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Requesting Council help for non Bushcare matters

If you find a tree has fallen over a walking track, or someone has dumped rubbish in the bush, or something has happened that you think Council has some responsibility for, the fastest way to get assistance is to call the main phone number **9847 6666**, explain briefly what the issue is, and ask to place a Customer Service Request.

Contact Details

Mail: PO BOX 37, Hornsby NSW 1630 **Email:** bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

Coordinator -
Bushland Programs Team
Sam Hand

Environmental Scientist – Bushland
Reserve Management (North East)
Donna Fitton

Environmental Scientist - Bushland
Reserve Management (South)
Ty Suter

Environmental Scientist - Bushland
Reserve Management (North West)
Robyn Cox

Environmental Scientist – Bushcare
Leanne Johnston

Bushcare Field Officer
Jean-Philippe Kecman

Nursery and Guided Bushwalk
Program Coordinator
Ross Rapmund

SAFEHOLD
Incident and hazard reporting
9847 4848 including outside
business hours

Staff changes

Introducing Sam Hand - Coordinator Bushland Programs



Sam Hand

In June 2017 I started with Hornsby Shire Council as the Coordinator – of the Bushland Programs team. I have had a chance to meet some of you around the traps, and few more at the Christmas party, those I haven't

yet met, I look forward to doing so in the near future. I'm new to the area so I thought I'd give you a brief history of my working life to date.

I started my career working for National Parks in Victoria while completing natural resource management studies. I then had a few years with NSW National Parks as a lighthouse keeper and discovery ranger before returning to Victoria, working for local government and the Royal Botanic Gardens as a Ranger and bush regenerator for a number of years.

I then settled into a role at the Mornington Peninsula Shire as a Conservation Officer and Coordinator for about 15 years where I looked after about 250 bushland reserves undertaking biodiversity conservation works, fire management, feral animal management and of course, working with and assisting a range of dedicated volunteer "Friends of" and Landcare groups.

After what seemed like a lifetime of southern winters, I started seeking the obligatory northern migration often sought by many Victorians, and started looking for opportunities north of the border. Having spent my career to date dedicated to conserving bushland and biodiversity, when I saw a role advertised for the coordination of the Bushland Programs Team in the Bushland Shire, it caught my attention and I suppose the rest they say is history. I have had a great half a year coordinating the Bushland Programs Team, and I'm thoroughly enjoying working with such a great bunch of dedicated individuals in the beautiful Bushland Shire.



David Hughes

Bushcare Trainer

Hello, my name is David Hughes. I recently joined Hornsby Shire Council as a Bushcare Trainer. I feel both excited and privileged to join such an experienced, passionate and dedicated team of volunteers and professionals in the Hornsby Council Bushcare program.

In 1989, I arrived in Australia from the UK. I have always held an interest in natural history and coming from the UK experiencing the Aussie bush has been an exciting and deeply fascinating experience.

My more recent work experience has been with the charity and not-for-profit sector. Here I worked for ten years managing and co-ordinating a group of passionate and dedicated volunteers building refurbished computer systems from donated equipment for people with a disability.

Three years ago, I had a 'tree change' and started a career in bush regeneration. These last three years have been deeply rewarding working full-time as a bush regenerator, then supervisor interspersed with several courses at TAFE including Cert III Conservation Land & Management. I will soon complete a Diploma in Conservation Land and Management.

One of the best things about doing this sort of work is you never stop learning! Every visit to a bush site provides the potential to experience or learn something new, a new plant, insect, rock formation or evidence of habitation from our original land owners!

How could you possibly work in an office after experiencing this?



Justin Djuric

Bushcare Trainer

Bushcare Trainer Justin Djuric made the difficult decision to give up his responsibilities with Hornsby Council in October last year.

Although a Trainer for only a few months, Justin's personality, skills and knowledge were readily embraced by all the Bushcare groups he worked alongside.

Justin is now settling in to a new managerial role with the Bush Regeneration company he was already working for when he joined Hornsby's Bushcare program in March 2017.

The Bushcare Team wishes Justin all the best in this new chapter of his professional life.

Bushcare Christmas party

This year we wanted you to join us for some fun and enjoy a party to celebrate the work you do to create a better environment. We shortened the speeches and provided more time for you to catch up with old friends and make new friends on the bowling green.

Asquith Bowls & Recreation Club was either a great location or everyone just wanted to try lawn bowls. This year we had more attendees than ever, quite a feat when you consider 120 Bushcare volunteers south of the M2 are now in the City of Parramatta Bushcare Program.

The club supplied an army of experienced bowlers to demonstrate how to play. The rules were clearly explained, techniques were assessed and refined and the many friendly games ensued. The volunteers relaxed in the warm and humid conditions, enjoyed the fine company and the fun of learning a new skill. I do suspect that some of our volunteers were old hands at bowls but they kept that pretty quiet. Our new Coordinator - Bushland Community Programs Sam Hand was out on the greens flexing his muscles, and getting to know a little bit more about Hornsby's volunteers.

Ross Rapmund, Nursery Coordinator, made an appearance after his operation in November. It was great to see him up on his feet. I'm sure all the Nursery volunteers were pleased to see him.

A big thank you to:

- Meron Wilson, who did a sterling job as our MC;
- Councillor Robert Browne, who delivered a fantastic speech about the volunteer programs;
- Peter Coad, Acting Group Manager – Environment and Human Services gave a great summary of our Branch achievements for the year;
- Sam Hand, Coordinator - Bushland Programs for setting up a great photo gallery for the competition;
- I would also like to thank everyone who helped make the Christmas Party such a fantastic day in particular Jean-Philippe Kecman and all his Bushcare Trainers who make my life much easier, David Hughes, Emma Hyland, Tony Gorman, Deb Rothwell, Ty Suter, Sara Thomas and Anita Wynne;
- All the volunteers who submitted photos for the Photo Competition, our annual photo competition is the envy of all other councils;
- The Alan Avenue Bushcare Group who serenaded us with original lyrics for their tune, The Biden That Blooms in the Spring, (sung to the tune of The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring by Gilbert and Sullivan). I was so relieved the weather held out until the end of the party. Many staff members were held captive until the storm was over. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the Hornsby Bushcare and Community Nursery Program the strong program it is today. I would especially like to thank the people who have made a significant contribution to the program;
- Pat Pike – one of our original Bushcare Trainers and volunteer at Amaroo for many years.
- Sheila Woods – who was a Bushcare Trainer and remains a volunteer at Observatory Park, Chilworth Reserve, Kirkham Street and Kenwick Lane.
- Noel and Rae Rosten, who first joined Bushcare 25 years ago, when the Hornsby Conservation Society started a group at Rosemead Road. Since then they started the Currawong Bushcare Group, joined Berowra Oval Bushcare Group, and joined the Hornsby Herbarium Group who produce species lists for the bushland in the Hornsby Shire. Outside of Bushcare they are active members of the Native Plant Society and regularly send letters to the editor of the Bush Telegraph. In addition, they bring Pat Pike to our events.

Annual award winners

25 Years of Service

Chilworth Bushcare Group

The inspiration for our group to continue working for over 25 years in Chilworth Reserve came from some of the pioneer conservationists who have lived in Beecroft and Cheltenham over the years. In particular John Noble a resident who moved to Beecroft in 1949. John was a member of the Wildlife Preservation Society and got to know other like-minded people who cared about the local bushland. The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust was formed in 1964 and in 1965 John, as a founding member, formed a subcommittee and began a group to remove Privet along Devlins Creek. Hornsby Council asked if some



of the Trust members could become honorary Rangers for the area and one of the other active participants was Baldur Byles. Baldur's mother Ida had donated 5 acres of land for Chilworth Reserve to the Wildlife Preservation Society in 1938 to add to a larger area of bushland already reserved for the protection of its flora and fauna. His sister Marie was of course a very active conservationist and left her property 'Ahimsa' in Cheltenham to the National Trust when she died in 1979.

The Chilworth Group was started specifically at the request of John Noble who had watched the deterioration of the reserve since the sewer lines were put through in the early 1960's. There were four of us that winter Friday afternoon, Esme Blackmore, Pat Hersey, John Single and myself Sheila Woods. We had all been working with Jenifer Lewis at a site she started in Beecroft Reserve in 1987 before Hornsby Council began its Bushcare Program. Jenny was also a member of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust's bushland subcommittee and

a skilled botanist so we all learned a lot from her. When Jenny decided to concentrate her efforts on fighting the building of the M2 motorway through the reserve John Noble asked if the group could transfer its efforts to an area of Chilworth which would not be impacted. The alignment for the M2 was eventually changed so it did not go through Chilworth Reserve itself and destroyed less bushland than previously planned.

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust has always had members interested in the welfare of the local bushland and the subcommittee started by John Noble continued until 2006. Many of the volunteers in the Chilworth group past and present have been members of the Trust which has continued to promote good bushland management in our area. The current President of the Trust Ross Walker is a keen bush regenerator who joined the Chilworth group when he retired as well as continuing to co-ordinate his own group in Hull Road. Ross is also a member of the Council's Bushland Management Advisory Committee.

We have been fortunate in that there have continued to be dedicated local residents who have joined us over the years. Some younger ones for a short time as part of their studies and older ones for as long as they could manage. The group continues to work weekly and there are currently about 6 to 8 of us regulars who come when they can on a Friday morning from 9.00am to noon. The condition of the bushland in the reserve is now much improved from when we started in 1991 but the impacts from the surrounding urban area are ongoing and we will not run out of things to do. Since 2010 the Reserve has also benefited from the invaluable work done by professional bush regeneration contractors provided by Hornsby Council. Their work is a big support and inspiration for us in our aim to preserve this unique bushland.

We would like to thank all those who have helped us over the 25 years and more particularly the current active members of the group which includes

Esme Blackmore, one of the originals; our long serving members include Doug Unmack, Michael Hummell, Masako Piper and Ross Walker. Members who have joined us more recently Alan Churchill, Coral Walker and Trish Brown.

Past members of the group who made a huge contribution include Christine Austin, Paulette DeMartin, Ken Laycock and John Edwards. Eva Jones who has only recently had to retire from the group needs special acknowledgement. Eva started doing bush regeneration in the 1970's and worked for many years in the bush along Byles Creek at the end of Day Road in Cheltenham in what was then Pennant Hills Park. She continued there until the group disbanded and she joined the Chilworth Group in 1995.

I would also like to remember the contributions of Ramsay Underwood, John Single, Pat Hersey and Donald Bartho who have now passed away.

There are many more not mentioned here and we thank them all.

Do come and have a cup of tea with us one day. You are always welcome.

By Sheila Woods, Group Leader

Rosemead Road Bushcare Group

Rosemead Road Bushcare Group was established in early 1992 through the Hornsby Conservation Society on the invitation from Peter Kemp of Hornsby Shire Council. Initially the group consisted of eight members: Daphne Gordon, Esme Wood, Lorna Fleming, Maud Miscamble, Pat Pike, Bob Salt, Phillip Moxham and Marj Fleming.



Annual award winners

The volunteers' first task was to remove privet, a weed that was literally choking the site below the towering canopy of Blue Gums. Amazing regeneration occurred following this weed removal and now many parts of the site are self-maintaining and very diverse in plant species richness, however ongoing maintenance is essential. The current number of volunteers consists of six: Richard Mason, Lynne Springett, Paula Ellis, Ellie Werner, David Martin plus Bushcare Trainer Joe Kielniacz.

The site contains Blue Gum High Forest, having higher nutrient soil than surrounding sandstone areas and contains remnant rainforest species. It is classified as a critically endangered ecological community under the Commonwealth Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act and adjoins Berowra Valley National Park. Other tall trees, as well as the Sydney Blue Gum, include Blackbutts, Rough-barked Apple and Turpentine. A total of approximately 270 species of native plants have been recorded on the site.

Historic heritage steps, originally built during the depression years, descend from Quarry Road Hornsby through the reserve from which the track head for the Blue Gum walk commences. From what can be ascertained of the early history there were a few settlers related to the Higgins Family in the vicinity with small orchards. A lot of soil removal and some timber getting took place. It is understood that some Blackbutt trees were cut for competition wood chopping in Royal Easter Shows in the later years.

The reserve supports a good variety of bird life. From the mid 1990's a total of 100 different bird species have to date been recorded in this area which include: Bassian Thrush, Noisy Pitta, Powerful Owl, nesting Pacific Baza, Square-tailed Kite and the Australian Owlet Nightjar. This is most likely due to many old trees with hollows and the diversity of the natural vegetation of the site and valley area.

**By Dr Richard Mason,
Group Leader**

15 Years of Service

Fearnley Park Bushcare Group

Like volunteers everywhere I often think of Churchill. "Never has so much been done for so many by so few," all for the wonderful free Christmas feast! Prior to our group forming, work in Fearnley Park had been done by Sheila Woods and Christine Austin. Our group started with about 14 folk who spanned three generations in age along with a dog named Toby Piper and with Agata Mitchell at the helm. Our group photo was used on Bushcare's pop up promo sign.

The park has a play area set in two



grassed areas divided by a creek which drains the slope up to Pennant Hills Road at Thompson's Corner then joins a larger creek which flows from Hull Road with water from as far as Observatory Park. We began work on our creek by clearing, then putting down paper and wood chips. We had the biggest compost heap in Beecroft. Later the council improved the creek bed which allowed us to plan in the knowledge that our work would not be washed away.

We are now guided by Emma Hyland and our team is Richard, Hilary, Monique and Geoff. Special thanks to Hilary who lives in Normanhurst and to Geoff, our new member who is the first person in 15 years to come along and want to join us as a transfer from the other side of the M2.

We are a friendly, happy group inspired by Emma's enthusiasm and her morning teas, watching natural regeneration in this now mature site, our birds, and waiting patiently for plants to put in the ground and our occasional flood.

What we don't like is picking up garbage and bags of dog poo, garden escape weeds, which now include Mondo Grass and the damage that is occasionally done

to the plants and park equipment.
By Richard Shield, Group Leader

Kirkham Street Bushcare Group

The Kirkham Street group was started as a result of John Noble's concern for the local Beecroft bushland. In 2001 he asked Council to do some weed control at a prominent entrance to Beecroft Reserve. This was the entrance for a vehicle access track to, what was then, the 2nd Beecroft Scout Hall located near the end of Welham St. John and members of the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust bushland subcommittee were concerned at the very degraded condition of the bushland near this entrance. Council employed UBM bush regeneration contractors to do some primary clearing of weed vines such as Madeira Vine, Balloon Vine and Honey Suckle, woody weeds such as Blackberry, Privet and Ochna and ground cover weeds Trad and Fishbone Fern. UBM did a good job over a few sessions but were not able at the time to do more follow up work. A few volunteers from other local groups offered to do a few sessions and then some neighbours became interested and we were able to start a new group. There was Bill Martin the immediate neighbour and Val Zalis further up the street, myself Sheila Woods and Pat Pike was our Bushcare trainer. In 2002 a company called Manboom were putting advertising on the M2 and they funded a major upgrade of the entrance which involved relocating the gate, new post and rail fencing and more weeding, mulching and planting of the road embankment. For some years the work of the volunteer group concentrated on maintaining the entrance area and pushing back into the bushland beyond when possible. As time went on the priority changed to improving the bushland with more resilience further away from the entrance and the site has extended to where a CRR sediment pond was built in 2007.

The combined efforts of the volunteer group and the contractors maintaining the pond, as well as other Council contractors who have worked on adjacent parts of the reserve has made a big difference to the condition of the bushland in this part of Beecroft Reserve.

Sadly Bill Martin and Val Zalis have passed away now but we have other

dedicated regular members who work on the 2nd Saturday of the month with Meron Wilson our equally dedicated trainer. We even have our very own table and chairs for morning tea made from a large stump and four smaller ones. There is also a lovely seat made from local timber with a small plaque dedicated to Bill Martin.

Sheila Woods, Group Leader

Clarinda Street Bushcare Group

I am a founding member of the Clarinda Street Bushcare Group, which was initiated fifteen years ago by a neighbour, Peter Reefman, just as the pollution control wetlands surrounding the cul-de-sac of Clarinda St were being completed by Hornsby Shire Council. Over the previous five years, the main creek with a sandy beach area, where our children used to paddle and play on



hot days, had disappeared under camphor laurel, privet and bamboo, and the massive wetlands work was a good opportunity to try to recover a little of the creek-line and local bushland. With help from 4 different trainers and a variety of local Bushcare members, the tree-sized weeds, kikuyu and bamboo have gone, denuded areas replanted by a project-focussed group of about 20 local residents, and the long-term members now continue to work on the lower storey. The best successes have come from Peter's diligent work against the bamboo runners, which were rounded-up every time they appeared; from my weeding work on a fence-line area invaded by Ehrharta, Tredescantia, and Watsonia bulbs; and Helen Curry's and Vandra's recent attack on an overpowering patch of Trad and Ehrharta in a low-lying spot. The site borders what used to be called the Elouera Bushland and the group is constantly amazed at the resilience of the local bushland and the way the native vegetation flourishes after the invaders have been removed.

Since we started working in this site, we have been constantly inspired by the thought that our children, grandchildren and local families with their young children would have an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the creeks and native plants and experience the many different birds which regularly visit, some of whom have recently set up home in trees on the site.

Nicola Pullan, Group Leader

Katta Close Bushcare Group

Katta Close Bushcare group was started by Karen and Richard Brading in 2003 and were joined soon after by neighbours Bob and Rachel Spurrett. The Brading family wanted to get into the dreaded Jasmine Valley to restore the degraded creekline. While Richard regularly goes on expeditions to Jasmine Valley, there's a lot less Jasmine.

Most of the work focused on improving the two creeklines which were severely degraded due to urban runoff, sedimentation, rubbish and erosion.



The group successfully managed to remove weed plumes and implemented a revegetation program in combination with regular hand weeding. The site was extended in 2013 to include the top of the escarpment above Walls Gully. The incremental removal of woody weeds followed by follow up hand weeding and revegetation has continued until the end of 2014.

This is a group who love their birds, members are regulars at Hornsby Bushcare's bird surveys. But most of all they love to stop for morning tea and share their experiences with each other.

Duneba Drive/Elouera Road Bushcare Group

Original Group Leader, Bob Langley started working intermittently since 1998, the group officially formed in 2002, shortly afterward Bob passed way. The

site is also known as 'Bob's Corner' since and a sign is dedicated to his memory. Dick Perkins began work in October 2002 and has worked the site ever since. The years 2004 and 2005 saw major drainage construction works on site with the Catchments Remediation Rate (CRR) program, and revegetation using local plants. Contract bush regeneration occurred along the Westleigh interface from 2006 until recent years, with the contract boundaries being adjacent to the Bushcare site.

In 2012, NPWS conducted hazard reduction burns along Berowra Valley National Park, resulting in small areas of erosion and some damage to vegetation within the Bushcare site. Dick and Elaine have been working together since 2010, their third member, Geoff retired some years back.

Binya Close Bushcare Group

Formerly a residential and agricultural site, the Bushcare site contains the remains of a dwelling, large areas of dumped waste and cultivated soil where the orchard was. The Bushcare group formed in 1992, the same year Landcom proposed a housing development.

Threatened species on the site include the Giant Burrowing Frog, Red-crowned



Toadlet and *Persoonia mollis* subsp. maxima environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/profile.aspx?id=10597.

Annual award winners

15 Years' of Service continued..

Wareemba Avenue/Tyas Bushcare Group

The core group members live along Larool Creek, they were inspired to regenerate the creekline vegetation from a weed infested mess to a beautiful



bushland reserve. Always striving to regenerate the reserve, the group applied for and were awarded \$5000 from Landcare Australia for on

ground works. The funds were used to engage contract bush regenerators to remove Arundo from the site. Since then the volunteers have treated the regrowth and the native groundcovers have returned.

Nursery Awards

Due to an influx of both new and highly skilled volunteers this year, our coveted Nursery Volunteer of the Year Award has been hotly contested. However, just being new is not a prerequisite for this award. This award acknowledges patience, dedication, determination, and in this instance; the ability to bake. This year's Nursery Volunteer of the Year is Nicolas Debray

Special Services Awards

The Golden Trowel Award 2017, is for the volunteer working in the most volunteer sites.

Lynne Springett original group leader of Manor Road Bushcare site in Hornsby consistently worked there since 2007. She also volunteers at Galston Road, Hornsby Heights, a founding member of Old Man Valley/Quarry Road, Hornsby, Brooklyn Park and Rofe Park, Hornsby Heights. She volunteers regularly with Floating Landcare, a program under the Sydney Local Land Services, partnered with Hornsby Council.

David Martin – Local bird expert

We would like to thank David for leading the Rosemead Road bird surveys for 2015 and 2017. David has an amazing repertoire of bird calls; he has excellent bird identification skills and is very passionate about his local birds. The survey volunteers really appreciated his skills, experience and his patience.

Special thanks to Ron Watts, our official photographer for the Bushcare and Nursery Christmas Party.

Photo competition

We had a total of 52 entries in our Photo competition for 2017, 13 in the special theme of Parrots of Hornsby.

Thank you to all the entrants, the winners are:

Sue Patterson	Camouflaged Peron's Tree Frog
Noel Rosten	Blue Triangle Butterfly - Graphium sarpedon
Janelle Marr	That's Life

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who entered the photo competition. Without your entries our calendar would not be the coveted publication it is today.

The top 15 photographs will be on display in the Pennant Hills Library from 12 April to 2 May and in the Hornsby Library from 3 July to 31 July.

2018 Bushcare Competitions

Bushcare Photo Competition Terms and Conditions

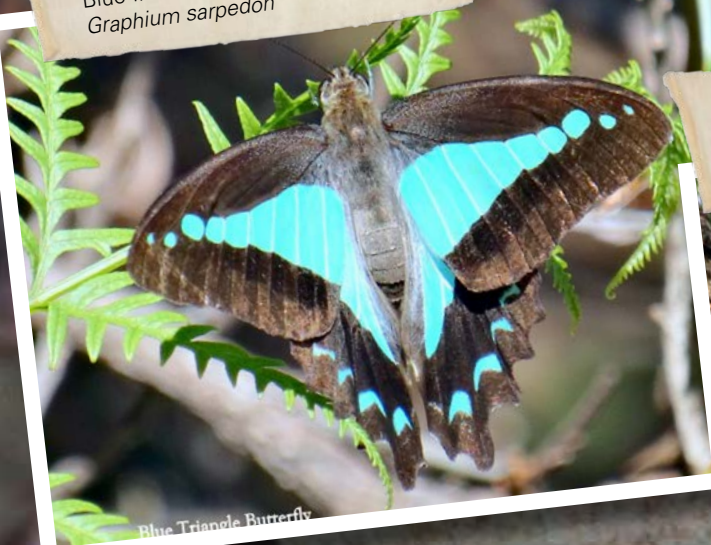
- Open to Bushcare and Nursery volunteers only
- Submissions need to include the photographer's name, title of the photo and volunteer group. Photos are to be at least 300dpi (resolution) or 1200 pixels width/height, should you have difficulties please contact the office 9847 6362 or bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au. Maximum of three entries per person per category.

- Closing date for 2018 competition: Monday 3 September 2018.
- Viewing will be from 25 September until 30 October at Hornsby Library.
- Voting is open to all attendees of the Hornsby Bushcare Christmas Party on Saturday 1 December 2018. Winners will be awarded by popular vote and announced at the Christmas Party. The judge's decision is final.
- A selection of the photos will be published in the 2019 Bushcare Calendar.
- There are two categories in the 2018 competition, maximum of three entries per person per category:
- The main event: Hornsby - Our Beautiful Bushland – the celebration of our environment. Photos must be taken within Hornsby Shire and related to local plants and animals.
- Hornsby Mini-beasts (invertebrates) – a popular subject in previous years. Entries will provide the inspiration for the mini-beast evening, where you are invited to a supper and commentary on selected photos.
- If a child is clearly identifiable within a photo, consent of the parent or guardian via a photo release form is required. Photo release forms are available upon request.

Sue Patterson
Camouflaged Peron's Tree Frog



Noel Rosten
Blue Triangle Butterfly -
Graphium sarpedon



Janelle Marr
That's Life



Cicadas

Summer 2017-2018 was a bumper year with scientists recording the highest number of emerged adult cicadas since 2013. The last 30 years have seen a steady decline to the number of cicadas, most likely due to the loss of forests.

To date there are over 350 described cicada species in Australia today, with further research there could be as many as 1000 species. Larger cicadas can be found on the trunks of trees in summer, smaller species often live in low shrubs or even on long grass.

The cicada lifecycle consists of three stages: egg, nymph and adult. Female cicadas lay 200-300 3mm eggs in the branch of a young tree. The eggs take about four months to hatch. A spindly nymph emerges, falls to the ground and burrows into the soil. They feed underground on the sap from the tree roots. The nymph stage can be anywhere between 1 and 17 years depending on the species. When the adult emerge they only live for approximately six weeks. During that time the males call to attract potential mates.

Each species of cicada has its own particular song, often singing during the heat of the day. Most species stop calling when the temperature drops below 15°C and are renowned as the loudest insects in the world. Scientists have recorded the chorus of the Double Drummer cicada (*Thopha saccata*), the largest identified cicada in Australia, at 120 decibels (dB). That's above the pain threshold of most humans! Roughly the equivalent to a chainsaw or heavy metal concert. Many cicada species call in a chorus; this could be an evolutionary trait so females can assess the fitness of a potential mate or a precautionary measure to reduce predation, particularly by birds. Anecdotally a loud chorus, say above 110 dB, causes distress in humans and birds.

In Sydney, cicadas generally emerge early summer, many die off by Christmas. The most common species in the Sydney region is *Cyclochila australasiae* and come in a variety of colours, including the Green Grocer (bright

green), Masked Devil (thorax and head are orange with black markings with a shiny black abdomen), Yellow Monday (yellow form), Chocolate Soldier (a rare brown form) and Blue Moon (blue form, very prized amongst collectors).

Other species include Flourey Baker or Flourey Miller (*Aleeta curvicosta*). This is a large cicada that looks like it has a thin dusting of white powder, hence the name. They do not congregate like the common *Cyclochila australasiae* and are often seen on trees facing down; the adults are usually active from November to May.

A common species around Mt Ku-ring-gai National Park are Red-Eyes (*Psaltoda moerens*), the adults have shiny black bodies and red eyes. They prefer to feed on smooth barked Eucalypts and *Angophora costata*. The Red-eye can be very common one year and completely absent the next. Another favourite in common folklore is the Black Prince (*Psaltoda plaga*), black with brown markings on the body with black eyes. The Black Prince was always considered a rare find. The truth is, the Black Prince is much more at home around rivers and estuaries than in forest. Unlike the other large cicadas, the Black Prince tends to be found on branches rather than trunks.

If you want to know more about cicadas visit:

cicadamania.com

Love cicadas and want to join in the great cicada blitz? Then log onto:

inaturalist.org/projects/the-great-cicada-blitz

Information from The Great Cicada Blitz is used by Dr Nathan Emery from the Australian Botanic Gardens to create a map of cicadas in Sydney.

If you are interested in the cicadas in your area, the Australian Museum has an identification service. Simply take a photo and send to the Australian Museum, Search and Discover section and include the location of the photo. australianmuseum.net.au/searchdiscover

Earthwise Cottage

Beehive update

The Earthwise Cottage received the *Tetragonula carbonaria* bee hive in 2011 as part of the Greenstyle Program. Since then, the bees have been happily making honey, more bees, honey pots and resin pots. So much so they even took over the cavity between the hive and the insulating encasement!

In spring 2017 we decided it was time to split the hive. On the day, we actually split two hives as a resident brought in their hive as well. Inside each hive we found the beautiful spiral brood chamber usually called the

advancing front. The advancing front is located where the new chambers are being built, with each chamber containing one egg and the necessary resources for the bee to develop into an adult. Development of each bee, until it bursts out of the chamber, occurs over about 50 days.

To our amazement the honey from each hive had a distinctly different flavour. While they were similar in texture, both very runny, the honey from the Earthwise Cottage was very florally, perfumed and sweet. The other honey had deeper notes, with citrus

and menthol, almost medicinal in flavour, clearly the garden contained lots of food plants and tall trees.

We were very lucky to be able to collect honey from the hives, this is fairly uncommon but so is waiting six years to split your hive. *Tetragonula* are not prolific producers of honey and use their honey reserves over winter when nectar and pollen are scarce.

Did you know *Tetragonula* do not forage until the temperature reaches 18°C?



Autumn pollinator count

8-15 April 2018

Become a citizen scientist and join in the autumn Pollinator Count. It's easy! All you have to do is a quick survey of the pollinators in your garden or local reserve. Choose a sunny, calm day - the best conditions for tiny pollinators.

Observe a flowering plant or tree in your garden, or in a local park, make sure you know the name of the plant as you will need to record the name (common or botanical) on the datasheet.

Watch the flowers continuously for 10 minutes. Record any insect that visits the flowers and moves around on the stamens or pistil (the flower's

reproductive parts). Do not count insects that fly past and try to avoid repeat visitors.

Enter your observations on the Submit Observations page or wildpollinatorcount.com/submit-observations

Leanne will meet up with some Bushcare groups during the Autumn Pollinator Count. Happy counting.

TAKE 3 for the sea!

Take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway or anywhere and you've made a difference.

Take 3 are a not-for-profit organisation established in 2009, based in Sydney, Australia.

They deliver education programs to inspire the global community to help create a cleaner planet for wildlife and future generations.

Pick it up. Bin it. #TAKE3FORTHESSEA

Our vision is to be a leader in significantly reducing plastic pollution in Australia and around the globe.

Our mission is to significantly reduce global plastic pollution through education and participation.

HOW IT WORKS

Plastic gets into the ocean in all sorts of ways but most of it comes from land. By preventing the problem in the first place, we can start to make a real impact in reducing plastic pollution.

Whenever you're at a beach, waterway or anywhere in the great outdoors, simply take 3 pieces of rubbish away with you and you've made a difference.

Picking up other peoples' rubbish may not be a natural instinct, but our

supporters find that they pick up many more than 3 items once they get started!

Join together with friends to Take 3, or make it a mindful moment of your daily or weekly routine and you'll create a new habit that's good for both you and the planet!

If you want to share what you've collected, take a picture and upload it to Instagram or Facebook using the hashtag #Take3fortheSea and logging the location. We can then record the number of items that are being removed and measure the tangible difference we're making as a collective! take3.org

Brush Turkey Talk - Hornsby Library

Have Brush Turkeys moved into your garden? Reworked your beautiful landscaping? Scraped away your mulch to build a massive structure? Do you want to know more about how to live in harmony with these large single-minded birds?

Brush Turkeys belong to a group called the Megapodes, meaning 'large foot'. Uniquely among birds, Megapodes incubate their eggs using environmental sources of heat, usually microbial decomposition in a mound which the male bird assembles from available leaf-litter and soil. The mound acts rather like a compost heap, and is usually constructed away from direct

sunlight, and hence protected from day-night temperature extremes and substantial moisture loss.

Brush Turkey numbers seem to be exploding in the suburbs of Sydney. They seem particularly drawn to building mounds in urban gardens. It's believed the major attraction for the birds is food. Brush Turkeys receive no parental care when hatched; they make their own way in life and learn how to forage for food sources through trial and error. This makes them highly adaptable and able to exploit new ecological opportunities.

A female Turkey can produce up to 300 eggs per year, the survival rate for chicks is about 5%. The chicks



are born quite advanced, with full covering of downy feathers. They easily fall prey to domestic cats, but there are probably more hiding places and fewer predators in a domestic garden than there are in an equivalently-sized piece of natural bush.

If you want to know more about Brush Turkeys in the urban landscape, Megapode specialist Ann Goeth, is presenting a lecture at Hornsby Library Saturday 11 August 2pm-4pm. See the What's on. Cost: \$5.00

Plantbank- Mount Annan

Recently the nursery volunteers and staff visited the fantastic Plantbank facility at Mount Annan Botanic Gardens.

We had pre-booked a 1.5 hour tour (\$20 per adult \$16 concession) with Graham Errington- Seedbank Curator, Australian PlantBank (Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands).

Plantbank was opened in October 2013. Whilst the gardens at Mount Annan opened in 1988 (30th birthday this year).

Plantbank was built with a combined 20 million dollars funding from the NSW State Government and voluntary contributions. It houses the Garden's seedbank and research laboratories that specialise in horticultural research and conservation of Australian native plant species, particularly those from New South Wales. Samples from the collection are also sent to the Millennium Seedbank (MSB) in England just outside of London at West Sussex through Kew Gardens. Around 50% of all NSW floras are already in the MSB. Currently the MSB has 37,614 species and 2,200,964,170 seeds in storage from 189 countries.

You may also have heard of the seedbank in the icy tundra region of Norway. This facility is set up to exclusively store agricultural seed crops and doesn't have a research arm. These seed collections are very uniform from a genetic perspective as opposed to the genetically diverse wild seed collections at Plantbank and the MSB.

Back to Plantbank, there is also a strong focus on –

- threatened flora from NSW, working in conjunction with NPWS (which leads on to propagating and reintroducing these species back into the wild) and
- the collection and storage of rainforest species from NSW

At Plantbank seed collections are targeted and a lot of information is gathered both before the collection can occur and during the collection to document the ecological parameters that the seed lot is found in. This information is vital to documenting the collection through storage and for when germination trials or tests are required.

The aim is to store seeds for centuries or longer, so part of this research involves checking regularly (every 10 years) that you are actually storing viable seed. This can be done by a number of techniques-

- Germinating a test set on agar in petri dishes (usually the base test for a new seed lot)
- X-ray a sample of the seeds to check the condition of the embryo (and check for seed predators)

Seeds are then stored frozen at minus 20 degrees Celsius. The seeds need to be very dry (5% moisture volume) before freezing, otherwise if they were stored "wet" the water in the seeds would expand to ice crystals and crack the seeds.

For rainforest species the system is slightly more complicated. Often rainforest species seeds are very short lived and also have oils in them which prevent drying them out for freezing. So instead seeds are germinated or they are grown by tissue culture then a sample of meristematic tissue (which holds all the genetic information for that species) is placed cytogenetically into liquid nitrogen. This should allow storage for thousands of years.

plantbank.org.au

Ross Rapmund, Community Nursery and Guided Bushwalks Coordinator

Image: Waratahs being grown by tissue culture for the 2018 in-ground birthday floral displays

Secret Parrot business

Ever wondered why our parrots display such stunningly beautiful colours or why they mimic human speech?

Relaxing with a tasty glass of wine and enjoying a scrumptious spatchcock cooked by Leanne Johnston in the Cottage's cob oven, volunteers settled down for an intimate viewing of 2017's photo competition contributions from Francis Brown, David Hooper, Janelle Marr, Noel and Rae Rosten and Ron Watts. Their competition subject was 'Hornsby Parrots' and many of these gorgeous photos can be admired in the 2018 Bushcare Calendar.

Our gregarious local parrots hold many secrets and as we enjoyed the stunning photography that evening, we explored the science behind the characteristics they displayed. Details that will both surprise and endear you to their beauty and intelligence.

Fun Facts: The NSW Department of Environment and Heritage, states there are 300 species of parrot worldwide, 56 of which inhabit Australia. Parrots mate for life, nest in hollows, lay white eggs and taste with the roof of their mouth! They are exceedingly smart animals with an intelligence estimated to be equivalent to a four or five year old child.

Parrots have evolved feet that are "zygodactyl". This means they have four toes – two facing forwards and two facing back. This offers maximum grip so they can grasp food and objects with their claws and take these objects to their mouth. Just like us, parrots have a dominant hand - you may observe many parrots eat from seed pods held in their left foot!

Plumage: Brightly coloured red, green and yellow plumage combinations on parrots immediately ensnare our interest in the bird. We are able to admire these dazzling colours due to a secret weapon. Unique to parrots, their feathers contain a bacterial resistant pigment called Psittacofulvins. This pigment is responsible for the bright colours and protects the parrots' plumage from Bacillus licheniformis which can degrade their feathers. Amazing!

Communication: The noisy dawn chorus we hear each morning is full of intricate meanings which are passed from generation to generation. Birds communicate with signature contact calls which is simply calling out their name. Parrots in the wild only make the sounds of their species but communicate with quite a complex language, using more than a mere signature contact call. Results from an experiment by Karl Berg whilst doing his PhD at Cornell University indicate that parrot language is not innate but is taught to chicks whilst they are in the nest. Karl tested this by swapping some of a brood with another nest. The chicks fledged communicating in the manner that they were taught by their foster parents.

So why do parrots learn to mimic human language and sounds when they are in captivity? Well, as members of a flock, parrots desire and are driven by social interaction. We've heard many stories of parrots mimicking human speech or making the sound of a doorbell or phone. Being intelligent, parrots have learnt that by making these sounds, humans react and interact with them. The parrot has coerced you into being their new "playmate". Likewise, parrots learn bad behaviours such as enjoying your yelp when they bite you!

Vision is another fascinating attribute that parrots use for efficiency and communication. Humans see an array of colour because we have three cones in our retina. Birds' retinas have a fourth cone and it detects light in the Ultra Violet (UV) spectrum. We may not be able to see the difference between a male and female parrot but reflective UV feather patches on that handsome male parrot are irresistible to a female! Fruit, with a waxy coating, displays brightly in the UV spectrum – like lights on a Christmas tree. In fact, the riper the fruit, the brighter it is. This saves time and energy foraging because the fruit is saying "HERE I AM!"

Parrot chicks possess another clever strategy, employing UV reflective feathers on their forehead to communicate hunger to their parents. The brightest reflective feathers in the brood indicate to a parent the chick is underweight or smaller than its siblings. Consequently the parents will feed this chick first! This was confirmed in an experiment when suncream, smeared on these feathers, disguised the chicks' health status and the parents fed their brood randomly.

Learning about the unique traits our feathered-friends possess and their incredible means of communication can help us in our conservation efforts. For instance, have you been flummoxed as to how to stop birds flying into your windows? Perhaps an "invisible" UV decal on the glass will prevent a headache for both Polly Parrot and yourself. The next time you experience the destruction of your fruit tree by a wilful messy-eating Sulphur-Crested cockatoo, try to appreciate their version of Parrot Farming. By mischievously tearing off branches from a tree, parrots are contributing leaf litter to the forest floor, fruit and seeds for regeneration and food to ground dwelling creatures. Their pruning will also encourage bushier growth on the tree they appear to be destroying. In the bush, if not in your garden, this parrot behaviour serves an ecological purpose; The Original Bush Regenerators!

So enjoy your parrot encounters with a new respect and appreciation. These unique birds have evolved some astounding characteristics to enable them to survive in and beautify our Australian landscape.

Anita Wynne, Bushcare Trainer



Julian's Hibbertia

Hibbertia spanantha

Hornsby Shire Council has been fortunate to receive funding as part of the Saving our Species program from the Office of Environment and Heritage to assist in the recovery of the critically endangered plant *Hibbertia spanantha*.

The main part of the first stage of this project is to work out the best way to transplant propagated plants from the community nursery back into the wild. Previous attempts with propagated stock from the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan had all died out in the space of a year. The challenge now is working out the best potting mix recipe to give the best survival rate in the wild. We have 5 trial mixes under way at the community nursery.

Currently the plant in question is only known from 3 sites – hence the critically endangered status. All three sites are in the upper Lane Cove River catchment with each site located in a separate local government area. Consequently, all three sites undergo differing management approaches.

In March 2014, Ku-ring-gai Council experimented with fire



on a portion of their site which resulted in the successful germination of the (soil stored) seed bank. The mature plants resprouted vigorously after the fire. Julian's Hibbertia is a beautiful plant when in full flower- see the photo. Its natural growth form (habit) is wider than tall. Flowering occurs in spring and is quite impressive in terms of the density of flowers – it's almost hard to see the foliage for flowers! It is a long-lived plant with estimates at over 50 years in age for individuals.

Ross Rapmund, Community Nursery and Guided Bushwalks Coordinator

Grasses Workshop April 2018

How's your native grass identification skills? Do they need some fine-tuning? Then book into our Grasses workshop (see events page for details). Be prepared to do lots of walking, we will be wandering through paddocks and remnant bushland in the grounds of Saint Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia. As an added treat the Monastery has a significant stand of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, a critically endangered ecological community, protected by state and federal legislation. Ross Rapmund, our Community Nursery coordinator, will guide you through a variety of sites around the Monastery, starting near the Monastery's Bushcare site. As you walk around, Ross will highlight the ecological changes and how these changes are reflected in the vegetation present, especially amongst the groundcovers.

We generally find 18 different grass species within the grounds. Autumn is selected for the workshop because that is when most grasses will be flowering or seeding, making grass identification much easier. We will have a hand lenses available, but in limited numbers and all participants will receive a workshop handbook, GRASSES: Native & Exotic in the Hornsby Shire. To download your electronic copy, please visit our Bushcare Volunteer Resources page

hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees-plants-and-bushland/bushcare/volunteer-resources

Tips for grass identification.

- The easiest time for identifying grasses, or any plants for that matter, is when they are flowering.
- When trying to identify a grass it is easier to view the flowering parts on a black background.
- Hand lenses or magnifying glasses are very useful. The magnifying glass is easier to use.
- When seeking out a particular species, we suggest you research when its flowering as seeding structures are likely to be present and where it is likely to be found within the landscape. For example: an infertile sandstone ridge or a fertile paddock?
- Familiarise yourself with C3 and C4 growth habits (see handbook link above).
- Keep a collection of pressed dried grasses for your reference. Alternatively, you could electronically scan a fresh specimen and print the copies as your reference.
- There are lots of great books out there for identification as well as online tools.

Seale Close and the Madeira beetle

A small stream in Beecroft cuts through a narrow valley in and out of private gardens until it joins Byles Creek in the east. On a steep northern slope in a section of reserve, made yet steeper with house building fill, a native of South America known as *Anredera cordifolia*, or Madeira Vine, came and settled.

When volunteers started working in the reserve they concentrated on culling the *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor), *Ligustrum sinensis* (Privet) and *Lantana camara* out of the canopy and shrub layers. A core of healthy bush was established dominated by Bracken in the understorey. By the time the Madeira appeared on the radar volunteer numbers had dwindled and all the remaining volunteers could do was keep it confined to the fill slope, which was the size of two tennis courts.

Interest was aroused when NSW Department of Primary Industries announced trials for a biological control for Madeira. The group were successful in receiving two packets of larvae to release onto their site in November 2015.

The biological agent *Plectonycha correntina* is a beetle that feeds on Madeira foliage. The larvae feed voraciously on the underside of the leaves for a fortnight before burrowing into the ground where they pupate. The adult beetle becomes sexually mature 7 days after emerging and lays groups of small yellow eggs on underside of the leaves. After 5 days the larvae emerge and repeat the cycle.

How the beetles go about their work is unique. Adults remove the parts of the mesophyll leaving window like scars on the leaf. Mature larvae remove whole sections of leaf tissue and often leave a black sticky residue of faecal matter. It seems they also eat the base of the leaf, preventing the plant from forming new tubers.

Early trials held in south Queensland and northern NSW yielded promising results, although nearly half the insects failed to survive winter chills. The area affected by the beetles varied from 4 to 35 metres, with most damage close to the release sites. How effective they would be in controlling Madeira as far south as Sydney was unknown.

The first year after release no signs of beetle or larvae were detected, although there were no new outbreaks of the dreaded vine. The following spring Madeira seemed to be in decline and by 2017 its decline was confirmed. We haven't found any insects to photograph, but the switch to Trad covering the slopes is definite. The insects will continue to feast on the leaves until there are no more, then they will die.

We also undertook manual control of Madeira at one end of the slope. Plant material was raked into piles and sprayed, and the cleared area planted out. This technique, though a lot more labour intensive, has also resulted in reducing the Madeira imprint.

At last Madeira is on the wane and the group can turn its attention to the rest of the reserve.

Meron Wilson, Bushcare Trainer



Murray Road

Bushcare site soil relocation trial

In 2014 a tract of healthy bush was removed from the southern end of Beecroft Reserve to make way for 'temporary' vehicle access to work on the new north-west passenger rail line. Intervention by Council resulted in some of the topsoil being relocated at two Bushcare sites nearby.

At the Murray Road site, 150 square metres of weeds and lawn grasses were cleared and sixteen tons of soil deposited and spread into place. The story was written up in the June 2014 e-newsletter.

The site stayed looking much like photo 2 for two years, with a sparse sprinkle of plants. Even so, a flora survey carried out in eighteen months later identified one native tree, four shrubs, twelve groundcovers and four vines. There were also eleven weeds including the two vigorous coastal species we suspect were introduced via the machinery used to spread the soil.

Finally after some good autumn rains the site came to life. Three tree species are now competing for canopy dominance, while a healthy range of shrubs and grasses are establishing in the lower layers. The extreme dry spring of 2017 knocked a lot of cover back but not out. Weed presence is minimal, with Couch grass the most persistent survivor.

Meron Wilson, Bushcare Trainer



In April 2014 the site looked like this above.



By May it had been transformed into this.



February 2018.

WHS

Work Health Safety

Have you been bitten by a tick, leech or jumping ant recently? If so, please report the incident to your trainer.

Records are kept by Council as an indicator of the prevalence of hazards on site. Incident reports are used to monitor trends and determine suitable measures to safeguard our volunteer workers.

Generally invertebrate bites are uncomfortable but not particularly harmful, however you may build up a sensitivity with longterm contact that could lead to adverse reactions over time.

Deep Bay

hazard reduction burn

On the weekend of the 9th September 2017 the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, Council and Crown Lands completed the Deep Bay Hazard Reduction Burn. Located to the North of Berowra Heights the burn was a multi-agency operation involving more than twelve months planning.

It was over 400 hectares in area and included natural areas of Muogamarra Nature Reserve, Berowra Valley National Park and Berowra Heights Reserve. Completed over two sections the first part of the burn was undertaken in the area of Wideview Road and the second part in the area of Berowra Waters Road. Over 600 staff and volunteers were involved in the burn operations.

Prior to the burn extensive environmental assessments were undertaken to identify potential impacts from works. Species such as *Darwinia biflora* and the Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*) were among sixteen threatened species specifically assessed for potential impacts across various tenures. Over fifteen Aboriginal sites were also checked for potential impacts. Whilst this was occurring the NSW Rural Fire Service undertook planning for the burn.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and the agency professionals who worked to deliver this burn. Also, a big thank you to the local community for their support with the works. It is very pleasing that we worked collectively as a community to protect the suburbs of the Berowra locality - at least 600 homes will directly benefit from protection from unplanned bushfires.

**Amelia Jones, Environmental Scientist –
Fire Management**



The Great

tuber challenge!



Dear Bushcare Volunteers,

I spent this morning digging up Turkey Rhubarb (*Acetosa sagittata*) at my place, collecting about 50 small tubers. Then I came upon this demented monster that was feeding 10 separate stems. The photo shows it trimmed of most stems and weighing in at 530 grams.

I think it symbolises the troubled world in which we live, of rampant capitalism torturing the environment. Then again, perhaps it is just a bent tuber.

Anyhow, I am officially launching the TUBER CHALLENGE! I will present myself with an outstanding trophy, and will pass it on to anyone who finds a heavier one. You must be a Hornsby Bushcare Volunteer and you must dig up the tuber yourself. It need not be from your bushcare site. I look forward to your challenge.

Barry Lees, Carrs Bush

Note: There was a previous entry to this challenge... In 2006 a dedicated volunteer painstakingly removed this Turkey Rhubarb tuber from Roselea Rd Bushcare/ Beecroft. The tightly connected tubers measure over 30cm.

Discovery

at the top of Lane Cove

At the tranquil Top Of Lane Cove Bushcare site in Pine Street, Normanhurst, volunteers John Savage, Phil Downing and Geoff Ironmonger have time to contemplate how best to attract new members. Propositions include distributing 'leaflets' or making 'trunk calls' to entice their neighbours. Even the local dog donated "bark bark – howl howl howl – bark bark bark"!

You can imagine our surprise when a new diversion arose. John discovered a complete Goat's skull sheltered amongst the ferns. We began to wonder what surprises other volunteers have found on their sites and 'branching out', we thought you might like to share some of your stories by contacting Bushcare 'on the horn'. You can send your unusual stories to our 'top of the tree' editor, Leanne Johnston on 9847 6362 or email your stories to bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au



Preschool bush journey

I have been working with Kindergarten Union (KU) KU pre-school Hornsby Heights, joining them on their Bush journey to talk to the kids, parents and teachers about the local bushland. It was great to be able to share valuable knowledge about flora and fauna with children.

They are so eager to learn and share their own experiences. I supported the children in identifying trees/plants, highlighted interesting seed pods, shedding bark, giving scientific names to plants and helping to identify weed species. By targeting observations, building on learned scientific information with the help of the educators we can provide greater environmental learning. The kids were very excited to find out they could help care for the bushland by removing the weeds.

KU Pre-school encourages kids to explore the natural environment, look at really fine details of nature and develop a sense of excitement about the outdoors. Kids from two to six years have a curious nature, if we nurture and encourage their curiosity then they will grow up with an appreciation of the natural environment and feel compelled to protect and promote ecosystem function.

Leanne Johnston, Environmental Scientist - Bushcare



Rofe Park update

There is a lot going on at Rofe Park.

The new plantings at the southern end have survived a scorching summer and are growing, amazing! The Rofe Park Bushcare Group have increased the revegetation site and are creeping further along the edge with new plants. A minor upgrade has given the entrance at Binnari Rd a tidy up and new steps have been installed along the Old Berowra Rd to Binnari Rd track.

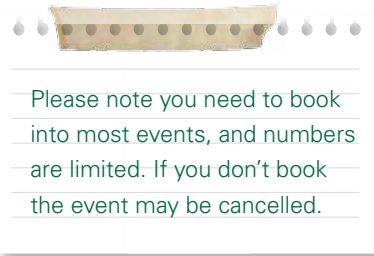
Our next projects will include a track from Cawthorne St to Rofe Park and an upgrade of the track leading down from the sports field to Old Berowra Rd. Once again we will have a Tree Day event at the Park in July and we welcome big and little hands to help.

Look out for the signs for place & time. But in the meantime take a walk and explore the beautiful bush at Rofe Park.

Donna Fitton
Environmental Scientist – Reserve Management



Events



Native Plant Giveaway

For Hornsby Shire Council rate payers only. Pick up some free native plants for your garden.

When

Sunday 11 March, 10am-12pm

Where

Hornsby Council Community Nursery, 28-30 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Sensational SpidersTalk

Dr Helen Smith from the Australian Museum will present fascinating facts about our local spiders. Helen is one of our Bushcare volunteers she has a passion for spiders and their engineering feats.

When

Saturday 24 March, 2pm-4pm

Where

Hornsby Library, 28-44 George St (Entrance in Hunter Lane) Hornsby

Bookings essential:

trybooking.com/336505 or phone the library on 9847 6814.

Kids' Activity – Build a native bee hotel

Featuring a vibrant, awe inspiring presentation, interactive display and each child will make a native bee hotel. This is a great activity for kids who love nature or woodwork. Suitable for children 5-12 years.

When

Tuesday 17 April, 10am-12pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28-30 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills.

Bookings

trybooking.com/338076 or phone 9847 6362

Bushcode Workshop

This is an essential workshop for anyone wishing to join Council's Volunteer Bushcare Program. You will learn about habitat restoration, bush regeneration techniques and what volunteering is all about. At the end of the workshop you will go on a tour of the Community Nursery and receive a voucher for 3 free native plants for you garden.

When

Thursday 19 April, 9am-3pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/342490 or phone 9847 6362

Native Grass Walk and Talk

A great workshop for both new and experience Bushcare and nursery volunteers. This workshop is a journey through the grounds and paddocks of the monastery looking for a variety of different native of grasses. On the day you will receive a native grass identification manual. Please bring a hand / magnifying lens be sun safe and bring along a water bottle.

When

Saturday 21 April, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Where

St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/349132 or phone 9847 6362

Bushcode Refresher Workshop

The Bushcode Refresher training workshop is a requirement to renew your membership in the Bushcare program, for already qualified volunteers only.

When

Thursday 17 May, 6pm-9pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings

trybooking.com/342682 or phone 9847 6362

Birds in BackyardsTalk

Do you want more birds in your garden? If you do, Judy Christie can advise you on what elements you need in your garden to encourage native birds. Whether your garden is shady or in full sun, you will pick up tips on how to attract the beautiful native birds of the Hornsby Shire.

When

Saturday 26 May, 2pm-4pm

Where

Hornsby Library, 28-44 George St (Entrance in Hunter Lane) Hornsby

Bookings

trybooking.com/342445 or phone 9847 6813

Native Plant Giveaway

For Hornsby Shire Council rate payers only. Pick up some free native plants for your garden.

When

Sunday 3 June, 10am-12pm

Where

Hornsby Council Community Nursery, 28-30 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bushcode Workshop

This is an essential workshop for anyone wishing to join Council's Volunteer Bushcare Program. You will learn about habitat restoration, bush regeneration techniques and what volunteering is all about. At the end of the workshop you will go on a tour of the Community Nursery and receive a voucher for 3 free native plants for you garden.

When

Friday 20 July

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/342646 or phone 9847 6362

Marramarra National Park Bushwalk

An activity for Bushcare and Community Nursery Volunteers only. Join us on a delightful walk in the wilderness of Marramarra National Park. We will walk along the fire trail towards Berowra Creek. This is an easy 10km bushwalk.

When

Saturday 4 August, 9am-1.30pm

Where

Marramarra National Park

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/342691 or phone 9847 6362

Brush Turkey Talk

Join expert Ann Goeth for a closer look at the Australian Brush Turkey. Discover fascinating facts about their foraging habits, breeding and why they build those mounds!

Cost: \$5.00

When

Saturday 11 August

Where

Hornsby Library, 28-44 George St (Entrance in Hunter Lane) Hornsby

Bookings

trybooking.com/342449 or phone the library on 9847 6813.

Bushcode Refresher Workshop

The Bushcode Refresher training workshop is a requirement to renew your membership in the Bushcare program, for already qualified volunteers only.

When

Wednesday 19 September, 6pm-9pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage,
28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings

trybooking.com/342683
or phone 9847 6362

Native Plant Giveaway

For Hornsby Shire Council rate payers only. Pick up some free native plants for your garden.

When

Sunday 23 September, 10am-12pm

Where

Hornsby Council Community Nursery,
28-30 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bushcode Workshop

This is an essential workshop for anyone wishing to join Council's Volunteer Bushcare Program. You will learn about habitat restoration, bush regeneration techniques and what volunteering is all about. At the end of the workshop you will go on a tour of the Community Nursery and receive a voucher for 3 free native plants for you garden.

When

Thursday 11 October, 9am-3pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/342647 or phone 9847 6362

Bird Surveys: Citizen Science

When

Saturday 13 October, 8am-11am

Details to be announced in the next enews.

Mini-beasts Evening

Preview the mini-beast themed photos from the 2018 Bushcare photo competition. In keeping with the tradition, supper will consist of a mini-beast theme followed by a presentation of photos.

When

Friday 19 October, 6pm-8pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia St, Pennant Hills

Bookings:

bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au
or phone 9847 6362

Native Bee Talk

How important are bees to human survival? What can we do to protect bee populations in Australia? What can we do to encourage bees into our gardens? Megan Halcroft can answer all these questions and more. This is a great talk, please be prepared to take notes.

When

Saturday 3 November, 1pm-4pm

Where

Hornsby Library

Bookings essential:

trybooking.com/342454

Bushcode Workshop

This is an essential workshop for anyone wishing to join Council's Volunteer Bushcare Program. You will learn about habitat restoration, bush regeneration techniques and what volunteering is all about. At the end of the workshop you will go on a tour of the Community Nursery and receive a voucher for 3 free native plants for you garden.

When

Saturday 24 November, 1pm-4pm

Where

Earthwise Cottage, 28 Britannia Street, Pennant Hills

Bookings Essential:

trybooking.com/342649 or phone 9847 6362

Bushcare and Nursery Volunteer Christmas Party

When

Saturday 1 December



Hornsby Guided Bushwalk Program

The Free Guided Bushwalk Autumn Program is open for bookings. Please note the program is open to Hornsby Shire residents only. Bookings open one month in advance of the advertised date for each activity. Residents are entitled to book up to a maximum of 6 walks per seasonal program due to the popularity of the program and our aim to provide opportunities for all residents to be involved.

For further enquiries please call the Natural Resources Branch on 9847 6832.

See hornsby.nsw.gov.au/whatson for details.

Florence Cotton Park bushwalking track upgrade

Council's Bushland Programs Team has successfully completed Stage 1 of the Florence Cotton Park bushwalking track upgrade. This project is part of the *Bushland recreational improvements* program funded by Section 94 development contributions. Florence Cotton Park is a large urban remnant bushland reserve located west of the Hornsby CBD. The reserve is around 17 hectares in size. Jimmy Bancks Creek flows through the centre of the reserve and empties into Waitara Creek, a tributary of Berowra Creek and part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River catchment.

Stage 1 of the project involved creating a new link track from Lisgar Gardens to the reserve next to 28 Frederick Street and the upgrading of an old maintenance track that runs parallel with Frederick Street from near

28 Frederick Street to the main entrance to Florence Cotton Park (beside 46 Frederick St). The main track (original) starts beside 46 Frederick St and finishes beside 136 Pretoria Parade. There are several places along the main track that look out over the valley with large Blackbutts dominating the landscape.

To date the project has created approximately 400 metres of new and upgraded track including 245 steps and several raised boardwalks.

Stage 2 of the project, due to be completed next financial year, will create a loop track from Lisgar Gardens around the bushland reserve and include installation of interpretive signage.

Ty Suter, Environmental Scientist –
Bushland Reserve Management



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER

You can send your stories or letters to the Editor for the next edition by 1 JANUARY 2019

Mail: PO Box 37, Hornsby 1630
or **Email:** bushcare@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

**This newsletter has been compiled
by Hornsby Shire Council.**



THE BUSHLAND SHIRE
If not claimed within
7 days please return to
PO Box 37
Hornsby NSW 1630

