



Winter 2011

Bushcare News

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Bushcare stall at the Easter Show 2011

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Bushcare stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This year Hornsby Shire Council provided over 2,000 plants for the wetland display. We also provided information on our beautiful Bushland Shire to interested people.

This year metropolitan councils and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority donated funds to go towards supporting Australian Wildlife Displays to bring their native animals. The presentation demonstrated some of the benefits of providing native havens in your own backyard.

The wildlife displays were well received and it was great to see so many interested kids.

If you missed the Easter Show but were interested in seeing Australian Wildlife Displays, they will be at the World Environment Day celebration at Vimiera Reserve in Epping on Sunday 6 June. See page 5 or 6 for details.

We'd love to see you at the Easter Show next year!



Emily as a brush tail possum at the Bushcare stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show



Newsletter managed by
Hornsby Shire Council
Bushland and Biodiversity Team

www.bushcare.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Bushcare site tour



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Nursery and guided bushwalk information
Ross Rapmund 9847 6361

Registration cards

From 2010, all Bushcare registration cards are valid for **five years**. Unfortunately they only cover Bushcode workshop attendees from the beginning of 2010. It is important to do this refresher course which has now been updated, to brush up on your skills and keep your accreditation current.

Do we have your current email?

Have you moved, changed jobs or just changed your email address? If so, PLEASE update your details with us.

By choosing to view the newsletter online you not only see our publication in **full colour** but you get to save trees too. You will also be one of the first people to view the latest newsletter!

Your stories and news items are always very welcome

Visit us on the web
www.bushcare.hornsby.nsw.gov.au

This year we decided to celebrate National Volunteer Week with a Bushcare site tour.

A total of 28 Bushcare volunteers participated in a site tour of three sites on Saturday 14 May. The tour began at Berowra Waters. Helen Wilson led the group through her Berowra Waters Ferry Bushcare site in Grey Myrtle Rainforest, which is relatively uncommon in the Sydney region and recognised as regionally significant community in the Hornsby Shire Biodiversity Strategy.

The CWA provided morning tea of scones and lemon myrtle biscuits before the group caught the Berowra Ferry.

The next stop took us west to Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) at the Benedictine Monastery at Arcadia. Father Bernard and volunteer Mike Newey pointed out the challenges of managing a bush regeneration site with bridal creeper, ochona and rabbits. The area being managed was lawn mowed up until 18 months ago, the result is the early stages of STIF regeneration. Mike hopes that the manual removal of bridal creeper will kick start regeneration of understorey species. However, he is concerned that the disturbance from the removal of climbing asparagus will encourage ehrharta to invade the site. His other major concern is rabbits. The rabbits love microlaena and they may be alter-



ing the balance between the groundcover to shrub layer ratio and ultimately changing the very ecology of the vegetation community! In addition to providing grant funds for the Landcare group's Trainer, Stephanie Chew, Council has assisted the monastery by providing plants and organising some Council run planting days. More than 450 plants have been planted late 2009 and early 2011.

Following a barbeque lunch, the convoy travelled south to Blue Gum High Forest at New Farm Rd, West Pennant Hills. Janne, Louise and Jackie led the tour of their site. Blue gums and blackbutts provide the canopy with creekline plants of callicoma, *Lomatia myricoides* and pittosporums. The group have replanted damaged areas with pel-laea and doodia. These ferns have in many places taken the place of trad or erharta. With lots of open space and tracks, its always a battle with weed grasses. The group continues to consolidate good bush under the canopy.

Thanks to Helen, Adrienne, Father Bernard, Mike, Janne, Louise and Jackie for leading us through their sites.

Christmas party!

A note for the diary:
The Bushcare Christmas Party will be held on the **third** Saturday of November.
We hope to see you all at Baden Powell Scout Hall, Pennant Hills, on Saturday 19 November.
We will have a great guest speaker, delicious lunch, great company and Ross Rapmund will lead a walk in the afternoon in the bushland surrounding the scout hall.

Working Together: Sharing the dream....

Under the umbrella of the Bushland and Biodiversity Team, Hornsby's Volunteer Bushcare Program and Hornsby's Bushland Operations Team strive to undertake best bush regeneration practices to manage 5,950 hectares of public bushland within the Shire. Threats to the sanctity of public bushland are in numerous forms, and reducing effects of such, ongoing. To achieve all our dreams of restoring degraded areas, protecting natural areas and increasing the general public's appreciation for Hornsby's valuable bushland asset, unity within the Bushland and Biodiversity Team is paramount. Unity can be enhanced by effective communication. The Bushland Operations Team would like to take this opportunity to summarise our work program and how we determine work priorities.

The Hornsby Bushland Operations Team is made up of Anthony Newling, Co-ordinator, and two Environmental Scientists, Donna Fitton and Robyn Cox, and Steven Pym is a part time staff member of this team also. The team is responsible for the management of 52 bushland regeneration sites, trees within bushland areas, track maintenance, strategic noxious weed control, feral animal control and project management of most grant and offset projects secured by the team.

Bush Regeneration project management involves 11 professional companies contracted through a tender process. Each financial year the companies receive a contract brief which outlines the annual works and performance targets to be met by year close. Each brief also contains a map of the site outlining the contract boundary and work zones as a management and reporting tool. The map highlights adjacent or nearby Bushcare sites

and other important features such as water courses, catchment remediation sites, National Parks and Asset Protection Zones (APZ). Contactors and the Operations Team work closely together throughout the year to manage contract briefs and achieve outcomes within the dynamic environment in which they are set.

As each site has individual requirements, determining priorities within the constraints of legislation, resources and bush regeneration best practices, can often be difficult and as such, misinterpreted. Success and support of the Operations program relies heavily on the understanding by stakeholders of these constraints. The Operations Team is extremely grateful to all involved in the Volunteer Bushcare Program for their contributions of undertaking so much valuable work as well as for being educated, experienced and on-the-ground members of the public to assist the prevention of potential misinterpretation of work priorities.

A separate program is the treatment of priority noxious weed species, as determined by Regional Weed Management Plans, undertaken collectively by many public land managers in Sydney. For example, incursions of a noxious weed species new to the Sydney area may become a regional priority, land managers including Hornsby Shire Council coordinate actions as part of the Sydney Noxious Weed Committee.

In 2005, it was identified that 40 Bushcare sites and Contract Regeneration sites overlapped or were in close proximity to one another. The benefits of the connection between contract and Bushcare sites are magnified by communication. The Operation Team hopes that open lines of communi-

cation will assist us all to work as one while we share our dream to protect the Australian Bush and all those who live in it.

By Robyn Cox, Environmental Scientist—Bushland Operations

Cameras out!

This is a reminder we will continue to have our photo competition at the next Christmas party.

This year there are a few changes. We ask you to submit your photos as either a hard or an electronic copy. Hard copies should be either A4 or 10" x 8" (25cm x 20cm). Unfortunately we are unable to return your photos, but you're welcome to arrange to pick them up from the cottage at your convenience.

If submitting electronic photos they must be **high resolution** and a large **size**.

To achieve this photos need to have a minimum of 300dpi (resolution) or 1200 pixels minimum width/height (size). Make sure your digital camera is set to the highest resolution. This is to ensure good quality photos for our publications.

Our theme remains the same - 'Hornsby - Our Beautiful Bushland'. Photos must be related to our local plants and animals and taken within Hornsby Shire.

We look forward to seeing your beautiful photos and will give you more information in the next newsletter.

Happy snapping....

OH&S update—Tick and leech guidelines

Introduction

This guideline is provided as an aid for:

1. Employees who are required to work in outdoor environments such as parks, reserves and bushland where there is an increased risk of exposure to parasites (ticks and leeches) to prevent bites and poisoning, and
2. Supervisors and managers of employees working in environments where they may potentially be exposed to parasites (ticks/leeches) are to ensure awareness of the associated hazards and recommended control strategies.

This guideline provides the following basic information for employees whose work could lead to ill effects following tick or leech bite:

- i. An overview of ticks and leeches including: what they are, locations where they are found, how they attach to a host
- ii. Potential health effects associated with tick/leech bites
- iii. Control measures to prevent tick/leech bite/s
- iv. Method/s for removing ticks/leeches
- v. Methods for treating tick/leech bites

1. Tick Overview

- I. What is a tick and where are they found?

Ticks are a blood sucking, external parasite in the arthropod phylum. Of the various tick species in Australia the most common that attacks humans in NSW is the paralysis tick.

Ticks like humid, moist, bushy areas. Eggs are typically laid in leaf matter or mulch. Ticks are not very mobile but rely on passing animals to both feed on and transport them.

Ticks have 4 distinct stages of development: egg – larval – nymph – adult. Nymphs and adult females must have a blood meal from a host. The whole cycle takes about a year.

Adult ticks cause the majority of the health problems in humans, although all stages of ticks are capable of provoking allergic reactions.

Adult paralysis ticks are more abundant in spring and early summer months.

- II. Potential health effects of tick bites.

Most cases of tick bites are uneventful but can sometimes result in allergic reactions. These allergic reactions can vary from mild itching with localised swelling and pain, to life threatening anaphylactic reaction.

Tick paralysis is most likely to be seen in children. Initial symptoms of tick paralysis may include unsteady walk, weakness of the limbs,

rashes, headache, fever, flu like symptoms, tenderness of lymph glands and partial facial paralysis.

2. Prevention of tick bites when working in tick prone/infested areas

- I. Wear light coloured clothing to allow easier detection of ticks on clothing.
- II. Wear long pants tucked into socks & long sleeve shirt tucked into pants and wear a brimmed hat.
- III. Apply an insect repellent containing DEET or Picardin on footwear & clothing. Re-apply repellent every 2 hours.
- IV. Brush clothing before getting into a vehicle or coming back to the office to remove any ticks that may be on clothes.
- V. Check clothes & skin for ticks at least twice during the day and immediately upon returning from tick infested areas. On returning to the office or home:
 - i. The body should be searched well for ticks, especially behind the ears & on the back of the head
 - ii. Clothing should be changed. (Where available clothing should be placed in a plastic bag and then in a hot dryer for 20 minutes to kill any ticks that may remain on clothing.)



3. Tick Management Supplies

- I. The following items should be carried by personnel working in known or suspected tick prone locations &/or when carrying out activities known to increase exposure to ticks:
 - i. Fine tip tweezers (**for personal use only**). (Tweezers can be obtained from your first aid kit.)
 - ii. Lyclear cream to apply to & kill ticks. (Lyclear to be purchased from a local chemist. Volunteers can be reimbursed the cost of cream.)
 - iii. Rapaid First Aid Cream (for relief & protection against infection following tick bites). (A spray can be obtained from the Bushcare Team)
 - iv. Insect repellent – choice of Bushman's Insect repellent with 40% DEET or Tropical Strength Aerogard with 17% DEET. (Both products can be ordered from the Bushcare Team. Bushman's insect repellent is recommended for use during season for paralysis ticks and prior to going into tick infested locations.)
 - v. *Mighty Tick Off is currently being trialled by Council staff. The Bushcare team will notify you should this trial lead to changes to current tick management.*

4. Tick Removal (if a tick is detected that is attached)

- I. **General** Never attempt to place any chemical such as methylated spirits onto the tick as the tick will inject saliva into the skin.

II. **Removal option 1 (NSW Health).** Remove a tick as soon as possible after locating it. Use fine pointed tweezers and grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Gently pull the tick straight out with steady pressure. Avoid squeezing the tick body during removal. If you have difficulty, seek medical attention.

III. **Optional –removal Option 2 (Medical Entomology Department – University of Sydney & Westmead Hospital).** Dab Lyclear (a permethrin insecticide) cream onto the tick & again in one minute to kill the tick. Leave tick. After 24 hours the tick should drop off or be gently removed with fine-tipped tweezers. (Store cream according to manufacturer's instructions & replace prior to use by date.)

If you have a severe infestation by larval stage ticks (often referred to as grass ticks) take a bath for 30 minutes with 1 cup of bicarbonate of soda.

5. Leech overview

- I. Leeches are annelids or segmented worms. Leech bites are annoying but it is believed that they do not transmit any diseases. They feed by sucking blood or body fluids from their host and this is made easier by the anti-coagulant they squirt into the wound. Their saliva also has a numbing agent to desensitise the victim's skin so that the bite isn't noticed. This is why the leech is normally not discovered until it has finished its meal and the trickle of thinned blood from the wound is noticed. Some people may be allergic to leech bites and



experience a delayed itching followed by a scar which can take time to fade away.

6. Leech Removal

- I. Using a fingernail or other flat, blunt object to break the seal of the oral sucker at the anterior end (the smaller, thinner end) of the leech, repeating with the posterior end, then flick the leech away. As the fingernail is pushed along the person's skin against the leech, the suction of the sucker's seal is broken, at which point the leech should detach its jaws. Once the leech is removed, spray the area with Rapaid antiseptic spray.

An externally attached leech will detach and fall off on its own when it is satiated on blood, usually in about 20 minutes (but will stay there for as long as it can).

7. References

Medical Entomology Department –University of Sydney & Westmead Hospital
NSW Health

If you would like any further information regarding ticks and leeches, please contact the Bushcare Team on 9847 6362.

Bushcare Photo Competition

See it at Epping Library

The 2010 Bushcare Photo Competition entries are on display at Epping Library until Friday 10 June.

Epping Library is located on Chambers Court (off Pembroke St) Epping. The opening hours are:

- Monday to Friday - 10am to 9pm
- Saturday - 9.30am to 12pm
- Sunday - 2pm to 5pm

This is another opportunity to view the creativity of your fellow Bushcarers. Be sure to tell friends, neighbours and family. We really appreciate your efforts, particularly during 2010 The International Year of Biodiversity.



Winner of fauna category 2010: Rae Rosten.

Community Nursery happenings

Since the big rainfall event over late March, the nursery has sent out over 7,000 plants in the past six weeks through a range of Council programs. This included successful native plant giveaway events, the finalisation of the Hornsby Creek grant and indigenous plant landscaping at Cherrybrook. Our new advanced trees have also been going to new homes, these have been produced in root training pots known as 'Rocket Pots', the benefits include no root girdling, better root surface area contact when planting in the ground and extended shelf life in the nursery. Seed germination has been encouraging, with the longer nights and short days triggering such species to come up as bearded heaths (*Leucopogon lanceolatus*) and Christmas bells (*Blandfordia nobilis*). We have also undertaken a large seed collection exercise with the volunteers from Still Creek Landcare for their requirements over the next year for tree plantings.



Celebrating our unique and beautiful environment

When? 11am - 2pm, Sunday 5 June 2011

Where? Vimiera Reserve, Essex Street, Epping

Come and enjoy a fun day which includes:

- An Australian wildlife show at 11.30am
- A free guided bush walk
- A free tai chi class
- Stalls and information from Council's Environment, Bushcare and Sustainability Teams
- A free sausage sizzle

For more information, call 9847 6832 or visit www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson.



Fantastic fungi—Facts and findings

Our next session in the Bushcare Seminar Series is on Tuesday 14 June about 'Fantastic Fungi' (see details on page 8). Lane Cove Bushland Park (LCBP) in Sydney is a site in the middle of a high-density residential area. Centered about a tributary of Gore Creek that runs into the nearby Sydney Harbour, the warm temperate gallery forest is the location of at least 27 species in the tribe Hygrocybeae. The Hygrocybeae Community of LCBP has been legislated under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995* as endangered. A final determination listed nine holotype taxa as either endangered or vulnerable under the appropriate section of the Act. In addition, the LCBP has been listed on the Register of the National Estate by the Commonwealth Heritage Commission as a site of national significance based principally on its mycological assemblage. These successful prototype initiatives have depended upon the collaborative efforts involving amateur mycology enthusiasts and a professional taxonomic mycologist as well as the local Lane Cove Council that is very proactive in conservation. This synergy of initiative, originality of ideas and keenness of observation has achieved landmark decisions for mycology and conservation of fungi in Australia.

Part of this presentation will give a brief overview of the fungi of LCBP and its listings. The second part of the presentation will give a summary overview of the numerous changes in the processes of biological repair, renewal and regeneration after bushfires. This will include a time-lapse photo sequence of a bacterium, isolated from a truffle-eating beetle, of the phenomenon of 'flocking' through quorum sensing.

The final aspect of the presentation will show rare documentation of the complex interdependency of numerous species of ground orchids and their amazing mechanisms of pollination dependent upon deception and mimicry.

The Powerpoint presentation will be supplemented with posters for viewing.



Bushfire survival plans and bushfire preparation

A copy of the NSW Rural Fire Service Bushfire Survival Plan was recently mailed out to all active Bushcare volunteers. The reason for this is that many Bushcare volunteers live on, or very close to the urban-bushland interface, within bushfire prone areas. Such information may be of use to you when planning your bushfire preparation and response strategies this winter and spring. Should you have missed out on a copy, please telephone the Bushland and Biodiversity Administration Officer on 9847 6832 or email bushland@hornsby.nsw.gov.au to have a copy mailed to you. You may also contact the NSW Rural Fire Service on 9883 2000.

Mark Sugden, Inspector from the NSW Rural Fire Service also conducted an information session on Bushfire Preparation and Survival in April to give volunteers an opportunity to hear about bushfire preparation and survival from the experts. Ten volunteers attended the information session that was focused on home and personal bushfire preparation. Attendees found the information presented informative, and sometimes challenging as we realise the difficult balance between protecting ourselves, families and homes whilst balancing the ecological values and issues sought to be implemented and managed by many Bushcare volunteers. In order to further explore this challenging nexus, Council and the NSW RFS are currently looking at opportunities to further training and information on such topics.

National Tree Day

This year, Hornsby Shire Council is hosting two National Tree Day events on Sunday 31 July.

The first site is Wallumeda Wetlands at Lee Road off Boundary Road, Pennant Hills. This site is on the flood plain high up in Berowra Creek (very high up). You can come and plant in the Blue Gum Forest, a critically endangered vegetation community that is protected under State and Federal legislation.

The other site is Belinda Crescent, North Epping. 700 plants will be provided by National Parks and Wildlife Service and Hornsby Community Nursery. This is a joint operation between Council and NPWS. This site is to revegetate an area after Council installed a catchment remediation device. Both sites will offer a free barbeque!

Diary dates and events

2010 Bushcare Photo Competition display

This is another opportunity to view last year's winners of the photo competition. You get to read about the story behind the photo. Hopefully you will be inspired to submit an entry for the 2011 competition.

When? Monday 23 May to Friday 10 June

Where? Epping Library

World Environment Day

To celebrate World Environment Day, Terrys Creek volunteers are hosting an Open Day at Vimiera Park. There will be a guided walk, Bushcare displays and a wildlife display and free sausage sizzle!

When? Sunday 5 June

Time? 11am-2pm

Where? Vimiera Park, Epping

Fabulous Fungi

Ray and Alma Kearney from the Sydney Fungal Studies Group Inc. will show off their delightful photos of some of the rarest fungal populations in NSW. Lane Cove Bushland Park, at Lane Cove is home to a diverse population of hygrocabeae fungi. For a sneak peak see the website: <http://www.sydneyfungalstudies.org.au/lanecove.htm>

When? Tuesday 14 June

Time? 6.30pm-8.30pm

Where? Council Chambers, 296 Pacific Hwy, Hornsby

Bookings: 9847 6362

email bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Chooks in small suburban gardens

You don't need lots of space to have chickens! Find out what they need to be happy, healthy and productive.

When? Saturday 18 June

Time? 9am-11am

Where? Fagan Park eco garden, Arcadia Rd, Galston (\$5 entry per car)

Bookings essential: 9847 6832

Small space & balcony good garden

You don't need a back yard to support an edible garden.

When? Saturday 23 July

Time? 10am-12pm

Where? Fagan Park Eco Garden, Arcadia Rd, Galston (\$5 entry per car)

Bookings essential: 9847 6832

Bushcode Workshop

For all Hornsby Shire Bushcare Volunteers.

When? Friday 24 June

Time? 8.45am-3pm

Where? Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia St, Pennant Hills

Bookings essential: 9847 6362 or email bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

National Tree Day

This year we are hosting two National Tree Day sites. So come along and plant some trees.

When? Sunday 31 July

Where? Epping and Pennant Hills

See website for more details

<http://treeday.planetark.org>

Bushcode Workshop—Refresher

For returning Hornsby Shire Bushcare Volunteers.

When? Thursday 14 July

Time? 5.30pm-8pm

Where? Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia St, Pennant Hills

Bookings essential: 9847 6362 or

email bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Bushcode Workshop

For all Hornsby Shire Bushcare Volunteers. Morning tea and lunch provided. The day includes a guided walk around the Community Nursery

When? Saturday 20 August

Time? 8:45am-3pm

Where? Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia St, Pennant Hills

Bookings essential: 9847 6362 or

email bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Muogamarra Nature Reserve, Spring walk

This is a special treat. The Ku-ring-gai Bushcare team have arranged a walk in Muogamarra Nature Reserve. Come along and see the glorious display of wildflowers. This could be a great opportunity to get a great photo for the annual photo competition!

When? Tuesday 23 August

Time? 1pm-3pm

Where? Muogamarra Nature Reserve

Note: Calendar date was incorrect.

Bookings: Essential please call 9424 0179. Numbers are strictly limited!

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

You can send your stories or letters to the Editor for the next edition by 1 August 2011

Fax: 9484 3588 **Phone:** 9847 6362 **Mail:** 28 Britannia St, Pennant Hills or **Email:** bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

This newsletter has been compiled by the Bushcare Team and Bushcare volunteers.



THE BUSHLAND SHIRE

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