



# NEWSLETTER

[www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare)



## B U S H C A R E SPRING 2021 – ISSUE 51

### COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney  
Bushland Management Coordinator

What a difference just a couple of months can make during a global pandemic! Last newsletter, which was barely three months ago, I was talking about all the projects and community activities that the Bushland Team had planned for 2021 and then BAM - Delta COVID hits Sydney - half our plans are out the window and Bushcare is once again suspended.

As with last year's COVID lockdown, the Bushland Team are adapting and modifying our work to suit the changing conditions. The Bush Regeneration Team, while depleted with two staff vacancies that we are unable to fill (due to lockdown), is soldiering on and trying to keep on top of the weeds on your Bushcare sites and elsewhere. As it happens, the Admin/Projects-side of the Bushland Team (i.e. Ramin, Andrew and myself) have been partially redeployed into the field to help Tristram keep on top of site maintenance as we come in to the warmer weed-growing months of the year. I must say personally, it's been a pleasure to swap fogged-up reading glasses and a keyboard for sunshine, gloves and a pouch-kit!

With many of our Bushcare Calendar events being cancelled, the time usually spent coordinating these activities has been redirected to the development of additional modules for our recently developed online Bushcare Essentials training resource.

Andrew is presently scripting another series of training videos based around weed identification and covering topics such as habit, key identifying features, propagules and prioritising weed control. These videos will build on the excellent series of Introductory Bushcare Training modules that were recently integrated into Council's E-learning platform. So far, around 50% of our active volunteers have commenced these training modules which is a fantastic start, however it's important that all active volunteers complete the training as soon as possible. If you haven't already, please log in and see how your



Caption: Healthy Parrot Pea (*Dillwynia retorta*) at Berry Island spring 2021 by Andrew Scott.

knowledge compares to current best practice.

Andrew is also trialling a weekly Wednesday evening 'Zoom' meeting called 'Bushcare Matters,' where NS Bushcare volunteers can join and learn about topics of interest and then participate in a Q&A session along with special guest presenters and/or other members of the Bushland Team.

Sadly, the Bush Regeneration Team recently found a dead Powerful Owl in Badangi Reserve (Wollstonecraft) and an injured Southern Boobook Owl in Anderson Park (Neutral Bay). The loss of these two top-order nocturnal predators from our reserves is a blow ecologically and will take some time to recover.

On a more positive note, Andrew was recently joined by Tunks West Bushcare volunteer David Bell to commence Rakali (Native Water Rat) monitoring on the sandy foreshores of North Sydney. This cryptic little mammal was previously only known to occur – in small numbers – around the Badangi Reserve and Berry Island Foreshores. Thanks to these targeted surveys however, the distinctive Rakali footprints have been detected in several other foreshore locations, including Waverton, Neutral Bay, Cremorne and Cammeray. As the weather warms up

and health restrictions allow, we will be looking for more volunteers to help with these early morning/low-tide foreshore inspections so please contact Andrew if you're interested in participating.

As many of you will know by now, the Bushland Team is saying farewell to another cherished member of the team. Our Adopt-a-Plot Supervisor Emma Hyland has made the difficult decision to move her career closer to home on the Central Coast. While it's a huge loss for North Sydney, it's an even bigger gain for Emma's work-life balance and family. We wish you all the very best Emma – stay in touch! For those involved in the AaP program, please know that your sites will stay in good hands after Emma finishes up, with our own Bushcare Officer Andrew Scott and Bushland Project Officer Ramin Khosravi stepping in to help maintain the sites until recruitment for Emma's replacement is able to commence.

Lastly, I'd just like to thank all our Bushcare volunteers and program supporters for your understanding during these difficult times and your flexibility as we adapt to the ever-changing COVID situation. We sincerely hope that the current crisis eases soon so we can resume our (relatively) normal Bushcare Group meetings. Keep safe and stay positive.



# SYDNEY WILDLIFE UPDATE

by Trish Kroll

Fortunately for injured and orphaned wildlife, Sydney Wildlife Rescue has been classified as an essential service under the COVID lockdown rules. This means it can still undertake vital rescues during the pandemic while taking sensible precautions to protect both its members and the public. The organisation has also made changes to its response routine to keep its volunteers safe. Volunteers can opt to not go out into the community and instead perform essential animal rehabilitation work from home.

With the first two intakes of new members now under their belt, Sydney Wildlife is pleased to have received positive feedback from the many trainees who have successfully completed their introductory courses online.

Of course, you don't have to be a trained volunteer to help - just knowing to phone Sydney Wildlife when you come across injured or orphaned wildlife gives the animal the best chance of survival, rehabilitation and eventual release.

Recently a Wollstonecraft resident phoned Sydney Wildlife to report finding a dead ringtail possum in her garden with signs of a joey wiggling in its pouch. By phoning Sydney Wildlife and

agreeing to take the dead mother to their local vet, this quick-thinking person gave the joeys (there turned out to be two in the pouch) their best chance at life. They are both being cared for by Susan, a dedicated Sydney Wildlife member. Both joeys are doing well.

Our urban native wildlife often struggle to survive in an environment that contains a plethora of introduced threats from motor vehicles, habitat removal and predators such as cats roaming at night. At times their survival instincts may lead to seeking food or shelter in our homes and gardens. Please remember that Sydney Wildlife or North Sydney Council is available to advise and deal with any concerns. Native wildlife is protected by law and should never be harmed. They rarely survive the stress of removal from familiar territory and better alternatives are only a phone call away.

Many of the animals in care need medication, specially formulated supplements, powdered foods and marsupial formulas. Sydney Wildlife relies on donated money to meet that need. There are many demands on scarce funds and the organisation is always looking for ways to raise money, and any ideas are welcome, please

Caption: Working from home during lockdown by Trish Kroll

email Bev at [info@sydneywildlife.org.au](mailto:info@sydneywildlife.org.au). Donations may also be made through Sydney Wildlife's website [www.sydneywildlife.org.au/donate](http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au/donate)

If you would like some tips on how you or your family and friends can help wildlife in your own backyard, please contact Bev for a copy of the Wildlife Rescue Booklet. These booklets were printed thanks to a grant from the Communities Environment Program through North Sydney MP Trent Zimmerman.

For wildlife rescues or advice, please phone Sydney Wildlife Rescue on 9413 4300.



Caption: Susan with the two ringtail possum joeys rescued from their dead mother in Wollstonecraft, courtesy of Sydney Wildlife



# WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE

(MAY TO AUGUST 2021)

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:

- **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (Balls Head Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Primrose Park)
- **Southern Boobook Owl** (Anderson Park, Gore Cove Reserve)
- **Peregrine Falcon** (Balls Head Reserve)
- **Powerful Owl** (Badangi Reserve)
- **Brown Thornbill** (Tunks Park)
- **Rakali** (Anderson Park, Berry Island Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve, Waverton Park, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Silvereye** (Primrose Park)
- **Black faced Cuckoo-Shrike** (Primrose Park)
- **Red-Necked Advocet** (Quibaree Park)
- **Topknot Pigeon** (Cremorne Point Reserve)
- **Australian Wood Duck** (Sugar Works Reserve, Tunks Park)
- **Southern leaftailed Gecko** (McMahons Point Urban)
- **Red Wattle Bird** (Badangi Reserve, Sugar Works Reserve)
- **Australian King Parrot** (Neutral Bay Urban, Brightmore Reserve, Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve, North Sydney Urban, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** (Balls Head Reserve)
- **Superb Fairy-wren** (Primrose Park, Badangi Reserve)
- **Variiegated Fairy-wren** (Balls Head Reserve, Primrose Park)
- **Tawny Frogmouth** (Neutral Bay Urban, North Sydney Urban, Harry Howard Reserve, Berry Island Reserve, Cammeray Urban)
- **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** (Brightmore Reserve, Primrose Park, Cammeray Urban, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Eastern Whip Bird** (Brightmore Reserve, Primrose Park, Brightmore Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Cremorne Reserve)
- **White-browed Scrubwren** (Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park, Balls Head Reserve, Tunks Park, Gore Cove Reserve)
- **White-faced Heron** (Anderson Park, Milsons Park, Dr Mary Booth Reserve, Badangi Reserve)
- **Little Pied Cormorant** (Kurraba Point Urban, Coal Loader, Cremorne Reserve, Primrose Park)
- **Little Black Cormorant** (Primrose Park, North Sydney Urban, Badangi Reserve)
- **Australian Pelican** (Tunks Park)

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](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) or visit Council's Bushcare Page - [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare) to post your photo on the North Sydney Council Bushcare Facebook page.



Caption: Southern Boobook Owl by Terence Alexander, QLD courtesy of birdlife photography.org.au

## HOOT DETECTIVE

Find owls without leaving home! Listen to audio collected from across Australia and see if you can hear any owl calls, see [hootdetective.net.au](http://hootdetective.net.au)

Hi North Sydney Council,

Just wanted to say I explored the Badangi Reserve walk at Wollstonecraft this week and was very impressed. Your parks team has created a really great little walking track and the quality of native vegetation in the Badangi Reserve is nice to see.

In the current circumstances, with us all in lockdown for who knows how long, it just goes to show how important the green areas of our LGA are - to our very existence, mental health and wellbeing. To be able to feel nature, breathe fresh air and enjoy beautiful vistas is priceless.

I do hope your team continues to complete the project at Badangi and finalise the vision for it. Your efforts are noticed and very much appreciated.

Best regards,  
Dean Tuttle (and family), Neutral Bay



# Two of a Kind

## MEET VOLUNTEERS RACHEL DAWSON & POLLY KNOWLTON COCKETT

I (Rachel) grew up with bushwalking and studied Geography, Biology and Physical Education, so I've always had a love of being active in nature. When my kids grew up a bit, I looked for projects which were physically active, sociable and helpful to the environment.

I started attending Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), Landcare events and Conservation Volunteer Australia projects in school holidays while teaching during term. I also worked at the Native Nursery and reveg patches in Glebe but found the beauty of the North Sydney bush and harbourside locations much more appealing, so I started working there. Being out of area, I am not attached to a particular site, and I find it more interesting going to different sites when I am available, as they are all great. I met Georgina San Roque through a mutual friend, and on the basis of my science degree and previous experience, I began working part time with Bush Habitat Restoration Co-op. It was a lovely antidote to the (sometimes pesky) teenagers at my teaching job. Here I got up close to Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, Blue Gum High Forest, Cumberland Plain Woodland and Turpentine Ironbark Forest, all lovely in their own way.

By then I'd figured out that endless growth on a finite planet doesn't work. I decided to quit overseas travel, embarked on a "buy nothing new" adventure and also decided to live my life toxic chemical and plastic free. Luckily it turns out I'm not really a "gin and tonic by the pool in Bali" type of person and I looked to country trips in NSW for holidays instead. The Crowdy Bay Bitou Bash and Cowra Woodland Bird surveys are my favourites. The Orange Hawkweed project is terrific. Jo Caldwell from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) organised the volunteers searching for the weed in the Mt Jagungal Wilderness Area. She even took us up in a helicopter to the less accessible sites.

The Boorowa planting trip was instrumental in tweaking my interest towards the challenging relationship between agriculture and the environment. Now that my son has



settled in Batlow on a sustainable lifestyle permaculture market garden, I have as much weeding as I ever want to do, and the scenery is even better than North Sydney!

I find all these activities so very satisfying - invariably the people who organise and join these groups are interesting and welcoming. The projects are well organised, ongoing, have good scientific basis, are healthy, and over time you see such wonderful improvements.

**When visiting Sydney last year, Polly joined her cousin Rachel at Tunks Park West Bushcare. Polly is an avid naturalist, active community member and Prairie Care volunteer in her community of Brentwood in northwest Calgary, Alberta, Canada.**

**This is part of Polly's story, from being an engaged school parent to becoming an environmental volunteer.**

Polly became involved with the preservation of a precious remnant of Rough Fescue Grassland, the only natural area wholly within Brentwood, adjoining Dr E. W. Coffin Elementary where her children attended school.

This natural area space was seen as an opportunity for students and the public to learn about aspen parkland and grassland ecosystems; conduct science inquiry projects; and engage in community weeding bees. The students named it Whispering Woods and it was officially adopted in 1995 by friends and neighbours working closely and

Caption: Rachel and Polly at Forsyth Park pre COVID restrictions by Clare McElroy. Polly is Rachel's cousin from Canada, a Prairie Care Volunteer in Alberta, Canada.



collaboratively with The City of Calgary Parks through the Natural Areas Adopt-a-Park Program. This was one of a series of reclaimed space projects for the school, that started with the creation of the Sun Circle Gardens in 1992, in the footprint of the previous burnt down school.

Friends of Dr E.W. Coffin (the school's parent society) share knowledge and ideas about the preservation of the urban prairie and encourage community stewardship. Polly coordinates regular BioBees/gardening bees throughout the growing season in Whispering Woods and the Centennial Natureground. Some tools and equipment are provided, and the volunteers are encouraged to pull-out alien species that outcompete with endemic plants and disrupt the native ecosystem. These include Thistles, Smooth Brome, Goat's Beard, Creeping Bellflower and dandelions, troubling Scentless Chamomile, Oxeye Daisy, Yellow Toadflax, pesky Hound's Tongue, Stick Weed and Shepherd's Purse.

Natureground is a reclaimed space within the grounds of the school, a link to Whispering Woods, landscaped to

imitate the natural features of a prairie. It was reconstructed in 2004 from many forbs, grasses and shrubs (rescued before the construction of a ring road in northwest Calgary) in addition to seeded and planted species for the public's education and enjoyment.

When Whispering Woods was first adopted, the friends just wanted a sign to share their growing appreciation for this natural space. But as they worked more closely with it and attracted further teacher and neighbour participation, they desired to share knowledge about Whispering Wood's ecological diversity. This led to the *Whispering Signs Project* - 34 ecological encounters in an urban prairie via signs which feature works of students, local artists, writers and story tellers and poets. This massive community project was managed by Polly and was completed in 2008. One of these interpretive signs links the Dr E. W. Coffin school grounds and Whispering Woods to a regional pathway further east to an overpass, named *Whispering Grasses Walkway* by the students, to Nose Hill, one of the largest urban parks in Canada.


The school has undertaken many thousands of environmental projects: parents, staff and students achieved Earth School II status for the Green Schools Program sponsored by the Seeds Foundation receiving the Emerald Award in 2005. Another one of their community projects received a City of Calgary Environmental Award in 1997 for the publication of *Exploring Nose Hill – A hands on field guide*, that is included in Alberta's Elementary School Program Curriculum.

Polly has catalogued the history of Dr E. W. Coffin School's reclaimed spaces and related community development projects at [www.natureground.org](http://www.natureground.org), here you'll be able to watch lovely videos of *Whispering Signs Project* Grand Opening Day.

It is encouraging to learn about natural area restoration projects occurring in different parts of the world and it is interesting to see their unique manifestation. When you read about the Whispering Woods and the Natureground projects in depth, it becomes apparent that this is a story about community.

Caption: A Diverse Gathering, is one of a series of interpretive signs for Ecological Encounters in an Urban Prairie accompanied by a further 25 smaller Ecological Alphabet in an Urban Prairie signs for the Whispering Signs Project (Mysteriously, the 'O' sign was turned into one of the 9 larger signs as it is further away from all the other ones - so needed more context), coordinated by Polly Knowlton Cockett on behalf of the Friends of Dr E. W. Coffin.

51° 06' 13.73" N 114° 08' 12.40" W 1139.4 m



# A Diverse Gathering

Grassland is a slowly evolved, highly complex organic entity, centuries old. It approaches the eternal.

Weaver (1954) North American Prairie

**Sensing Spring**

Birds trill their songs of spring in the crisp cool air;

Grasses dance the rhythms of the gentle breeze.

Blossoms emerge, revealing the beauty that lies within;

The brilliant blue sky is crystal clear.

The laughter of children fills the air,

While saucers of snow scatter the ground.


The brightness of green colors the world;

We know now that spring is here!

Linnel, Grade 6

**Interdependent Communities**


Rough fescue, our provincial grass, is strong and resilient, able to withstand drought and prairie fire, and provides nutritious forage, not only in summer, but above the winter snows. With its moisture conserving deep and fibrous roots, thick thatch, and tightly rolled leaves, rough fescue grows from purplish sheaths in characteristic bunches. As a grassland ecosystem, it harbours an incredible biodiversity, including our provincial flower, the festive and prickly wild rose. The pink flowers of the rose give way to deep red rosehips, providing wildlife with delicious and nutritious fruit throughout Alberta's long winters. Our native grasses, then, are key in the web of all existence of which we are a part.



10th Circle 1008

[www.natureground.org](http://www.natureground.org)

The intrinsic values of the dynamic prairie landscape – spiritual and philosophical, scientific and biological, and economic and social – create a rich heritage for us to sustain and enhance. Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum



# ADOPT-A-PLOT UPDATE

Hello & Farewell

Well, the start of a new financial year means that it's a new year for the Adopt-a-Plot Program. All program participants will have received their annual reports and new contracts for the 2021/22 year. Some participants have moved from the Cremorne area, and it's been great to hear that the new residents are interested in taking over their plots and learning about the rehabilitation of their local bushland reserve. To the residents who have moved on, I wish you all the best and thank you from the entire Bushland Management Team for your contribution to the rehabilitation of local bushland over many years.

It certainly is disappointing that AaP volunteering has had to be suspended until the current COVID-19 situation improves, but North Sydney Council are committed to keeping all our volunteers safe. I have continued to maintain the

plots until we are able to work together again, and boy it takes me a lot longer to get through the work without you. Your contribution is surely missed, and it just goes to show how much we can achieve when we undertake bush regeneration together!

Lastly, I wanted to say farewell. I have thoroughly enjoyed working as a bush regenerator for North Sydney Council and specifically the Adopt-a-Plot program. I have been so lucky to work alongside the passionate Bushland Management Team and learn from their extensive knowledge of the North Sydney bushland. I will miss them all a lot. I inherited many wonderful plots to work on and I enjoyed listening to how much progress had been made over the many years the program has been running. A BIG thank you to all the AaP donors and volunteers, you are truly wonderful people who care so much for our local bushland, and I have been so lucky to be able to work alongside you



Caption: Emma Hyland holding a Scotch Broom seedling while participating in joint National Parks and Wildlife Service & North Sydney Council Bushland Teams bushfire recovery project in Barrington Tops National Park, 12 November 2020.

all. Keep pulling out those weeds and you never know, if you are ever up on the Central Coast you may just run into me!

All the very best, Emma Hyland

## NURSERY UPDATE by Clare McElroy

Here we are again, back in lockdown. Anyone who has sought respite in a walk through our local bushland may have noticed that late July and August are the true Sydney spring - a time when the light seems to shift and all at once the bush is spangled with a profusion of native blooms: grevilleas, wattles, hakeas, yellow and purple peas, the pendant bells of pandorea and dainty sleeves of epacris.

Despite this early bushland awakening, it's not until temperatures rise and daylight hours increase, towards September, that we witness that burst of new spring growth in the nursery. With the aid of heat beds and polyhouses, we can germinate seed through the colder months but in the absence of ongoing light and warmth, growth of newly potted seedlings tends to stall, and they rot if overwatered. Often, the gains made by early sowing are lost and it's better to wait until it really feels like spring to start propagating in earnest.

Spring tends to be our changeover time, when older plants leave the nursery for community events and the empty benches fill up again with new season's stock. Sadly, our volunteer nursery program is again in hiatus and our major planting events have been cancelled or postponed.

Luckily, the Bushland Team and our contractors have had a busy planting year and extra plants have also gone into our nursery display garden, although many were promptly interred by the local Brush Turkeys who do love attending a newly dug hole.

Seed collecting will soon be underway, particularly for the early wattles and peas, and for me there's no better way to appreciate our rich natural heritage than to take a bushwalk and gather seed in spring.

Dear Bushland Team,

I just wanted to say I often think of you and am so grateful for North Sydney's bushland areas. They have become even more important during recent weeks and months. I have enjoyed walking around Balls Head and then up past the lovely plantings on the footpath alongside Balls Head Road and seeing the many native plants coming into flower.

I have also observed close at hand the different behaviours of the brush turkeys at Balls Head compared to our local North Sydney variety! If I walk through Balls Head carrying a shopping bag (sometimes I finish my walk with the purchase of a fresh loaf of bread from the Grumpy Baker), they follow me very determinedly, even though the shopping bag is empty at that point.

A couple of weeks ago it was a large male with two smaller ones close behind. No matter how fast I walked they kept up, but if I turned round and tried to shoo them, they stopped and turned around too as if pretending they weren't actually following me but were looking to see who could possibly be annoying me! The Lord Street/Bank Street brush turkeys are obviously not being fed by their locals, as they ignore me no matter how laden I am with shopping bags.

I really miss coming in on Mondays for Wildlife Watch and catching up with you, Andrew, and whoever else happens to be around.

Over the last month I have been enjoying the Hoveas you gave me, Ramin, and the Indigofera is now covered in buds and starting to bloom. It is lovely to have some winter colour in the garden, especially now. Thank you, Clare, for raising them in the nursery, and making them available for Native Havens!

Please stay safe and well, all of you.  
Kind regards, Ruth Mitchell



# NATIVE PLANT PROFILE *Monotoca elliptica* TREE BROOM HEATH

**Family:** Ericaceae  
(sub-family Epacridoideae)

*Monotoca elliptica* is a common plant in North Sydney but one that may easily go unnoticed until its pretty white flowers appear in August.

*Monotoca elliptica* is a large, bushy shrub, usually around 3m tall but occasionally reaching 6m or more. It is distributed along the east coast of Australia and is commonly seen in coastal dunes, shrublands and forest understoreys on low nutrient, sandy

soils. It is abundant in North Sydney's foreshore reserves with magnificent, gnarled specimens at Berry Island, Cremorne Point and Balls Head. The plant is slow growing and long lived, with specimens near Moore Park believed to date from the late 1800s.

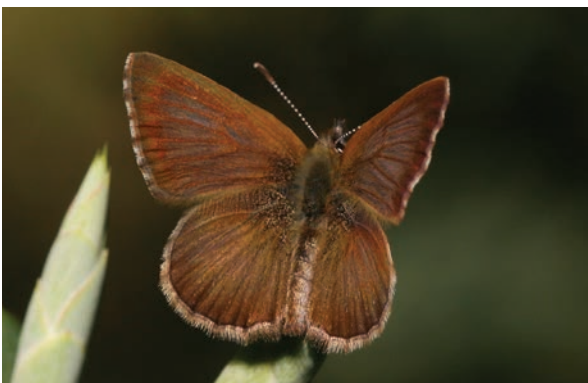
The timber is hard and fine-grained and was sometimes used for tool handles in colonial times.

The grey-green leaves are stiff with fine parallel veins and a sharp point, oval to oblong in shape, and 10-25mm long

and 3-7mm wide. Leaves and buds are a larval food plant for the Dull Heath-blue butterfly (*Neolucia mathewi*).

The small, white, bell-shaped flowers are crowded together in the leaf axils or as terminal clusters, and are followed by tiny, edible, orange-red fruits 3-4mm long. Plants are slow and difficult to propagate. Mature plants may survive and resprout after fire, but records show that most are killed by high intensity burns.

Clare McElroy  
Bushcare Nursery Supervisor



Caption: Top left: *Monotoca elliptica* flowers, Berry Island 15 August 2021 by Andrew Scott

Bottom left: Heath-blue butterfly (*Neolucia mathewi*) at Kurnell 2008 by Martin Puvis  
Australian Butterflies [purevision.com](http://purevision.com).

Right: *Monotoca elliptica* habitat, Berry Island 15 August 2021 by Andrew Scott

## THE NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE 2021 IN REVIEW

Incredibly, the National Landcare Conference 2021 was hosted virtually from the Sydney International Convention Centre (ICC) from the 5 to 6 August - third time lucky. Unfortunately, the field trip program had to be postponed until the same time next year. I am really looking forward to facilitating the Harbour Cruise, one of nine activities showcasing Greater Sydney Bushcare projects.

I was extremely fortunate to be asked by the conference coordinator Melissa Higgins – Landcare Australia to host one of the four session streams - 'Landcare in Action'. I was seated at a L-shaped desk opposite an ICC technician and

surrounded by several monitors in the vacuous conference hall. It was a stark contrast to previous events.

Surprisingly, I knew several of the presenters, including Megan Lee and Jayden Gunn from Intrepid Landcare. Megan has run workshops out of the Coal Loader in past years to inspire young adults to engage in Landcare. I met Jayden at the NSW Landcare Conference in Broken Hill two years ago and follow his Facebook posts on birds - his life passion. Megan and Jayden provided a deeply personal and well-timed presentation on mental health titled 'Wild Wellbeing.' The audience

expressed overwhelming support and identification via the Q&A software.

I introduced David King, one of the traditional owners of The Gully, a crowd favourite. Some of our Bushcare workshop participants may recall visiting The Gully and the Garguree Swampcare volunteers at Katoomba back in 2018. This project is a great example of reconciliation in action.

Previous Building Bridges to Boorowa participants should find the Holbrook Landcare Group presentation by Kylie Durant interesting. Holbrook is also situated on the southwest slopes of

Continued overleaf



# GREEN EVENTS CALENDAR

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, we are not able to hold any Green Events in person. Please check Council's website for any online events and an update on future events.

Continued from p7

NSW and so shares similar challenges. I was fascinated to see a topographic map overlay of revegetation projects, many linkages across the landscape and the collaborative studies with ANU and CSIRO showing increased bird diversity as a result. The conclusion: any revegetation activity benefits biodiversity.

Our Simon Dunne – Streets Alive Team, previously of Hornsby Shire Council Nursery, presented alongside Ana Rubio – HSC Environmental Scientist on propagating mangroves to increase canopy in the Lower Hawkesbury.

Floating Landcare NSW won the 2021 Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award. Congratulations to Ian Clarke – Tunks West Bushcare and the other volunteers who participate regularly in this project facilitated by Local Land Services.

International Landcare took my interest, it was great to see the fire stick farming demonstration in the top end and Dani Gilbert – Young Landcare Leader left me feeling like the future of the Landcare movement is in good hands.

For me, the highlight sessions were on mental health and Indigenous Landcare - Caring for Country.

It was an awesome three days - I can't thank Melissa enough for inviting me along. It's a pity we couldn't do it in person but attendance nearly tripled by making registrations free online. The conference ran like clockwork, the ICC Tech Team were on top of it all from start to finish and the website portal was amazing. I predict this approach is here to stay, at least in part.

by Andrew Scott, Bushcare Officer



Caption: Melissa Higgins – Landcare Australia, Andrew Scott and TV Personality Costa Georgiadis at the Sydney International Convention Centre for the National Landcare Conference 2021, 6 August.

The sessions have all been recorded and will be posted to the Landcarer website visit [www.landcarer.com.au](http://www.landcarer.com.au) - after you have registered for your free account, navigate to Topics, scroll down to see 2021 National Landcare Conference and click Join, after approval see educational resources, including recorded sessions.



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