



NEWSLETTER

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare



B U S H C A R E AUTUMN 2022 – ISSUE 53

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney
Bushland Management Coordinator

What a relief it is to say “welcome back NSC Bushcare” for 2022! It was touch-and-go there for a while, not knowing if the resurgence of COVID (Omicron) would scuttle our planned resumption of volunteer activities this year. Thankfully though, the COVID-safe protocols that we developed and refined during 2021, has allowed all our volunteer and community engagement activities to recommence as scheduled. This includes Native Havens, Wildlife Watch, the Bushcare Nursery, and our program of educational workshops/ events, as published in the Bushcare Calendar.

At the time of writing this update, only the Adopt-a-Plot Program remained on hold still, due to a staff vacancy rather than COVID! We hope to appoint a replacement supervisor for the program shortly. Special thanks to Bushcare Nursery Supervisor Clare McElroy, the Bush Regeneration Team and our contractor Waratah Eco Works for stepping in to help provide some maintenance weed control on the plots while we go through the recruitment process!

Speaking of the Bush Regeneration Team, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member Tom Windon to the fold. Tom joined us in early January, having worked previously for both bush regeneration contract companies as well as other local Councils. Tom is proving to be a highly capable bush regenerator and Bushcare Site Supervisor. No doubt many of you will meet Tom soon (if not already) as he is currently supervising Balls Head, Walumetta, Harry Howard, Badangi, Primrose mid-week, Tunks East and Bridge End Bushcare Groups. Nothing like diving into the deep end, eh Tom?!

With the resumption of volunteer activities, the Bushland Team are (tentatively) planning our return to Boorowa for the first time since 2019. This year's tree planting weekend will be held from 27 to 29 of May, Coordinators Report continued overleaf



Caption: : White's Seahorse in *Posidonia australis* seagrass habitat by Dr David Harasti – Senior Research Scientist DPI. See more of Dave's photos at The Underwater Gallery <http://www.daveharasti.com/>

WHITE'S SEAHORSE CONSERVATION PROJECT

By Mitchell Brennan, Masters (Research) Candidate, Fish Ecology Lab, School of Life Sciences, UTS
An endangered White's Seahorse was discovered during improvement works to North Sydney Wharf in Kesterton Park, North Sydney, late last year and was relocated to a nearby location. Knowing little about this species, the Bushland Team contacted the White's Seahorse Project to learn more, and Mitchell Brennan has kindly shared his knowledge and experience on this topic.

White's Seahorses, *Hippocampus whitei*, are a medium-sized seahorse species endemic to Eastern Australia, ranging from Hervey Bay in South-East Queensland to Sussex Inlet in New South Wales.

White's Seahorses, like many seahorse species, are reliant on suitable habitat for their survival. These habitats, including seagrasses, soft corals, sponges,

gorgonians and algae's, provide the seahorses with a suitable location for them to anchor using their prehensile tail, and provide them with food, protection, and camouflage (the seahorses can change their colour to match their habitat).

Unfortunately, White's Seahorses' habitats have declined significantly largely due to human impacts, including

which is a departure from the traditional spring-timed planting, to see if this results in greater survival rates, especially as we transition from the current La Nina weather pattern. If you are interested in joining this year's volunteer contingent, please contact me on 9936 8224.

Similarly, we're also planning to host a community planting event on National Tree Day in Forsyth Park, Neutral Bay. The event is scheduled for the last Sunday in July. This popular community event has also been impacted by the pandemic, having been cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. If you've ever wondered about the value of National Tree Day at the local scale, just check out any of the previous NSC planting sites, such as Primrose Park (2019) or Waverton Park (2018). The density, diversity and structural complexity of the plantings are developing fantastic habitat for our native wildlife and providing a protective buffer for the adjoining remnant bushland. RSVPs are essential for this activity, so please register through the National Tree Day website.

The NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference is moving online this year. The conference will now be held on 17 March and tickets are \$100, however you can watch the awards ceremony for free. Congratulations to the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators and Sydney Wildlife for being selected as finalists for the 2021 NSW Landcare Australia Government Partnerships Award! The NSC Bushland Team are enthusiastic supporters of both AABR and Sydney Wildlife – we'll be watching the awards with anticipation when the winner is announced – good luck!

Register here
<https://nswlandcareconference.com.au/registration/>

Lastly, registrations are open for the Greater Sydney Landcare & Bushcare Gathering 2022, which has been rescheduled to 3 July. This free event is an opportunity for all Landcarers, Bushcarers, small farmers, carers for Country and environmentalists to co-create a future vision for what environmental management and conservation practices could look like in the Greater Sydney region.

Register at
<https://bit.ly/3EdYZw8> or contact Madeleine Florin – Greater Sydney Regional Landcare Coordinator at madeleine.florin@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0427 197 860

physical destruction from boat anchors and mooring chains, poor water quality and increased storm events. Two species that serve as primary habitats, the seagrass *Posidonia australis*, and the soft coral *Dendronephthya australis*, have been listed as endangered species in NSW.

The loss of habitat has negatively impacted White's Seahorses, with a significant drop in seahorse numbers being observed. In some areas, White's Seahorse populations have declined by as much as 95%. The significant population declines led to the White's Seahorse being listed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They are the second species of seahorse to be listed as endangered globally.

This led to the initiation of a White's Seahorse Conservation Project, a collaborative project between SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium (SLSA), the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), and the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), with support from Taylor's Wines, the Lim-Sutton Initiative and the Gamay Rangers. The project aims to provide the necessary habitats for their survival and a captive-breeding program, which is the first of its kind.

To date, the project has installed 27 'Seahorse Hotels', artificial cage-like structures providing habitat and protection to seahorses, at three sites in Sydney Harbour (Clifton Gardens, Delwood Beach and Little Manly). The Seahorse Hotels accrue marine growth, including algae and sponges, which provide the seahorses with protection and food in the form of small crustaceans that gather on or around the hotels.

The novel breeding program has led to the release of 234 juvenile seahorses, which were bred and reared at SLSA. This project is a world-first approach to seahorse conservation, and one of few marine conservation restocking programs globally. The release of juvenile seahorses aims to increase wild seahorse populations, and in the future will be used to restock areas where populations have been significantly impacted.

Since the inception of the project in 2019, I have been involved as an aquarist at SLSA, responsible for the husbandry and care of our seahorses and raising the babies, which entails a lot of cleaning and feeding. More recently, I have begun researching the outcomes of the project as a Master's Research Student with UTS.

My research is focused on developing our understanding of the success of the project and informing future conservation and management practices for White's Seahorses. The research includes regular Scuba diving surveys to recapture our released seahorses and analyse their survival. We do this through the use of elastomer tags - a coloured tag injected just beneath the skin of the seahorse; using different colours and body placements, we can individually identify every seahorse.

The project has garnered much interest and participation from the local community, with volunteers assisting in multiple capacities. We had seven students from UTS complete a volunteer placement at SLSA, assisting with the husbandry and rearing of the seahorses, and being very important to the success so far. We also hosted two Seahorse Hotel community construction days, where members of the public helped build the hotels which were then installed in the harbour. Finally, local divers often assist by providing photographs of tagged seahorses they find in the wild.

Looking to the future, we hope to continue to increase community involvement in the project so people understand the plight of this iconic endangered marine species! The research will continue with exciting prospects coming up, including new seahorse hotel designs and future collaborative work on the restoration of critical seahorse habitats, including *Posidonia australis* alongside Operation Posidonia, and the endangered Cauliflower soft coral. Long-term we hope to recover and restore White's Seahorse populations and provide the necessary habitats for their survival well into the future.

The best way to get involved with the conservation of White's Seahorse is by visiting the seahorses at SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium or supporting financially through Taylor's Wines and SIMS' SeaBnB fundraising campaign www.seabnb.com.au.

North Sydney Council has partnered with Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) for the Sydney Seahorse Art Project. Entries have now closed and the project animation will be exhibited at the Coal Loader in May. You can still have fun learning about Seahorses by downloading **The Sydney Seahorse Art Project Activity Kit**.

WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE

(NOVEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022)

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

- **Australian Darter** (Cremorne Point Reserve)
- **Australian King Parrot** (Smoothery Park, Primrose Park, Brightmore Reserve, Cremorne Reserve, Waverton urban, Cremorne urban, Balls Head Reserve, Waverton Park, Wollstonecraft urban)
- **Black-Faced Cuckoo-Shrike** (Badangi Reserve)
- **Brown Thornbill** (Tunks Park)
- **Common Eastern Froglet** (Tunks Park West Bushcare Site)
- **Eastern Blue-tongued Lizard** (Balls Head Reserve, Tunks Park, Waverton Park)
- **Eastern Long-necked Turtle** (Coal Loader)
- **Eastern Spinebill** (Tunks Park)
- **Eastern Water Dragon** (Tunks Park, Balls Head Reserve, Cremorne Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park, Gore Cove Reserve)
- **Eastern Whipbird** (Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve, Tunks Park)
- **Green Tree Frog** (North Sydney urban)
- **Green Tree Snake** (Cremorne urban, Tunks Park)
- **Little Black Cormorant** (Cremorne Reserve)
- **Peregrine Falcon** (Balls Head Reserve)
- **Pied Cormorant** (Cremorne Reserve, Neutral Bay Urban)
- **Powerful Owl** (Gore Cove Reserve)
- **Red-Bellied Black Snake** (Cremorne Point urban)
- **Red-browed Finch** (Tunks Park)
- **Red Wattlebird** (Badangi Reserve)
- **Short-Beaked Echidna** (Camberay urban)
- **Silvereye** (Tunks Park)
- **Superb Fairy-wren** (Balls Head Reserve, Badangi Reserve)
- **Swamp Wallaby** (Tunks Park)
- **Tawny Frogmouth** (Balls Head Reserve, Tunks Park)
- **Variigated Fairy-wren** (Primrose Park, Balls Head Reserve, Tunks Park)
- **White-faced Heron** (Anderson Park, Cremorne Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve, Neutral Bay urban, McMahons Point)
- **White-browed Scrubwren** (Cremorne Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Primrose Park, Brightmore Reserve)
- **White's Seahorse** (Kesterton Park)
- **Yellow Admiral Butterfly** (Badangi Reserve)



Caption: Green Tree Snake (*Dendrelaphis punctulatus*) being held, prior to its release by Harley - professional snake catcher at Cremorne Point. Photo taken by Stewart Hodgson, 8 Feb 2022.

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

COLOURFUL VISITOR GREEN TREE SNAKE ENCOUNTER

By Stewart Hodgson – Streets Alive Volunteer, resident of Cremorne Point

I was shocked to come home to find a snake curled up against the brickwork in the underground garage of our apartment block. I am not a 'snake person' by any means but do have a healthy respect for them, albeit from a safe distance! Not knowing the species or how venomous it may be, my immediate thoughts were to keep an eye on it and call North Sydney Council for advice. Thanks to Council, I got the contact details for 'WIRES' and a private snake catcher. Unfortunately, a WIRES Volunteer was not available, so I got straight on to the Snake Catcher who thankfully arrived shortly after my somewhat desperate call for help. They immediately identified the snake as a harmless Green Tree Snake. "They are prolific in the area" was not something I really wanted to hear given the countless hours I spend both in our apartment building garden and working on the Council's Streets Alive program. Having retrieved the snake, our catcher proudly held up the one-metre-long reptile for the obligatory photo. Ok, I was struck by the beautiful colouring and gentle nature of the snake but did keep my distance. We appreciated the short informative lecture on the habits and behaviours of the Green Tree Snake, and were happy to see the snake was unharmed, bagged and ready for a short trip to a suitable location nearby for release.

Sydney Wildlife Rescue's website sydneywildlife.org.au provides good advice for snake encounters at home.

**FOR 24/7
EMERGENCY
Wildlife Rescue
or advice call
9413 4300
or visit
[sydneywildlife.
org.au](http://sydneywildlife.org.au)**

NATIVE HAVENS: KINGSWAY GARDENS

By Ed Yan - Resident of Waverton

Ed found out about the Native Havens Program around two years ago while browsing North Sydney Council's website for more information on Bushcare.

Before embarking on improvements to the 'Kingsway Gardens', Ed wrote to his building strata with a proposal to infill and plant a couple of gaps in the garden beds. The choice of plantings had the input and support of Council as part of their drive to improve habitat for native flora and fauna and his proposal was received without objection.

Ed said: "I wanted to create further screening along the perimeter garden beds and attract insects and birds by planting a variety of local native plants.

"I started small-scale, with a few plantings. When I started receiving positive feedback from residents and neighbours, I gained confidence and became more ambitious with what I wanted to do with the garden.

"The existing garden design was very rigid with lots of straight lines and right angles, I wanted to introduce something a bit more 'natural' and interesting, so I added some curves to the borders. I worked with existing sandstone edging to blend in the new design. When I ran out of border material, I simply dug a small trench between the lawn and the garden bed to discourage the grass runners from spreading. In digging the new garden beds, I also uncovered some building rubble – slabs

Caption: Ed's Native Haven garden before and after landscaping and planting. Photos by Ed Yan



of concrete - and rocks and used these both decoratively and as steppingstones to help in the maintenance of the garden.

"I didn't improve the soil prior to planting but I have subsequently added the output from my worm farm and a bokashi bin to the garden to the mutual benefit of myself and hopefully the garden as well!

"Over time I have continued to extend the garden beds and I am careful to work with Ramin to choose suitable plants, not just for the planting conditions, but also to respect views and allow light for the residents.

"I have also been able to apply what I have learnt to create a second Native Haven garden at my father's place in Wollstonecraft which faced similar issues.

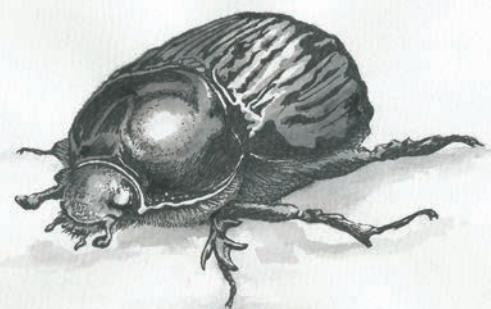
"It has been wonderful to see the plants grow (one acacia planted as tube stock is now a stunning three metre tall tree in just two years), then flower for the first time. The plants have been attracting native birds and insects – just this morning I saw a native bee with its blue bands buzzing through the flowers of the white correa supplied by Native Havens.

"Not only are the native fauna enjoying the plants but also the residents and pedestrians who frequently compliment the plantings. It's a win all round!"

DYNASTINE BEETLE

Illustration of a Dynastine Beetle (*Dasygnathus trituberculatus*) female, no horn as for males, a species of large scarab beetle, stout bodied, brown to black in colour, about 2cm in length. They have been emerging around the North Sydney area during summer and are active at night. Note the linear grooves along the length of the elytra/forewings. Larvae live in the soil and feed on roots or decaying plant matter or rotten logs, adults do not feed on leaves (ref: brisbaneinsects.com)

Jason Mate, member of the **Amateur @ Professional Australian Entomology Facebook Group**, said Dynastine beetles are quite numerous in open, grassy areas, but prefer to breed under logs or where there is thick mulch of wood chips. *Dasygnathus trituberculatus* is a native and does some root damage but nothing major. They are not known to swarm like Christmas Beetles (*Anoplognathus*) as used to be the case in Sydney. Similar species of African Black Beetles (*Heteronychus arator* and *H. parampunctatus*) are now emerging on masse, they are cosmopolitan.



Caption: Illustration by Rebecca Farrell

NEW STAFF PROFILE: TOM WINDON - NSC BUSH REGENERATOR

Hi bushland community, my name is Tom Windon and I am a new member of North Sydney Council's Bushland Team. Here is just a little information about me and my history and experience in the conservation and land management industry.

My love for the bush started as it often does as a young kid growing up with the bushland just down the road from my house in Toongabbie. I would spend a lot of the time building tree houses and forts and using the rope swing at Third Settlement Reserve. My first job at the local McDonalds didn't quite cut it for me so I looked elsewhere and happened to stumble across a bush regenerator job located at the very same bushland I had been hanging about with my friends, what luck!

I have been in the industry for six years now, beginning at 16 as a team member at a private bushland management company in the Hills district while completing my Cert 3 in Conservation and Land Management, then moving on to become a team leader for Bluetongue Ecosystems, where I supervised the Parramatta City Council volunteer groups on the weekend and managed sites across the Sydney basin during the week. Now working as a team member at North Sydney Council, I am excited to work in such a beautiful place and to bring my knowledge and experience to the role, while also learning a ton more from the new team and community.

Hope to meet you all soon if I haven't already.



Caption: Tom Windon - NSC Bush Regenerator, Ted Mack Civic Park, North Sydney, Jan 2022.

RAKALI SURVEY UPDATE

The Rakali Citizen Science Project was launched following a Rakali Awareness Webinar provided in March 2020 to help us learn more about this little-known native rodent.

The talk was prompted by a Rakali sighting during a Bat Night activity in March 2016 near Badangi Reserve and the sad discovery of a dead Rakali by the toilet blocks in Berry Island Reserve in August 2020. Previous to this, the only known record for our LGA was at Luna Park in 2011 Ref: Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

Interested webinar participants were invited to a project planning meeting that soon followed. We decided to survey North Sydney's beaches and mudflats for Rakali tracks, so as not to disturb them, on the full moon when there is most light. Photos of our observations to be submitted to our Wildlife Watch Biocollect Project hosted by the ALA.

David Bell – Tunks West Bushcare was the first volunteer to step-up and lend a hand, Karen Withers joined us later. Our inaugural survey looked to be a disaster as we had misjudged the tides, the foreshore was inundated. Deflated, David and I decided to visit Berry Island, a known habitat, before quitting and as luck would have it, we actually spotted a Rakali about the size and shape of ringtail possum at the boat ramp, we thought this was a good omen.

David and I soon realised it was hard to see the tracks at night by torch light and calculated that the best time to survey would be on a low tide, just after dawn. Our revised method proved successful, we found distinct tracks at several locations, characterised by two small star shaped handprints and elongated footprints either side of a tail drag mark.

David, Karen and I have surveyed about 20 sites along Sydney and Middle Harbour during our 5 surveys to date. The Rakali tracks are usually found along walls or tide lines on the beach. Of concern are the many dog tracks that appear to follow behind. To date, we have submitted about 40 observations to the ALA, we hope this information will eventually help to conserve Rakali habitat.

The Bushland Team would like to thank David and Karen for their support, particularly David who is ever enthusiastic even when the weather is unkind.

by Andrew Scott - Bushcare Officer



Caption: Left: Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) tracks observed on the western side of Berry Island, 21 February 2022.

Below: Map of Rakali track records clustered together by area for North Sydney LGA hosted by ALA BioCollect.



BUSHCARE NURSERY UPDATE - AUTUMN 2022

In February, after a six-month Covid hiatus, volunteers returned to the nursery and were straight into sowing trays of seed. We still have a few months of good growing weather ahead of us and now that the temperature in the polyhouses has dropped (midsummer is impossibly hot in there) we should have time for germination and potting up before growth stalls in winter.

Despite our major community events being cancelled in 2021, it was a surprisingly productive year for the nursery. Almost 12,000 plants were propagated and sent out, an increase of 38% on 2020. This was partly due to consistently wet weather that enabled the Bushland Team to get plenty of plants in the ground with a good chance of survival. We're hopeful that community events will resume this year and our plants can once again be enjoyed through planting events and giveaways.

Repurposed Stock Bed for the Nursery

Who has one of those old concrete laundry tubs skulking in the backyard? Perhaps it was saved from the tip because it once held the promise of an exciting garden project (a bog garden! herbs!) but it's now a bit of an eyesore, breeding mosquitos and too heavy to move or discard.

I inherited such a thing when I took over the nursery. Grey and grim, supported by Besser blocks, without irrigation and exposed to full, westerly summer sun. Over the years, it was topped up with old potting mix and planted with a pretty and promising selection of natives: Hardenbergia, Veronica, Correa and the like. Each effort reliably succumbed to the desperate growing conditions and did nothing to enhance our nursery image.

Last year we dug out all the old, ant-infested, hydrophobic potting media and replaced it with a mixture of coarse river sand and crushed sandstone, slow-release native fertiliser, and water crystals and cocopeat for moisture retention. The result was a gritty, free draining but moisture retentive mix perfect for Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthii*). We added the spectacular sky-blue flowered *Lobelia gracilis* for colour and *Trachymene incisa* (Native Parsnip, like Flannel Flower also from the Apiaceae family).

Flannel Flowers are not difficult to grow from seed, but must be sown fresh. If

Caption: Concrete laundry tub repurposed to a stock bed for the nursery. Photo by Clare McElroy



stored for a length of time, the seed enters a period of dormancy that requires smoke treatment to trigger germination – an adaptation that gives plants the best chance of survival in the open conditions following a bushfire. Everything is thriving and we're using these plants as stock for seed collection.

We've survived the (admittedly mild) summer and the concrete tub has now earned its keep.

Clare McElroy –
Bushcare Nursery Supervisor

Thank you & Farewell KEN BURCHELL

For the past four years Ken Burchell has been a familiar face at Balls Head Bushcare meetings. While he liked to work alone, tools in hand, he was friendly and well-liked by his fellow volunteers. Ken also supported Streets Alive and, like most of us, had his favourite areas and pet weeds. When Ken and his wife Mieke went on their regular walks to Balls Head, he would frequently stop along the way to pull out some weeds or tend to a plant.

Mieke has always been incredibly supportive of Ken and of our Bushcare work and we hope she will be able to join us for morning tea in the future

By Vera Yee - Balls Head Bushcare Group.



Caption: Illustration by
Rebecca Farrell

NATIVE PLANT PROFILE *Kunzea ambigua* TICK BUSH

Family: Myrtaceae

Name: *Kunzea* – after Dr Gustav Kunze (1793-1851) a German botanist and physician

ambigua = Lat. doubtful, uncertain (origin obscure Tick Bush (origin obscure)

Like so much of our native flora, *Kunzea ambigua* largely goes unnoticed until it flowers, when its conspicuous sprays of fluffy, white, honey-scented flowers prompt the question “what is that?”

Distribution: common in coastal heaths and scrubs on sandstone, from northern NSW to Tasmania. In North Sydney, it can be found on poorly drained, skeletal soils along rock outcrops, particularly in Balls Head, Tunks Park and Berry Island.

In unburned areas and exposed sites, plants can form gnarled thickets, much favoured as nesting sites for birds and possums.

Description: *Kunzea ambigua* can reach 5m tall but is usually seen as a spreading shrub of 2-3m high and wide, with fibrous, furrowed bark.

The aromatic leaves are small and crowded (about 1 cm long) and narrow-linear in shape.

The clustered flowers are fragrant, creamy-white, and with masses of spreading stamens that conceal the tiny petals and give the flowers a fluffy appearance. The flowers attract birds, mammals, and a wide range of insects, particularly jewel beetles, bees, wasps and butterflies.

The seed capsules are distinctive, bowl-shaped, often with a rosy bloom, and remain on the plant until the tiny seeds ripen and are released in summer.

Fire response: plants are killed by fire but regenerate prolifically from seed, often forming carpets of seedlings on moist, disturbed ground.

Cultivation: *Kunzea ambigua* is a hardy and adaptable garden plant, excellent for fauna habitat, and with a beautiful, fragrant floral display in late spring. Plants prefer full sun and moisture and can be tip pruned to encourage bushiness.

Clare McElroy
Bushcare Nursery Supervisor

Caption: Typical form of *Kunzea ambigua* showing dense, spreading habit and prolific spring flowering. Photo taken in Belrose by Clare McElroy, 22 Nov 2021.



GREEN EVENTS CALENDAR

The Bushland Team is committed to providing activities and events where social distancing measures can be applied. Please refer to the events listing on the North Sydney Council homepage and Green Events page for the most up-to-date information.

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

MARCH

- 9 **Bushcare Visit - Constables Pt** | Wednesday 8am to 3pm.
- 10 **Bushcare Convenor Meeting** | Thursday 6pm to 8pm
- 11 **When Flowers Turn to Fruit** | Friday 10am to 12pm
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>
- 19 **Bushcare Stall - Northside Produce Markets** | Saturday 8am to 12pm
- 20 **Cuttings Workshop** | Sunday 9.30am to 12.30pm.
- 20 **Urban Bushwalk - From Streets to Creeks** | Sunday 10am to 12.30pm
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>
- 22 **Create a Water-smart Home & Garden Webinar** |
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>
- 23 **Bird Friendly Gardening** | Wednesday 7pm to 8pm
Bookings essential: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
- 26 **Eucalyptus Day Walk** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 27 **Tree Planting at Aquatic Park, Lane Cove** | Sunday 9am to 12pm
Bookings essential: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents

APRIL

- 2 **Water Bug Blitz** | Saturday 9am to 11am
Bookings essential: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
- 12 **Family Bush Walk - Berry Island Reserve** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 13 **Family Kayak** | Wednesday 10am to 12pm
- 14 **Family Spotlight Walk** | Thursday 6pm to 8pm
- 29 **Easy Spotlight Walk - Middle Cove** | Friday 7pm to 8.30pm
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>

MAY

- 5 **Flat Rock Heritage Bushwalk** | Thursday 10am to 12.30pm
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>
- 8 **Trees for Mum Day** | Sunday 9.30am to 11am
- 12 **The Elusive Echidna** | Thursday 7pm to 8.15pm
Bookings essential: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
- 27-29 **Building Bridges to Boorowa** | Friday to Sunday
Enquiries: Gareth Debney 9936 8224 or
Gareth.Debney@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

JUNE

- 3 **Coastal Bushwalk - North Arm Track** | Friday 10am to 1pm
<https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Events>
- 4 **Growing Ferns and Groundcovers** | Saturday 9am to 12pm
Bookings essential: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
- 9 **Adopt a Plot Annual General Meeting** | Thursday 6pm to 7pm
- 9 **Webinar - Rewilding Bush Rats to North Head** | Thursday 7pm to 8.30pm
- 23 **Aboriginal Heritage Walk** | Thursday 10am to 1pm

JULY

- 10 **Bushcare Essentials** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
- 13 **Bushcare Essentials** | Wednesday 10am to 1pm
- 31 **National Tree Day** | Sunday 9.30am to 11am
Register: <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10025974>

ECO-TOURISM AWARD – SYDNEY BY KAYAK

Congratulations to Sydney by Kayak on winning bronze in the Eco-tourism category at the NSW Tourism Awards on 3 February and for winning the Litter Prevention category of the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards 2021. Laura Stone, the proprietor, has also been named Businessperson of the Year in the Local North Shore Business Awards.

Sydney by Kayak has been operating a small kayak tour business out of Lavender Bay for the past eight years. The Bushland Team has been working with Laura Stone, her husband Ben and their team for most of that time to encourage local families to interact with North Sydney Council's open space and foreshore environments.

Family kayak tours are held at Tunks Park as it provides a boat ramp with plenty of parking. We paddle along Willoughby Bay, past the bushland below Northbridge Golf Club into sheltered Wreck Bay, where we look at the remnants of an Aboriginal fish trap, the shipwrecks, and many bushland plants including a variety of Eucalypt species - Sydney Red Gums, Blackbutts and Sydney Peppermints. On occasion we see stingrays in the shallows and Azure Kingfishers zipping along the foreshore. For some children this is their very first experience at kayaking and if they happen

to run out of steam they can be towed along. Council subsidises this activity to make it more accessible.

The Bushland Team would like to thank Sydney by Kayak for being consistent supporters of our Bushcare events and activities program, even when Laura was pregnant with Levi and Isla.

Sydney by Kayak donates a percentage of every tour sold towards environmental projects. Currently, they are in the process of raising funds for a Living Seawall Project to be installed in Lavender Bay to help rehabilitate marine flora and fauna.

Join us for a family kayak these school holidays by booking via Council's Green Events page:

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/greenevents



Caption: Laura Stone, Business Person of the Year in the Local North Shore Business Awards.



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



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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 paper.

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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