

W I F BUSHCARE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2026 - ISSUE 77



SUTHERLAND SHIRE

Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

OCTOBER

14, 15 & 28 Nursery propagation

6 Spotlighting at Greenhills

8 Scamper through the jungle

13 Aboriginal bushfood walk

22 LHCA bird walk

24 Bushcare Gathering

NOVEMBER

11, 19 & 25 Nursery propagation

3 Seed collecting - LHCA

10 Aboriginal bushfood walk

12 Seed collecting - Tudar Rd

17 Spotlighting at Greenhills

17 Seed collecting - Viburnum Rd

23 Seed collecting - Moon Bay

26 Seed collecting - Coolgardie Pl

DECEMBER

9 & 17 Nursery propagation

3 Seed collecting - Cranberry St

13 Bushcare BBQ

15 Spotlighting at Greenhills

Cover image - Sun through leaves
- Emma Brame

Bushcare update

By Jason Salmon - Team Leader Bushcare

A highlight for me over the past few months has been seeing more than 45,000 native plants established across the Shire through the efforts of our community and contractors. From a mass planting in the dunes at Wanda Beach, multiple National Tree Day sites and a Greenfleet planting at Lucas Heights in August. Amazingly most of these plants have been propagated by the SSC Community Nursery at Gynea.

Seed is what we use to propagate over 200 species at the nursery and this availability of such a diversity of plants ensures the success of our assisted natural regeneration methodology. We have a number of seed collecting sessions at various reserves across The Shire from October through to December check out the activities page at the back end of this issue.

Some sad news to share is the passing of long-time Bushcare volunteer Louise Broadhead. Bradley van Luyt has prepared a tribute to acknowledge Louise's significant contribution to Bushcare and the broader community.

I am very pleased to announce, that the Bushcare Program now has the full complement of Bushcare Officers and we extend a very warm welcome to our new Bushcare Officer, Sandra Conceicao. Sandra will be taking on Sabrina's program and picking up a few other groups as well. Please keep an eye out for Sandra and do say hello.

Don't forget to book into the Spring Bushcare Gathering at Kirrawee Library+ on Saturday 24 October. I am very excited to say that we have the ever popular Dr Thomas Mesaglio returning and Botanist, Dr Russell Barrett, from the Royal Botanic Gardens. Both speakers will be focusing on local botany and there will also be a delicious lunch for the attendees. Enjoy the bulletin!

Meet Sandra

By Sandra Conceicao - Bushcare Officer

Hello I'm Sandra, and I'm very pleased to introduce myself as the newest member of The Bushcare Team.

I have been working with our Bush Regeneration Team for over a year, initially assisting with the volunteers when called upon. During that time, I've developed a real appreciation for all the important work our volunteers do to protect and restore our local bushland. I am now very excited to have been given the opportunity to manage my very own sites and work alongside a wonderful group of volunteers who share the same dedication and passion for caring for beautiful natural environment.

I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone, learning from our very experienced team and helping to make a difference to the bushland we all value.



Sandra - Bill Howse

What's the Point?

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

Greenpoint! That's the point.

Greenpoint Reserve is on a little peninsula (a peninsulette perhaps?) at Oyster Bay. It's a rocky tree covered hill of just under a hectare of Coastal Enriched Sandstone Dry Forest. North facing, just downstream of Como Bridge, it has a beautiful view out over the Georges River. It's an out of the way kind of place and very quiet. Terrible place to work...

The site is probably blue on the National Trust Weed Map. Pretty good condition, at about 80% native coverage. Main weeds are asparagus fern, Polygala, some Mother of Millions (ugh!!!) and a bit of Pavonia too. And, of course, there is erharta. Lots of big trees despite its proximity to houses and water views. The site is bisected by a rough track that takes us all the way down to the water. It was cleared down there many years ago and makes a great spot for a picnic. Around the edges there is a stand of *Casuarina glauca* as remnant Estuarine Swamp Oak Forest and where the Georges River gently laps there is a band of Mangrove and small patches of salt marsh.

It seems greener today than it was in years past. Aerial photos from early 1930s show clearing and by the 1950's and '60's show it almost bare. Years go by and much of the greenery had come back but it got a bit weedy. Weedy sites attract the attention of Bushcare. We've had an on and off Bushcare presence on this site since Dick Rogers' days (late 1990s). I recall Dick working with Del and waging terrible war on the Asparagus fern down there. Dick and Del are both gone but the asparagus lives on. Such a great weed. Will keep us in work forever!

And work we have! After Dick, Dayna worked on the site and Bill too, then, I got the site. I then swapped with Sabrina and she had it for many years and has left it in a much improved state. Now, with Sabrina's retirement I am back at Greenpoint (and still at Bundeena, the best of both worlds!). Unfortunately a change in workday meant a change in volunteer numbers but even with my much reduced crew we are still giving it a red-hot go. No storm water problem means a more manageable site. It has its weed problems but not like some of our storm water/creek sites. The Asparagus is very satisfying to remove as are the small woody weeds like the Polygala. Erharta and to a lesser extent trad are fiddly and a pain in amongst the natives but we muddle through like we always do. A bit of judicious spraying and some welcome help from Chris and the Regen Team really makes a difference.

It's nice to be back at Greenpoint. Some good bush, some very satisfying weeds and a great view. Sabrina has left me with a nice little site. Don't tell anyone it's fun or they'll take it off us!!

If you would like to join the fun at Greenpoint I'm down there taking in the view on the first Wednesday of the month from 9 am. Don't forget to bring your mug for a chat and a well earned break!



A Burning Success

By Nathan Clare - Coordinator Bushland

I was recently walking in the Illawarra escarpment near my new home and I was wondering aloud to my wife and son why the bushland on one side of the track had so many more native flowering plants and such noticeably higher diversity than the other side of the track. I suspected one side had been burnt more recently than the other and that the track had been used as a containment line. After checking the fire history on the RFS system it turned out to be the case and was such a nice reminder of the important role fire plays in our landscape and the life it can breathe back into our native bushland when done properly.



Thanks to Fire Rescue NSW for completing the prescribed burn on behalf of council
- Nathan Clare



Acacia pubescens
- Nathan Clare

My walk coincided with the 12-month mark of completing a prescribed burn at a small council reserve in Menai which contains Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) and one of the only populations of the vulnerable Downy Wattle (*Acacia pubescens*) in the Sutherland Shire. The reserve had not been burnt in over 20 years and was listed on the Sutherland Bush Fire Risk Management Plan to be burnt to reduce the risk of uncontrolled bushfire to surrounding properties.

Given the presence of the vulnerable Downy Wattle on site, careful consideration had to be given to whether this area should be burnt and how it should be burnt. After consulting with the available literature, research and specialist ecologists, it was identified that the Downy Wattle requires a minimum burn free period of 5-7 years to build up an adequate seed bank.

This confirmed our suspicions that the lack of fire for this extended period (over 20 years) was actually presenting more of a risk to the survival of the Downy Wattle than completing the burn. This is due to the important role fire plays in the acacia life cycle, encouraging germination of seeds in the soil as well as recruitment for this particular species through new growth from suckering roots.

Once the environmental assessment is completed, Council works closely with Fire Rescue NSW and the Rural Fire Service to complete our prescribed burns. For this particular burn Fire Rescue were on the scene and after an operational brief from Fire Rescue and an environmental brief from myself it was time to ignite the burn. The burn went off without a hitch with a nice, low intensity, steady flame height moving across the reserve and was all done in a few hours.

The care and consideration for the environmental aspect of this burn from Fire Rescue was sensational. For an agency who's primary concern in this situation is completing burns safely and reducing risk to surrounding residents, their willingness and keen interest to operate in a way to improve the environmental outcomes of the burn was very much appreciated. Another example of how prescribed burning, when carefully considered, can achieve both

environmental and safety outcomes simultaneously.

Now returning again to the site a year on to continue my post burn monitoring its fantastic to see the high number of *Acacia pubescens* sprouting al throughout the reserve and amazing to see the regeneration of native plants within a year of being burnt. Of course the weeds are coming back to and are a bit more prevalent than most post burn sites due to the small size of the reserve and the long edge area amplifying the “edge effect” of weed invasion.

In order to protect the small and sensitive native seedlings that are regenerating we don’t work in the site too early to avoid damaging them. However the plants have now reached a stage where they can be easily identified and the site weeded without the risk of causing harm to native regeneration so we will now be completing some weed control to give this site a hand in its recovery.



What makes a wattle weedy?

By Cristine Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader

Plant identification is a big part of our role at the nursery. As a community nursery, we're not only here to provide access to local native plants, but also to share knowledge, advice and education with our customers and the wider community.

On most days, we're asked to identify plants, insects and weeds — sometimes from a photograph, sometimes from a sample, and, on a bad day, from nothing more than a description!

This is particularly important when it comes to wattles. With so many species, and with some wattles having the potential to become weeds outside their natural range, being able to distinguish between our local native species and weedy non local wattles is an important skill for anyone interested in protecting our local environment.

A common definition of a weed is simply a plant growing out of place. In our local bushland and remnant vegetation, plants that are commonly used in gardens can sometimes become a problem when they establish outside their natural range.

Wattles are a good example. Many species are colonisers — they grow quickly, reach reproductive maturity early, and can produce large quantities of seed. While these characteristics are valuable for species regenerating naturally in their own environment, non-local wattles have the potential to interfere with the natural regeneration of local native plants.

Once established, they can spread further into bushland, shade out existing vegetation and reduce the diversity of species within a site by competing with and crowding out other seedlings.

When planting near bushland, choosing local native species grown from locally collected seed is one of the simplest ways we can help protect and support our local plant communities.

The three most prominent non local wattles we come across are-

Queensland Silver Wattle — *Acacia podalyriifolia*

Natural distribution: South-eastern Queensland.

Description: A tall shrub or small tree growing to around 5 metres. It has distinctive silvery-grey foliage and produces rounded clusters of golden-yellow flowers in late winter and early spring.

Cootamundra Wattle — *Acacia baileyana*

Natural distribution: Central and South Western Slopes of New South Wales.

Description: A small tree growing from approximately 3–10 metres tall. It produces bright yellow, globular flower clusters from late winter through spring. Several forms are cultivated, including 'Purpurea', which has attractive purplish new growth, and a low-growing, prostrate or spreading form.



Fringed Wattle — *Acacia fimbriata*

Natural distribution: Coastal and tableland areas of New South Wales, extending from around Bega in the south to Queensland in the north.

Description: A shrub or small tree growing to around 6 metres tall. It produces masses of pale yellow, fragrant, globular flower heads in late winter and spring, with each flower head containing numerous small flowers.

When choosing plants for your garden, Australian native plants should be your go-to. However, choosing local native species can provide even greater benefits, including greater success, increased biodiversity, and a reduced impact on surrounding natural bushland.

The Sutherland Shire is home to a wonderful diversity of locally native wattles, each suited to particular soils, habitats and growing conditions. Choosing a local species helps support the plant communities that naturally occur in our area and provides food and habitat for local wildlife.

Some wattles suitable for local planting include:

Acacia linifolia (flax-leaved wattle), *A. longifolia* (Sydney golden wattle), *A. myrtifolia* (myrtle wattle), *A. suaveolens* (scented wattle), *A. terminalis* (sunshine wattle), *A. ulicifolia* (prickly Moses).

Moss and liverwort control

By Germán Francia - Coordinator Nursery and Operations



Liverworts are among the most ancient land plants on Earth. Their ancestors were some of the earliest plants to colonise the land more than 400 million years ago. Along with mosses, they belong to a group of small, non-vascular plants known as bryophytes.

They are fascinating organisms. But in the nursery, they can become a serious nuisance. They compete for nutrients, and harbour fungus gnat larvae - tiny little maggots that feed on organic matter including root hairs. In large numbers, they can debilitate the plant we are trying to grow. Once established, bryophytes form dense mats that are difficult and extremely time-consuming to remove.

We recently trialled a simple trick: applying smoke extract to affected pots and the ground beneath the benches. Smoke extract can seriously damage the plants, so a careful application and 'rinse off' technique is needed.

Smoke extract is normally used in native plant propagation because it can temporarily lower pH, promotes soil activity, and contains germination-promoting compounds produced by burning vegetation.

It works beautifully: complete elimination of surface moss and liverwort, with no visible damage to the nursery plants. The difficult job of manually scarping pots was greatly reduced.

I should add that I actually love mosses and liverworts. They are beautiful, ecologically important and extraordinarily resilient life forms, with an evolutionary history that long

predates flowering plants. They help retain moisture, stabilise soil surfaces and create micro habitats for other organisms.

But in an artificial setting, while our plants are growing in the nursery, we need to keep these ancient little colonisers off the pots and out from under the benches - at least until the plants leave our care.



Fungus gnat larvae - Germán Francia

Fruits and their seeds

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

There are many different fruit types when it comes to our Australian native plants, and they can range in many different forms and shapes. Recognising the different fruit types can be very useful when identifying plants and knowing what to look for when collecting. Even more importantly, knowing what the seed itself looks like amongst the fleshy fruit, seed casing or filler is a specialised skill that comes with experience and is valuable when collecting and processing seed. Here are just a few examples of different fruits and their seeds.

Legumes are often referred to as seed pods and are commonly found in the *Fabaceae* family, including species such as *Dillwynia retorta*, *Platylobium formosum* and *Acacia* species. They have dry fruits in different shapes and sizes that can be leathery to papery in texture. When mature, they often change from a green colour to a brown colour. The fruit split open to release its seeds, which can have a hard outer coating and an aril. Some of these seeds need to be pre-treated by soaking them in boiling water to soften the hard outer coating and allow water to penetrate the seed, helping it to germinate. In nature the hard seed coating can be gradually weathered over time. Heat from fire can also weaken the coating and help trigger germination. This is also why some seeds remain dormant in soil until conditions are more favourable for germination.

Capsules can be either woody or papery, and both usually contain numerous fine or small seed. The more common woody capsule species are *Melaleuca*, *Leptospermum* and *Callistemons*. *Eucalyptus* species and *Syncarpia glomilifera*. Papery capsules are more brittle and are found in species such as *Linum marginal*, *Bursaria spinosa*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Arthropodium* and *Stylidium* species. Some capsules open as they dry making seed collection time crucial, while others can remain closed for years and only release their seed under certain conditions like warmer weather, fire and even moisture. Moisture and humidity can trigger opening and closing of certain capsules, making seed collecting timing once again crucial and closer monitoring required for successful seed collection.

Follicles can range in sizes and shapes and can be woody or leathery. Majority of the *Proteaceae* family produce follicles including species in the Genus *Grevillea*, *Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Lomatia* and *Telopea*. They can be singular follicles, like *Hakea* species or in clusters around a woody cone like *Banksia* species. Woody follicles can usually remain on the plant for years before releasing its seed and often requires fire or extreme hot days to open. Other follicles will dry out before releasing its seed but may still require fire to trigger seed germination. In the nursery a bee smoker is used to replicate this using dry *Eucalyptus* leaves.



Banksia cone
- Emma Brame



Melaleuca seed capsules
- Emma Brame



Acacia pods
- Emma Brame

Vale Louise Broadhead

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

Bushcare was saddened recently by the passing of veteran volunteer Louise Broadhead. Louise, with her husband Geoff, was instrumental in establishing many Bushcare Groups around Loftus from the mid 1990s and on. Their generous and welcoming nature brought many new volunteers to a great number of sites that fringed Loftus. These included Spur Crescent, Chestnut St, Eugenia St, Gorse Close and - the big one - Maandowie Reserve. Louise was a great fan of Australian native plants and this was evident in her love for the bush.

I don't know exactly how many sites Louise started, managed or worked on but I was lucky enough to have her working on a couple of my Loftus sites. She joined me at Ninth Ave, Eighth Ave and sometimes she would muck in with Sue and I at Dunwell Ave.

Louise really was part of the Bushcare family and even joined a number of us from Council when we were all studying our Cert 3 at Padstow TAFE in 2003. She was one of the family and one of the team.

As well as a Bushcare vollo, Louise also volunteered at the Royal Botanic Gardens where she helped mount specimens in the herbarium, seeing some that were collected by Banks and Solander.

I always looked forward to working with Louise. She was smart, interesting, a great story teller, witty, funny and fun. I'm sure everyone reading this is waiting for me to talk about Louise's skills as a baker. Yes, she made a mean cake. Morning tea was always a major event when working with Louise. Her Continental Cake nearly killed me (I should've stopped at four pieces...) while her Lemon Drizzle Cake was similarly to die for. I recall one morning at Ninth Ave among the Bower Birds and Leeches when her voice came lilting through the bush "Morning tea...!". You beauty!, and in we came with cups in hand. The thermos was out, as was a beautiful freshly baked cake but Louise had a look of consternation on her face. What's up? "I've forgotten the icing sugar. One simply can't serve Lemon Drizzle cake without icing sugar..." I'm sure I could force it down "No, I shall have to go home", and she did. About ten minutes later she returned smiling and brandishing a shiny flour dredge full of powdered sweetness. Floof floof floof (imagine the sound of icing sugar gently snowing down on a sticky cake), and then "There, that's better. I simply couldn't serve it without it."



Louise enjoying the bush - Sue Elliott

A few years ago Louise became ill, had a couple accidents, survived lung cancer and her ability to be an active volunteer diminished, but she maintained her interest in Bushcare. She would come along now and again for a chat and a cuppa. Sometimes she even brought cake!

I was quite taken aback when I received news of Louise's death as I had spoken to her only a three days previously. Louise was a good person and great friend to many, and we will all miss her. Thanks Louise.

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 (SC)
Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda 12.30pm (SC)
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 (SC)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10.30am (SC)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarrah 1.00pm (SC)

3RD SATURDAY

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

4TH SATURDAY

Akuna Avenue Oval, Bangor 8.30am (GL)
The Esplanade, Cronulla Point 8.30am (SC)
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 (SC)
The Crescent Creek, Woronora 1.00pm (BH)
Oyster Creek Gully, Jannali 1.00pm (GL)
Kingswood Road, Engadine 1.00pm (SC)

2ND SUNDAY

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

3RD SUNDAY

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

4TH SUNDAY

Darook Park, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
The Glen Reserve, Bonnet Bay 8.30am (SC)
Savilles Creek, Kirrawee 8.30am (GL)
Banksia Res, Engadine 1.00pm (SC)
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 (SC)
Columbine Close, Loftus 1.00pm (BvL)

2ND MONDAY

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

3RD MONDAY

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

4TH MONDAY

Young Street Reserve, Sylvania 9.00am (SC)

1ST TUESDAY

Myra Creek, Loftus 8.30am (BvL)
Dunoon Place Reserve, Bangor 9.00am (BH)
Menai Conservation Park, Menai 9.00am (SC)
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 (SC)
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 (SC)
Hungry Point Res, Cronulla 12.30pm (SC)
Brigalow Place, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

1ST WEDNESDAY

Windy Point, Cronulla 8.30am (SC)
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

SPOTLIGHTING AT GREENHILLS WETLAND

Tuesday 6th October

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Tuesday 17 November

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday 15 December

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Our Invasive Species Unit will give you an insight into their Priority Weed and Pest Animal Program. Afterwards we will observe native frogs and hopefully spot some turtles and mammals as well. BYO torches please and all children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

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 13 October

Tuesday 10 November

Tuesday 8 December

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.

TO BOOK GO TO:

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

AND SEARCH FOR

BUSHCARE EVENTS

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.

BUSHCARE GATHERING

Saturday 24 October

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.

SEED COLLECTING

Tuesday 3 November

Lucas Heights Conservation Area

9:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday 12 November

Tudor Road, Bonnet Bay

9:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesday 17 November

Viburnum Road, Loftus

9:00am - 12:00pm

Monday 23 November

Moon Bay, Illawong

9:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday 26 November

Coolgaride Place, Sutherland

9:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday 3 December

Cranberry Street, Loftus

9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare for a rewarding seed-collecting adventure! Get outdoors, explore local bushland, and help collect native seeds that will be grown on at the Native Nursery and used in future restoration projects.

BUSHCARE XMAS BBQ

Sunday 13 December

Location: Oyster Bay

Community Centre

117 Como Rd, Oyster Bay.

Join us to celebrate the achievements of the year and catch up with friends. Bookings are essential for this event. An invite will be sent out to active volunteers later in the year



Triboniophorus graeffei
- Bill Howse

Boneseed Time

By Nathan Clare

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



Bushcare Contact Details

PHONE

02 9524 5672

And follow the prompts

EMAIL

bushcare@ssc.nsw.gov.au

nursery@ssc.nsw.gov.au

WEB

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

JASON

0414 193 874 (Mon-Fri)

jsalmon@ssc.nsw.gov.au

BRADLEY

0414 193 710 (Mon-Fri)

bvanluyt@ssc.nsw.gov.au

BILL

0414 193 709 (Sun-Thur)

whowse@ssc.nsw.gov.au

SANDRA

0414 193 873 (Sat-Wed)

sconceicao@ssc.nsw.gov.au

GRACE

0408 538 143 (Wed-Sun)

glonergan@ssc.nsw.gov.au



<https://www.facebook.com/sscbushcare>

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

Bushcare Bulletin
October 2026

Print Post Approved
PP297537/00150

If undelivered please return to:
Sutherland Shire Council Bushcare
Locked Bag 17, Sutherland NSW 1499

