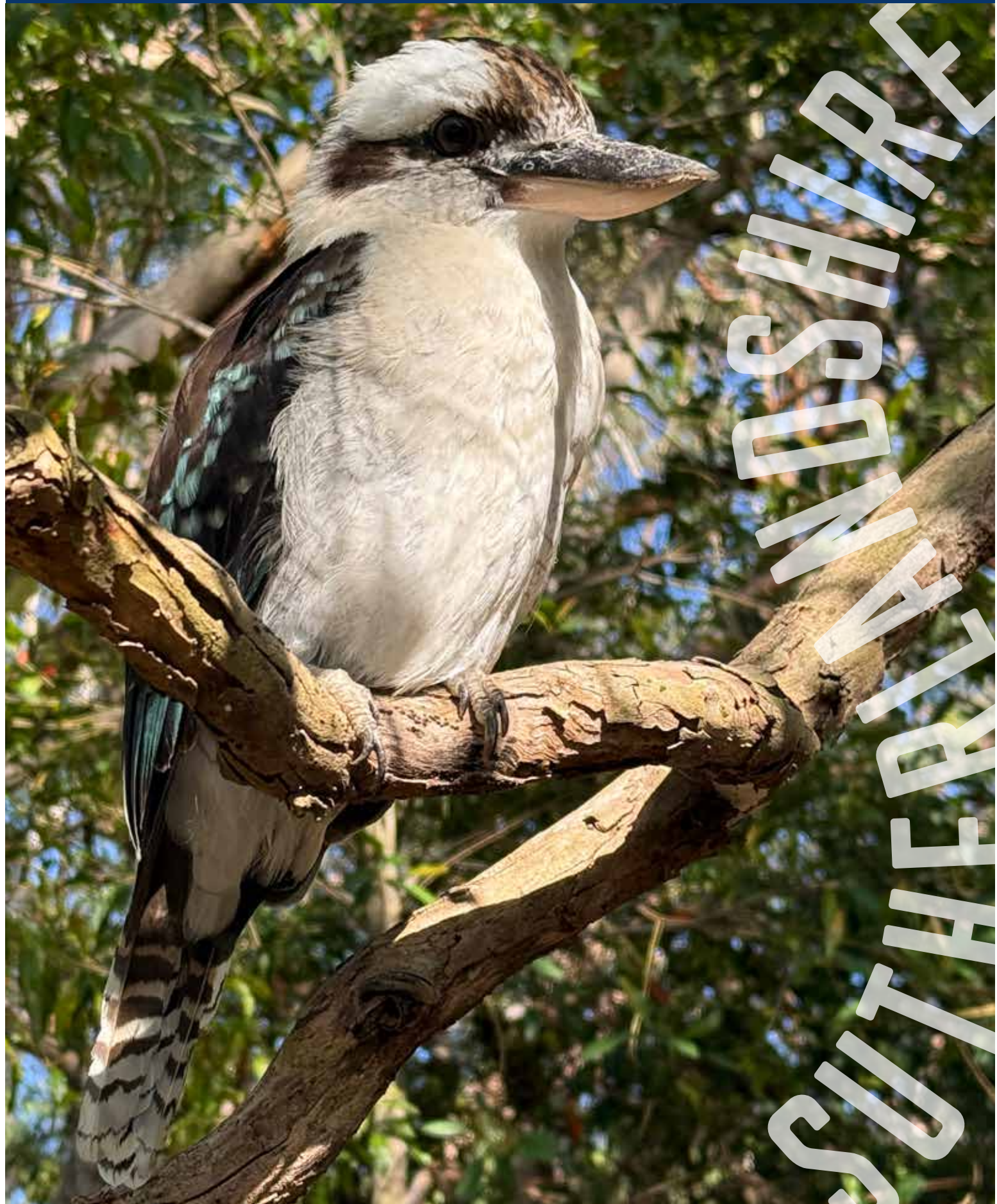


THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

APRIL 2026 - ISSUE 75



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

APRIL

8, 16 & 22	Nursery propagation
9	Spotlighting walk in Woronora
12	Introduction to Bushcare
14	Aboriginal bushfood walk
16	Scamper through the jungle
18	Nursery open day
29	Bush Whackers

MAY

13, 21 & 27	Nursery propagation
2	Bushcare Gathering
7	Spotlighting walk in Woronora
12	Aboriginal bushfood walk
23	Natural dyeing workshop Nursery open day

JUNE

10, 18 & 24	Nursery propagation
5	Coonong Creek bio blitz
9	Aboriginal bushfood walk
18	Bird spotting in the Royal
23	Cape Baily coast walk
27	Native plant ID workshop

JULY

8, 16 & 22	Nursery propagation
9	Scamper through the jungle
14	Aboriginal bushfood walk
16	Junior bird watching
23	Bangor - Menai loop walk Nursery open day
26	National Tree Day
29	Bush Whackers

Bushcare update

By Jason Salmon - Team Leader Bushcare

Almost like a broken record I'll repeat that Autumn is the best time for Bushcare. This year particularly so after a very warm and humid end to Summer.

Now is the time to plant out areas where natural regeneration is compromised using our fabulous local native plants sourced from the Sutherland Shire Community Nursery. If your Bushcare site doesn't need planting why not put a few native plants in your home garden. With over 200 species to choose from there is something for every situation. Volunteers have a vital roll in producing these plants, collecting and cleaning seed, cataloguing seed resources, propagating seeds and cuttings and finally tubing up seedlings in forestry tubes. So if you didn't know where that tray of indigenous plants your friendly Bushcare officer brings along to site, now you do!

Another welcome trend of the Bushcare family is the connection with the Sutherland Shire Environmental Citizen of the Year award. Bushcare volunteer Colin Story was acknowledged for decades of environmental stewardship across the Sutherland Shire, including habitat restoration, waterway monitoring, Bushcare at Burraneer Park & Fernleigh Reserve and community engagement.

His contribution was formally recognised in NSW Parliament, and also at the Cook Community Awards highlighting the significance of his work at a state and federal level. Congratulations Colin!

The Bushcare Gathering has continued to be a very popular event on the Bushcare Calendar with the autumn gathering scheduled for Saturday 2 May 2026 at Kirrawee Library +.

We have Geoff Dorett SSC Greenweb Officer and Dan Clark from Arcane Botanica, who together will be discussing the updated natural vegetation mapping across the Shire, to meet with NSW Government Biodiversity Assessment requirements.

The second speaker Richard Dimon who will talk about how we are using genetics to help large plantings of the big scrub in northern NSW. More relevant to the local area, he will be showing us the new version of the restore and renew webtool we've just released through adapt NSW.

<https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/restore-and-renew-webtool>



Colin Storey receiving the Environmental Citizen of the year award from Sutherland Shire Mayor, Councillor Jack Boyd

Cover image - Kookaburra - Bill Howse

Sutherland Shire Council's Cane Toad Control

By Linda Brown - Invasive Species Officer

Sutherland Shire Council has a long-standing cane toad management program. A breeding population formerly in Taren Point/Caringbah was eradicated, but risk remains of them being accidentally reintroduced locally; three toads were found in Caringbah in 2022. In 2024 one cane toad was found in Miranda, one in Caringbah and one in Barden Ridge. Cane toads are listed as a "Key Threatening Process" under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Cane toads invade native animals' habitats and compete for food - they have a huge appetite and eat anything that fits in their mouth. They can poison other animals which try to eat them e.g. they are deadly to cats and dogs. Our Control Program aims to prevent them establishing in the Sutherland Shire.

Council completes regular cane toad surveys in priority areas. Additionally, we provide education and awareness of cane toads and respond to possible new cane toad sightings. This includes helping residents to identify and remove of cane toads.

What you can do:

- Check your property for toads at night focusing on damp and lit areas.
- Check water bodies such as ponds and water features for cane toad eggs:

These are laid in long chains with a bead-like appearance, often placed in double rows along the strand. In contrast, all Australian frogs lay eggs in clumps or spreading mats, not chains; chains can get tangled in underwater vegetation, so look clumped together - use a stick or rake to pick them up and the strands will hang down so you can tell they're not clumped.

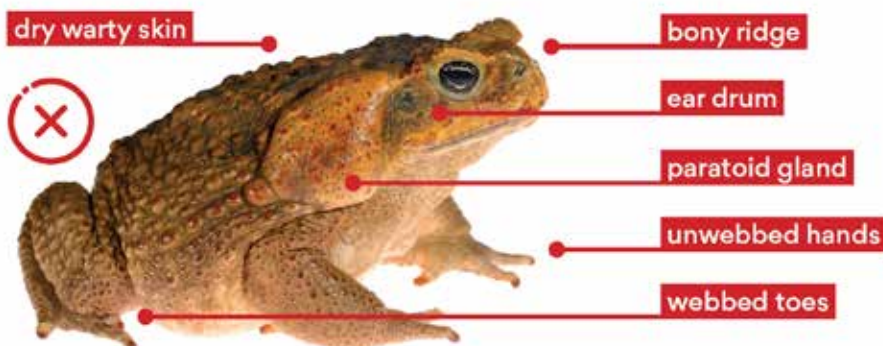
- In warmer months listen for cane toad calls. Download the Australian Museum's Frog ID app and listen to frog calls and record calls to identify
- Check materials sourced from cane toad-infested area (currently most of QLD, west through northern NT to the Kimberley region in WA, and mid north coast NSW). Toads are commonly found hiding in landscaping supplies such as mulch or plants.
- Check campervans, trailers, cars and boats if you visited a cane toad infested areas

If you see a cane toad:

- DO NOT KILL IT, there are numerous native frog species in the area that can be confused with Cane Toads. Instead contact the Invasive Species team for identification.

Frog or Toad?

Unlike native frogs, adult cane toads have all of these features:



- Wear protective gloves and eyewear, catch it and put it in a box with a small amount of water and plenty of air holes or place a bucket over it with a rock on top to prevent it escaping. If you are uncomfortable catching the toad take a photo and contact the Invasive Species Team immediately.

- Contact the Invasive Species Team immediately under 9524 5672 option 3 Invasive Species or NSW DPI Biosecurity through its helpline on 1800 680 244

Doryanthes excelsa aka Gymea Lily

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

After the nursery had some *Doryanthes excelsa*, (Gymea lily) seed stalks come in, some of the nursery volunteers were very curious about what these big spiky looking things were. Once they learnt it was an old Gymea lily flower stalk that had set seed they were very interested about the seed. They had many questions about the different stages of processing the seed and I thought others may be interested in hearing this as well.

Most volunteers and residents would know the Gymea lily as it one of the Shires most recognisable plants. It is a slow growing clumping plant, 2-3 meters high, with strappy long fibrous leaves (almost sword like leaves) and a striking red flower on a tall stalk, 3-4 metre tall. Gymea lilies can be seen on a multitude of Bushcare sites and reserves, such as Savilles Creek Kirrawee, Coonong Creek, Gymea, Ferntree Gully Reserve, Engadine and Prince Edward Park, Woronora. Most of these sites are open forest with deep enriched, sandy soil and dappled sun light. Gymea lilies are great bird attractors. They also make excellent feature plants in a garden situation.

Gymea lilies can take a very long time to flower... in fact years. If you're lucky, stems will start to emerge in summer, followed by flowers from October to November. Notably this species will flower under stress much earlier than it would normally and can often be seen



Doryanthes excelsa seed
- Emma Brame

flowering in random garden situation where it has been neglected, or even in median strips surviving with only rainwater and most definitely very poor soil conditions. After flowering it the fruit will ripen with seed inside, usually around December-February.

Collecting seed from this species can be tricky and awkward with its tall stalk and even more trickier competing with the cockatoos. Cockatoos are very good indicator for seed being ready to collect for several species, such as Grevilleas, Hakeas and Banksia. If they are eating it, the seed is generally ripe and ready for collection. On occasions when collecting, nets have been used to stop the cockatoos from eating the ripe seed.

The seed are in big, woody capsules and are filled with numerous flattened seeds. When the fruit is collected, the woody capsules should ideally still be closed or just starting to open. The long stalk is cut off at the base rather than at the top where the seed capsules are. This helps to develop any unripened seed further. The stalks are then brought into the nursery where the seed capsule end is placed into a big bag or bucket and left out in the sun where the heat from the sun will naturally open the woody capsules, releasing the seeds.

Once seed has been processed and cleaned it needs to be sown fresh as the seed contain too much moisture and would rot if stored. They are easily grown from seed and sown using a 50:50 mix of perlite and vermiculite. Once sown, they are placed in the poly tunnel with ideal growing conditions and can take up to 8 weeks to germinate. The freshly germinated Gymea lily is then tubed up and placed in the shade house before going out into full weather conditions.



Doryanthes excelsa flower
- Emma Brame

Behind the Dunes: Meet the Plant That Keeps Our Beaches Standing

By Germán Francia - Coordinator Nursery and Operations

If you've walked along our beaches on a windy day, you've probably seen those fluffy "tumbleweed" seed heads rolling along the sand, or the silvery, low grass creeping across the foredunes. That's *Spinifex sericeus* – beach spinifex – and it's one of the quiet heroes holding our coastline together.

Why dunes need spinifex

Spinifex sericeus is a hardy coastal grass that grows in dense clumps and sends out long runners (stolons) that can travel several metres over the sand. These runners knit together to form a living net that traps wind-blown sand.

Along much of eastern and southern Australia, including New South Wales, spinifex acts as a primary coloniser and binder on the seaward face of the foredune – the first line of defence between the ocean and everything behind it.

Spinifex sericeus usually sits right at the front of foredunes, where salt spray, strong winds and occasional erosion are part of everyday life. It doesn't compete well in more stable, heavily vegetated dune systems, so if we lose it, we lose that specialist "front-line engineer" that builds and repairs the dune itself.

Healthy spinifex dunes:

- Protect infrastructure and homes by absorbing wave energy during storms
- Provide habitat for invertebrates, shorebirds and reptiles that use the dune system
- Buffer sea-level rise and erosion by holding the dune together.

Life on a moving dune

Because spinifex lives on such a dynamic part of the beach, it has some clever tricks to survive. Research has shown that it often puts more biomass below ground than above, especially on the crest of actively building dunes. Those deep, spreading roots and rhizomes anchor the plant while the sand surface shifts around it.

Cracking the spinifex code at the nursery

Over the past few months, the Nursery Team has been on a mission to "crack the code" of *Spinifex sericeus* propagation so we can support upcoming coastal restoration projects.

If you've visited the nursery lately, you might have seen experimental blocks of spinifex labelled with different codes – that's us trying out combinations of seed lines, cutting types, mixes, pot sizes and nutrition.

All of this tinkering has a clear goal: with help from our wonderful volunteers, we're building up numbers for at least 20,000 *Spinifex sericeus* plants to plant out this autumn.



Spinifex sericeus - Germán Francia

Autumn is a great planting window for coastal work – the worst of the summer heat has passed, the sand still holds a bit of warmth, and reliable rain helps young plants establish before they face their first big summer on the dune.

The aim is that when these plants reach the beach, they'll already be tough, well-rooted and ready to get to work, trapping sand and rebuilding that important foredune structure.

If you're keen to get involved in spinifex propagation or coastal planting days, keep an eye on the Bushcare Bulletin and the events page, or have a chat with the Bushcare Team – we'd love to have you on board.

Wattleseed – A Traditional and Modern Bush Food

By Cristine Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader



Acacia seeds - Bill Howse

Wattles (*Acacia* species) grow widely across Australia, from open forests to arid inland zones. For thousands of years, wattleseed was a staple food for Aboriginal peoples, providing a valuable source of nutrition, particularly in times of drought.

There are over 1,200 *Acacia* species in Australia (with more than 120 traditionally used for food), although not all species are edible. Seeds are produced in pods and are also an important food source for native birds and insects.

Traditionally the seeds were typically collected from mature pods, crushed between flat grinding stones and ground into flour. This was then mixed with water and cooked as cakes or damper.

In some species, green seeds were eaten after roasting in hot coals, although they can be bitter. Ripe seeds could also be roasted before grinding to enhance flavour and improve storage.

The hard seed coat of many *Acacia* species allows the seed to be stored for long periods — an important feature in arid environments.

Beyond food, various parts of the plant — including gum, flowers, leaves and bark — were used in traditional bush medicine to treat diarrhoea, coughs, burns, blisters, eczema and general illness.

Apart from being widespread and accessible, wattleseed is also highly nutritious, containing 18–25% protein, is high in complex carbohydrates and contains over 30% dietary fibre.

The seeds contain potassium, calcium, iron and zinc and are rich in many vitamins (though generally low in vitamin C, B12 and riboflavin). Another benefit of consuming the seeds is their low glycaemic index, providing a steady energy release.

Wattleseed flavour is often described as similar to roasted coffee with notes of chocolate and hazelnut.

In recent years, wattleseed flour has gained popularity within Australia's bushfood industry. It is valued for its distinctive flavour and relatively low toxicity in selected species. Today it is used in damper and bread, biscuits, cakes and brownies, granola, ice cream and dairy desserts, chocolate, coffee and even espresso martinis. In other words, enhancing all my favourite food groups.

Several species have been studied or used for commercial production, including:

Acacia victoriae (Gundabluey or Elegant Wattle) – the most widely used commercially

Acacia murrayana

Acacia colei

Acacia coriacea (Wiry Wattle)

Acacia ampliceps

Acacia stenophylla

Acacia acuminata

Acacia longifolia (also known as *A. sophorae*)

Acacia retinodes

Acacia pycnantha

Acacia fimbriata (Brisbane Wattle).

Acacia victoriae is particularly popular because it is widespread, fast growing and produces relatively large seeds; however, it can be prickly, making harvesting more difficult, and seed crops can be unreliable in some years.

Wattles are not only ecologically important in our landscapes — stabilising soils, providing habitat and supporting wildlife — but they also represent a rich cultural and nutritional resource that continues to find a place in modern Australian cuisine.

Kids in Council

By Nathan Clare - Coordinator Bushland

Since 2024 the Nursery and Bushland Team have partnered with the Department of Education to provide work experience opportunities for local students with disabilities as part of a program called Kids in Council. The students complete one full work day per week for an entire school term and help out in the nursery, Bushcare groups, bush regeneration sites and Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve. The program is designed to assist students with disabilities who are getting ready to transition from school into the workplace to gain some valuable workplace experience, build up a resume and see if a career in the horticulture field is for them.

We have hosted seven students so far with great results and a few students even going on to jobs in the horticulture field soon after. This program would not be possible without the support and commitment from our amazing nursery and bushland staff who share their time and knowledge wholeheartedly to provide these opportunities. Their ongoing support of the program is so appreciated by all our participants and their parents.

With term two right around the corner we are excited to have a new student onboard soon!

Nursery News

By Germán Francia - Coordinator Nursery and Operations

We're excited to be trialling expanded public access at the Council Community Nursery, giving our community more opportunities to visit, connect, and take home local native plants.

As part of this pilot program, the nursery will be open to the public on the following Saturdays: 28 March, 18 April, and 23 May. The nursery will then close the following Mondays (30 March, 20 April and 25 May).



Visitors will be able to explore the nursery, purchase a range of locally grown native plants, and learn more about the work we do to support bushland regeneration across the Shire.

The pilot will pause over winter and is planned to resume in late August.

We look forward to welcoming you and hearing your feedback as we explore new ways to connect with our community.

Dharawal Country

By Graham Avery - Aboriginal Heritage Officer

In the 19th century, various Dharawal clan groups lived throughout the sandstone country extending from the Georges River to the Shoalhaven River. They also made use of the shale-sandstone transition zones and the basalt-granite country as sources of stone suitable for axe making. These materials were traded among Dharawal clans living in the sandstone regions, who used both ground-edged and knapped stone axes.

Below is an explanation of each of the Dharawal clan groups and their respective localities in more detail.

The name Dharawal is derived from Thirroul, meaning cabbage palm (*Livistona australis*). The Dharawal people traditionally ate the heart of this palm, which, when cooked, tastes like cabbage.

Gweagal People (Gwea is a traditional name of Kurnell)

The Gweagal people are well known for their first contact with the British during the voyage of the Endeavour, led by James Cook (1728-1779) and accompanied by Joseph Banks (1743-1820), on 28 April 1770 on the east coast of Australia. Their territory extended from Kurnell to Miranda and Cronulla. The vegetation communities they lived in included upland freshwater swamps, littoral rainforest, heathland, scribbly gum forest, and turpentine-ironbark forest.

In 1792, William Dawes (1762-1836), who arrived with the First Fleet, recorded the word “Gwíagals / Gwíagalians” in his notebooks. The term was also noted by David Collins (1756-1810) and John Hunter (1737-1821).

Today, the descendants of the Gweagal people are members of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. They manage the Tabagai Conservation Area in Kurnell, which is operated by the Gamay Rangers, and they run the Dharawal language program at the Gujaga Foundation.

The famous Gweagal spears were returned to Aboriginal land from England and will be restored at the new Kamay National Park Visitor Centre. There will be education rooms for the Gujaga Foundation and Dharawal education staff at the Kurnell Environmental Education Centre, where they will teach their perspectives on the Gweagal history of Kurnell. The Gweagal spears were made from the dead flowering stalks of the xanthorrhoea plant, also known as grasstree.

Norongerragal People (Norongerrung is a traditional name of Heathcote)

The Norongerragal people's territory extended from Holsworthy to Miranda and south to Appin, where it bordered the territories of two Dharawal clan groups: the Burria-Bong Bong people and the Wodi Wodi people. The Norongerragal were sometimes referred to as the “Cowpastures tribe,” a name given by early colonists in reference to the Cowpastures region, which at that time included areas such as Lucas Heights and Holsworthy.

One of the Dharawal men who may have been part of the Norongerragal clan group was King David of Woronora, along with Bundle (also known as Cuddleban, Bundell, or Bundal). Because the names of most Norongerragal women were not recorded in historical sources, it is difficult to identify the descendants of the Norongerragal apical ancestors today. In 1815, however, Bundle/Bundell worked as a tracker for Charles Throsby, guiding cattle from Appin to the Five Islands on Dharawal Country. Gogi was another Dharawal man from the Norongerragal clan group; he was given a king plate by Governor Macquarie in 1816.

The Norongerragal people were massacred at Appin on 17 April 1816 by the British military, and another massacre of Norongerragal people occurred at the Woronora River in the 1840s, carried out by stockmen. In 1843, Thomas Mitchell surveyed and oversaw the construction of the Old Illawarra Road from Lugarno across Norongerragal Country, connecting through to the land of the Wodi Wodi people at Five Islands (Wollongong).

Today, there may still be descendants of the Norongerragal people living in Liverpool or on the south coast of New South Wales.

Tagary People (Tagary is a traditional name of Royal National Park)

The name Tagary is also recorded as Tagara and Tagarai. Tagary means “north” and refers to the people who lived across the region extending from today's Royal National Park to Helensburgh and

Albion Park, meeting with the Wodi Wodi people around Wollongong.

The Tagary occupied a landscape rich in diverse vegetation communities and left behind numerous examples of rock art, including the well-known Jibbon engravings near Bundeena in Royal National Park. The Bundeena littoral rainforest provided an abundance of bush foods for the Tagary people, and the surrounding waters and country offered plentiful resources such as fish and wallabies. They also camped around Spring Gully beside fresh water and lived in shelters in the surrounding area.

Archaeological evidence demonstrates long and continuous occupation. Tagary ancestors camped at the Curracurrang rock shelters, which have been dated to around 8,000 years ago—before sea levels stabilised at their present height.

Today, Gweagal descendants through the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council manage custodianship of several cultural heritage sites. However, the Royal National Park is now within the South Coast People Native Title claim area, meaning that descendants of Dharawal apical ancestors have a recognised voice in cultural and heritage matters and continue to demonstrate ongoing cultural practice and connection to Country.

There is currently no known information identifying the direct descendants of the Tagary ancestors. It is possible that Tagary people moved into the Gweagal and Wodi Wodi clans and later lived in emerging colonial towns and Aboriginal reserves.

Wodi Wodi People

The Dharawal language was first recorded by William Macarthur in 1854, by Andrew Mackenzie in 1875, William Ridley in the 1870s, Edward Curr, and R.H. Mathews in 1900s including Mary Everitt. Ridley interviewed a Wodi Wodi woman named Lizzie Malone-Golden and a Gweagal man named John Malone. The 1850s and 1870s mark the period when the Dharawal language began to be written down. It was later revived and promoted from the 1980s onward, with significant contemporary work being led by the Gujaga Foundation from 2019. The Wodi Wodi language is a pure Dharawal language without any mixture words from Dharug (Eora), Gundungurra, and Dhurga. Dhurga is the closest language relatives to the Dharawal.

Wodi Wodi people lived around Wollongong to Crooked River meeting up with the people of Cullunghutti or Jerrinja.

Burria People or Bong Bong People

The Burrier-Bong Bong tribal people lived across the area from Berrima to Broughton Creek near Berry, where they met with the people of Cullunghutti (Jerrinja). Their Country extended north toward Appin, where they met the Norongerragal people of Holsworthy and Menai, and eastward they met the Wodi Wodi people in Jamberoo. They were sometimes known as Kangaroo Valley tribe, Berrima tribe, or Burrier tribe.

The colonists referred to a Dharawal group living between Kangaroo Valley and Sutton Forest, near Mittagong, as the Burrier tribal people, or interchangeably as the Bong Bong tribal people. The Burrier-Bong Bong people spoke Dharawal and provided Dharawal plant names recorded in William Macarthur's notes.

Dharawal Place Names

Cambewarra – burning hill by bushfire or a place of campfire by Dharawal people, ganbi 'fire'.

Cronulla, Kurranulla, Korrongulla – place of upland swamps (wetland), bays and reeds.

Deeban – a traditional name of Port Hacking.

Gunnamatta – place of black swans 'gunna' and -matta 'water place of'.

Guragurrang – name of Mill Creek or Deadman Creek, Holsworthy.

Gurrumboola – a traditional name of Hacking River.

Gwea – a traditional name of Kurnell.

Mittagong – place of dingos, mirragang 'dingo', some say mirragang is dog and warragul is dingo.

Minnamurra – plenty of fish, murrumurra

Nowra – place of cockatoos, nowra in Dharawal 'black cockatoo'

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)
Freya St, Kareela 8.30am (ST)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10.30am (ST)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarra 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)
Various reserves, Maianbar 1.30pm (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 9.00am (ST)
Dawson Place, Menai 1.00pm (BH)
Grays Point Reserve 1.00pm (GL)
Buckinbah Place Reserve, Lilli Pilli 1.00pm (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)
Brigalow Place, Engadine 1.00pm (ST)

2ND MONDAY

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

3RD MONDAY

Hakea Street, Yarrawarra, 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 9.00am (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)

1ST WEDNESDAY

Windy Point, Cronulla 8.30am (ST)
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)
Green Point Rd Res, Oyster Bay 9.00am (ST)
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 (ST)
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)
Kyogle Place, Grays Point 8.30am (GL)
Gunnamatta Foreshore, Cronulla 1.00pm (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

SPOTLIGHTING WALK

Thursday 9 April

Thursday 7 May

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Thorpe Road, Woronora

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

INTRO TO BUSHCARE

Sunday 12 April

8:30am - 3:00pm

Community Nursey

Discover how you can help protect and restore your local environment with our Introduction to Bushcare course! Learn the basics of bush regeneration, plant identification, safe weeding techniques, and how to care for native habitats.

ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

Tuesday 14 April

Tuesday 12 May

Tuesday 9 June

Tuesday 14 July

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.

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

Thursday 16 April and

Thursday 9 July

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.

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 29 April

9:00am - 12:00pm

Drysdale Reserve

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

BUSHCARE GATHERING

Saturday 2 May

10:00am - 1:00pm

Kirrawee Library +

Join us at the Bushcare Gathering — a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Bushcare groups, hear inspiring talks from guest speakers, and enjoy a delicious light lunch together.

DYEING WORKSHOP

Saturday 23 May

9:00am - 3:00pm

Learn the basics of natural dyeing using a range of plant materials, including some seasonal weeds. We will cover mordanting and other treatments to help the fibres retain their colour; making basic dye baths and decorative techniques.

COONONG CREEK BIO BLITZ

Friday 5 June

9:00am - 12:00pm

Old School Park

Join us at Coonong Creek for a hands-on Critter Hunt and iNaturalist demo. Discover local wildlife, learn how to record species using iNaturalist, and contribute to community conservation.

BIRD SPOTTING IN THE ROYAL

Thursday 18 June

8:00am - 11:30am

Lady Carrington Drive

Join Bushcare and bird expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a guided bird spotting and walk through various parks and reserves.

CAPE BAILY COAST WALK

Tuesday 23 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.

NATIVE PLANT ID

Saturday 27 June

9:00am - 3:00pm

This workshop, with Dan Clarke, will look at the common native plants found in many of our remnant bushland reserves with simple tips on how to identify them.

JUNIOR BIRDING

Thursday 16 July

9:00am - 10:30am

Join Bushcare and bird expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a special school holiday event aimed at introducing children to bird spotting and nature.

BANGOR TO MENAI LOOP WALK

Thursday 23 July

9:00am - 12:00pm

Join us for a scenic bushwalk from Bangor to Menai, exploring local bushland, spotting native wildlife and learning about the area's natural environment along the way. This guided walk is suitable for all experience levels and offers a great opportunity to connect with nature and the community.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 26 July

8:30am - 12:30pm Bonna Point, Kurnell

9:00am-12:00pm Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda

1:00pm - 3:00pm Banksia Reserve, Engadine

There's no doubt this is one of Australia's longest running environmental programs and participation is available to all. Registration is required.

Senegal tea - another aquatic weed

By Chad Davison

If you have ever been to Audley and noticed an aquatic plant growing along the banks, then it was most likely *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* (Senegal tea). Recently, the Invasive Species Team, working with NPWS, has been focusing on reducing the Senegal tea growing at Audley which is the only known location in our LGA. Senegal tea can be an aggressive water plant; it can be up to 2.5 m high and usually grows on the edges of water bodies but can form large rafts on the surface if left unchecked. It can spread by seed and by stem fragments and even leaf fragments if the midrib is present.

For further information NSW Weedwise is an excellent publication and If you think you have seen this plant in The Shire, or any other aquatic weed that looks suspicious, please contact the Invasive Species Team on 95245672.



Gymnocoronis spilanthoides-
Linda Brown

Bushcare Contact Details

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And follow the prompts

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