



NEWSLETTER

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BUSHCARE

WINTER 2021 – ISSUE 50

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney
Bushland Management Coordinator

It's been a busy start to the year for the Bushland Team, with a number of projects on the hop – both planned and unplanned as it happens. Of the planned projects, our Primrose Park walking track upgrade is nearly complete. The upgrade includes new recycled sandstone steps, crazy paving and handrails on the Zig-Zag track. The boardwalk has also been updated and features new handrails and fibre-reinforced plastic mesh decking that improves traction on these often moisture-affected trail surfaces. Some additional works are planned in the vicinity of a sensitive Aboriginal heritage site, however, this work requires careful consultation with heritage stakeholders and an innovative approach that protects the site while providing a safe, stable track surface for park users.

Similarly, the long-awaited Balls Head Reserve wastewater system upgrade has been completed. A new AWTS (Advanced Wastewater Treatment System) was installed during March/April, replacing the old septic tank and effluent infiltration trench with a new multi-chamber tank. The tank treats wastewater through microbial breakdown to a secondary level, before discharging into an absorption bed topped with nutrient and moisture-loving buffalo grass. The AWTS closed-loop system resolves the problems caused by the old septic tank infiltration trench, which used to foul a large section of bushland crossing the Midden Walk.

Fortunately, the AWTS project was completed substantially under budget, with the residual funds able to be transferred to an unplanned project in Primrose Park. Heavy rains in March triggered a fairly substantial landslip in weedy bushland between the Folly Point walking track and the oval edge. With the help of Council's engineering team, large boulders were cleared from the old Willoughby Creek concrete canal and will be used to create a series of stepped-back sandstone-filled gabion walls, with



Caption: Members from InDebted's Sydney-based team joined the Bushland Team on World Earth Day - 22 April 2021, to help support the restoration of Berry Island. Back Row: Tristram, Dean, Lyndonn, Jag Front Row: Lucas, Tim, Aleksandra, Alice.

integrated native plantings. The gabion retaining walls will help to stabilise the slope and prevent further landslips.

Grant funding from Sydney Water has also made another unplanned project possible. Three separate stormwater outlets discharging into Tunks Park, next to the Bushcare site, will be re-directed and consolidated into one single drainage line. This work, which again involved the Bushland Team working closely with Council's engineers, will result in the drying out of a large weed-delta that was fuelled for many decades by the uncontrolled stormwater fanning out across a wide area of bushland. In time, as the soil moisture and nutrient levels diminish, the Bushland Team will transition the Privet-dominated closed forest to a species diverse vegetation community, modelled on the adjoining Angophora Foreshore Forest remnant.

In the community education space, our Bushcare Officer Andrew Scott organised a fascinating webinar on the Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), a cryptic

and rarely seen native in our foreshore environments. The guest presenters included Geoff Williams of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, Professor Peter Banks from Sydney University, and Corey Young - a wildlife carer from Tasmania and administrator of the "Rakali Awareness Day" Facebook Page. The online talk was well attended with approximately 50 'Zoomers' in attendance and many questions being posted for the presenters to answer. The talk was recorded and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Qs9oWKQjgB4>

A Rakali Citizen Science Project has been launched off the back of this event so we can learn more about this little-known native rodent in the North Sydney LGA. Please contact Andrew Scott for further information.

While last year's National Tree Day event fell victim to COVID-19 restrictions, we are planning to make amends this year with a community planting activity in Forsyth Park, Neutral Bay. The planting site will provide a buffer to Forsyth Park's

Bushcare site, as well as extending habitat connectivity for native fauna in the reserve. As usual, booking is required for this event through the Planet Ark website. As part of our COVID-safe planning, attendees will be asked to join one of two 45-minute planting sessions so we can better manage numbers on site and space people out appropriately.

I'm glad to say we will also be returning

to Boorowa this year for our annual tree planting weekend! Following two false starts in 2020 due to COVID, we are now able to confirm this year's trip will go ahead from 20 to 22 August. Participant numbers will be reduced for this year's trip as part of our COVID-safe arrangements, so if you're interested in joining the team, please contact me ASAP.

Lastly, I'd like to let all our volunteers

know about the upcoming National Landcare Conference in Darling Harbour from 4 August. It's not often that the conference comes to Sydney, and our Bushcare Officer Andrew Scott has been helping to coordinate the field trip program for attendees which will showcase the amazing work of Bushcare volunteers in Greater Sydney. For more information on the conference, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au.

FLY-OUT COUNT – CENTENNIAL PARK

by Amara Glynn and Andrew Scott



Caption: Grey-headed Fly-fox at Lachlan swamp in Centennial Park, 27 March, by Andrew Scott.

Eight volunteers from North Sydney Council joined a Fly-out Count with Centennial Park (CP) Environmental Officer Amara Glynn and CP volunteers to celebrate Australasian Bat Month on 27 March. We met Amara at the Vernon Pavilion on a fine day - a welcome relief from the recent rain which had already forced us to rescheduled this activity twice due to the tropical low.

Amara informed us the volunteer program launched in 2011 currently has about 20 participants, with new volunteers always welcome. The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) colony has been in the park permanently since 2010, most likely due to the food (paperbark and eucalypt blossom fruiting trees) and water provided by the Lachlan wetland and surrounding ponds. A high proportion of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney roost moved to the colony following dispersals from 2012.

Counts were conducted monthly, but have in recent years been aligned to the quarterly census in February, May, August, and November to help inform both Centennial Parklands' management and the national program. It's important to monitor the flying-fox population to collect data on population size and trends as flying-foxes are protected in NSW under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW) (BC Act). This is the case for the Grey-headed Flying-fox, listed as a threatened species in Schedule 1 of the BC Act and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth).

After a brief induction, Amara nominated CP volunteers Graeme R, Steve H, Sandra G, Dan M, Karen F to head five groups to monitor the fly-out streams (exit directions of the bat camp), although she said normally seven groups is ideal. With counters in hand, we walked to our allocated positions around Lachlan Swamp and waited for this natural spectacle to unfold. As the sun set, the bats became increasingly agitated, and some would appear to flyout before circling back to their camp. This gave us a chance to practice counting five bats before 'clicking' our counters. Soon the exodus morphed from a trickle to a flood, and at one point the sky was filled with bats. We had to focus our full attention on the count - while our experienced bat count team leader Sandra Guy from Sydney Wildlife had no trouble talking and counting at the same time. After a busy hour or two, we headed back to the Vernon Pavilion where Amara tallied the counts with a total of 57,000 flying-foxes for the night.

Amara said the flying fox population can vary both seasonally and annually. In February 2020 over 95,000 bats were counted but this was unusual given the conditions of drought and extreme

bushfires affecting habitat across NSW. In the past 10 years the average count is around 20,000 bats. Fly-out usually starts just before sunset, however, in the warmer months, bats fly out much earlier. Since many of the females have babies in the warmer months, it's believed their energy requirements are very high and they therefore may want to maximise their feeding time by exiting their camp before sunset. Another possibility could be the warm and dry days make them want to belly dip in the water and have a drink.

The western fly-out direction towards Moore Park usually has the most bats. They feed on the many fig trees and lily pillies in the Park and surrounding areas. Fig trees in the park usually have fruit for several weeks in autumn, then sporadically fruit a couple of times throughout the year. Lilly pilli fruit matures in the summer months. Our remnant bushland is also very important habitat for flying foxes, with reliable flowering native species such as banksias critical for their survival in the winter and spring periods.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox can travel 100kms in a single night and forage up to 50kms from their camp. However, they have previously been recorded travelling over 500kms between camps in just two days.

The North Sydney Council Bushland Team would like to thank Amara and the Centennial Park volunteers for being great hosts and we look forward to helping out again next year.

For further information or to join a count, email: info@centennialparklands.com.au

See the Parklands Website: <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/support-join/volunteers/bat-surveying>

WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE

(FEBRUARY TO APRIL 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:

- **Rakali (Australian Water-rat)** (Badangi Reserve)
- **Red Wattlebird** (Badangi Reserve, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Swamp Wallaby** (Tunks Park)
- **Golden-crowned Snake** (Primrose Park)
- **Darter** (Lavender Bay Urban)
- **Green Tree Frog** (North Sydney Urban)
- **Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoo** (Cammeray Park, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Crested Tern** (Cremorne Reserve, Kurraba Point Reserve)
- **White-bellied Sea- Eagle** (Balls Head Reserve)
- **White-browed Scrubwren** (Cremorne Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Carradah Park, Primrose Park, Forsyth Park, Badangi Reserve, Tunks Park, Gore Cove Reserve)
- **Eastern Water Dragon** (Brightmore Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve)
- **Little Pied Cormorant** (Berry Island Reserve, Kirribilli Urban, Cremorne Reserve)
- **Australian King Parrot** (Wollstonecraft Urban, Neutral Bay Urban, Balls Head Reserve, Smoothey Park, North Sydney Urban, Cammeray Urban, Cremorne Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve, Waverton Urban)
- **Eastern Whipbird** (Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Masked Lapwing** (Berry Island Reserve, Cremorne Urban, Brightmore Reserve)
- **Variiegated Fairy-wren** (Primrose Park, Balls Head Reserve)
- **Spotted Pardalote** (Tunks Park, Bridge End Reserve)
- **Tawny Frogmouth** (Berry Island Reserve, Neutral Bay Urban)
- **Grey Fantail** (Tunks Park, Bridge End Reserve)
- **Musk Lorikeet** (Cremorne Urban, Waverton Urban, Balls Head Reserve)



Caption: Rakali tracks, Badangi Reserve, Wollstonecraft, by Andrew Scott, 27 April 2021.

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.

DIGITISING WILDLIFE WATCH RECORDS

by Ruth Mitchell
Wildlife Watch Volunteer

Recently, I have been entering data directly into the Atlas of Living Australia from early Wildlife Watch records made from the mid-1990s to early 2000s. It has been a fascinating process. Among the volunteers' formal record sheets are extra notes, observations and feelings such as - pleasure in being able to contribute, sadness at the disappearance of small birds from their gardens, and delight (and sometimes displeasure) in some of their more unusual observations.

1996 "Superb blue Fairy wrens, bulbuls and silver eyes were here [in observer's garden] in 1964 but have been absent now for over 20 years." JF

1997 "The owl was trying to catch our two budgies, which it could see in our kitchen window. Budgies went crazy - owl frustrated." RD

2004 "Note - this Ringtail possum was collecting the fibrous material from the base of the fronds of a palm tree. It carried the bundle of material in its curled-up tail." RP

2002 "Since starting Wildlife Watch in June 2001, I sometimes hear whipbirds in the bush adjacent to Cliff Avenue, Willoughby, but this is the first time in Tunks Park!" RP

The late, great Brian Eggleton trekked the Gore Cove track from Smoothey Park to Gore Cove, Wollstonecraft almost daily over many years. His records are a rich resource of sightings and observations made with his trademark dry humour, and show him as an unofficial guardian of the bush. A very small selection follows:

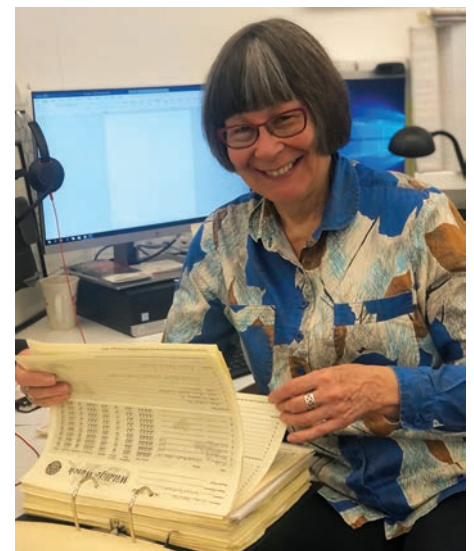
1998 "Note - Item 9 now fairly positively identified as a mangrove heron (also called striated heron/mangrove bittern) Why do most of our birds have more than one name?"

1999 March "Note - I have immediately reported efforts to build a trail bike track ... thru scrubland SE point from Tryon Ave. Holes dug around base of trees ... mounds built ... please get the cavalry there pronto!"

1999 "Note - 23 feral youths dressed in shields, helmets staves, swords, sundry

armour staging mediaeval combats in Smoothey Park by Berry Creek, in the course of which recent Creekside plantings were trampled."

2000 "Note 1st Nov - this was my five hundredth trip down the track for Wildlife Watch - thank you Brenda and gang for becoming part of my life."



Caption: Ruth Mitchell transcribing hard copy Wildlife Watch records from the mid 1990's to early 2000's for the new Biocollect application at Council Chambers, 4 May 2021.



Caption: (R to L) Victoria, Susan, Bob, Simon, and Matt with water crystal in hand at Westmead Hospital, Wednesday 14 April.

On Wednesday 14 April, Randwick Bushcare volunteers Susan and Bob Lundy (frequent participants of NSC Bushcare activities) and Brightmore Bushcare Group Convenor Victoria Whitney – joined the North Sydney Bushland Team and Greater Sydney Landcare Network for a planting day at Westmead Hospital (WMH).

This event is part of the Creating Canopies in Greater Sydney tree planting project. Funding has been provided to Greater Sydney Landcare Network (GSLN) and Landcare NSW as part of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) project *Greening our City, One Million Trees by 2022*.

This was our first trip out west for some time, thankfully it was an early start at 8.30am, as it was a warm day. Suzie Wright and Elisha Duxbury from GSLN gave us a brief induction and we then joined eight other volunteers, some from DPIE. We soon set to work on the first planting site - a grassy knoll directly opposite the main entrance to the hospital dubbed ‘Helicopter Hill’ as rescue helicopters fly overhead and land nearby. Matt Keighery from GSLN and Simon Alexander Cook, a local

artist from Social Canvas, coordinated work for this exposed garden bed and ensured the lawn had been pre-sprayed and holes augured for ease of planting in the compacted soil. We planted tube stock of local woodland species including *Melaleuca decora*, *M. linarifolia*, *Eucalyptus moluccana*, *E. paniculata*, *Acacia implexa* and *A. floribunda* to a design created by Simon and Geoff Sellman from Social Canvas. We used the Miyawaki forestry planting method – compact and layered planting to help accelerate growth. We added water crystals and a nutrient tablet with each plant, installed sturdy tree guards and allowed a path for patients, visitors, and the local community to eventually enjoy. A thick mulch layer was planned to follow.

We enjoyed a packed lunch at midday, a welcome break from the sun, before proceeding to the second planting site nearby. Our group planted and guarded 500 trees in all, a significant contribution to the total 3000 plants planned for this project. In time, it is hoped WMH native gardens will form part of a wildlife corridor with nearby Toongabbie Creek, an important habitat for small birds, microbats, and other native animals.

A big thanks to our hosts at GSLN - Suzie, Matt, and Elisha - we look forward to participating in further Greening Our City Projects.



Caption: Plantings with tree guards in the ‘Helicopter Hill’ garden bed opposite the main entrance to Westmead Hospital, Wednesday 14 April.

THE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE VOLUNTEER SITE MONITORING PROGRAM

So I might be a little biased, but I think the Aboriginal Heritage Office’s Volunteer Site Monitoring Program is awesome. I’m Susan, the Co-ordinator of the program and I’m writing today to tell you a little about us and maybe pique your interest. Our Volunteer Site Monitoring Program is vibrant and healthy, with around 120 active volunteers. The aim of the program is to assist in the monitoring of Aboriginal heritage sites, ensuring their condition is examined and Councils are alerted

to any issues that may need attention. Which Councils? Well, the Aboriginal Heritage Office is a joint initiative by North Sydney, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby, Strathfield, and Northern Beaches Councils.

We have had an influx of interest in the past year, in fact our program doubled in size. Firstly, with the COVID-19 lockdown, people had more time on their hands and were looking for volunteer opportunities. The second influx of interest was a result

of the Black Lives Matter movement and the destruction of Juukan Gorge. Members of the community wanted to help and contribute to the preservation and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in their area. We have welcomed so many wonderful people into our volunteering community and our volunteers cover a broad demographic. Our youngest is in high school and our oldest, well, they haven’t been to high school for a very long time. Fitness levels vary greatly and while



some of our volunteers love an adventure, others are more suited to a milder form of monitoring. All fitness levels are welcome, and all contributions are valuable.

The Aboriginal Heritage Office began out of North Sydney Council 21 years ago. We are unique in our approach as we work towards preserving and protecting the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage across our Council boundaries. We are made up of four staff: Dave Watts – Manager, Phil Hunt – Senior Archaeologist, Karen Smith – Education Officer, Susan Whitby – Aboriginal Heritage Officer/ Archaeologist. Together we provide education to schools, kindergartens, high schools, and community groups. We also implement the latest archaeological information and techniques to the preservation of the local sites. It’s an incredibly rewarding job.

Part of the work of the Aboriginal Heritage Office is to monitor Aboriginal sites on a day-to-day basis and long-term management reports are developed to ensure their preservation and protection. With more than 1000 Aboriginal sites across the northern part of Sydney, and only four staff, we sometimes struggle to monitor the sites on a regular basis, which is why our volunteers are so important.

We have 15 Volunteers from the North Sydney Council area, many who have been with us since 2014. If you would like to know more about the Aboriginal Heritage Office or would like to become involved in the Aboriginal Heritage Office Site Monitoring Program, email susan.whitby@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au or phone 0435 643 205.



Caption: Right. Aboriginal Hand Stencil, Northern Beaches Council LGA.



Caption: Volunteer Bill and Aboriginal Heritage Officer Susan Whitby –checking on an engraving in the Northern Beaches Council LGA.

Native Havens - Bahá'í Day Camp Planting

Bushland Project Officer Ramin Khosravi visited Native Havens participant Kourosh Farrokhzadi at his home in Neutral Bay on 7 April to give a talk about Bushcare at a Bahá'í Day Camp for local families who are members of the Bahá'í Faith.

Ramin talked about our local environment and the need to create native gardens in private property to provide links between North Sydney Council's isolated bushland reserves. The children at the Day Camp then donned gloves and armed themselves with trowels to help plant the backyard garden with mostly endemic tube stock including hoveas, banksias, goodenias, correas, and leptospermums, all grown at the Bushcare Community Nursery with the assistance of our volunteers.

Planting was interspersed with refreshment breaks and discussion about the concept of service, which is a central tenet of the Bahá'í Faith. Kourosh said Bahá'ís believe “humans have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilisation and our merits are measured in service and virtue”. The full day of activities culminated in a session of baking, drawing and painting.

Kourosh said the day camp was very successful and the children really enjoyed learning about their local environment and practicing service. They added they were very grateful to Ramin for his service to the North Sydney Bahá'í Community.



Caption: Kourosh Farrokhzadi with Ramin and the North Sydney Bahá'í community children creating a Native Haven garden during the school holidays, 7 April 2021.

BUSHCARE COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE by Clare McElroy

This time last year, Sydney was in lockdown. The Nursery volunteer group was in abeyance and I was working in isolation, propagating thousands of plants in the hope that they would be needed later in the year.

2021 is looking quite different. A mild, wet summer and autumn have seen the nursery empty quickly and production for spring events such as National Tree Day and the Nursery Open Day are well underway.

After the summer of 2019/20, smoke and fire are probably the last things most of us want to encounter but, nevertheless, in April we dragged out the Nursery's ancient kettle barbeque and lit an (unintentionally) very smoky fire, for which the down-wind volunteers are owed an apology.

On the menu was toasted banksias. Left to dry out naturally, harvested banksia fruits will generally open and release their

seeds without further assistance but *Banksia ericifolia*, the beautiful autumn-flowering Heath Banksia, can be a little stubborn sometimes. Exposure to heat or fire, short and hot, can be a big help in persuading the follicles to open (see photos).

As a bonus, our barbeque fire has resulted in lots of spent ash and charcoal that can be incorporated into seed sowing media to enhance germination of smoke-dependent species. Interestingly, the burnt fuel does not have to be of native bushland origin to be beneficial as long as it's cellulose based - it can be paper, coco fibre or some other plant based material. We used coir fibre, twigs and old paper bags.

While burning stuff is always fun, we also use commercial smoke products, such as smoke-impregnated vermiculite and smoke water, to assist with germination of smoke-dependent species, along with hot water treatment of seed when heat is also required for germination. These methods are more quantifiable, and easier to apply and replicate than random burning in an old barbeque (but admittedly less fun!).

Next time we might bring some marshmallows to go with our toasted banksias.



Caption: Seed released from toasted *Banksia ericifolia* cones by C. McElroy, April 2021.



Caption: Barbequing *Banksia ericifolia* cones at the Bushcare Nursery by C. McElroy, April 2021.

WEED TO WATCH WILD IRIS (*Diets bicolor* and *D. iridiodes*)

Family: Iridaceae

Once again, our Weed to Watch is a common ornamental, once used widely in municipal landscaping and still a widely available garden plant. My fellow bush regenerators dubbed it 'the RTA special' as it was the default planting for every traffic island and roadside in Sydney – the sort of places where lomandras are now planted. It's not uncommon to find large clumps of this one lurking for years in bushland, camouflaged by look-a-likes such as lomandra, and only becoming conspicuous when flowering and fruiting.

So, why do our weed articles focus on garden plants so often? According to the CSIRO report 'Jumping the Garden Fence' (Feb 2005):



"Of the 2,779 introduced plant species now known to be established in the Australian environment, 1,831 (or 66%) are escaped garden plant species. They also make up two-thirds of the introduced plant species naturalised over the 25 years to 1995. Studies suggest that introduced garden plants will comprise an even greater portion of the total of future naturalised species. Of great concern is that many serious environmental and agricultural weeds continue to be imported into Australia."

With gardens the major source of past and future weeds, it makes sense to highlight some of the frequent horticultural invaders we find in North Sydney's bushland.

Diets bicolor and *Diets iridioides* (Wild Iris) are perennial, rhizomatous plants with erect, sword shaped leaves arranged in flat fans, forming clumps to 1m x 1m. Leaves have a pale midvein. The species originates in South Africa and is highly tolerant of poor, dry soil and a wide range of conditions.

The short-lived, iris-like flowers are either white, yellow and mauve, or yellow with brown spots, and produced in spring to summer.

Caption: Top left: Mature dietes fruit, St Leonards Park, North Sydney. Middle left: Dietes seedlings, Folly Point Cammeray. Bottom left: Prominent mid vein of dietes leaves, Little Walker St. North Sydney.

Fruit is a green, three-celled capsule containing numerous hard angular seeds 1-2mm in diameter. Seed is spread by water, contaminated soil and garden refuse dumping.

Control: remove all fruits before maturity, small plants can be crowned or dug, taking care to remove all rhizomes to prevent resprouting. Large clumps respond to foliar spraying or cut/paint of bases. Seedlings may continue to appear for some time after removal of parent plants and may be difficult to spot among similar-looking native species.

Similar native species: *Lomandra longifolia* has blunt leaves with a ragged, spiky tip and lacking an obvious mid-vein, base of clumps is cylindrical, flowers and fruits are small and golden, on spiky stalks.

Dianella spp have flat leaf bases and leaves folded at the base, softer leaves, blue flowers and fleshy blue/purple fruits.

Lepidosperma spp are smaller plants with narrower, hard shiny leaves and tiny flowers on flattened spikes, growing in spreading colonies rather than clumps.

Clare McElroy - Nursery Supervisor



GREEN EVENTS CALENDAR

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

JUNE

- 8 **Family Bush Walk** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 27 **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Walk** | Sunday 8am to 2pm

JULY

- 11 **Nestbox Building Workshop** | Sunday 10am to 2pm
- Bushcare Essentials** | Sunday 10.30am to 1pm
- 14 **Bushcare Essentials** | Wednesday 10.30am to 1pm
- 30 **School Tree Day** | Friday. RSVP: 23 July.
Resister: treeday.planetark.org
Enquiries: The Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100

AUGUST

- 1 **National Tree Day** | Sunday 9.30am to 11am.
Resister: treeday.planetark.org/site/10024634
Enquiries: The Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100

- 12 **Dark Skies for Wildlife Webinar** | Thursday 6pm to 8pm
- 14 **Introduction to Wildlife Watch** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 21 **Bushcare Stall - Northside Produce Markets** | Saturday 8am to 12pm.
- 28 **Bush Walk - Balls Head** | Saturday 10am to 1pm

SEPTEMBER

- 11 **Native Havens Garden Tour** | Saturday 9am to 1pm
- 12 **Wildlife Watch Walk & Talk** | Sunday 7.30am to 11am
- 15 **Community Nursery Visit - Hornsby** | Wednesday 9am to 2pm
- 18 **Community Nursery Open Day** | Saturday 9am to 12pm
- 26 **Wildflower Walk** | Sunday 8am to 4pm
- 29 **Family Bush Walk** | Wednesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 30 **Family Kayak** | Thursday 10.30am to 12pm

BIO ALERT

Have you seen an introduced Red-eared Slider Turtle or American Corn Snake in the wild?

Australia is home to many introduced animal species that have become significant pests, such as wild rabbits, foxes and feral pigs. Each year, many other introduced species are also found in the wild throughout NSW, and these animals can have serious consequences for native plants and animals, human health, agriculture and the economy.

The Red-eared Slider Turtle and American Corn Snake are two high-risk species that have recently been found in a number of new locations throughout Sydney and NSW. Local communities and biosecurity authorities are concerned because of the potential problems these species can cause in the wild.

Your help is needed to report possible sightings of these high-risk animals.

If you see these animals in your local area, please take several clear photographs and report the sighting using the Feral Scan community website - www.feralscan.org.au.

To report a sighting of these species, or if you would like more information, please visit www.feralscan.org.au/newpests/ or email feralscan@feralscan.org.au



Caption: Eastern Long-necked Turtle by Karen H Black (native)



Caption: Red-eared Slider Turtle by David Mercer



Caption: Corn Snake by Jay Ondreicka



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 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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