



NEWSLETTER

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BUSHCARE SUMMER 2022 – ISSUE 56

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney
Bushland Management Coordinator

Reflecting on the relentless rollercoaster ride that the past three years has been, it does feel as though the end of 2022 may turn the page on what's been a very difficult chapter in our recent history. For the 'back to full-strength' Bushland Team, we are looking toward the new year with renewed enthusiasm for our bushland rehabilitation and community engagement programs – especially Bushcare, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2023.

As many of you will no doubt be aware, our volunteer numbers have declined following the post-lockdown resumption of Bushcare in January this year. This situation wasn't helped by initial restrictions around participation and the frequent wet weather conditions, causing cancelled group meetings. The La Niña/ Indian Ocean Dipole conditions that have fueled this big wet are predicted to wane over the next couple of months. This will pave the way for more reliable group meetings in 2023 and an opportunity for the Bushland Team to promote Bushcare volunteering and encourage recruitment of new volunteers, while welcoming back our many existing (and very importantly experienced) Bushcare volunteers.

Being our 30th Anniversary also provides an avenue to publicise Bushcare and engage with a wider cross-section of North Sydney's community. Some of the activities we have planned include recorded interviews with "Bushcare Champions" – volunteers who have been actively involved with the program since its formation in 1993; media articles; creation of a Bushcare Newsletter archive and promoting our conservation programs at the Coal Loader Sustainability Festival.

Council's Landscape Architect, together with the Bushland and Ranger Services Teams, recently installed a new small watercraft storage facility on the northern foreshore of Primrose Park, Cammeray (near Folly Point). This project also involved



Caption: Participants for the 2022 National Landcare Conference Field Trip 1: Battlers for the Bush at Kellys Bush Park Woolwich, 23 August 2022

the construction of a new access track through a degraded section of the reserve, replacing an informal track that was eroding and exposing the roots of two significant bushland canopy trees. Following the removal of around twenty derelict and abandoned watercraft that had been littering the foreshore, the above-ground dinghy platforms and kayak racks were installed just above the mean high-tide mark, providing environmentally sensitive accommodation for 20x dinghies and 24x kayaks.

A small walking track upgrade was also recently completed in Judith Ambler Reserve, Cammeray. The works included a flight of 10x timber sleeper box steps with grippy fibre-reinforced-plastic mesh tread inserts, another four box steps curving around a corner in the track and a low, 7-metre-long raised boardwalk that bridges over the root zone of a large remnant Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*). As previously reported in the Bushcare Newsletter, a planned major upgrade to the Gore Cove Track in Wollstonecraft has finally commenced, with extensive replacement of old timber box steps around the track entrance off Shirley Road with new, large dimension sandstone

block steps, providing a long-lasting investment in track infrastructure and a far longer interval between costly upgrades.

In other news, we recently welcomed a new General Manager to North Sydney Council. Ms Therese Manns joined North Sydney on 21 November. She was previously the General Manager at Randwick Council for several years. Ms Manns has had an extensive career in local government, having worked for both urban and regional Councils (including Boorowa Council). We hope Ms Manns will join us for the Bushcare Christmas Party this year – and maybe a return trip to Boorowa in 2023!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lyn Fryer and Margaret Ryan for helping the Bushland Team run a very successful Bushcare Community Nursery Open Day on 17 September. We welcomed more than 60 visitors to the Nursery and gave away over 300 local native plants to grow and provide habitat in gardens across North Sydney.

Finally, the Bushland Team looks forward to seeing all our wonderful volunteers at the Christmas Party in December. For those we miss, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a safe, relaxing break over the new year.

REVIEW OF 2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE

by Andrew Scott – Bushcare Officer

For the first time ever, the 2022 National Landcare Conference (NLC) showcased the work of bushcare programs in Sydney, where the bush regeneration movement rose in popularity early on. It was an amazing opportunity for Bushcare workers and volunteers to have bush regeneration highlighted at the conference. Held at the International Convention Centre Darling Harbour in Sydney from 23 – 25 August, it was initially planned for 2020 but postponed until 2021 due to the Covid Pandemic when it was held online due to the Sydney Lockdown – third time lucky.

Landcare champion and ABC TV presenter Costa Georgiadis hosted the three-day conference event. Other topics included soil conservation, climate change, cultural land management, and intergenerational landcare.

The conference put a spotlight on Bushcare and included a Bushcare field trip program. This gave participants the opportunity to visit Bushcare sites across Greater Sydney and the Central

Coast (including our sites on the lower North Shore with our sister Councils).

The conference included three session talks on bush regeneration:

- **Urban Landcare**, Kate Eccles for the Bradleys Sisters – The origin and development of bush regeneration and its ongoing relevance.
- **Urban Landcare**, Vols on Hot Coals – How ecological hazard reduction burning has rekindled the flame within Bushcare volunteers with Phil Sarkies and Geoff Scheutrim of Willoughby Council.
- **Environment and Climate Change**, Peter Dixon – bush regeneration in a changing climate: from resilience to response.

To top off the Bushcare acknowledgement at the conference, the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators were presented with the Government Partnerships for Landcare Award. It was in recognition of the groups First Aid for Burnt Bushland Program which took place after the Black Summer Fires.

A well-deserved acknowledgment to the group.

The conference kicked off with seven field trips (we have reviewed three of them). Following on, a welcome reception was held, where the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research launched the book, *Building global sustainability through local self-reliance – Lessons from Landcare*. The central theme of the book is subsidiarity and copies can be ordered here – aci-ar.gov.au/publications

You can see all the educational resources from the conference including the welcomes, introductions and keynote speakers and summaries here at landcarer.com.au > Communities > News, Funding & Awards > Library > 2022 National Landcare Awards - Recordings

Let's hope bush regeneration remains a staple of Landcare conferences in the future.

FIELD TRIP 1: BATTLERS FOR THE BUSH

North Sydney Council's Bushland Team with our partners Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Mosman Councils, hosted a 2022 National Landcare Conference Field Trip titled Battlers for the Bush.

Local, interstate, and international guests met our bus at the International Convention Centre where we travelled to our first stop – Chowder Head, Mosman. Here we met our hosts Anne Cook and Kate Eccles (AO) of Mosman Parks and Bushland Association (MPBA) for an informative talk about Joan and Eileen Bradley. These sisters are credited with the advent of the first systematic approach to bush restoration, published in their seminal book, *Bush Regeneration*. The book influenced the preservation and rehabilitation of bushland throughout Sydney and further afield from the mid-1960s. Anne said that the Bradley Sisters played an important role in a public campaign to prevent the bulldozing of bushland at Ashton Park (looking east from where we stood), now known as Sydney Harbour National Park. The campaign

led to the formation of Mosman Parks and Bushland Association who continue to advocate for the preservation of bushland in and around Mosman. We were then led on a walk-through Chowder Head, (where Eileen undertook bush regeneration work) to view the National Parks & Wildlife Services Bushcare site below Morella Rd Mosman. This site, on the way to Clifton Gardens, has primarily been supported by Kate and her husband since 1994.

From there we travelled to Lane Cove Golf Course for morning tea – an assortment of Indigenous infused scones, biscuits and barista made coffee while we listened to our guests speakers, Norma Stuart and Shauna Forrest of Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society. Norma recalled the community campaign in the early 1970s to save the adjoining bushland area of Osborne Park Valley (now known as Lane Cove Bushland Park) from being bulldozed to extend the golf course amenity. The campaign was ultimately successful. The Society was born out of this effort and continues to

advocate for the protection of bushland and environmentally sustainable practices.

Following the talk, our group was split in two to tour the bushland park. Michelle Greenfield, Lane Cove Council Bushland Interpretation Officer, spoke about the vegetation here including Giant Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Sydney Blue Gums (*E. saligna*). She also told us about the threatened plant community Coastal Littoral Rainforest and the threatened fauna that use the reserve including the Grey Headed Flying-fox, Eastern Bentwing Bat and Powerful Owl. Sophie Cottier, Lane Cove Council's Bushland Projects Officer, was stationed further along the track. She spoke about the management of threatened Waxcap fungi in the reserve, *Hygrocybeae* species, which were discovered by Ray and Elma Kearney from the Sydney Fungal Studies Group.

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WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE (SPRING 2022)

Spring saw MUCH rain, a little sunshine and typically, new life in the making! Many birds were spotted in nests or making nests. A few less common and migratory species were also seen this season. The contributions from our keen volunteers were added to by twitcher Mark Fuller on our annual birdwalk at Tunks Park. If you didn't make it, join us next year to get to know what is around and to learn some spotting techniques.

Wildlife seen, heard or traces found from within the North Sydney Council area during Spring 2022 included:

- Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko (Waverton urban)
- Swamp Wallaby scat (Tunks Park)
- Spotted Pardalote (Primrose Park)
- Powerful Owl (Primrose Park)
- Green Tree Snake (Camberay urban)
- Little Corella (Primrose Park, Tunks Park)
- Australian King Parrot (Neutral Bay urban)
- Tawny Frogmouth (Tunks Park)
- Eastern Whipbird (Cremorne Point Reserve, Primrose Park)
- White-browed Scrubwren (Cremorne Point Reserve, Primrose Park)
- St Andrew's Cross Spider (Cremorne Point Reserve)
- Welcome Swallow (Neutral Bay urban, Kirribilli urban)
- Eastern Water Dragon (Cremorne Point Reserve, Primrose Park)
- Peron's Tree Frog (Waverton urban)
- Eastern Long-necked Turtle (Quibaree Park)
- Australian Brush Turkey (Cremorne urban, Primrose Park, Carradagh Park, Waverton urban, Kurraba Point urban)
- Channel-billed Cuckoo (Primrose Park, Cremorne urban, Anderson Park)
- Grey-headed Flying-Fox (Waverton urban)
- Pacific Koel (Tunks Park)
- Brown Goshawk (Tunks Park)
- Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (Tunks Park)
- Eastern Spinebill (Tunks Park)
- Lewin's Honeyeater (Tunks Park)
- Brown Gerygone (Tunks Park)
- Brown Thornbill (Tunks Park)
- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (Tunks Park)
- Golden Whistler (Tunks Park)
- Olive-backed Oriole (Tunks Park)
- Red-whiskered Bulbul (Tunks Park)
- Silvereye (Tunks Park)
- Red-browed Finch (Tunks Park)



Caption: Red-browed Finch (*Neochmia temporalis*) feeding on casuarina seed at Tunks Park by Mark Fuller 11 September 2022

For a full listing of species, see Wildlife Watch NSC project at biocollect.ala.org.au

If you wish to contribute a sighting of wildlife, or have related comments about what you have seen, from the unusual to the funny, please contact Council's Bushland Project Officer via 9936 8100 or council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au. Find out how to get involved by searching for Wildlife Watch on our website: www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au.

by Karina Hanemann
Bushland Projects Officer

THE RESCUE OF BILLY THE TURTLE

In mid-October, the Sydney by Kayak Team discovered a stranded Eastern Long-necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) on the beach at Lavender Bay. This species is known as both Eastern Long-necked and Snake-necked Turtle. It appeared out of place as was confirmed by a knowledgeable passer-by. Long-necked turtles are known to inhabit freshwater environments along the east coast of Queensland through to South Australia. WIRES was contacted and the animal was initially released in the dense garden bed by the nearby toilet block.

Eastern Snake-necked Turtles are characterised by a long neck about half the length of their brown carapace (shell) and webbed feet used for swimming and digging. They are also known by their common name, stinkers,

because they can eject pungent liquid gland secretions from their armpits and groin when handled or disturbed. (Source: <https://australian.museum/>)

The turtle was found stranded in the same location again a week later. This time, Laura Stone from Sydney by Kayak, and her family, took 'Billy' the turtle to Taronga Zoo's Animal Hospital. There the veterinarian checked Billy over. She said they were seeing lots of confused wildlife because of the late spring weather and extreme wet conditions. Billy appeared healthy and so was released soon after in the nearest freshwater body, Berry Creek in Wollstonecraft, as was advised by Council's Bushland Team.

For injured or stranded wildlife please call **Sydney Wildlife Rescue on 9413 4300.**

by Andrew Scott – Bushcare Officer



Caption: 'Billy' the stranded Eastern Long-necked Turtle at Lavender Bay, October 2022. Taken by Sydney by Kayak.

POSSUM BOX BUILD

by Kim Ryan – Primrose Park Bushcare Volunteer and local resident

I had many kitchen cupboard doors left over from my kitchen renovation. They were made of timbered louvered mouldings with good quality wood. I decided to turn them into nesting boxes and used plans from <https://backyardbuddies.org.au/habitats/build-a-nest-box/>.

Using a sliding mitre saw, I cut the louvers to the right shapes. Sections of the door frames were used as internal bracing. A jigsaw was used to cut the entry hole. I placed my first box in a tree in late winter, using some old electrical cable to help secure it.

Initially I thought it would attract birds looking to build a nest. But using a small digital camera on a pole, I found that a ring tail possum had moved in after a few weeks. My neighbour mentioned that he had a possum nest on a tree in his front yard, and he would also like to encourage possums, so I built another box for his use. This time I included an internal ladder to help the possum get in and out. We placed the box near the existing nest. Again after a few weeks, another ring tail had moved in. I built a third box and passed it on to David Yip, another Bushcare volunteer to give to a friend.

I still have plenty more cupboard doors so will keep building boxes. It's a very rewarding hobby and the boxes were easy to assemble. Using these boxes also reduces the chances of possums wanting to nest in your roof space. I feel it is important to help native wildlife to thrive when so much of their habitat is being degraded by development and construction.



Caption: Photograph of the possum box built and installed by Kim.

2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP 4: RESTORING KOALA HABITAT

by Lyn Fryer, North Sydney Council Nursery Group Convenor

Leaving the International Convention Centre, we headed towards Kurrajong to meet a group of private landholders living along Little Wheeny Creek.

In 2019 the group came together, funded by Greater Sydney Local Land Services, and worked with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network to restore koala habitat and create a koala corridor through bush regeneration, fencing and revegetation activities along Little Wheeny Creek, Kurrajong.

On arrival, Les and Dianne Payne took us on a walk and talk through the critically endangered Western Sydney Dry Rainforest which was previously overrun with weeds, namely lantana, cats claw creeper and privet. Gradually they have removed the weeds, creating space for species such as the endangered Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*).

At morning tea, on a neighbouring property, we acknowledged the Darug people, traditional owners of the land. Cindy Laws, a local Darug woman, performed a Welcome to Country ceremony and gave us a presentation of the Aboriginal history of the area.

Local Landcare Coordinator, Katherine Clare, spoke about the genetically diverse population of koalas in the Blue Mountains, and the variety of eucalypt species providing koalas with more choice of habitat than anywhere else in the country. Katherine also noted the dedication of the 11+ landholders who are working together to make sure a connected corridor of koala habitat is restored and regenerated across their local area.

Dr Kellie Leigh from Science for Wildlife talked about her organisation's research

into the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury koala populations after the Black Summer bushfires.

Dr Leigh also spoke about the studies carried out on new tracking devices for locating koalas. Her dog Groot was with us and demonstrated impressive skills sniffing out koala scat.

Lunch was held at the Hillbilly Cider Shed in Bilpin, where wood fired pizza and a glass of apple cider was served, followed by cider tasting. Thus, it was a merry crowd returned to the International Convention Centre.

Thank you to Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network for hosting this field trip and North Sydney Council for the opportunity to attend.

2022 NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE

FIELD TRIP 6: A TRIP AROUND BOTANY BAY



Caption: Ornithologist Ricki Coughlan talking to participants for 2022 NLC Field Trip 4 around Botany Bay about migratory shorebird community at Taren Point on Tuesday 22 August.

As part of 2022 National Landcare Conference's tour day, Sutherland Shire Council's Bushland Team invited us to explore how Botany Bay has changed over time and how natural areas are cared for and persist in an urban environment.

On the day it was raining. A lot. There was a train strike. Participants were stranded and/or late arriving but no one was left behind. Eventually we departed and hit peak hour traffic. When we reached our first stop, Sir Joseph Banks Park, beside Sydney Airport Runway #3 and the Botany Container Terminal, our coach was waved away by the lone security guard, from a large totally empty car park. So we didn't see the Botany Wetlands which (I understand) were reconstructed as part of the Container Terminal development approval. Apparently, they've been a great success and I look forward to another opportunity to see for myself.

Back in the traffic, we headed for Kendrick Park on the Cooks River, a little gem of green open space beside the Princes Hwy at Tempe, where we were hosted for morning tea – fresh coffee made by Bradley Van Luyt, Sutherland Shire Council (SSC) Bushcare Officer, and a morning tea box of fresh fruit

and scones with jam and cream. Aunty Deb Lennis, from Inner West Council, introduced us to the Indigenous history of the area. We learned that the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora Nation camped and fished along the river for thousands of generations, continuing to do so after the arrival of Europeans. Senior Natural Areas Officer Tealia Scott led us on a walk-through restoration area of salt marsh, mangroves and swamp oak forest, all maintained by volunteers. We learned that Bayside Council encourages and protects intertidal mudflats from colonisation by mangroves (monoculture), for the sake of plant and animal diversity.

As Towra Point Nature Reserve was closed, we went straight to Bonna Point Reserve at Kurnell – Dharawal Country. The SSC Invasive Species Officer, Nathan Clare, showed us a saltmarsh restoration project where land was regraded to remove exotic grass species and allow periodic tidal inundation. We also saw an African Olive removal project where acacias have been reinstated.

From there we travelled to Captain Cook's Landing Place (my first visit) at Kamay Botany Bay National Park, for a picnic-style lunch, just as a huge

storm rushed across the Bay. It sent us all scuttling for cover for the next hour (some under shop awnings, some cosily in a former ferry shelter where delegates from Melbourne, Perth, Kangaroo Island, Fiji, East Timor, India, and Japan shared experiences).

Our last stop was the trip highlight (in my opinion): Taren Point Shorebird Reserve. Despite the insistent rain, ornithologist Ricki Coughlan enthralled us with her observations and knowledge of the migratory shorebird community utilising the sandy shoals. We saw Pied Oystercatchers (endangered), pelicans, gulls and terns, Eastern Curlews (critically endangered), Bar-tailed Godwits (vulnerable) and plovers. Every year Eastern Curlews, after fattening up in The Shire, fly across the Pacific Ocean, non-stop, all the way to their breeding grounds in China and beyond. Access to the Reserve is easy and I recommend a visit.

Huge thanks to Jason Salmon and the Sutherland Council Bushland Team for co-ordinating this tour and to everyone who helped and to North Sydney Council for the opportunity to attend.

by Victoria Whitney, Brightmore Reserve Bushcare Group Convenor

WEED TO WATCH: AFRICAN LOVEGRASS

(*Eragrostis curvula*)

by Clare McElroy, Bushcare Nursery Supervisor

FAMILY: POACEAE

A native of South Africa, African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) was introduced into Australia in the early 1900s as a potential fodder plant and soil stabiliser with over 100 agronomic lines cultivated at various research stations as part of the Commonwealth Plant Introduction Scheme.

With negligible nutritional value and poor palatability, it proved useless for improving grazing land, instead becoming a major scourge of pastoral agriculture and an invasive weed now found in all Australian states.

Favouring sandy, acidic soils, African Lovegrass is drought tolerant and can be found in a wide range of environments including degraded pastures, roadsides and railway lines, grasslands, open woodlands, and waterways. In North Sydney, it can be seen around former industrial land at Waverton and Balls Head. In bushland it tends to go unnoticed until seed is set, but once established, it will aggressively

outcompete and suppress growth of native species.

African Lovegrass is a densely tufted, perennial, tussock grass reaching 1.2m high. Stems are erect and arching. Leaves are blue green in colour, about 3mm wide, usually in-rolled, narrowly tapered and often curled near the tips.

Flowers are dark grey-green and borne in triangular, spreading panicles. Reproduction is by seed, although plants will resprout vigorously after slashing or fire.

Numerous, tiny seeds are produced in late summer to early autumn and remain viable for at least five years, although there are records of viability up to 17 years. Seed dispersal occurs through wind, water, mud, machinery, from roadside slashing, grazing, in animal dung, and through transport of hay and livestock.

Control

African Lovegrass is most likely to

become a problem in degraded or compromised areas, where there is insufficient competition to retard it. In agriculture, eradication is now considered unrealistic, and control strategies focus on managing dispersal, maintaining healthy pasture and not overgrazing.

In bushland, strategies include establishing dense vegetation buffers to suppress incursions from roads and edges; maintaining healthy native cover to prevent seedling establishment; targeting seedlings prior to seed set (which can occur as early as six weeks), crowning established plants; spot spraying with glyphosate.

African Love Grass is also the focus of a collaboration between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Rhodes University in South Africa, to investigate suitable biological control agents, including several wasps and stem borers.



1. Tussock habit of African Love Grass



2. Fibrous roots of African Love Grass



3. Seed head of African Lovegrass

Photos taken at Hungry Beach, Ku-ring-gai Chase for Floating Landcare, Sun 13 Nov 2022 by A. Scott.

2022 NORTH SYDNEY GARDEN COMPETITION AWARDS

After a hiatus during lockdown, October saw the return of a popular event: the Garden Awards! MC Costa Georgiadis shared his infectious enthusiasm with those in the room and was supported by Mayor Zoë Baker. Gardens in each category were judged according to several criteria, ranging from plant selection and design to maintenance. People were rewarded for their time spent enhancing an area either on their own or together with others.

Several Bushcare volunteers took part including Stefanie Arnold, who, together with her neighbours (pictured) were highly commended for their shared native habitat garden, as was keen native plant enthusiast Harry Loots. Nicole Bannister received a highly commended award for her wildlife garden in the Back Garden category. Robyn Lilienthal came runner-up for her all-local native garden and Cameron Crawley and Co. from Wondakiah Estate took out first prize in the Native Habitat Garden category for their efforts transforming land adjoining bushland into an extension of it.

Throughout the night, people met with friends and made new ones. Get a

snippet of the evening through Costa's short video – <https://fb.watch/gOuT7676sw/>

The awards were supported by several stalls, including Council's Native Havens which offered free plants and habitat advice. There was also representation by Sydney's Edible Garden Trail, Nutcote Cottage and The Sydney Library of Things. Did you know you can borrow items like sewing machines from the Coal Loader, like you can a book from a library?

Many joyful hours were spent by participants getting their gardens ready for the competition; planting, watering, trimming, weeding and feeding. Whether for the benefit of yourself, to share with neighbours or local wildlife, why not try your hand at getting a garden area ready for next year's Awards? You may even be able to visit some gardens prior, during our annual Native Havens Garden tour and be inspired!

Lastly, thanks to Damien Conway from the Parks and Gardens Team for coordinating this event.

by Karina Hanemann
Bushland Projects Officer



Caption: Pictured (L to R) Zoë Harvey, Liz Fountain, Mayor Zoë Baker, Bushcare Volunteer Stefanie Arnold and TV Personality Costa Georgiadis with the award for Best Native Habitat Garden at the North Sydney Council Garden Awards

FIELD TRIP 1: BATTLERS FROM THE BUSH

Continued from page 2

The bushland park was declared a wildlife refuge under the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 1980. It is a site of ecological importance and was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 2000. Yvonne Barber – Convenor for Lane Cove Bushland Park Bushcare Group, spoke about the Bushcare works at a storm water feature further along the track.

We enjoyed lunch at the Coal Loader Café followed by an Acknowledgement to Country by Karen Smith, Aboriginal Heritage Officer, who spoke about the original custodians of this land, the Gammeragal or Cammeragal, as well as Aboriginal culture and heritage in general. At this point we were forced to seek shelter in the Coal Loader tunnel as a weather front moved in, here we heard from Council's historian, Dr Ian Hoskins, on changing land use and early environmental conservation on the Lower North Shore of Sydney.

Final stop, a visit to Kellys Bush Park in Woolwich to hear from Maureen Flowers. The Friends of Kellys Bush talked about the campaign to save the last remaining natural area of bushland at the mouth of the Parramatta River, an alliance between 13 local women and unions. It was the first green ban in the world that led to further natural and built heritage protection. We had to shelter in the bus during the pouring rain to hear from Bev Debrincat about the Habitat Network, and environmental rehabilitation to preserve and extend habitat for small birds in Hunters Hill. Jacqueline Vollmer, Hunters Hill Council Bushland Coordinator, spoke about the Hunters Hill Council Bushcare Program.

Our guests really enjoyed themselves. A big thanks to our partners for making this National Landcare Conference a great success. This event was filmed for educational purposes, and we will let you know when it has been made publicly accessible.

GREEN EVENTS CALENDAR

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

JANUARY

- 14 **Keeping Native Solitary and Social Native Bees** | Sat 9.30am to 1.30pm, Bookings: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events

FEBRUARY

- 14 **Bushcare Visit, Taren Point** | Tues 8am to 4pm
18 **Bushwalk, Berry Island/Gore Cove** | Sat 10am to 1pm
25 **Macrofungi Realistic Clay Sculptures** | Sat 9am to 12pm or 1pm to 4pm, Bookings: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events
26 **Look-A-Likes Workshop (Natives Vs Weeds)** | Sunday 10am to 1pm

MARCH

- 2 **Create a Butterfly Garden** | Thursday 7pm to 8pm, Lane Cove
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
2 **Living with Termites** | Thursday 7pm to 8.30pm
4 **Bug Hunt** | Saturday 9am to 11am, Lane Cove
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
8 **Bushcare Visit, Habitat Network** | Wednesday 9am to 3pm
11 **Bat Count, Centennial Park** | Saturday 5pm to 8pm

- 11 **Powerful Owl Project Walk & Talk** | Saturday 9.30am to 12pm & 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Bookings: www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Events
12 **Powerful Owl Project Walk** | Sunday 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
18 **Cuttings Workshop** | Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm
25 **Eucalyptus Day Walk & Talk** | Saturday 10am to 1pm

APRIL

- 6 **Growing Native Plants** | Thursday 9.30am to 12pm, Lane Cove
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bushcareevents
18 **Family Bush Walk** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
19 **Family Kayak** | Wednesday 10.30am to 12pm
20 **Family Spotlight Walk** | Thursday 5.30pm to 8.30pm
28-30 **Building Bridges to Boorowa** | Friday to Sunday 6.30am departure

MAY

- 14 **Trees for Mum** | 9.30am to 11am
17 **Bushcare Visit, Kurrajong** | Wednesday 7.30am to 3pm
27 **Bushcare Visit, Scheyville NP** | Saturday 9am to 4pm

SERVICE LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY – PLANTING

All of Wenona's 174 Year 7 students planted local native tube stock plants (grown by the Bushcare Community Nursery) in a site on the edge of Forsyth Park. The activity took place over eight visits in recent months under the supervision of the Bushland Team. Two of these students, Ellen Laughland and Lucia Bertuch, provided the following speech about their experience.

Hi everyone, I'm Lucia and I'm Ellen. This semester Year 7 has been going to Forsyth Park to do Bushcare; to help clear an overgrown area, grow browse for wildlife in care and to create a native garden for the community.

At Forsyth Park, we met members of North Sydney Council's Bushland Team; Mr Andrew Scott, Ms Karina Hanemann and on a separate occasion Mr Tom Windon and Miss Lauren Walker, who helped supervise the planting activities.

These are some of the things we learnt:

- Shrubs need to be planted at a distance from one another for as they grow, they will get bigger and potentially crowd each other out
- You need to dig a hole deeper than the plant's pot so that roots are completely buried below the soil surface

- It's important to make sure there are no air pockets around the plant's roots as this may cause it to dry out and die and we need to allow for the absorption of water and nutrients
- Some plants, such as trees and shrubs, produce wood that enable them to grow tall, while others such as grasses don't and are short

We had an amazing time and learned a lot from this experience; it was good to get outside and have fun as well as doing something good for the community.

Thank you, North Sydney Bushcare!



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



Visit regenTV the Australian Association of Bush regenerators video platform, view recordings of webinars, field days and forums. www.aabr.org.au/regenTV

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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