

THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

OCT 2023 - ISSUE 65



Bushcare Calendar

Date	Event
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OCTOBER

11, 19 & 25	Nursery propagation
3	Aboriginal bushfood walk
5	Bush bugs
27	Nursery gardening group
28	Spring Gathering

NOVEMBER

8, 16 & 22	Nursery propagation
6	Birds and Bushcare
12	Bird spotting in the Royal
24	Nursery gardening group
29	Bush whackers

DECEMBER

13	Nursery propagation
10	Bushcare BBQ

Cover image - *Corymbia sp*
Emma Brame

Bush Regeneration Team as well as a few days at the Joseph Banks Native Gardens. Justin brings extensive knowledge following ten years working as a bush regenerator with the National Trust.

Finally we have two wonderful guest speakers booked in for the Spring gathering to be held on Saturday 28 October at Hazelhurst and the Bushcare Christmas BBQ on Sunday 10 December. Enjoy the Bulletin.

Bushcare Update

By Jason Salmon

Welcome to the Spring Bushcare Bulletin. It is sad and joyful to announce the departure of our fearless leader, Kevin, who has had a calling from the mountains that it is time to transition into retirement. Kevin joined the team in late 2012 as the Bushcare Team Leader and then progressed his leadership to the top job of Bushland-Nursery Coordinator. Kevin brought a wealth of knowledge to the team and he will be greatly missed. Kevin has purchased an amazing bush block in the lower Blue Mountains and we wish him all the best in the next phase of his life. Thanks Kevin!

As we move out of the three years of La Nina to a dryer phase, bush fires are now well and truly a concern. If you live next to or near the bush now is the time to have your plans in place and prepare your property. Bushcare is a fantastic way of reducing fire hazard close to homes by reducing fuel loads and having a close connection to the bushland.

With summer just around the corner it is a timely reminder to be sun safe whilst Bushcaring, that means long sleeves and a broad brim hat. We have just received a big order of new Bushcare Volunteer shirts and hats. So please ask your Bushcare officer to bring one along or call into the Community Nursery in Gynea.

We are very pleased to welcome to the team, Bush Regenerator, Justin Polley who will be working with the SSC

Menai Wildflower Group

By Lloyd Hedges - Bushcare Volunteer

Menai Wildflower Group is a local group of the Australian Plant Society. We started out learning how to propagate and grow Australian native plants. Now we run a nursery at Lucas Heights, where we grow plants by the thousand, which we donate to worthy causes. The main cause we are supporting at the moment is the Glossies in the Mist campaign, which is trying to reinstate the food supply of the glossy black cockatoo.

Our headquarters is the Illawong Rural Fire Station, where we tend the gardens and hold our meetings on the second Saturday of each month. In a compound alongside the Illawong RFS, we have established a small community nursery where we teach propagation skills. This nursery is open to the public on Tuesday 9:00am to 12:00pm, and may soon be open on the weekends as well.

Behind the compound we have the Mounds Project. These mounds were formed from the plastic rich contaminated sediment dug out of the gross pollution traps around the suburb. Our offer to plant out the mounds was accepted. We first stabilised the mounds putting in rock and retaining walls. Tracks also made them more people friendly. The results are there to be seen. GPT sediment has been converted into community asset.

Besides these volunteering activities, we also run regular bushwalks, both local and further afield. See us on the APS website, Facebook or Instagram.

A Thursday afternoon in the park with St Patrick

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

This year I concluded a cooperative project with St Patrick's College Sutherland. The project was working with a group of kids on a Thursday afternoon, doing some Bushcare.

I was approached by one of the teachers at St Pats at the end of 2022 about the possibility of doing some sort of Bushcare thing as a form of, or alternative to, sport on a Thursday afternoon. We had a new group every five weeks, the kids coming through in groups ranging from yr7 up to yr11. I wasn't sure how much we'd get done but I gave it a go. Each Thursday we'd have about twenty kids and it was my job to tell them a bit about how to care for our bush land. The site chosen was at the southern end of Eton St, adjacent to the Sutherland Basketball Stadium. Not a great bit of bush – mostly fill with some dodgy tree planting and lots of weeds – but a good site for relatively inexperienced types to get stuck in and smash stuff with little risk of harm being done to native vegetation.

In late 2022 contractors had been through the site and treated a lot of the woody weeds but there was still truckloads of Asparagus Fern to work with. Asparagus Fern is easy to recognise, is satisfying to remove and it responds well to young people belting billy-o out of it with picks. And luckily there was plenty of it!

Groups cycled through on a five week rotation with a work session of about 1 ½ hrs. Our first session began with a site safety induction. Some eyes roll when we do it with our grown-up vollos but you could almost hear the eyes rattling back in heads when I did it with the kids. Think Resting-Bitch-Face, combined with Thousand-Yard-Stare and a touch of Post-Lunch-Sleepies. Oh boy, this is going to be fun.... Some kids in the older groups had jobs, so were familiar with the idea of a site induction but little Year Sevens (yes, they're still little then, and almost nice) weren't, so I did our induction as a series of questions. Made them think about it and got them involved.

And so to weeding. Whitebags and picks were issued and off we'd go. "This is asparagus. It's spiky. Wear your gloves". Later I would hear a few cries indicating that someone hadn't listened. Some of the kids worked well. Some of the kids worked. Some of the kids...well... Anyway, with much huffing and puffing, yelling, and running (where do they get the energy?) weeds were extracted, bags were filled and the once Asparagus covered hillside was denuded. During their time ostensibly weeding I was amazed by how many ways a pick can be used without any weeds being removed. Rocks smashed, trees pecked at, logs chopped with the blunt end, Bull Ants taunted. The ingenuity exhibited by our youth is truly enlightening. A few kids showed more interest and initiative, so I showed them how to cut and paint woody weeds. Everyone likes cutting stuff down..!

Over our five weeks we devoted three afternoons to weeding. To break things up a bit and broaden their experience of our work we also had them at the nursery for an afternoon. Cris took them for a walk around the place, tried to time it right so they'd get wet in the glass house and then propagation! Lots of potting up of things like Pigface or Native Violets. Easy stuff, valuable experience and certainly plants needed by the nursery. The current record for tubes filled in one session is 1400. Impressive. And I think most of them lived too!

Last day of the cycle was planting. We'd weeded, we'd propagated and then finished up putting things back in. Trying to wrangle twenty bods of varying experience and enthusiasm was a challenge but we still managed to get about 100 plants in each time. And some of them lived too!

All good things have an end, except a sausage, which has two. The site is very degraded and there are enough weeds to keep the kids going for years but unfortunately the school recently changed direction with its sports program and Bushcare did not fit in with it. We had our last workday at the end of last term (end of June).

I must admit went into this joint project a little dubious of the value of the work. The kids aren't trained regenerators. The site isn't great bushland. The time available wasn't nearly enough. But, over the last 18mths a major source of weed seed has been depleted, over 500 plants have been put in and perhaps a little seed has been planted in the mind of a few of them and they will be Bushcarers of the future. And a nice afternoon outside with pleasant company was had by all. In the end I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I'd like to thank teachers Phoebe and Sarah for the opportunity to share our program with a new generation.

An unwanted new resident - *Salvinia molesta*

By Linda Brown - Invasive Species Officer

Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is a free-floating water plant native to South America that can rapidly form dense mats. For many years there were no known infestations of salvinia in the Sutherland Shire area. Unfortunately, SSC Invasive Species Officers discovered a salvinia infestation in a wetland in Kurnell and another infestation was reported in Engadine/Heathcote area.

Due to its ability to double in size in less than three days in ideal conditions it has serious environmental and economical implications. It can smother the whole surface of water bodies rapidly which prevents native plants from growing and reduces food and habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. The large amount of biomass produced by this plant causes stagnant water and reduces water quality. *Salvinia* negatively impacts the use of waterways for recreation and transport.

Salvinia spreads to new areas by attaching to boats, trailers, vehicles and animals such as water birds. *Salvinia* is not allowed to be sold, bartered, exchanged, or offered for sale in NSW.

However, some people are keeping it in fishponds or aquaria and inappropriate disposal of the plant contributes to the spread of this weed.

If you find salvinia or see it for sale in the Sutherland Shire, we encourage you to report it to Council.

Once established, salvinia infestations are very hard to treat and early detection is the key to successful management.

How to identify it:

- A free-floating freshwater plant forming dense mats of vegetation on the water surface.
- Leaves grow opposite pairs and emerge above the water surface.
- Leaves have many waxy hairs on surface (look like eggbeaters when magnified).
- At the beginning leaves are flat on the surface and they tightly fold as the infestation gets more established; and
- Hairy submerged roots.



The Stars of Gunnamatta

By Peter Turbet - Bushcare Volunteer

Next time you're walking along the Gunnamatta sandflats keep an eye out for this interesting little starfish. The comb sea star (*Astropecten polyacanthus*) spends most of its time buried in the sand and then as the water recedes gradually emerges and begins to move around feeding on detritus and small molluscs. It is interesting to watch it come to the surface. First its outline appears and, looking like a five-pointed sand biscuit, it rises up, sheds the sand and begins to forage. It is covered in spikes and its name probably comes from the slight resemblance to a comb or a brush. It is a tropical and sub-tropical species, found in the Red Sea, Japan, Hawaii and on the Australian east coast as far south as Narooma. Although it is spiky it is easily picked up – but not to be eaten as it contains a powerful neurotoxin.

As late as the 1950s, the Gunnamatta shoreline was considered a biodiversity hotspot with species of worms, sea stars, sea urchins, crabs, prawns, shrimps and molluscs galore. Alas, in the intervening years the pressure of the thousands of people who visit this beautiful location has seen many of these species become extremely rare or locally extinct. It is great to think that the comb sea star at least is still surviving, or even thriving, there.



Comb sea star - Peter Turbet

Acacia prominens in Sutherland Shire, Endemic or Exotic.

By Lloyd Hedges - Bushcare Volunteer

Along Menai Creek there is quite a stunning wattle flowering. I have identified it as *Acacia prominens* commonly known as the Gosford wattle. A population in the Hurstville-Kogarah area is considered the most southerly and has been declared endangered.



Acacia prominens - Dan Clarke

Where I found it is south of Hurstville population. The creek has no official name but is known as LH1 (Lucas Heights 1) because it drains the original Lucas Heights tip site which is now sporting fields and a golf course. While it is not relevant, I used to be involved with the macroinvertebrate testing of this creek and it received remarkably good results. A- usually.

As far as I know this is an isolated population so is it natural or was it introduced? The fact that it is not far as the powerful owl flies from the Hurstville population to Menai suggests it is a remnant population and therefore a potential source of seed to rejuvenate the Hurstville-Kogarah population. The fact that a track has been bulldozed along the creek line offers the potential that seed was brought in by earth moving equipment.

EVOLVING NURSERY

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturalist

The nursery has changed a lot over the 50 years it has been located on The Boulevarde at GyMEA. From the nursery layout itself, with the retail space and production area transforming over the years. Also the introduction of new structures, such as the glasshouse, poly tunnel, shade house and now happy to say its very own fernery, have seen the nursery evolve and improve plant production/propagation by staff and volunteers. The use of the plants has changed over time. Once plants from the nursery were only used for rate payers and council use only. Now plants are used on a multitude of different council run regeneration projects, Green Web (an initiative to widen wildlife corridors), sold to other councils and contractors, the list goes on.

The main change to the nursery over the years is of course what species the nursery propagates. In recent times we have been able to introduce such species as *Oxylobium cordifolium*, *Commersonia hermanniifolia*, *Adiantum hispidulum* and *Histiopteris incisa*, just to name a few. With this being said, nursery staff are always on the hunt to diversify and introduce new species to its range and also to improve propagation success to some of the harder to grow species. Here are just a few experiments we are currently working on.

Stylidium laricifolium

The nursery was fortunate to have had a small number of seed collected from this species “out in the wild”. The seed was sown, and we were able to produce a small amount of stock plants available to us, with the aim to keep collecting seed from. As you can imagine this was taking some time to collect a reasonable number of seed to produce a large quantity. However, as we waited for the plant to do its thing, flower and produce seed, some observations were made. The roots coming through the bottom of the tube stock were sprouting new plants. This led to trialing different root cuttings, which personally I had never done before. From this we have had excellent success and now have a good amount of stock plants available. From late August, just about every plant produced by these root cuttings have flower stalks on them. We hope to collect the seed from (as seed is best and truer to form), and hopefully next year we can have this species available in the nursery.



Stylidium laricifolium - Emma Brame

Actinotus minor

Unaware of anyone or any nursery that grows or sells this species, it would be a great species to master the propagation of. For some time, the nursery has had some success with cuttings for this particular species. The last batch saw us with our best results yet. The problem isn't getting them to strike, it is keeping them alive once they are tubed up. They usually sit there and go backward due to staying too wet in the tube. Experiments with tube size and soil media were performed on this batch. The best results came with using our usual sized tubes over the smaller size and using a 50:50 mix of perlite and vermiculite with a free-draining potting mix. Also, a slow-release fertiliser was also added to the mix. This experiment, however, is still a work in progress as the cutting are slow to strike and one, we will continue on working on.



Actinotus minor - Emma Brame

Pultenaea tuberculata

This species was pointed out by volunteer Gill Brown, when we accidentally ran into each other on a field trip collecting seeds and cutting material. He said that he always notices when this species is in flower but has never been able to see nor collect the seed. We decided to take cuttings not thinking they would strike as the leaves are hairy and more often than not, hairy leaved species done by cuttings do not have a lot of success as the hairs hold on to moisture and cause the cutting to rot. However, we did have success with the cuttings. We hope to plant out our success cuttings in the nursery gardens and propagate from them. We have had even more success with this species of late. On a recent field trip for more cutting material, this species was collected. Little did we know we had accidentally collected seed on the material. The small seed pods are hidden at the base of the leaf. Now we know what we are looking for, we can hopefully collect a substantial number of seeds.

Epacris longiflora

Propagating this species by cuttings, we are hoping to improve our success rates with this species. Trading secrets with other production nurseries we were told to try longer lengths when doing cuttings of this species. Typically, when we do cuttings here at the nursery, we use around 10cm long lengths from the tip or the stems. In a recent experiment we have used longer lengths in our shallow propagation trays. In addition to this we are trialing deeper containers (a 140mm pot) in the hope roots will strike from more nodes. We are awaiting the results.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Always endeavoring to increase our success rate with this difficult to grow species from seed, we continue to experiment. The nursery does have excellent success with cuttings for this species but as mentioned previously, seed is always readily available and has greater genetic diversity. Research suggests soaking seed in water and changing water every day for a week may increase germination rates, but we have not had any success with this. After yet another Google search we also trialed soaking the seed in gibberellic acid prior to sowing, again with no success. Currently we are trying to replicate how this species naturally germinates, by gathering the harvested and sowing them into a big stock pot with a thick layer of eucalyptus mulch, to be left out in the sun. Time will tell for this one. The nursery has had some success with seed by firstly fermenting it, like we do for our *Persoonia* species. We have a few experiments currently with fermented seed, in the hopes that the germination rate will be much higher.



Pultenaea tuberculata - Emma Brame



Epacris longifolia - Emma Brame



Elaeocarpus reticulatus - Emma Brame

Nursery News

By Cristine Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader

I recently asked my daughter Astrid what she enjoyed about volunteering at the nursery and her response was 'getting dirty'. I must agree it's one of the great aspects of our job!

Being outdoors, handling plants, soil, and seeds, are all part of the fun, as is the ongoing learning and the social aspect of interacting with our volunteers. To describe what we do, I usually summarise by saying we are a retail and production nursery, growing plants indigenous to our area by sourcing seed and cutting propagation material from our local parks and reserves. We also host seven volunteer groups a month, school groups, as well as work experience students and groups requiring workplace training for their clients.

On reflection, that summary doesn't identify who we really are, and that is a community nursery that exists to supply a multitude of resources to our local residents, customers and visitors. This is not necessarily just plants as you might expect. It can be help with landscape plans, plant selection, advice on bush tucker for schools. Or as I had recently - a request for Banksias that would tolerate the cold of a winter in France! We regularly help identify plants from photos or samples brought in whether they are natives or exotics. Our ID skills have also been challenged with spiders, bugs, and weeds. It's not unusual for us to take someone's phone number so we can call them back when we can provide an answer for them. As part of the Bushland Unit, our combined knowledge and experience among the staff, results in very few enquires left without an answer.

Our association with our nursery propagation volunteers goes well beyond what you may see on the surface. While they definitely produce an extraordinary number of tube stock each session, they also have the opportunity to ask advice, enhance their knowledge, share their experiences and create friendships with staff and other volunteers. Some of our volunteers help drive our initiatives, with their knowledge and passion. This is particularly true for our team that assists with seed sowing, record keeping and database management, as well as the recent fern production work, that has stretched our knowledge and identification of ferns and the new propagation methods required to produce them. The extensive records and database we keep on seed collection and propagation are the envy of many.

Training and education are other resources we can share with our community. We regularly host tours of the nursery for other councils around Sydney and beyond such as Shell



Ferns in the shade house - Emma Brame

Harbour, North Sydney, Wollongong, and Wollondilly, as well as Probus groups and gardening clubs. These tours provide opportunities for us to share our knowledge and experiences within the nursery to educate others in the field. Our community of nurseries that network regularly, now extends all over Sydney. With many students now completing courses online, we are able to assist with information training and practical applications of some of their course requirements.

Our specialised knowledge has led to our involvement with the Save Our Species



Nursery Tour - Emma Brame



Nursery Yard - Emma Brame

articles to be published in Australian Plant Society magazines. High praise for the nursery has come from the Isopogon and Petrophile study group- "Although their scope is limited to species local to the Sutherland Shire, to our knowledge, there is no other grower in Australia producing such numbers and quality of Isopogon and Petrophile plants from seed. (March 2022)

Our plants are not only used within our shire boundaries either. A large volume of them leave to other councils for projects, such as National Tree Day, where over 5000 tubes went out in orders this year to Georges River, Bayside, Waverley, Woollahra, Canada Bay and Canterbury Bankstown Councils. Many other councils no longer have their own nurseries, so we are fortunate to have our nursery to provide resources such as plants, vegetation community species lists and advise.

Another way the nursery has been used to engage with the wider community has been through filming that has been done onsite. Promoting our nursery and Council's Greenweb program has seen episodes of Gardening Australia and Better Homes and Gardens occur on site. World Vision also filmed within the nursery recently to promote the value and benefits that nurseries growing indigenous species play across the world in helping their local communities and the environment they live in. The Australian Plants Society recently used the nursery to film a safety video for its members to help volunteers stay safe and active in the many roles they participate in, in their community.

Program, to help identify, propagate, and enhance the natural populations of *Prostanthera densa*. These naturally occur at Bass and Finders Point and in several small populations in the Royal National Park. Our close association with the RNP and its volunteers has helped us over the last few years to extend the variety of plants we grow, by identifying new species to propagate and their locations in the park.

The Bushcare Bulletin itself is a powerful resource that allows information to be shared to a wide audience. In particular, Nursery articles written by Emma have resulted in calls from people interested in propagation from as far afield as Lithgow and Narooma. There have also been requests for further details and



Gardening Australia Filming - Emma Brame



There has to be at least 50 reasons our nursery is an important community asset and as we celebrate 50 years on this site, we welcome you in being part of this amazing community.

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)
Freya 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 8:30am (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)
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, Lilli Pilli 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, Gympsea 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, Oyster Bay (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

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, Kareela 9.00am (BH)

1ST FRIDAY

Coonong Creek Reserve, Gympsea 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, Gympsea 9:00am



TPersoonia levis - 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.

Special Events

BUSH BUGS

**Thursday 5 October
9:00am - 12:00pm**

Join Bushcare and Georges River Keeper, Robert Dixon, as they explore the bugs that live in Oyster Creek and surrounding bush. Learn why bugs are important and get a close-up look yourself.

SPRING GATHERING

**Saturday 28 October
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.

BIRDS AND BUSHCARE

**Monday 6 November
9:00am - 12:00pm
Taren Point Shorebird Reserve**

Join SSC Bushcare and guest speaker, Ricki Coughlan, for some light weeding, morning tea and an educational talk on the shorebirds that use the Taren Point Shorebird Reserve ecosystem.

BIRD SPOTTING IN THE ROYAL

**Wednesday 15 November
8:00am - 11:00am**

Join Bushcare and bird expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a bird spotting stroll through The Royal National Park.

BUSH WHACKERS

**Wednesday 29 November
9:00am - 12:00pm
Sesquicentenary Pk, Heathcote**

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

BUSHCARE XMAS BBQ

Sunday 10 December

Location: Fernleigh Reserve
184 Gannons Road, Caringbah South.

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

Bushwalks and Guided Nature Walks



ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

**Tuesday 3 October
10:00am - 12:00pm**

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



Calytrix tetragona - Emma Brame

SEED COLLECTING

- **Tuesday 7 November
9:00am-12:00pm
Community Nursery, limited spots.**
- **Thursday 16 November
9:00am-12:00pm
Greenhaven Rd, Grays Point.**
- **Tuesday 21 November
9:00am-12:00pm
Community Nursery, limited spots.**
- **Thursday 30 November
9:00am-12:00pm The Grand Parade, Sutherland**
- **Tuesday 5 December
9:00am-12:00pm
Community Nursery, limited spots.**
- **Thursday 14 December
9:00am-12:00pm
Woronora RSL.**



Darwinia fascicularis - Emma Brame

Seek and Destroy

By Nathan Clare

Sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) is a coastal plant native to Europe that grows upright to heights of 70cm, can be multi stemmed and appears like a spring growing out of the sand. Sea spurge found its way to Australia roughly 70 years ago in ship ballast water, although these days it invades new areas by its seeds washing up on beaches and colonising. Sea spurge can produce up to 5000 seeds per plant which can survive for many years in salt water and thus have extremely high invasive potential to take over coastal vegetation communities. This plant has the potential to become the next bitou bush if left unchecked.

Sutherland Shire Council have been undertaking regular sea spurge surveys and weed control for many years and as a result are only finding a very few small seedlings on the beachfront areas. Although significant infestations of sea spurge occur on beaches further south and will provide seed that can colonise areas further north. So as the weather warms up and people are spending more time out on our beautiful beaches and coastal areas, keep your eyes peeled for sea spurge as its one we really want to keep off our beaches. If you find sea spurge contact the Invasive Species Team on 9524 5672 and if you want more information visit the DPI Weedwise website and search sea spurge



Bushcare Contact Details

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And follow the prompts

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