



Photo by David Cook

Terrys Creek

Bushcare case study



About our Terrys Creek Bushcare sites

Location

Terrys Creek divides the Ryde and Hornsby local government areas through Epping and North Epping. It runs from just past Blaxland Road and feeds the Lane Cove River at Browns Waterhole. Hornsby Shire Council manages the western side of Terrys Creek from Vimiera Park north to Lane Cove National Park.



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Eastern water dragon

Wildlife

The majority of the vegetation along the Terrys Creek is Peppermint Angophora Forest (*Eucalyptus piperita* and *Angophora costata*). However a pocket of Blue Gum High Forest, dominantly composing of blue gums (*Eucalyptus saligna*) and blackbutts (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), is present at Vimiera Park. This vegetation community is only found on shale-derived soils in the northern suburbs of Sydney. It's one of the most threatened ecological communities in Australia today.

Over 70 varieties of birds have been identified around Terrys Creek including rare gang gang cockatoos and powerful owls. The iconic eastern water dragon is also commonly found nearby the creek.

Flora of Terrys Creek

Due to constant disturbance and nutrient loaded urban stormwater, it is not uncommon to see many weeds, such as privet, growing near Terrys Creek.

Bushcare volunteers and contractors are working to restore native vegetation. A key part of the approach is to minimise disturbance to the soil and the native animals that now forage and nest in the weed thickets.

Major grants project summaries

Council and volunteers have been restoring the vegetation growing along the creekline for decades. Together, with additional funding through grants and sponsorships, we have been able to work on significant projects for the benefit of the whole community.

2007-2010 A *Catchment Connections Grant* was awarded through NSW Environment Trust. This grant has assisted with bushland restoration by funding contracts for bush regeneration works. Volunteer Bushcare groups were also received funding for training and the purchase of materials.

2008-2010 A grant was awarded through Greenspace to assist with walking track upgrades and the installation of directional and interpretative signs.

2002-2004 A \$20,000 EnviroFund grant was used to employ bush regeneration contractors to target noxious weeds and run education programs.

2000-2002 A four-year grant of more than \$118, 000 (with Council contributions) was used to restore the degraded creekline near Vimiera Park. Epping Rotary Club assisted with the project.



Blue gums

Volunteer Bushcare at Terrys Creek

History of Bushcare

Bushcare volunteers began regenerating this reserve in 1991. Many of the volunteers had little or no experience with bush regeneration but were passionate about restoring the local native vegetation and providing habitat for native animals.

Bushcare today

Today there are 12 Bushcare project sites within the Terrys Creek catchment. Through Council's training and support our volunteers have a good understanding of how to assist with natural bush regeneration and get good results.

The volunteers give special consideration to ensuring they preserve and restore wildlife habitat. Different groups in the Terrys Creek catchment work in different ways depending on the state of the bushland on the project site. In some cases weeds are not removed as they can provide habitat and nesting sites for the large number of birds that live in the area. In other cases weeds can be removed entirely, allowing native plants to grow.

All volunteer Bushcare groups meet at least once a month. They are supported by a Hornsby Shire Council Bushcare Trainer, who helps teach them about bushland restoration techniques and plant identification.

Get involved!

For more information about volunteer Bushcare, call 9847 6362 or visit www.bushcare.hornsby.nsw.gov.au.



Volunteer during weeding day



Terrys Creek, Burnt Bridge Bushcare site