

Floating Landcare – Activity Summary 2019

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| Site Name: | Lion Island Nature Reserve | | |
| Location: | Pittwater | LGA: | Northern Beaches |
| Date of activity: | 08/12/2018 | Hectares treated: | 0.01 |
| Floating Landcare Program Partners: | Bec Mooy (GSLLS), Andrew Duffy (NPWS) | Number of Volunteers participated: | 12 |

Summary of on ground works

Volunteers worked from the top of the track (North side) along the ridge. The focus was mainly on Asparagus fern to create a buffer and help reduce spread into the newly burnt area. The area to south of the track at the top of the ridge had been recently burnt by a wildfire started by lightning. In the burnt area contractors would be continuing the bush regeneration follow up.



Burnt area top of ridge, facing south. Grass trees beginning to flower following fire. Ground cover slow to return. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS).



Floating Landcare Volunteers enjoy the view towards the Central Coast while weeding Asparagus Fern from the ground layer. North side of beach to ridge track. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)



Volunteers worked from the ridge 10 to 15 m into the canopy in a westerly direction. Acetosa, Ehrharta, and Asparagus Fern the focus. Weed bags removed from the island. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS).



Floating Landcare Volunteers also combed the foreshore for litter. 1 bag collected. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)

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| Site Name: | Spectacle and Long Island Nature Reserves | | |
| Location: | Hawkesbury Estuary | LGA: | Hornsby |
| Date of activity: | 12/02/2019 | Hectares treated: | 0.05 |
| Floating Landcare Program Partners: | Bec Mooy (GSLLS), Tegan Burton (NPWS) | Number of Volunteers participated: | 17 |

Summary of on ground works

Progress on bush regeneration has gone so well in recent years that both sites no longer need an annual single day visit each. Spectacle and Long are visited in a single day as part of an "Island Hopper" activity. The volunteers love the chance to go to two Nature Reserve Islands in the one day!



The Saltmarsh on the Sandbrook inlet side of Long Island. The dogs grave and all through the Saltwater couch had Crofton and Acetosa all through it when we first visited in 2012. This little handkerchief patch of saltmarsh is certainly thriving thanks to the efforts of the volunteers. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS).



About 5m in from the saltmarsh starts the steep south facing slopes of Long Island. Lantana was the only midstory plant below the canopy. Each visit volunteers chipped away gradually moving up slope. Lomandras and other native ground covers have increased with more light. Volunteers do a sweep through looking for very small Lantana seedlings, Crofton Weed and the occasional Asparagus Fern. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)



On Spectacle Island the Volunteers have been working on a patch of predominantly Lantana on the north side of the Island since 2012. The patch stretched along the foreshore area under the Casuarinas for 60-70 metres and climbed up slope in a dense thicket for 25 metres. This photo shows a line of lantana canes nicely breaking down and native grasses moving in as ground cover. Each visit we walk further along the foreshore to chip away at a little bit more Lantana.
Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)



Today it was lunch on the run. Subway lunch for everyone as we moved up stream to visit a new estuary spot. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)



This location part of Tegan's patch had a small fishing cottage in the past. Volunteers eagerly got to work looking Cassia plants to pull out and collect some litter. It was agreed to come back at a later date to continue. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)



Volunteers and Tegan super pleased to have had the opportunity to spend yet another day on the River with good friends and help out at not one but three locations in the one day. Photo Rebecca Mooy (GSLLS)

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| Site Name: | Gentlemans Halt | | |
| Location: | Hawkesbury Estuary | LGA: | Hornsby |
| Date of activity: | 24/02/2019 | Hectares treated: | 1 |
| Floating Landcare Program Partners: | Bec Mooy (GSLLS), Tegan Burton (NPWS) | Number of Volunteers participated: | 21 |

Summary of on ground works

The annual Clean up day had the usual large turn up. Litter collected was a little less on previous years. The timing of the tide was just right with some great access all the way along the saltmarsh / saltpan interface. Items collected are usually small plastic items, polystyrene pieces, thongs, boat items, fishing waste, glass bottles, cans, plastic bottles. Total of 20 bags filled. This year our tennis ball count was 31. After lunch, a collation of collected litter items, and some boat packing the group stopped in on another foreshore site about 10 minutes down stream where there had previously been a cottage and removed Cassia and Lantana.



Lynne Springett and Tegan carry out some floating litter collected from along the Saltmarsh. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



Antonina, Ian and Bec collect small plastic litter from the Saltmarsh.



Lunch time by the river is always a treat at Floating Landcare. This activity we were joined by 5 members of the 1st Pymble Scout group. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



1st Pymble scouts get into weeding the Cassia and Lantana at the old cottage site. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)

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| Site Name: | Portuguese Beach | | |
| Location: | Hawkesbury Estuary | LGA: | Hornsby |
| Date of activity: | 02/04/2019 | Hectares treated: | 0.05 |
| Floating Landcare Program Partners: | Bec Mooy (GSLLS), Judy Morris (NPWS) | Number of Volunteers participated: | 15 |

Summary of on ground works

Volunteers focussed largely on removing Cotton Bush from the southern slope, treated Lantana, removed Cassia, Privet, Bidens, Asparagus Fern and collected litter from the shore.



Visits to Portuguese Beach start with a slow march up the hill at the Southern end of the Beach to pull out Cotton Bush and collecting litter left by picnickers. Less than 10 years ago the entire slope had a canopy of Lantana. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



Gradually those that are able move higher up the slope, cutting and treating privet seedlings and any Lantana that has begun to resprout. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



The creek gully that flows down from the ridge is Coastal Littoral Rainforest EEC and behind the Blady Grass and Bracken Fern as the slope steepens is an amazing canopy of Cabbage Tree Palms. Volunteers work carefully under the palms to treat Lantana and remove Asparagus Fern. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



An enjoyable annual visit, always time to stop for a smile and a wave!

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| Site Name: | Peats Bight | | |
| Location: | Hawkesbury Estuary | LGA: | Hornsby |
| Date of activity: | 11/05/2019 | Hectares treated: | 0.1 |
| Floating Landcare Program Partners: | Bec Mooy (GSLLS), Tegan Burton (NPWS) | Number of Volunteers participated: | 17 |

Summary of on ground works

A trip to Peats Bight is a hot ticket item. Volunteers love joining this activity. It's a boat ride up river, a lovely 30 minute bushwalk in along the edge of the Mangroves, its time in Peats Crater tackling Crofton weed and Lantana, it's the morning tea and lunch, then we do it all in reverse. Everyone helps carry something and all love to hear the story from Tegan directly on how the area has been regenerated during the past 20 years and the volcanic history of the area, not to mention it's Aboriginal significance and European settlement influences.



Trips to Peats Bight and the crater are about the journey. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



Volunteers enjoy hearing the background of regeneration and the history of the general area from Tegan. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



Cabbage Palms and the occasional fruit tree. Front right of photo Crofton Weed the next weed to bring under control following success in removing large thickets of Lantana over the years from the rich volcanic soils. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



Floating Landcare all tooled up and ready to roll. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)



On the journey home after another successful day of volunteering. Photo Bec Mooy (GSLLS)