



NEWSLETTER

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B U S H C A R E

AUTUMN 2020 – ISSUE 45

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

Gareth Debney - Bushland Management Coordinator

Caption: Smoke haze over Sydney Harbour on 31 Dec 2019 by Tristram Thomas - North Parramatta Monitoring Site - AQI 229 - Hazardous Rating



The summer of 2019/2020 is one we are unlikely to forget in a hurry. As I write this update, the Bushland Team – along with other staff members in the Open Space and Environmental Services department at Council – are cutting, pruning and removing hundreds of fallen trees and branches following one of the heaviest rainstorms on record to hit Sydney. While the rain is welcome after so many months of minimal precipitation and extreme temperatures, in this volume and intensity, it also comes at a significant cost to our fragile, drought-exposed bushland soils and irreplaceable seedbanks.

The rain also doesn't erase our memories of what has been an unprecedented bushfire season. Starting well before the heat of summer, prolonged dry conditions across eastern Australia coupled with persistent winds and numerous remote ignition points all contributed to one of (if not the) worst bushfire seasons on record. Never before have Sydneysiders been exposed to day after day of thick, smoke-laden air – to the point where many of us resorted to wearing P2 dust masks, changed our work routines and avoided going outside.

By 14 January, approximately 18.6 million hectares (or 186,000km²) of forest, woodland, grassland and scrub had been burnt during the 2019/20 fire season with an estimated 1 billion native animals killed. These are heartbreaking numbers that sadly, are only the beginning... With the loss of so much habitat over such a large area, the wildlife and vegetation that survived the fires will be subjected to a range of intense, ongoing pressures such as competition for scarce food and nesting resources, predation by introduced species, invasion and spread of weeds, erosion and human encroachment.

Before the big wet that hit Sydney in early February, there were more than 60 fires burning in NSW, 17 of which were uncontained. Following the rains, this number had reduced to 26 active fires with only four classified as "not yet contained" around the Snowy/Monaro region. As much of the current emergency dissipates, our attention turns to what we can do, both as individuals and as North Sydney Bushcare, to assist those communities devastated by the fires (and now the flooding rains).

The Centre for Volunteering website (www.volunteering.com.au) provides advice for people interested in registering as a bushfire recovery volunteer. While it is still early days and the call for volunteer assistance in the recovery is yet to ramp up, people can pre-register their interest in helping. Likewise, the National Bushfire Recovery Agency provides a list of approved charities and not-for-profit organisations that will accept monetary donations toward the recovery process.

North Sydney Council has registered our staff offers of assistance with the NSW Office of Local Government, who are coordinating volunteers and resources with corresponding requests for help from regional areas. One offer that North Sydney has made via the OLG is the provision of a *Building Bridges to Boorowa* - style volunteer activity in which Council would transport, supervise and support up to 40 North Sydney volunteers to assist with appropriate recovery activities (such as replanting bushland buffer edges, target weed control, fencing and erosion control, habitat augmentation and other bush regeneration actions). In the coming months, when plans for this

pto

activity develop, the Bushland Team will send a call-out for assistance through our communications network.

With 98.7% of NSW still considered to be in drought, it wouldn't take too long for Sydney to dry out again and for the local threat of bushfire to re-emerge. So now may be timely to summarise how North Sydney manages bushfire risk and balances the ecological role of fire within our fragmented bushland landscape. Firstly, we are part of a regional Bushfire Management Committee that is coordinated by NSW Fire & Rescue. This Committee works together with adjoining

public land managers within the Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby local government areas to identify bushfire hazards, assets at risk of fire (such as houses) and prioritises management actions to mitigate identified risks. One of the ways we manage risk is through the implementation of an annual hazard reduction burn program. As part of this program, the Bushland Team identify portions of our bushland reserves that can be burnt to achieve the dual objectives of hazard reduction and ecosystem regeneration. Over successive years, a patchwork of burns is completed, creating a mosaic pattern of burnt and unburnt

areas within each reserve. This creates a variation in fuel loads across a reserve and bushland that is at different stages of recovery following fire, which in-turn benefits species diversity and habitat richness. The recently adopted Bushland Rehabilitation Plans 2019-29, available on Council's website, provides reserve-specific burn history as well as planned hazard reduction burns for the coming decade. If you are interested to learn more about our approach to fire management, feel free to contact me or keep an eye out for our fire sites tour planned for Saturday 24 October.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY - WILDLIFE RESCUE & CARE

On Wednesday 5 February, the North Sydney Bushland Team along with representatives from Willoughby, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils attended the Northern District Branch of Sydney Wildlife Rescue's monthly meeting. The Councils were invited by the Chair, Bev Young, so they could learn how Local Government can best help wildlife for the fire recovery process. There were 37 attendees, including visitors Marjory and Jack from Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (<https://www.scwildliferescue.org/>) located north of San Francisco, and Carole and Dan from Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue (<https://sopercreekwildlife.com/>) in Toronto. They spoke about their respective organisation's challenges and successes which was very interesting.

Bev said Sydney Wildlife volunteers had put in a huge effort throughout December and January responding to the bushfires, coordinating offers of assistance from locals and people from around the world wanting to help animals that have survived, receiving care pouch packages (which are no longer needed thanks to an influx of generous donations), conducting media interviews and education sessions, and providing direct relief for animal rescue in fire affected areas outside of Sydney.

The treasurer's report explained that Sydney Wildlife had received an enormous number of donations, some specific in nature, and the group needed ideas about how to best spend the money for ongoing needs.

Bev said funds were being used in part to run the recently purchased Mobile (Veterinary) Care Unit that goes out for three or four days at a time to help the worst fire affected areas outside



Caption: L to R: Sydney Wildlife Rescue Volunteers Justine, Lorraine, Bec, Margaret, Sam, Dorien and Michael with Mobile Care Unit Waratah Park, Terrey Hills, 10 January.

Sydney. The Mobile Care Unit recently travelled west to Lithgow for four days with volunteer veterinarians to help surviving animals. You can read more about the Mobile Care Unit in this SBS news article: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/meet-the-mobile-vets-caring-for-animals-injured-in-the-bushfires>

Funds received by Sydney Wildlife are also being used to send truckloads of medical equipment to wildlife rescue groups in fire-affected areas on the North and South Coast, including Southern Wildlife Care at Braidwood, South Coast Wildlife Rescue and Wildlife Arc around the Gosford area. Sydney Wildlife volunteers had been coordinating and funding these efforts themselves but they are now being encouraged to accept re-imbursment from the donated funds.

Sonja Elwood, Sydney Wildlife's representative on the NSW Wildlife Council, has been visiting wildlife rescue groups on the South Coast every weekend and bringing back animals in need of care because the local facilities are

swamped. Bev said donations had been used to evacuate and transport Flying-fox from the Central Coast, suffering starvation from the drought and heat stress during Summer to Sydney Wildlife's enclosures in Lane Cove National Park. The macropods and wombats, affected by the fires, have been evacuated to Waratah Park in Duffy's Forest (now full) which is staffed and maintained by Sydney Wildlife volunteer carers.

Sydney Wildlife has been inundated by volunteer requests and currently has 140 people on the waitlist as many volunteer positions (such as caring for injured wildlife) require special training. Sydney Wildlife also needs people to cut fruit and foliage, to build and repair enclosures, to assist with wildlife transportation and to be trained as emergency phone operators. Bev said there will be a training session in March at a venue in Ashfield and one in May at Council's Hutley Hall.

During the meeting discussion turned to how Council could help in emergencies by potentially providing **Cont. on p4**

WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE

(NOVEMBER 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020)

Big thanks to all the Wildlife Watch volunteers who monitor wildlife in North Sydney and submit their observations to Council. The highlights of recent sightings were:

- **Nankeen Night Heron** (Cremorne Reserve)
- **White-faced Heron** (Cremorne Reserve)
- **White-browed Scrubwren** (Cremorne Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Primrose Park, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Eastern Water Dragon** (Balls Head Reserve, Wonga Road Reserve, Cremorne Reserve, Cremorne Urban)
- **Little Black Cormorant** (Neutral Bay Urban)
- **Pacific Black Duck** (Coal Loader)
- **Superb Fairy-wren** (Tunks Park)
- **Australian King Parrot** (Cremorne Reserve, Forsyth Park, Neutral Bay Urban, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Buff Banded Rail** (Coal Loader)
- **Eastern Whipbird** (Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Variiegated Fairy-wren** (Primrose Park, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Australian Darter** (Coal Loader)
- **White-headed Pigeons** (Smoothery Park)
- **Grey-headed Flying-Fox** (Cremorne Urban)
- **Yellow Admiral Butterfly** (Brightmore Reserve)
- **Swamp Wallaby** (Tunks Park, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Spotted Pardalote** (Primrose Park)
- **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (Waverton Urban)
- **Grey Goshawk** (Tunks Park)
- **Green Tree Snake** (Brightmore Reserve)

Have you seen any interesting fauna in the North Sydney Council area or do you have a photo of your observations? If so, email the Bushland Project Officer, Ramin Khosravi, at council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au, visit Council's Bushcare webpage - www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare or post your photo on the North Sydney Council Bushcare Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bushcare



Caption: Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) by Peter Sharp – tameandwildstudio.com ©

Caption: Photo of a Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*) captured with Reconyx camera trap in July 2013



WILDLIFE CAMERA MONITORING

By Flo Stricher – NSC Bush Regenerator

This year, we are aiming to set up camera traps on a regular basis to get more evidence of the wildlife activity in our bushland reserves. Wildlife populations fluctuate over time in response to a variety of factors, such as habitat change, and species that we thought had gone from our reserves might be back without us knowing it. Camera traps are a great tool for an ongoing wildlife survey and the Bushland Team has been using them since 2013, originally in Mortlock Reserve to spot the elusive Long-nosed Bandicoot (*Perameles nasuta*), see image above.

Camera traps are not as easy to use as you would think. A capture of a still image or video is triggered by a passive infrared detector that responds when something hotter or colder than the background moves in its detection zone, so a good positioning of the camera trap is essential. Last year, the Team took part in a training session to improve our camera trapping skills and this year we expect to get better and more

shots of wildlife activity. The main species that we are targeting are the Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) - also known as the Australian Water Rat, the Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*), the Long-nosed Bandicoot and the Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*), although any wildlife evidence is welcome as it helps us to better understand how our reserves are being used by wildlife. The camera traps will be set up in several reserves where diggings and markings were observed last year. For example, we recently noticed some unusual diggings that look like those of a Bandicoot in Badangi Reserve, however it could have been Black Rats or Brush-turkeys as it is very unlikely that Bandicoots are living in this reserve. We are hoping that the camera traps will solve this mystery for us. In addition, the camera traps are also used twice a year for our fox baiting program and have helped us detect dogs and cats entering the reserves during exclusion periods.



On Thursday 31 October, the Bushland Team provided a Landcare Australia Corporate Environmental Volunteer (CEV) day at Balls Head Reserve for Amgen Australia, the Australian affiliate of an American biopharmaceutical company whose local headquarters are in North Ryde. The volunteers planted about 150 plants, including a mix of endemic grasses and shrubs, to provide wildlife habitat and to beautify the new landscaping around the top picnic area, which was part of the Balls Head Amenities Upgrade Project. The volunteers were taken on a guided tour after the hard work was done to learn about local European and Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental issues.

The Bushland Team entered a host agreement for the CEV program to provide

an avenue for corporate sponsorship to Landcare Australia with the added benefit of being able to pass on the activity fee (paid by the corporate group) to our long-standing Landcare partners Boorowa Community Landcare Group. Council's bushland management activities are funded by the Environmental Levy.

The CEV program works like this: Landcare Australia matches companies with Landcare groups to participate in an environmental project for a day. The company pays a fee to cover all expenses e.g. plants, equipment and administration. The Landcare group benefits from receiving much needed funds, volunteer labour, recruitment opportunities and environmental education. The corporate volunteers leave their Landcare CEV day with a better understanding of biodiversity, their local area, and how their activities at home and work may be impacting on our fragile environment.

The CEV supervisor and NSC Bush Regeneration Team Leader Tristram Thomas said: "The volunteers worked really well together and had fun, even though they are from different sections of the business, they did well, considering it was a really hot day."

Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer

BUSHCARE VOLUNTEER ANNUAL SURVEY 2019

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the annual Bushcare survey for 2019, which was reduced from 61 to 15 questions at the request of several Bushcare Convenors.

We received 28 responses and all but two of the Bushcare groups were represented. Most people said they joined Bushcare for bushland conservation, to learn about native flora and fauna and to provide a community service. It was wonderful to hear that they all felt their expectations had been met.

Safety concerns included steep slopes/

cliffs, unsafe log terracing, dog faeces and dogs off-leash. The Bushland Team will look into these concerns to ensure that volunteers feel safe at all times.

All the participants said they were satisfied with the representation and supervision of their group; the direction of bush regeneration works and communication with the Bushland Team. Most of the volunteers were satisfied with the meeting dates and times; one person suggested moving afternoon sessions to the morning in Summer to avoid working at the hottest time of the day.

The volunteers indicated that they wanted training in fire management, erosion control, seed collection, plant propagation, plant and bird ID and weed control techniques – we will now look into what is possible.

Almost half of the respondents have volunteered to share skills such as photography, quilting, sewing, writing and growing plants to contribute to the Bushcare program. They also offered to assist with post fire recovery.

Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer

Cont. from p2

suitable venues as evacuation points to house animals when there is a natural disaster.

Other ideas included providing foliage for possums and other wildlife and helping to build habitat nest boxes, something the Bushland Team has done in the past

in partnership with Willoughby Council's Bushland Team.

The public can help by volunteering, becoming a member of Sydney Wildlife, and by donating to NSW Wildlife Council's Wildlife Drought and Fire Recovery Fund, which can distribute funds to the many

rescue groups in fire affected areas.

To donate for Wildlife Rescue
<https://www.nwc.org.au/>

To become a Sydney Wildlife Member:
<http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au/>

Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer

Caption: Emma Hyland – Adopt a Plot Supervisor, North Sydney Council Chambers, February 2020



NEW STAFF MEMBER:
Emma Hyland
Adopt a Plot Supervisor

Hi! I am your new Bush Regenerator for the Adopt a Plot program. I can't wait to meet all the Adopt a Plot program volunteers and the many Bushcare

volunteers in the year ahead! I am so happy to be a part of the Bushland Team here at North Sydney Council and I am so looking forward to exploring all the bushland gems around the area!

My love of the bush started when I was little and growing up in Berowra Valley National Park in Hornsby Heights. With the bush as my backyard we would spend our days down in the caves, climbing down the steep cliffs to the creek below, making cubbies and hacking through the thick shrub layer with dad's machete - a pretty great place to grow up! That love of nature never left so after quite a few years in a job that gave me no joy I decided to quit and signed up for the Conservation and Land Management Diploma at TAFE to learn more about our environment and to be able to work in the bushland.

It took me a few years to get on my bush regeneration adventure after TAFE as my beautiful kids came along, but I got my first bush regenerator role six years ago with The National Trust, with my very first

day working right here in North Sydney LGA at Tunks Park! We also contracted for the Northern Beaches Council and Hornsby Shire Council. I am also fortunate to work with awesome volunteers and bushland staff at Hornsby Council as a Bushcare Supervisor.

I am completing (slowly!) a bachelor's degree in environmental science with a specialisation in Ecological Conservation via distance education with Charles Sturt Uni based out of Albury. It's great to be able to get a feeling for environmental issues in rural communities and I get down to Albury usually once a year to complete practicals which is a lot of fun.

I'm so excited to learn as much as I can from the Bushland staff here at North Sydney who have been so welcoming and I hope I can pass on some knowledge of bushland and invasive species to our wonderful volunteers and learn a lot from you also in the process.

Cheers, Emma

AUSSIE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2019

The results for Aussie Backyard Bird Count - 21 to 27 October 2019, are in.

In the North Sydney Council Area, there was an amazing 138 observers (1/3 increase on 2018), who recorded 5,075 individual birds from 77 species (21 more than last year).

The top two observations were the Rainbow Lorikeet (1594) and Noisy Miner (766) consistent with the previous four years of observations. The Welcome Swallow, Australian Magpie, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rock Dove, Common Myna, Silver Gull and Pied Currawong were included in the top 12 observations for five years running, in no specific order.

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count, one of the largest citizen science projects in Australia, aims to get the community outside to connect with nature, to increase our knowledge and understanding about bird species and to help raise the profile of birds throughout Australia. For the Bushland Team it is a snapshot of diversity and we consider the most and least common species and this affects how we implement our bushland management practices.

In recent years, small birds, like Spinebills and Fairywrens, that were once more common in parks or gardens have been disappearing and being replaced by large and aggressive species like the Noisy Miner and Pied Currawong. Changes in bird populations appear to reflect increased urbanisation, smaller and more simplified gardens as the loss of shrubs has removed important food, shelter and nesting locations.* Council's Native Havens program can go some way to addressing this issue by providing residents with advice and free local native plants to replace habitat.

A big thanks to Birdlife Australia for providing this information. The next Aussie Backyard Bird Count will take place from 19 - 25 October 2020, download the App and join in the fun.

* Reference: 2019 Wren Report - Birdlife Australia

Burnt on my Retina



Twisted wrecks of homes
bear witness to the flames
with charcoaled trunks of trees

Brown blotches the earth
where green should be

Like a child who paints by numbers
mixing his colours wrong

Like a child who can't draw straight
he crumbles his houses with scrawls

Mary Tang 鄧許文蘭



Caption: Illustrations by Rebecca Farrell

BUSHCARE COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE

What a difference a year makes. This time last year I was writing about the abundance of insect life in the nursery, especially the grasshoppers and caterpillars feasting on native grasses after a hot, wet summer. This year, well, not so much.

Has the drought affected life in the nursery? Yes and no. There are things we can control to some degree (like water and shade) and things we can't, such as how dry our bushland is. The two are connected, as we may see a change in insect populations or seed production, which in turn can affect nursery operations.

Extreme weather can affect flowering, fruiting and pollination and hence our opportunity to collect good quality seed from bushland. Seed is mostly harvested from October to January, depending on species, but heatwaves can shrivel flowers or cause seed to prematurely drop before it can be collected, as happened with some peas and acacias last season.

Heat, drought and water restrictions have a big influence on whether stock leaves the nursery for planting or whether plants stay put until it rains. Currently, we are holding around

5,000 plants at various stages of maturity. With long days and irrigation, growth rate of seedlings can be dramatic over summer.

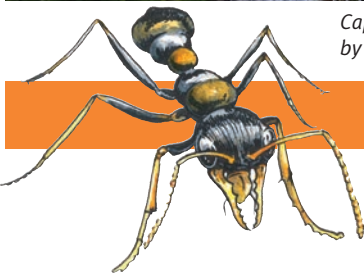
Autumn is usually ideal for cuttings but if plants are drought stressed and grew poorly over summer, we may find a shortage of suitable cutting material. Sometimes a drought-stressed plant will flower and fruit heavily as a survival response, to ensure that if the parent should die, the next generation has been produced and is ready to grow. Both *Notelea longifolia* (Mock Olive) and *Dianella caerulea* (Flax Lily) produced copious quantities of fruit over summer, a change from the previous year, and whether this was due to drought stress, a natural fluctuation or some other factor, it was a pleasure to see such abundance amidst the dryness of the bush.

Last year, the nursery sent almost 11,000 native plants into the world and hopefully, with some rain and cooler weather, the volunteers and I will be sending out thousands more.

Clare McElroy – Bushcare Community Nursery Supervisor



Caption: Before and after: newly potted up tube stock at the nursery in September 2019 producing abundant growth by January 2020, due to good conditions - warm weather and irrigation.



WORK SAFE AT BUSHCARE

The Bushcare year has begun and most of our eleven Bushcare groups will have met and completed a Risk Hazard Assessment (RHA) and updated their Site Rehabilitation Plan with their corresponding supervisors.

RHAs are undertaken at the beginning of the year to identify new hazards that may have developed over the break - December through January e.g. fallen trees. Common risks and hazards are identified below as well as the controls for these risks:

Jumping ants – flag mounds with the blue tipped tomato stakes. See your doctor for

a care plan if you suffer allergic reactions to bites and stings. Put a cold pack on bites to relieve pain.

Trips and falls, steep slopes and cliff lines – avoid steep slopes and stay at least 1 metre from cliff lines, walk across slopes and wear enclosed shoes with a good grip.

Dehydration and heat stress – wear sun protection (e.g. hat) and bring your own drinking water.

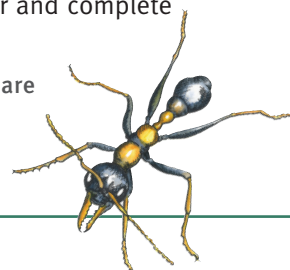
Sprains and strains – limit the weight of weed bags to within your own lifting capacity and ask for help to lift heavy weights.

Other hazards worth mentioning include carrying knives upright while walking (please pouch them instead). Ticks are

becoming more common - please report bites for our tick register - we use Lyclear® Scabies Cream for small/grass ticks and Wart Off ® to freeze off large/shell back ticks. Wear PPE - a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and a hat.

Before each Bushcare meeting the supervisor will assess the risks to your safety on site and then relay this information. It is for this reason that we request all volunteers to arrive on time. We would rather you leave early than start late. Please report all accidents to the Bushcare Supervisor and complete an incident report.

Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer



Caption: Ant illustration by Rebecca Farrell

ORCHIDS OF NORTH SYDNEY BY TRISH PETERSON

Orchid enthusiast Trish Peterson shares some of her valuable knowledge on our local species. Trish, who has lived in North Sydney for 20 years, is President of the Australasian Native Orchid Society – Warringah Group. She is also an accredited judge of both the Australasian Native Orchid Society and the Australian Orchid Council.

When most people think of orchids, they visualise the colourful exotic blooms that we see in florist shops or more frequently at the checkout counters of our supermarkets - the 'moth' *Phalaenopsis* orchids or the large strappy *Cymbidium* orchids which grow in many gardens in Sydney.

However, there are other more delicate blooms which grow in our bushland that we probably walk past and never notice. These are our Australian native orchids, some of which are found right here in the remnant bushland of North Sydney.

Most of these are terrestrial orchids and remain hidden

(dormant) for much of the year. They push their leaves through the soil in autumn and then produce their flowers in a relatively short flowering season, often in winter.

They are not the big, showy orchids that we purchase to display in our lounge rooms, but are usually small, unassuming yet beautiful orchids which have been given common names such as Greenhoods, Mosquito Orchids, Pixie Caps, Hyacinth Orchids and Beardies.

I have also discovered epiphytic orchids in our local bushland. These are orchids which grow on trees or rocks (lithophytes) - they are not parasitic but derive their

moisture and nutrients from the air and rain.

The current severe drought has impacted considerably on our precious bushland and on the flora and fauna with which we closely identify. The dry conditions caused many terrestrial orchids to remain dormant in the last season, but they will hopefully come to life again when we receive some rain.

Tristram and I will be speaking about our local native orchids at the Coal Loader on Sunday 29 March, 10am to 12pm. Further details: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents



The Australasian Native Orchid Society - Warringah Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Senior Citizens Centre, Starkey Street, Forestville.

Visitors are always welcome to attend. Regular guest speakers, cultural advice, sales table, benched orchids at monthly meetings.

To find out more, visit www.anoswarringah.org.au



Caption 1: Bootlace Orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides*



Caption 2: Pixie Orchid *Acianthus fornicatus*



Caption 3: Purple Beard Orchid *Calochilus robertsonii*



Caption 4: Hooded Orchid *Cryptostylis erecta*



Caption 5: Nodding Green Hood *Pterostylis nutans*



Caption 6: Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium punctatum*

CALENDAR & GREEN EVENTS

BOOKINGS must be made for all events at: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents or **9936 8100** unless otherwise stated

MARCH

- 1 **Strickland State Forest Visit** | Sunday 8am to 4pm
- 3 **Willoughby's Wildlife** | Tuesday 6.30pm to 8pm
Bookings: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9777 1000
- 7 **Bat Count - Centennial Park** | Saturday 5pm to 8pm
- 15 **Cuttings Workshop** | Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm
- 29 **Orchids of North Sydney** | Sunday 10am to 12pm
- 29 **Bushcare Kayak - Middle Harbour** | Sunday 8am to 2pm
Diary Dates at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9777 1000

APRIL

- 7 **Native Bee Talk** | Tuesday 6pm to 8pm
- 14 **Family Bush Walk** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 16 **Spotlight Walk** | Thursday 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- 22 **Mini Beast Muster** | Wednesday 10.30am to 12pm

MAY

- 2 **Bushcare Stall - Produce Market** | Saturday 8am to 12pm
- 10 **Trees for Mum Day** | Sunday 9am to 12pm
- 15 **Ecological Burning** | Friday 10am to 1pm
Diary Dates at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au or 9777 1000
- 17 **Weed Pressing Workshop** | Sunday 1pm to 4pm
- 18 **Community Nursery Tour** | Monday 9am to 3pm
- 23 **Eucalyptus Walk & Talk** | Saturday 10am to 1pm

JUNE

- 4 **Talking Birds** | Thursday 6.30am to 8pm
Diary Dates at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/ or 9777 1000
- 14 **Bush Poetry** | Sunday 2pm to 4pm
Diary Dates at www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/ or 9777 7875
- 28 **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Walk** | Sunday 9am to 3pm

JULY

- 7 **Family Bush Walk** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 15 **Mini Beast Muster** | Wednesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 19 **Native Plant Identification** | Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm
- 31 **Schools Tree Day** | Friday
RSVP: 17 July Register: treeday.planetark.org
Enquiries: The Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100

AUGUST

- 1 **Bush Walk - Balls Head** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 2 **National Tree Day** | Sunday 9.30am to 11am
Register: treeday.planetark.org/site/10023445
Enquiries: The Bushland Management Coordinator on 9936 8100
- 8 **Solitary Bee Hotel Workshop** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 9 **Introduction to Wildlife Watch** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
- 13 **Bandicoot Talk** | Thursday 6pm to 8pm
- 30 **Ku ring gai Wildflower Garden** | Sunday 9am to 2pm

In Memory of John Diamond

The Bushland Team would like to honour John Diamond's efforts to conserve the native fauna and flora of North Sydney.

John, partner to Georgina San Roque and member of the Friends of Carradah Park community group, passed away on Tuesday 31 December 2019. John was a well-respected professional bush regenerator who worked for many years as a Bush Regenerator Supervisor for the National Trust. He worked with many councils throughout Sydney and had a reputation as a knowledgeable practitioner with a strong work ethic. John helped establish the Bush Habitat Restoration Co-operative in 2001, a bush regeneration contractor focused on the restoration of habitat for wildlife and specialising in the management of areas of endangered vegetation requiring care and efficiency using hand weeding techniques. He was a long-term member of the Australian Association of Bush

Regenerators (AABR).

John volunteered his time along with Georgina and half a dozen other locals to preserve habitat for wildlife at Carradah Park, the former BP oil terminal, looking east to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Friends of Carradah Park community group managed landscaped gardens, planted out with endemic native plants, for wildlife habitat from May 2012 to March 2016.

John also generously offered his time to educate residents of North Sydney Council about Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, an endangered ecological community, during our tour of the York Road bushland remnant, adjoining Moriah College, that he managed for Centennial Parklands.

John was founder of the Friends of Ropes Creek, a group of volunteer bush regenerators working in a grassy woodland remnant of the Cumberland Plain in



Caption: John Diamond in ESBS bushland remnant.

North St Marys from 1990-92 and 1996 onwards. Janet Rannard – Former Bushland Management Officer at Penrith City Council said: “John brought some great morning teas to Bushcare events and we had some wonderful Open Days to promote the Ropes Creek bushland, drawing children and their parents from the local area”.

Friend and colleague from AABR, Virginia Bear, put together a short video for RegenTV about regeneration around Broken Hill and dedicated it to John - <https://youtu.be/flhiGURMRhQ>

Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer



Did you know North Sydney Council Bushcare has a Facebook page? Like us at www.facebook.com/bushcare



To be informed of interesting environmental education videos visit Envirotube on Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/greenstylenorth>

For more information or to make a booking for any of these workshops or special events please contact the Bushcare Officer on 9936 8100. Printed on 100% recycled, 75% post consumer and 25% pre consumer waste.

Gratitude to all our contributors who take the time to put ideas and research into words so we can learn. Thank you.

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