

BUSHCARE **BULLETIN**

APRIL 2023 - ISSUE 63



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

APRIL

12, 20 & 26	Nursery propagation
13	Scamper through the jungle
28	Nursery gardening group

MAY

10, 18 & 24	Nursery propagation
12	Bonna Point planting day
17	Albert Delardes weed & walk
19	Basket weaving workshop
20	Natural dyeing workshop
21	Urban birds
22	Working with woody weeds
26	Nursery Whackers
29	Edible weeds
30	Bird spotting in the Royal
31	Bush Whackers

JUNE

8, 16 & 22	Nursery propagation
14	Cape Baily walk
24	Nursery gardening group

Cover image Bushcare volunteers - SSC Council

Bushcare Update

By Jason Salmon

Welcome to a very special edition of the Bushcare Bulletin as we mark and celebrate 30 years of the Bushcare program in Sutherland Shire.

Of course caring for the bush commenced well before this with records indicating The Glen Reserve Bonnet Bay having a 527 Committee in 1975 closely followed by Kareena Park in 1979 and Coonong Creek Bushland in 1984.

A Section 527 Community Committee would allow members of the public to care for open space reserves. This scenario was in place until 1993, when after many years of lobbying, Council agreed to set up a Bushcare Unit and employed the first Bushcare Officer, Richard Rogers in April 1993.

So to start the celebrations, in May, we are holding 30 events for 30 years of Bushcare and would love you to help us celebrate this achievement by attending one, two or all of our events!

The Bushland Unit has once again been successful in several grant applications with \$25K from the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund (CRIF) to undertake weed control works in some difficult access location on The Esplanade Cronulla. The invasive species team also received CRIF grant funding to assist with the control of deer and foxes across the Sutherland Shire.

Before we get into our Massive May, the Autumn Bushcare Gathering will be held at Hazelhurst on Saturday 29 April, we have some fabulous guest speakers lined up with more details in the Bushland Activity page

Happy 30th Birthday Bushcare!

Local Achievement Award

By Cristine Breitenbach - Nursery Teamleader

I recently had the pleasure of attending the NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards, with family and friends of Bushcare's nominee Jan Taylor. Jan was nominated by Bushcare not just for her delicious cakes and biscuits that are legendary but also for her 20 plus years of volunteering at many Bushcare sites, Joseph Banks Reserve, and nursery propagation.

The awards were presented by Mark Speakman and Mark Coure, who spoke of the value of volunteering, including being part of and supporting your local community, sharing knowledge, learning new skills and the social aspects of spending time with others who share a common sense of purpose. All of this in the beautiful parks and reserves we are lucky to have in our area.

It was lovely to see Jan acknowledged for her efforts and we all want to congratulate her on her nomination.



Red Knot survey

By Elizabeth Bulley - Senior Land Services Officer, Greater Sydney Local Land Services

We have had a very wet year and I think everyone is sick of all the rain – but now the sunshine is out and that seems a good time to go out on a boat and count some shore birds.

Clear skies except for some ominous looking clouds out to sea meant a boat trip with a difference. I had a 2 ½ hour boat trip from Hawkesbury Boat Ramp in Sylvania Waters and around three sides of the Towra Point Nature Reserve. This is somewhere I had never been before. My only association with Sylvania Waters was Noelene from the reality TV show in the early 1990s – maybe best to forget that one!

I have just started work with Local Land Services. Part of my role is managing grant funding to protect this amazing Ramsar listed wetland known as Towra Point. It is home (for part of the year) to many migratory bird species that use this area to feed and build up their fat reserves so that they can once again migrate to northern locations to breed and then do the whole thing again. An important part of the grant is to know which birds are using the area and how many throughout the year. That is where the shorebird survey by boat comes in and this was my first foray into this fascinating area. It is not as easy as it sounds though – the engine makes the boat vibrate as does the chop of the waves – this makes using binoculars to see the differences between the birds even harder. They don't make it easy for us either – they are not in their amazing breeding plumage like they are when attracting mates in the northern climes – they are a bit dowdy and brown – similar to each other in many ways (to the untrained eye).

The best indicator that I found was their beak – the biggest beak by far that I saw was the Eastern Curlew – almost ridiculously long and curved but gives them an edge over the other birds as they can burrow even deeper in the sand to get their favourite foods of crabs and molluscs. Then I could see the Whimbrel which has a similar shaped beak but its beak is much shorter which was accompanied by the Bar Tailed Godwit which had its long slightly upturned pink beak which changes to a black beak halfway along! But there was something else that I could see who did not meet any of these beak descriptions – its beak was shorter and stubbier – the bird expert Bruce on the boat confirmed it – it was a Red Knot! My first, so I can tick this off in my birdbook.

The Red Knot is not all brightly coloured, which would have helped me identify it much more easily but it is in its much more modest outfit for Australia which is brownish grey and mottled – but the beak was what got me and shows its difference to the others. They are also known for their short neck and long body with only relatively short legs (much like myself). Quite grey with a whitish tummy and a speckled throat – actually quite a pretty bird when you look at photos online that stay still and don't jump about like from a boat! They probe about in the sand eating bivalves, worms and crustaceans when feeding in Australia but when in the Arctic Tundra they eat spiders, insects and seeds. Nothing is safe! In fact there is an explosion of insects when they are there which is what the young feed on.

I feel a bit lucky to have seen them as their favourite place in Australia to hang out is in the North West of Australia and the Gulf of Carpentaria in QLD – I can't blame them....those areas are on my bucket list too! Birding hotspots indeed. This shows the importance of Towra Point Nature Reserve as a feeding ground for this rare bird to Sydney! Since they don't visit Sydney as much as other areas in Australia we need to keep their feeding grounds here from experiencing too much interference from people, dogs and other disturbances. If they are stressed and flying away from threats or predators all the time then they use up all those important fat reserves that gets them to a place like Siberia where they breed! This migration can mean they can travel up to 20,000km twice a year! They can also fly nonstop for 3 or more days. This is one of the longest total migrations of any bird – Impressive!

Sometimes it is hard to tell the Red Knot apart from the Great Knot – I found a great tool to use online – if you look at the length of the beak and compare it to the distance from the base of the beak to the back of the head – if it is about the same length it is a Red Knot – if the beak is obviously longer than the head it is a Great Knot! What a "great" find that I was "knot" aware of.

I loved my day on the water and can't wait to do it again – I hope you can see what a fantastic part of the world Towra Point is and how important these birds really are and how much we need to protect them.



Dragonflies

By Steve Deards - Bushcare Volunteer

Dragonflies belong to the insect order Odonata, which also includes the well-known damselflies. These insects are spread world-wide, and comprise 26 families globally, with about 5000 species. In Australia, the dragonflies comprise 6 families containing about 195 species. The dragonflies and damselflies are characterised by having thin, elongated bodies with large heads and two pairs of membranous wings. A dragonfly's hind wings are broader than the forewings, and its wings are held horizontally and at 90 degrees to its body when at rest. With damselflies, both pairs of wings are slender, and their wings are not held horizontally at rest. Quite often their wings are



Petalura gigantea - Steve Deards

held in line with their bodies. The insect larvae of both are aquatic, along with other family members such as the mayflies, stoneflies and alderflies. The dragonfly life cycle starts when the female deposits her eggs into a freshwater body whilst guarded by her mate. The larvae are predatory, and can take anything from two months to a couple of years to reach maturity as an instar. This is the final moult stage – there may be 10 to 15 moults before this stage is reached. If the eggs were laid in an ephemeral water body, from egg to instar may be as short as two months. The instars crawl up onto vegetation or rocks to emerge as adults. Dragonflies are territorial, diurnal and showy, with many species being brightly coloured. The sexes are dimorphic, with the females generally being less colourful than the males. Males tend to live near water, where they guard a hunting and mating territory. Females tend to roam more widely. Both sexes are agile fliers, and because their wings don't couple in flight, they can make very tight turns and even fly backwards. Some species are known to travel at up to 40kph. Because dragonflies consume large quantities of insects, especially mosquitoes, they are considered to be environmentally beneficial.

Dragonflies are usually quite conspicuous in the environment when in flight, but are generally not very approachable when at rest. So I was surprised to get a chance to examine one up close recently at Bushcare. The dragonfly was resting on a small privet that I was about to remove. It stayed put long enough for me to take some images with my phone, and an Internet search later on revealed the species to be *Petalura gigantea*, commonly known as a South Eastern Petaltail or Giant Dragonfly. This species is regarded as endangered, due to habitat loss or degradation of its preferred wetland habitats. It is also regarded as one of the largest species in Australia, with a wingspan of up to 130mm. It is found sparsely along the coast and mountain ranges from Yuraygir National Park in NSW to near the Victorian border at Nadgee. The species was named in 1815 from a specimen collected from "New Holland." It is endemic to Australia, and all four species of *Petalura* like to rest on barbed-wire fences.

Pittosporum undulatum dieback

By Polly Simmonds - Bush Regenerator



Dieback - Polly Simmonds

You may have recently noticed areas of *Pittosporum undulatum* dieback, surrounded with a soggy blanket of fallen leaves, and dead branches covered in sooty mould. We've noted this happening at Drysdale Reserve, Waratah Park, Alcheringa Reserve and Darook Park – all happening to bands of *Pittosporum undulatum* occurring on the edges of the reserves. Prior to the dieback, a resinous sheen could be seen covering the ground and plants; and a sticky mist was observed raining down through the air from the mature Pittosporum trees. This profusion of shiny sticky substance was being caused by Leafhoppers feeding on the Pittosporum sap. This honeydew raining down on everything was being secreted by the sap suckers during feeding.

Honeydew has the ability to quickly break down plant tissue. The extensive black, powdery coating adhering to everything is sooty mould, which proliferates on the sugary exudate.

We've had a lot of rain. *Pittosporum undulatum* doesn't like being over watered. They develop root rot in soggy, waterlogged soil. The leaf hoppers have then bred up on the sick plants, produced the honey dew, and the sooty mould has grown on the honey dew.



Leafhoppers - Polly Simmonds

The Fray

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

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

(SUTHERLAND GROUP)

Sutherland APS group, meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7.00pm at the Gympie Community Centre, 39 Gympie Bay Rd, Gympie.

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

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

Contact Ralph Cartwright on 9548 1074



MENAI WILDFLOWER GROUP

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

Website: www.menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au



BOTANY BAY BUSY BEES

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



ROYAL NATIONAL PARK (FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL)

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

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



New versus old

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturalist

Have you ever noticed the difference between a juvenile leaf on a seedling compared to that of a mature specimen out in the bush or perhaps your garden? In the nursery, this is obviously more noticeable as seedlings have not yet developed their true 'character' if you will at this early stage of their life.

Identifying a seedling by its leaf becomes a very handy skill to develop in the nursery. It helps ensure the plants are growing healthy, pest and disease free and showing no signs of deformity. It also helps to know if we are growing the right thing. In saying this, everything in the nursery is labelled and recorded, however there are instances where seed has been wrongly identified or miss labelled throughout the propagation process or the label simply goes missing. So, as you can imagine being able to identify a seedling simply by its leaves is a very important skill when working in a propagation nursery and proves even more helpful when identifying between species.

Over time the identifying features on a seedling start to stand out. For instance, the shape and size, colour, margins, and vein patterns of the leaf, if the leaf is hairy or not and even has a leaf modification. Here are a few examples of the feature that stand out on seedling.

Size and shape are the most obvious give away for identifying many seedlings. This is evident with the species, *Commersonia hermanniifolia* (previously known as *Rulingia hermanniifolia*). The nursery first propagated this species by cutting with lanceolate shaped leaves from a mature specimen. Later when it was grown by seed, it germinated with lobbed shaped leaves that were noticeably bigger than the lanceolate shaped leaves on the cuttings. As the seedlings mature, the lobbed shape leaves morph down into the lanceolate shape and are also noticeably smaller in size. Similar to this is with the species *Baeckea linifolia*. Cuttings were taken and later on seeds were collected. The seeds germinated with noticeably different leaves. Still with a linear shape but the length much shorter and wider and the apex of the leaf was rounded. The leaves then morph into the longer and more stretched out linear leaf shape with the apex tuning into a fine point. Another example of this is with the species *Eucalyptus camfieldii* with the common name Heart-Leaved Stringybark. As a seedling and juvenile, you can tell why it gets its common name "Heart-Leaved Stringybark". The leaves have a distinct heart shape to them. As it matures, the leaves morph into a longer, thicker and broader lanceolate shape.



Eucalyptus camfieldii
- Emma Brame

The colour of leaves can also be a good identifying feature. In particular the terminal leaves which can be very distinctive. This is very evident with such species as *Angophora costata*, *Angophora hispida*, *Ceretopetulum gummiferum*, *Hakea dactyloides* and *Hakea salicifolia*. These species all have new red terminal growth and stand out from other seedlings. *Allocasuarina torulosa* is also another good example of when colour can help identify seedlings. It stands out from the other *Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina* species grown in the nursery as the younger new leaves have a red tinge. Colour on all surfaces of the leaves can be a helpful feature to identify a mature plant or a seedlings. The colour of a leaf's underside can be different to that of the top side and can be a key identifying feature especially keying out Eucalyptus. This can be noticed on such on Banksias and other species such as *Guioa semiglauc* and *Telopea speciosissima*. The undersides are noticeably different in colour being either paler in colour or a white-grey colour or even a rusty colour on *Banksia robur*.



Angophora hispida
- Emma Brame



Banksia integrifolia
- Emma Brame

Leaf margins are another identifying feature on seedlings. A classic example of this is with *Banksia integrifolia*. As a seedling, the leaf margins are toothed/serrated compared to that of a mature specimen with a smooth margin or with much fewer teeth. Another great example of this is with Eucalyptus species *E. globodica* and *E. eugenoides*. As seedlings the margins are very distinctive from other Eucalyptus species grown in the nursery. The margins are very crinkled and eventually smooth out as they mature.

Midrib and vein patterns are another helpful identifying

feature of seedlings. On *Dianella* species the midrib can help identify between the different species. The back of the midrib on *Dianella caerulea* is serrated whereas *D. revoluta* and *D. congesta* are smooth. This is very helpful as you can imagine monocotyledon can be very hard to tell the difference between at any stage. Vein patterns are particularly helpful when identifying between the broad-leaved *Hakeas* grown in the nursery, when they have not yet developed their shape. *Hakea dactyloides* has a more prominent vein pattern compared to *Hakea salicifolia*, where only the midrib vein really stands out.



Hakea dactyloides and
H. salicifolia leaves
- Emma Brame

Hairy leaves on seedlings are common and as the seedlings mature the hairs can disappear or thin out. This can be seen on *Melaleuca squarrosa*, and some Eucalyptus species such as *E. globodica* and *E. eugenoides* where hairs on the leaf and even the stems are apparent. Species like *Angophora hispida* and *Banksia marginata* are also good examples of this and as it grows, this feature will continue on in fresh new growth.



Banksia marginata
- Emma Brame

Leaf modifications. Acacia species (Wattles) shape and size of leaves can be noticeably different as seedlings. This is due to how they germinate. Acacia species germinate with pinnae (feather like) shaped leaves. Then there are the species that develop phyllodes after the pinnae leaves (a modified leaf stem that functions like a leaf to help tolerate the harsh Australian conditions). After the pinnae leaves and phyllodes have developed, the distinct leaf of each species to identify the Acacia species emerges. For the purpose of identifying Acacias at this stage, the leaves can be broken into three major groups. Feathery bipinnate leaf like *Acacia parramattensis*, strap like leaf like *Acacia longifolia*, and prickly leaves like *Acacia ulicifolia*.



Acacia suaveolens
- Emma Brame

The terrific Cabbage Tree

By Peter Turbet - Bushcare Volunteer

If Bushcarers were asked to nominate their favourite local tree species there would be many candidates. *Angophora costata* would certainly make the list but the Cabbage-tree Palm or just Cabbage Tree (*Livistona australis*) would surely get a guernsey too.

Found along the coast from Queensland down to Orbost in Victoria it is the continent's most southern-growing palm, hence the name *australis*. Its common name comes from the edible cabbage-like new growth at the top of the tree, which if harvested usually leads to the palm's death.

There is evidence that before 1788 the Dharawal people did not eat the cabbage, which may explain the palm's abundance when the First Fleet arrived, but the tree was still an important resource. Leaves had their ends tied together to make water carriers; they were also plaited to make women's fishing lines (traditionally only women used lines to catch fish while men speared). Fallen trunks became bridges for crossing creeks. The name "Dharawal" itself probably comes from the Dharawal word for the palm – dtharowal. It is likely that *L. australis* played a substantial role in local Aboriginal mythology and in the 1800s a Dharawal informant told an anthropologist about a giant invisible cabbage-tree palm with spiritual significance growing on the eastern side of Coolangatta Mountain near Nowra.

The utility of the palm continued into the early days of British settlement. The trunks were cut down to build log huts which could be thatched with palm fronds. They were also split to make fences and hollowed out for pig troughs then filled with the tree's black fruits for hog food.

Probably the best-known use of *L. australis* was in the production of the ubiquitous cabbage-tree hats of the 19th century. The leaves were dried, treated and woven into the hats which were worn by all sections of society including convicts, settlers, city larrikins, miners and bushrangers (if you google "Clarke brothers bushrangers" you will see an image of these murderous South Coast desperadoes holding their cabbage-tree hats). They are Australia's first non-indigenous locally made headwear - not forgetting that First Nations people had been wearing ritual headdresses for centuries. The palms were so heavily exploited that by the 1820s they were becoming scarce in the environs of Port Jackson.

In nature, the fruit of the palm is an important food source for the Topknot Pigeon (*Lopholaimus antarcticus*), a spectacular big rainforest bird not to be confused with the common Crested Pigeon. Fallen fronds provide habitat for the Hacking River Forest Snail (*Meridolum marshalli*), an indigenous gastropod only found between Audley and Bulli.

To wander into a grove of cabbage-tree palms is a wonderful experience, like walking through a lush and dark emerald temple. There is a nice stand at Salmon Haul in Cronulla (these were planted in 1997 but there were palms growing there when Bass and Flinders visited in 1796) and several clumps along Lady Carrington Drive but a couple of absolute knockout places to soak up their vibe is the Palm Jungle in Royal National Park and the Green Cathedral near Forster.

Many placenames in NSW have the words "Cabbage Tree" at their front. We have two islands, a bay, several creeks and of course Palm Beach. *Livistona australis* - a truly iconic tree.



Cabbage Tree Palms - Peter Turbet

Boneseed – An update

By Nathan Clare - Team Leader Invasive Species

After several years of targeting boneseed (*Chrysanthemoids monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*) across the Sutherland Shire, where is it all up to? For those unfamiliar with boneseed, we are talking about a high priority invasive weed, which is a subspecies of bitou bush, that is not restricted to growing in coastal areas. Boneseed is not fussy on its location and will grow anywhere, anytime. Being a generalist means boneseed has the potential to become extremely widespread and become the next bitou bush, lantana, privet, asparagus fern and so forth. Accordingly, boneseed is managed by a control order under the Biosecurity Act 2015 and requires all land owners to manage infestations immediately with the aim of early intervention to control a small amount of boneseed to prevent it from becoming a widespread weed later.

Sutherland Shire Council's Invasive Species Team have received annual grant funding to control boneseed across the shire and have been completing strategic boneseed works for almost 10 years. The boneseed program consists of surveying all natural areas across Sutherland Shire during its flowering time (late winter – mid spring), recording the location on a GPS device and treating any that are found. For this we employ an annual large-scale program that is completed by contractors, the invasive species team complete extensive inspections and the entire Bushland Unit is also on the lookout. After years of completing these works it's good to have a look back and see how effective our strategy has been.

So far, the results have been very positive! As the years have gone on we are finding almost no mature boneseed plants and are instead finding only seedlings. This is due to the consistency of the program and the annual follow up works at each site to control any plants that regrow from seeds still remaining in the soil. We have also managed to work with many private landowners to provide guidance on controlling their boneseed and are seeing great results in this area as well. Peoples understanding and awareness of boneseed has also increased significantly and we are grateful for the boneseed reports we get from volunteers, off duty contractors and Bushcare staff. To summarise, the program is progressing well and that's thanks to the consistency in targeting the weed and revisiting each site annually, the thorough recording of each infestation through a GPS program, the awareness that's been created around the weed and the ongoing support through grant funds we receive from groups including Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Crown Lands.

That being said, boneseed gets its name from the extremely hard and durable seed that it produces which can stay viable in the soil for up to 10 years. This means every time a boneseed flowers and produces seed we have to monitor that site for 10 years so we need your help. Please keep your eyes out for boneseed at all times and especially between July – October when it has its bright yellow flowers. If you see a boneseed please contact us on 9710 0333.

For more information on boneseed visit the Department of Primary Industries Weedwise website and search for boneseed.



Boneseed flowers - Paul Marynissen

Three decades? Really???

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

When our new Fearless Leader Jason Salmon told us that this year was the thirtieth anniversary of our little program I was quite surprised. I knew we'd been at it a while but thirty years? Really?!?!? That's starting to sound like a long while. As I pondered those past decades I thought back to our friends and pioneers Dick Rogers, Christine Guthrie and Brendan Graham and my Bushcare Officer at Upper Forbes Creek, Phil Murphy. I replaced Phil at the end of 1998. Thinking about Phil made me realise that I've been here for most of those thirty years. Crikey! (My knees feel like it's been longer!!!)

I wonder, as one does in one's idle minutes, just what sort of things we've done in all of those years. Just how many weeds have we pulled? How many white bags is that? How many square metres of The Shire have felt our knees on them as we've pursued our exotic foes across the landscape? How many metres have I crawled in my career? (all that crawling and still no promotion!!!). What sort of tonnage of biomass/greenwaste have we removed from the



Brendan Graham

environment? Have we reduced greenhouse gases with the regeneration of native species and revegetation activities? Have we increased greenhouse gases by removing some many trees ie weedy trees from the environment? Those Camphor laurels, Privets and Box Elders are certainly unwanted things but they're still carbon sinks. Has anyone counted all of the Bidens seeds that they've pulled off their clothes in the last 30 years? I'm sure we'd end up with enough to start another dozen Bushcare programs.

How many hectares have we worked on over the last three decades? That shouldn't be too difficult to work out. We have maps and the technology now to easily map out where we've been, but how much bushland have we saved from further degradation in the last thirty years? The sites we started on were pretty crook, but if we didn't start, think about how much worse the bush would be now, without our efforts.

We've pulled loads of weeds, encouraged the regeneration of native vegetation but we've also planted thousands of tube-stock over the years. I don't know just how many Ros, Holger and now Cris have grown for us but it would be in the tens, scores, maybe hundreds of thousands? And many of those little tubes are now big plants. I can take you to a *Eucalyptus punctata* that I planted at Upper Forbes Creek with Phil when I was a vollo. It would be close to thirty years old now and it's a tree. A big, mature tree. It's a magnificent thing. It's a good spot for a bird to roost and in a hundred or so years it might have the beginnings of a hollow in it for a Brushtail Possum or a Powerful Owl. Think about those far-reaching effects of the work that we've done over the last thirty years.



Dick Rogers



Anna Larsson



Christine Guthrie

How many volunteers have worked with us throughout the preceding three decades? I dunno rightly, but it's a few! A couple of thousand on over two hundred sites? It would be close to it. It's a big chunk of the community when you think about it. And how many more people have we got our message out to? Bushcare isn't just pulling weeds. Far from it! I think our most valuable role is as environmental educators. We all work towards raising public awareness about the importance of our local natural areas. Reinforcing that message and maybe influencing someone in the community to change their actions, to be kinder to our planet, is a great knock-on effect from just pulling a few weeds. Public awareness has been raised directly by people seeing our work but think, too, about the Bushcare Fair, workshops, the Leader Homeshow, Senior's week events, school visits, kindy groups, Tree Day, Bonnet Bay Bushwalk, corporate days etc. Over the last thirty years Bushcare has spread its message to thousands of people.

We Bushcarers don't just live on weeds and awareness. All of you that have joined us in the field know the importance of morning

tea. SMOKO!!!! I wonder how many litres of tea have been drunk. How many cups of coffee have I made? How many kilowatts have energy have been used to boil that water???? How many biscuits, how many kilos of cake have powered our program over thirty years (how many trouser sizes have I gone up...??? Oh dear. I'd rather not know that statistic.). Continuing the culinary theme does anyone know just how many kilograms (or maybe kilometres?) of sausages we've cooked at Bushcare BBQs since 1993? How big is the mountain of onions that we have fried down to the sweet/savoury caramel coloured accompaniment that would later brings tears to the eyes of our folks back home? (open a window!!)

A lot of people have come and gone through Bushcare during my time here. Who remembers these names? (I'm including Bushcare Officers, Noxious Weeds, the Regen Team and Spray Truck

operators) Dick Rogers, Christine Guthrie, Brendan Graham, Phil

Murphy, Daryl Wells, Anna Larsson, Dayna Mellor, Geoff Doret, Andrew Coughlan, Dave Croft, Stewart Harris, Margaret (on the poison truck), Jamie Collum, Rob Hajjar, Phil Clunas, Mike Perabo, Greg Strange, Deb (on the regen team), Vicky Savage, Dora Bustimante, Andy McCormack, Kath Lycos, Jannah Allen, Pete (on the regen team), Paul Price, Jon Watson. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. Some good people, doing some good things for a good many years.

We've done a lot of good stuff over the last thirty years and I don't see why we can't keep it up for another thirty. I won't be doing this job in thirty years (I bloody well hope not!), but maybe I will be a volunteer, doing my best to annoy some young Bushcare Officer maybe sixty years younger than me as I sit under my big Eucalyptus punctata avoiding the Bull Ants and still picking at the Cobblers Pegs.



Dayna Mellor



Paul Price

Happy Birthday Bushcare!

Bushcare's big birthday events

MARTIN & WHITTON STREET

Monday 1 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Bradley at Heathcote for a Bushcare session.

MENAI CONSERVATION PARK

Tuesday 2 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Sabrina at Menai for a Bushcare session.

WINDY POINT RESERVE

Wednesday 3 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Sabrina at Cronulla for a Bushcare session.

JOSEPH BANKS NATIVE GARDEN WEED AND WALK

Thursday 4 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare and members of the Australian Plant Society at Joseph Banks Native Garden for an informative walk and some light weeding.

COONONG CREEK

Friday 5 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Grace at Coonong Creek Reserve, Gympie Bay, one of our earliest Bushcare sites for a morning of Bushcare and history.

LUCAS HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA WALK

Saturday 6 May
8:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare and the Mill Creek Mountain Bike Community for the monthly track construction day and learn about track constructing in environmental sensitive areas.

SAVE OUR SPECIES TALK

Sunday 7 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Join Bass and Flinders Reserve Bushcare group in Cronulla and botanist Dan Clarke to discover the work being done to protect endangered plant species.

KOOLANGARA RESERVE

Monday 8 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Sabrina at Bonnet Bay for a Bushcare session.

LILLI PILLI POINT RESERVE

Tuesday 9 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join the Lilli Pilli Point Bushcare group for a morning Bushcare session in one of our most floristically diverse reserves.

ALCHERINGA RESERVE

Wednesday 10 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Bill and the Alcheringa Bushcare group, in Miranda, and see the progress made since clearing the privet forest and help continue the works.

PARC MENAI

Thursday 11 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Come along to Parc Menai with Bushcare Officer Bradley to learn about the Endangered Ecological Community - Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark forest.

BONNA POINT PLANTING

Friday 12 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare and Greenfleet for a morning of planting and talks at Bonna Point, Kurnell.

MAANDOWIE RESERVE

Saturday 13 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Come along to Maandowie Reserve and enjoy the views across the Loftus Valley whilst doing some light weeding with the Maandowie Bushcare Group.

KAREENA PARK

Sunday 14 May
8:30am - 12:00pm

Discover this hidden gem in Caringbah, behind the Camellia Gardens and help the Kareena Park Bushcare group look after this reserve.

AUSTRALIA ROAD RESERVE

Monday 15 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

See for yourself how this reserve has responded to an ecological burn two years ago on our Bushcare day at Australia Road, Barden Ridge.

NURSERY TOUR

Tuesday 16 May
9:00am - 11:00pm

Visit the Community Nursery in Gympie for a behind the scenes tour of our production facilities.

ALBERT DELARDES RESERVE WEED AND WALK

Wednesday 17 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Bushcare will host a guided walk through Albert Delardes Reserve, Illawong, for an informative walk along with normal Bushcare activities.

SAVILLES CREEK

Thursday 18 May
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare Officer Grace at Savilles Creek Reserve for a morning of Bushcare.

BASKET WEAVING

Friday 19 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

Join local artist, Margaret Heathwood, who will guide us as we make a small basket from natural materials.

NATURAL DYEING WORKSHOP

Saturday 20 May

10:00am - 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.

URBAN BIRDS

Sunday 21 May

8:30am - 12:00pm

Bushcare volunteer and local bird expert, Steve Anyon-Smith, will host a morning of weeding, talking and bird watching at Honeysuckle Reserve.

WORKING WITH WOODY WEEDS

Monday 22 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.

BOTTLE CREEK RESERVE

Tuesday 23 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

Come along to Bottle Creek Reserve and learn about our Stormwater rehabilitation project whilst we walk, weed and talk.

WATTLEBIRD RESERVE

Wednesday 24 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

Visit Wattlebird Reserve, Caringbah South, and see the transformation that has happened from a horse paddock 30 years ago to now.

THE POINT PRESCHOOL

Thursday 25 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

Bushcare Officer Bradley and our friends from the Point Preschool in Oyster Bay invite you to join them and connect with nature as they work in the reserve.

NURSERY WHACKERS

Friday 26 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

Interested in native gardening? Come along to our nursery whackers and get hands on practice and advice about gardening with native plants.

THE ESPLANDE, CRONULLA

Saturday 27 May

8:30am - 12:00pm

Help The Esplanade Bushcare Group on their monthly workday whilst enjoying ocean views and morning tea.

DAROOK PARK

Sunday 28 May

8:30am - 12:00pm

Darook Park, Cronulla, hosts an Endangered Ecological Community - Littoral Rainforest. Come along to the groups monthly work day and help protect this special patch.

EDIBLE WEEDS

Monday 29 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

You will never look at weeds in the same way after taking part in this workshop. Diego Bonetto is a weed forager and expert on identifying the nutritious plants that most people call weeds.

BIRD SPOTTING IN THE ROYAL

Tuesday 30 May

8:00am - 11:00am

Join Bushcare and guest speaker Ricki Coughlan for morning wander through the Royal National Park looking for feathered friends.

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 31 May

9:00am - 12:00pm

The final event for our birthday celebration. Come along to Burraneer Reserve and join Bushcare and Burraneer Bushcare Group for a morning of weeding and talking, followed by a BBQ to reflect on all the work our volunteers have done over the last 30 years.



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

Lucas Heights Conservation Area, 8.00am (JS)
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

Maandowie, Loftus 8.30am (GL)
Freyra St, Kareela 8.30am (ST)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10.30am (ST)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarrah 1.00pm (ST)

3RD SATURDAY

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

4TH SATURDAY

Akuna Avenue Oval, Bangor 8.30am (ST)
The Esplanade, Cronulla Point 8.30am (GL)
Gooyong Reserve, Bangor 12.30pm (ST)
Various reserves, Maianbar 1.30pm (GL)

1ST SUNDAY

Carina Bay, Como 8:00am (GL)
Bass & Flinders Point, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
Burnum Burnum Sanct., Jannali 9.00am (ST)
Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve 9.30am (GL)
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)
Ingrid Rd/Anitra Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (ST)

3RD SUNDAY

Prince Edward Park, Woronora 8.30am (BH)
Honeysuckle Reserve, Jannali 8.30am (GL)
Paruna Reserve, Como West 9.00am (ST)
Grays Point Reserve 12.30pm (ST)
Buckinbah Place Reserve 1.00pm (GL)

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

4TH MONDAY

Young Street Reserve, Sylvania 9.00am (ST)

1ST TUESDAY

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

2ND TUESDAY

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

3RD TUESDAY

Forestgrove Drive, Menai 9.00am (ST)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)
Sesquicentenary Pk, Heathcote 9.00am (BvL)
Corea Street Reserve, Sylvania 1.00pm (ST)
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)
Ninth Avenue North, Loftus 1.00pm (BvL)

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)
ANSTO, Blue Trail, Lucas Heights 12.00pm (GL)
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

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
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 7.00am (GL)
Parc Menai 8.30am (BvL)

3RD THURSDAY

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

4TH THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
Drysdale Place, Kirrawee 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)
Community Nursery, Gymea 9:00am



Spider Web -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 Activity

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

Bushwalks and Guided Nature Walks



CAPE BAILY WALK

**Wednesday 14 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.

TO BOOK GO TO:

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/BushcareEvents>

Special Events

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

**Thursday 13 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 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 29 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.



Callistemon citrinus - Emma Brame

Up, up and away

By Bradley van Luyt

To help celebrate thirty years of Bushcare thirty or so vollos recently got together for a photo shoot at Old School Park, Gympie Bay. Old School Park is part of Coonong Creek, one of our first Bushcare sites so it was quite fitting we should start our next thirty years there. Bushcare Officers and vollos were joined by the Mayor Carmelo Pesce members from Council's Communications and Engagement Team and a couple of bods from our Survey unit. With white hats and blue shirts on our volunteers basked in the sunshine while the camera shutters clicked away. It was then a new noise filled our ears as our friends from Survey released a drone into the morning's clear blue skies. The drone's buzz was joined by the screeches of the local cockies as it zoomed back and forth, hovered, and then shot high above us until it was almost invisible and inaudible.



Early attempt at making a 30 - SSC

The serried ranks of blue clad vols did a quick change into white shirts to be herded by our Communications types into a loose gaggle of bodies which from on high formed the number "30". It looked great! 30 bods in a 30 for 30 years. A great morning and a great result. Yay! Drone down, cameras away and we all headed back to our previous activities. We now have thirty years to organise another 30 bods to get sixty on the ground for our sixtieth anniversary.

Cane toads – Always on the lookout

By Nathan Clare

It's an unusual thought of cane toads being in the Sutherland Shire, but unfortunately we have had 3 separate cane toads in Caringbah between January 2021 and February 2022. The latest cane toad was caught by a Caringbah Leisure Center council employee who had the keen eye to notice it and call the Invasive Species Team straight away. These toads are believed to have arrived as hitch hikers on vehicles or in garden supplies from the north coast. Since then we have been glad to not have seen anymore but we are always looking.

The Invasive Species Team conduct extensive surveys in the warmer months and also receive grant funding from Local Land Services to engage professionals to conduct EDNA water sampling. An amazing technology where we are able to sample water bodies for the presence of cane toad DNA. So while we are always on the lookout we ask you to also keep your eyes peeled and if you suspect a toad do not kill it, instead put it in a bucket with holes or take a photo and send it to pestspecies@ssc.nsw.gov.au or call 9710 0333.



Cane toad - Nathan Clare

Bushcare Contact Details

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And follow the prompts

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