

THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

APRIL 2022 - ISSUE 59



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

APRIL

13, 21 & 27 Nursery Propagation

3 Native Plant ID Workshop

9 Basket Weaving Workshop

14 Scamper through the Jungle

22 Nursery Gardening Group

30 Autumn Gathering

MAY

11, 19 & 25 Nursery Propagation

12 Lucas Heights Conservation Walk

21 Working with Woody Weeds

27 Nursery Gardening Group

JUNE

8, 16 & 22 Nursery Propagation

22 Cape Baily Walk

24 Nursery Gardening Group

29 Bush Whackers

Cover image *Water droplets on ferns*
- Emma Brame

Bushcare Update

By Jason Salmon

Welcome to the April addition of the Bushcare Bulletin. Fortunately most of you now receive this publication electronically as any posted paper copies may dissolve in the sodden air or get eaten by snails in your letterbox.

It has been an exceptionally wet start to 2022. I don't recall such consistent wet weather in the 20 years I have been bushcaring at Sutherland Council. The downside of all this rain is the damage to creek lines from high volumes and velocities of water and the proliferation of weedy vines like Morning Glory, Balloon vine and Madeira Vine. The up side is the brilliant conditions for frogs and planting. One native frog that seems to be thriving is the Peron's Tree Frog. You can record frog encounters on the Frog ID app <https://www.frogid.net.au/>. One amphibian we don't want to see in the Shire is the Cane toad. Unfortunately we have had three positive sightings of toads in the Caringbah area in the past 12 months. Fortunately, all three have been captured albeit one a little flatter than normal.

If you think your Bushcare site (or home garden) could do with a few more plants to assist with the natural regeneration, now is the best time of the year to get them in the ground. We have plenty of tube stock available at the Community Nursery on The Boulevard Gympie.

On a sad note in recent times we have lost three very long serving Bushcare volunteers, all whom have been part of the program since it's inception. Their contribution to the protection and preservation of the Shire's bushland is to be commended.

Bushcare Legends Lost

By Brad van Luyt

I am sad to report that we lost a few of our Bushcare pioneers in the last twelve months.

Anyone who has been in Bushcare for a while will recognise the names Norm Dixon, Geoff Broadhead and Isabelle Purcell.

Norm Dixon worked with us down at Woronora. He was a very active community member, being involved with the local residents' action group, the Life Saving Club and of course, Bushcare. Norm was also an activist and was heavily involved in campaigns ranging from the globally significant campaign for nuclear disarmament to the closer to home but no less important struggle to stop the opening of the road from Woronora Heights down to Woronora. Norm, and his wife Betty, was a regular volunteer with Bushcare for many years working around the bottom end of Forbes Creek and around Crescent Creek.

Geoff Broadhead joined Bushcare in early 1993 and with his wife Louise was instrumental in establishing many Bushcare sites around Loftus. It was with Geoff and Louise's persistence that Maandowie creek got its name. As well as pulling weeds, recruiting volunteers and naming creeks Geoff too, was an activist. I was there when Geoff spoke as a Bushcare Volunteer representative at a meeting of Council's Environment and Health Committee to oppose the clearing of what is now Menai Conservation Park for the Menai Indoor Sports Centre. I always liked working with Geoff. He was great for a chat, knew his stuff and was just a really nice bloke.

Isabelle Purcell's recruitment date was 1 December, 1990, but she used to tell us that she'd been bushcaring longer than that. Isabelle worked tirelessly at Kareena Park Reserve and was always a vocal attendee at the quarterly Bushcare forums and Bushcare Barbecue. I recall Isabelle having a dislike for vines. Good news when it comes to things like Morning Glory and Madeira Vine, not so good if you were a piece of Clematis or Stefania. Isabelle was a very dedicated Bushcare volunteer but her dedication to the bush paled into insignificance when compared to her love of the Cronulla Sharks. She loved Bushcare but you wouldn't see her in the bush when the Sharks were playing.

These three Bushcare greats had been with Bushcare since its founding days and will be missed by all of us.

Smart Dragons

By Peter Turbett

While working at Hungry Point recently we discovered that a small colony of Eastern Water Dragons have taken up residence there. Many Bushcare volunteers would be familiar with these striking lizards. They are found along creeks in several Bushcare sites in the Shire and the Camellia Gardens has a thriving population.

Water dragons used to be included in the genus *Physignathus* along with the Asian Water Dragon (*P. cocincinus*) but recent genetic research has placed them in their own genus, *Intellagama* - "smart dragon". And smart they are. Within their groups, comprising of a dominant male, several females, and juveniles of various ages, they have a complex social structure and communicate with head-nods, arm waving and tail slapping.

They are Australia's largest dragon and consist of two subspecies: the Eastern Water Dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii*), whose range extends from Cooktown to Kangaroo Valley and the Gippsland Water Dragon (*Intellagama lesueurii howittii*) found further south. Visitors to the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra will see stacks of Gippsland Water Dragons there. Although the subspecies look very much alike, the red throat and belly of mature Eastern Water Dragon males is replaced by a greenish tinge in their southern relatives.

These dragons are omnivores. Juveniles are entirely insectivorous but, as they mature, fruits such as figs and lilly pillies become an important part of their diet. They will eat smaller lizards - even their own young. In tidal zones they have been seen foraging for crabs and seaweed!

Around Sydney breeding starts in September and by the end of January pregnant females have scooped out a hole and laid a clutch of up to eighteen eggs. Females are polyandrous and any single clutch may contain the offspring of more than one male.

Water dragons are a successful species and appear to be spreading and adapting to new environments. How the Hungry Point colony got to the very end of the Cronulla Peninsula is a puzzle - did they swim across Port Hacking? There are no creeks in the reserve, but they seem happy enough living in the shady littoral rainforest.

An eight-year study of the dragons living in Brisbane's urban parklands yielded some fascinating findings. The abundant city lizards were bigger than their bushland cousins - 1.2 kilograms compared to 900 grams for full-grown males. As well, because the Brisbane parks are separated by concrete and bitumen they are like urban islands and there is considerable genetic diversity between sites. In one park the dragons are smaller with big heads while in another they have large bodies but small heads and shorter limbs. The study's leading researcher Dr Celine Frere has said that the water dragons are "evolving at a pace we can witness".

A slight cause for concern: if water dragons are colonising new areas, it's uncertain what effect they will have on the other species already there (for example, the Eastern Water Skink). It's great to see these impressive critters in our bushland but we don't want them to become the Noisy Miners of the reptile world!



Friendly Water Dragon at Uloola Falls
- Steve Deards

I Found a Frog

By Bradley van Luyt

Here at Bushcare we've had a few staffing changes and some of those changes have left us with an empty seat or two as we wait for new chums to join us.

Recently our new leader Kevin asked me if I had five minutes. "Yep, what's up?" He asked if I could check up on a customer request about a cane toad in Yowie Bay. One of Pest Species Officers is on secondment, another being a mum and our very capable stand in, Chad, was on another task. Muggins here got the guernsey. The request had a couple at Yowie Bay with a suspected Cane-toad in their toilet (what had they been eating...???) and they wanted it gone. I rang them and they were in quite the tizz about this brown amphibian in the dunny. "I'll be there in about ten minutes" Don't flush, I thought to say after I'd hung up. Knock knock, I'm here about a frog. Shoes off and up we go to the second level bathroom to see about this rogue beast. Such a beautiful bathroom, and so clean too. No wonder this little one had come to stay. I would've too. "Don't open it he might jump out" said the lady of the house. I couldn't look in without opening the lid so man of house got some plastic film to cover the pan as I gingerly opened the lid and raised the seat.

I'm neither a herpetologist nor a plumber so I was feeling frightfully unqualified for this task, but, with rubber gloves on, I dived in. No sign of the "toad" until a couple of little feet popped out from under the rim. A quick flurry of activity in an attempt to catch him came to nought as he evaded my grasps and grapples and disappeared up under the bit near the back where the flush comes from (outlet? Jet? Spout?). There is a lot of empty space in there and he could've been hiding anywhere. To look for him I pulled out my phone and made my first attempt at taking a flushing frog foto. Turned the thing about to take a selfie and worked my way around under the rim to see where he was. Man of house put some rags in the bowl to catch him and then flushed. Out he came but once again the frog, frustratingly, fled. And now, frogless and bereft of ideas on how to catch it I realised we were down one rag as one of them had been flushed away. Would this now block the pipes? Just how much was this little cold blooded creature going to cost us? "Maybe we could some spray and kill it" said man of house. "NO" I said stridently and tried to explain the importance of frogs in our environment. Once again I felt I was talking to my good friend the wall. Everyone love the environment until it's in their toilet it seems. Spraying firmly off the agenda man of house come sup with a bit of old wire. "maybe you can sorta drag him down with this". As a Bushcare Officer this was something I had not done before, so I guess I didn't know that I couldn't do it so I gave it a go. Nope.

All this time I'm on my bare knees on a cold hard (but very clean) tiled bathroom floor. The afternoon was dragging on and I had other important things to do like go back to the office and chat with my colleagues and go home. Bugger it, lets give it another flush. We hit the full flush button and out he comes and with the skills that were sorely missing form the recent British visitors during the ashes I caught our little friend. "Howzat?!" or more importantly wotzat? I'm pleased to say it wasn't a toad. Hiding out in the sublime ceramic highrise pond that was their



Litoria peroni - Rosie Nicolai

toilet was a nice example of a Peron's Tree Frog (the toilet was a strange tree substitute for a tree. Insert now a joke about dogs and trees and toilets... anyway...). "What was he doing there?" I dunno, Im a Bushcare Officer. "How'd he get in here?" I dunno, I'm a Bushcare Officer. "Will he come back? I dunno etc.

Job done, I held my new little mate in a plastic bag and brought him back to the nursery. Yes, definitely Peron's Tree Frog. (<https://australian.museum/learn/animals/frogs/perons-tree-frog/>). We

were unsure as to exactly where our frog came from so we rehomed him in our frog-pond at the nursery.

No, not Cane Toad, which is good. And it was also good that our people at Yowie Bay contacted us about the suspicious creature rather than killing the suspect. It was a fun little exercise but I despite an entertaining hour of work experience as a herpetological plumbing assistant I think I'll stick with the Bushcaring for a little while longer.

Wandering and Wondering

By Sabrina Thompson

Some Bushcare sites are relatively easy to navigate, we are enveloped by the floral species of the area as we wander the paths and tracks, weeding as we go. The Sydney Turpentine/Ironbark Forest and the transitional communities of Menai come to mind. On a fair spring day, the scent of seasonal flowering Acacia or gum pique our nostrils as we pass through, the insects seem to hummmmm in satisfaction, delicious nectar to sup. Happy 'good mornings' are exchanged with walkers passing by. All is good in the world. Even in the colder months it's quite mild and pleasant to work in.

In contrast, when you arrive at a coastal bushcare site you have no idea what elements will present. As you drive over the hill approaching Wanda Beach it could be blowing a gale, the sea crashing and booming on the shore, sometimes rain spiking your face. It could be blazing sun, hot and steamy after a rain spell, the sweat stinging your eyes. It is rarely calm and warmly beckoning, encouraging us to groom the dunes. Whichever the conditions, there is no canopy to protect us, we are always exposed to the weather. But, you know, the amazing thing is Wanda Beach bushcare group attracts the most volunteers of all the sites I manage. Go figure?

The broad scenery is ever changing, sometimes predictable but very occasionally magnificent.

This is what I saw as I came over the hill to Wanda Beach on the morning of the first Saturday in February. I had to take a photo.



Wanda Beach - Sabrina Thompson

Fungi and Slime!

By Polly Simmonds

A great thing about all the rain is all the fantastic different kinds of fungi you see popping up in the bush. Fungi are vital to healthy bushland, no fungi equals no bush. Fungi diversity generally correlates with plant diversity. There are thousands of different fungi species, and many plants have a particular fungus associated with them that helps them absorb nutrients from the soil. The fascinating colourful fruiting bodies we see are just the reproductive part of the fungus, with the bulk of the fungus extending as a network of hyphae threads throughout the soil, helping to bind the soil and make nutrients available to and between plants.



Chocolate Tube Slime Mould (*Stemonitis* sp.) - Polly Simmonds

Most recently I spotted what I thought was a fungus I'd never seen before. It looked like a sea anemone attached to a dead Privet trunk. Turns out it is actually *Stemonitis* sp., a plasmodial Chocolate Tube Slime Mould! It spends most of its life as a large, single-celled mass of protoplasm with thousands of nuclei, crawling through forest litter using amoeboid motion, and engulfing bits of organic matter, bacteria and fungi. When it's time to reproduce, it crawls to the surface and grows tubular fruiting bodies which turn brown from the spores that are released. *Stemonitis* are a food source for slugs.

The bush is always full of surprises.



Lawyer's Cap fungus (*Coprinus* sp.) - Polly Simmonds



Split Gill fungus (*Schizophyllum* sp.) - Polly Simmonds

Cane toad or native frog?

By Nerida Gill (Greater Sydney Local Land Services)

A new online course about 'Gateway pests' is now available for enrolment. The course provides information on the identification of common 'Gateway pests' and how to report them.

Gateway pests are also known as cargo, exotic or non-native pests, contaminating pests or stowaways. They are animals (insect, reptile, amphibian, mammal, bird or fish) or diseases that have arrived in Australia and are not native to, or established in NSW.

These pests could pose a serious threat to people, native plants and animals or agricultural goods. Red imported Fire Ants are an example of such pests.

To learn more about the course, please watch this short clip:
<https://youtu.be/753iCMigits>



Cane toad - Feralscan.org

Gateway refers to the points of entry in which pests, diseases and contaminants could enter Australia and NSW. These include our:

- Sea ports via imported goods in sea freight and shipping containers
- Airports via imported air freight
- Postal services via imported goods, online shopping
- Passenger terminals such as cruise line terminals, boating marinas and
- Travellers who are coming into Australia from overseas who have visited natural areas or brought home souvenirs from their travels

The Gateway Pests of NSW course comprises of the following 6 modules:

Module 1: Introduction - Terrestrial gateway pests

Module 2: Glassy winged sharpshooter, Invasive ants, Pine tree pests

Module 3: Exotic reptiles, Brown marmorated stink bug, Plane tree pests

Module 4: Khapra beetle, Tomato potato psyllid, Myrtle rust, exotic mammals

Module 5: Exotic amphibians, Citrus bacterial diseases, Gypsy moth

Module 6: Introduction - Aquatic gateway pests



Peron's Tree Frog - Feralscan.org

How to Enrol

To enrol in this exciting new course, click the link to Tocal college and follow the prompts to complete your enrolment:

<https://courses.tocal.nsw.edu.au/programs/gatewaypestsnsw>

More information

For more information on this course, please visit

<https://courses.tocal.nsw.edu.au/programs/gatewaypestsnsw>

Seed Extraction

By Emma Brame

Seed collection has been very successful the past few warmer months, which is prime collection time for a majority of our local species. The Regeneration Team, Bushcare Officers and Nursery Staff have all been busy collecting and have managed to fill up the seed storage cage. The seed storage cage is sorted into different family groups, (Myrtaceae, Proteaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae and other). Once seeds have been extracted, they are either sown, or sealed in foil bags and stored in the fridge at 5 degrees. Before storing the seeds, it is very important to remove any source of moisture to stop any fungal problems and inturn spoil the seeds. This is why when collecting, paper bags are used. Some seeds can be viable for many years depending on what type it is. Storing seed for future use in the fridge helps the seed to retain its viability for a much longer period. Before sowing or storing seeds, the seeds need to be extracted. Here are just a few techniques used here in the nursery.

Fruits which come in the form of woody capsules or pods such as Acacias, flowering pea species, Eucalyptus, Melaleuca and Callistemon species, are put in the sun to help the woody capsules open and release the seed. Once all the seed has been released from the capsule or pod, it is separated from the bulkier filler and other debris by running it through a sieve or the seed cleaner machine.



Extraction seeds - Emma Brame

Fleshy fruit needs to be extracted and processed within a few days of being collected to prevent the seed from spoiling. Seed that comes from fleshy fruits are sown fresh as “fresh is best” and have a much higher germination rate. Fleshy fruits can be manually extracted by picking seeds out or rubbing it against a mesh sieve to remove the flesh. This is usually done on fruits with bigger seeds such as *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, *Synoum glandulosum* and Lilly Pilly species. Another method to extract seed from fleshy fruits containing multiple smaller seeds or fruit with more flesh, like berries, is using water. Fruit is soaked overnight or until flesh has softened up enough to be mashed up. Wearing gloves when mashing colourful fruit up is a must to stop skin from being stained. Mashing up soaked fruit usually causes any viable seed to sink to the bottom and the pulp to float to the top. The pulp can then be scooped out with a sieve

leaving the seed clean and ready to be sown. Some species the nursery uses this method on are *Dianella* species, *Hibbertia scandens* and *Eupomatia laurina*.

For species with papery capsules or seed heads, seed is easily extracted. Rubbing or crushing between your hands will dislodge the seed. Seed then may be required to be sorted from any debris. This technique is used on many grasses such as *Dichelachne* species, *Entolasia* species and *Microlaena stipoides*, and species such as *Pomax umbellate*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*.

Heat is another way to extract seed. The use of a flame torch on all of the *Banksia* species in the nursery except the coastal *Banksia*, is used to open up cones and release its seed. Seed will need to be sorted from filler. The filler is woody, whereas the seed is smaller with a papery wing.

SSC Community Nursery History

By Cristine Breitenbach

The Community Nursery opened on its current site in June 1973. Previously Council operated a small nursery at Sutherland Park, next to Woronora Cemetery. Based on aerial mapping photos available, this site was possibly in use from 1955.



Community Nursery site 1961

Before the nursery opened on The Boulevard, this site had a few other applications.

Photos from 1930 to 1970 show the site being used for market gardens, with a few buildings on the site. Houses surrounding the area gradually increase in number and Gymea North Public School opens with one building.



Sutherland park 1961

By 1970 the market gardens had been replaced by an open grass area and no buildings remain. The land is zoned for public recreation / Bushland in an urban area.

The first aerial photo of the nursery in operation is from 1978. There is a glasshouse and shade house in place, though not in the same locations as the ones that are in place now. Plant rows in the nursery run in an east/ west



The Fig tree- 1994

direction and take up approximately a quarter of the space that they do now.

In the photo from 1994, the Ficus in the back corner makes its first appearance, looking a lot less grand than it does now. The glasshouse and shade house can be seen they are located now, and the nursery have

been rearranged with the rows of plants now running north/ south and covering about one third of the nursery space as it is laid out now. The tube stock in the retail section is also up on the benches



Community Nursery site 1978



Community Nursery site 2010

By 2001 the cashier's office was in place but the Bushcare unit did not move to the site until 2008, when an office was installed for them.

By 2012, the nursery production area was expanded, with an extra area cleared at the top of the nursery to allow for another row of plants. In 2015 the poly tunnel was built. And that Ficus- well it just keeps getting bigger every year.



The Fig tree - 2018

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.

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)
Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda 12.30pm (S)
Columbine Close, Loftus 1:00pm (B)
Tea Tree Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (Bill)

2ND SATURDAY

Fremantle Place, Yarrawarra 8.00am (B)
Forbes Creek, Woronora 8:30am (Bill)
Freya St, Kareela 8:30am (S)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10:30am (S)
Drysdale Place Res., Kareela 1:00pm (Bill)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarra 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)
Burnum Burnum Sanct., Jannali 9.00am (S)
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)
Kingswood Road, Engadine 1.00pm (S)

2ND SUNDAY

Caravan Head Res., Oyster Bay 8:30am (B)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 8.30 (S)
Fernleigh Road Res, Caringbah 9:00am (Bill)
Forbes Creek South, Engadine 1:00pm (B)
Kareela Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (Bill)
Ingrid Rd/Anitra Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (S)

3RD SUNDAY

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

4TH SUNDAY

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

1ST MONDAY

Taren Point Shorebird, Taren Point 9.00am (S)
Brigalow Place, Engadine 1:00pm (S)

2ND MONDAY

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

3RD MONDAY

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

4TH MONDAY

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

1ST TUESDAY

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

2ND TUESDAY

Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (Bill)

3RD TUESDAY

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

4TH TUESDAY

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

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)

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



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>



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

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



Stylidium laricifolium - Emma Brame

Bushland Activity

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

Free Courses and Workshops

NATIVE PLANT ID

**Sunday 3 April
9:00am - 2:00pm**

This workshop will look at the common native plants found in many of our remnant bushland reserves with simple tips on how to identify them. It will include a field trip to a bushland reserve in the afternoon to view the studied plants in their natural habitat. Remember to bring your own water and your walking shoes.

BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP

**Saturday 9 April
8:30am - 12:30pm**

Baskets from the Bush! Join basket weaver Carmen Sandy on this half-day workshop to learn how to weave the common local native plant *Lomandra longifolia* into a mat or small basket. A renewable resource being used to make a durable article, employing ancient skills and techniques - a truly sustainable craft. You will learn that it is not called Mat Rush for nothing!

WORKING WITH WOODY WEEDS

**Saturday 21 May
8:30am - 4:00pm**

Join Bushcare on a journey to discover what to do with woody weeds. You'll learn how to turn useless privet into one of the most useful of objects - a spoon. All tools, materials and morning tea supplied.

Special Events

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

**Thursday 14 April
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. Recommended for primary school ages, parents are welcome to accompany their children on this activity. Registration is required, the race will have a staggered start over 3 time periods.

AUTUMN GATHERING

**Saturday 30 April
10:00am - 1:00pm
Hazelhurst Gallery**

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

BUSH WHACKERS

**Wednesday 29 June
9:00am - 12:00pm
Hall Drive, Menai**

Bushcare. What is it all about? If you're curious, come along to Bush Whackers at Hall Drive, Menai. Meet the whole Bushcare team. This special Bushcare event is the perfect excuse to get out and meet new people, learn about the Shire's beautiful bushland and get some exercise. All equipment, gloves and morning tea will be provided.

TO BOOK GO TO:

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

**AND SEARCH FOR
BUSHCARE EVENTS**



Panicum simile - Emma Brame

Bushwalks and Guided Nature Walks



LUCAS HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA WALK

**Thursday 12 May
9:00am - 12:00pm**

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.

CAPE BAILY WALK

**Wednesday 22 June
9:00am - 12:30pm**

This spectacular and popular guided coastal 5km walk at Kamay - Botany Bay National Park will take you around the sand dunes, heath lands and hanging swamps. You'll see great cliff top views and the Cape Baily lighthouse.

Mexican Feather Grass (*Nasella tenussima*)

By Nathan Clare

Sutherland Council are continuing to monitor and control Mexican feather grass in partnership with DPI and RMS. Mexican feather grass was spotted last year by our eagle eye invasive species officer Linda Brown at Barden Ridge and has since been found in two locations in Barden Ridge and multiple locations along Bangor Bypass. Mexican feather grass has only been found in a very few locations in NSW and is categorized as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2015, the highest priority a weed species can be given. This species can be difficult to identify so please visit the weedwise website and search for Mexican feather grass for more information and if you or someone you know live in the Barden Ridge area please keep your eyes peeled.



Mexican Feather Grass - Linda Brown

Bushcare Contact Details

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And follow the prompts

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