dunwell Avenue, Loftus 1.00pm (BvL)

4TH WEDNESDAY

Forest & Corella Roads, Kirrawee 9.00am (BvL)
Newcombe Street, Maianbar 9.00am (GL)
Wattlebird Reserve, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)

1ST THURSDAY

Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve 9.00am (GL)
Louden Avenue, Illawong 9.00am (BvL)
John McKinn Park, Cronulla 9.00am (BH)

2ND THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.30am (GL)
Parc Menai 8.30am (BvL)
Native Habitat Garden, Gymea 9.00am (BH)

3RD THURSDAY

Eighth Avenue, Loftus 8.30am (BvL)
Savilles Creek Reserve, Kirrawee 9.00am (GL)

4TH THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.30am (GL)
Drysdale Place, Kareela 9.00am (BH)

1ST FRIDAY

Coonong Creek Reserve, Gymea 8.30am (GL)
Ewey Creek, Miranda 8.30am (BvL)

2ND FRIDAY

Ninth Avenue Reserve, Loftus 9.00am (BvL)

3RD FRIDAY

Farrer Place, Oyster Bay 8.30am (BvL)
Gunnamatta Foreshore, Cronulla 8.30pm (GL)

4TH FRIDAY

Kiora Road South, Yowie Bay 8.30am (BvL)
Shiprock Reserve, Lilli Pilli 9.00am (GL)



Sprengelia incarnata
- Emma Brame

**To join Bushcare
please go to**

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



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.

Bushland Activities

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

Thursday 9 July

Thursday 8 October

9:30am - 11:30am

Our "Scamper through the Jungle" Bushcare event has become our most successful school holidays activity for kids, and it's free! Form a small team or pair and collect clues as you race through the amazing gardens of the Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve.

ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

Tuesday 14 July

Tuesday 11 August

Tuesday 8 September

Tuesday 13 October

10:00am - 11:30am

Joseph Banks Native Garden

Join Council's Native Areas Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Graham Avery, for a guided walk where you will learn about Australian native bushfood.

JUNIOR BIRD WALK

Thursday 16 July

8:00am - 11:00am

Joseph Banks Native Garden

Join Bushcare and bird expert Ricki Coughlan for a fun and educational school holiday bird walk. Kids will explore the reserve, learn the basics of bird spotting, discover native bird species, and connect with nature through guided outdoor exploration. A perfect introduction to birdwatching for young nature enthusiasts.



Thelymitra pauciflora
- Emma Brame

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 26 July

8:30am - 12:30pm

Bonna Point, Kurnell.

9:00am - 12:00pm

Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Lantana Reserve, Engadine.

There's no doubt this is one of Australia's longest running environmental programs and participation is available to all. Book your spot through our events page on Council's website.

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 29 July

9:00am - 12:00pm

Caravan Head Reserve

If you're curious about Bushcare, come along to Caravan Head Reserve, Oyster Bay. This special Bushcare event is the perfect excuse to get out and meet new people and learn about The Shire's beautiful bushland.

BONNET BAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday 16 August

10:00am - 3:00pm

Join Bushcare for a guided walk through the bushland reserves of Bonnet Bay where we will enjoy the spectacular display of wildflowers. There will be a free sausage sizzle at lunch, supplied by Bushcare. All activities start from Bonnet Bay Public School.

LUCAS HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA WALK

Thursday 27 August

9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare and botanist, Dan Clarke, as we explore this seldom visited reserve on the west of the Shire. This walk will highlight the extensive conservation work Bushcare has undertaken in partnership with the Mill Creek Mountain Bike Community.

SPOTLIGHTING WALK

Wednesday 16 September

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Thorpe Road, Woronora

Join Bushcare and wildlife expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a guided Spotlighting walk through the bushland around Thorpe Road. BYO torches.

BUSHCARE FAIR 2026

Sunday 20 September

10:00am - 3:00pm

Biddy Giles Reserve, Kirawee

The Bushcare Fair is a fun, family-friendly community event that brings together local environmental groups and Bushcare partners for a day of learning, discovery and entertainment. Visitors can explore interactive displays, enjoy live demonstrations, collect giveaways, while meeting organisations dedicated to caring for our local environment.

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 30 September

9:00am - 12:00pm

Site to be advised

If you're curious about Bushcare, come along to Bush Whackers event. This special Bushcare event is the perfect excuse to get out and meet new people and learn about The Shire's beautiful bushland.

LUCAS HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA BIRD WALK

Thursday 22 October

8:00am - 11:00am

Join Bushcare as we explore this seldom visited reserve on the west of the Shire. This walk will highlight the extensive conservation work Bushcare has undertaken in partnership with the Mill Creek Mountain Bike Community.

TO BOOK GO TO:

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

**AND SEARCH FOR
BUSHCARE EVENTS**

Have you seen this weed?

By Chad Davison - Team Leader Invasive Species

The Invasive Species Team is always on the lookout for new incursions of pest species in the area. One such weed in The Shire is *Solanum sisymbriifolium* (sticky nightshade). *S. sisymbriifolium* is an erect, prickly plant to 1.5 m with sticky leaves and bright red berries. It competes with crops, pastures and native plants. Most of the plant is hairy and covered in very sharp prickles. It is an annual or short-lived perennial and can flower within 5 weeks of germination or regrowth from rhizomes. Flowers are white or pale bluish-purple and flowering is usually during spring and summer.

Known recordings in The Shire so far include Heathcote, Lucas Heights, Sandy Point, Menai and Woollooware so it could pop up anywhere in the Shire. If you see this weed please contact the Invasive Species Team on 95245672 option 3 or email pestspecies@ssc.nsw.gov.au



Solanum sisymbriifolium - Weedwise

Bushcare Contact Details

PHONE

02 9524 5672

And follow the prompts

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