



NEWSLETTER

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BUSHCARE

SPRING 2023 – ISSUE 59

COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney
Bushland Management Coordinator

In our last Bushcare newsletter, I talked about the value of tree canopy to our local environment, particularly older trees that have lived the 100+ years required to start developing hollows. While installing nest-boxes and carving artificial hollows is a positive supplement to the dearth of natural hollows remaining in our urban forest, it can't reverse the ongoing impacts caused by continual tree removals.

This impact of lost habitat has been evident with the canopy loss created by the Warringah Freeway widening and Western Harbour Tunnel projects. While some tree loss is inevitable with large-scale infrastructure projects, there is definitely scope to reduce the extent of these impacts and place a higher priority on the retention of trees, even if it costs construction efficiency or requires unconventional engineering solutions.

Council is committed to rebuilding our urban canopy on public land and supporting private landholders to do the same through incentives such as our new 'trees for newborns' program and the long-established Native Havens home habitat gardening program.

For the Bushland and Urban Forest Teams that deliver these programs, it is particularly gut wrenching when we come across deliberate tree vandalism carried out by selfish individuals for personal gain. It would not be an exaggeration to say we were devastated by a recent, significant case of tree vandalism in Forsyth Park's Bushcare site, below Premier Street in Neutral Bay. A 20-25m tall *Acacia maidenii* – the only remaining specimen in Forsyth Park – had its entire crown cut, dropping to the bushland below and crushing a large area of regenerating native plants. This act was carried out covertly and by someone with arboricultural knowledge, evidenced by the way the tall tree was quickly scaled using spurs (shoe spikes that dig into the tree trunk, enabling rapid ascension).

The motivation for this act could only be view enhancement, as the tree was located within the bushland core and not near any property boundary. In response, Council has undertaken a letterbox drop appealing for information from residents that might lead to those responsible for this destructive vandalism. A large banner stating 'Trees shouldn't die for a view' has also been erected in place of the now absent canopy, drawing attention to the illegal act, and encouraging information from locals.

Over the past few months, we've seen an increase in the number of staff and volunteers reporting tick bites after being in our bushland. On the plus side, this indicates good fauna populations, but on the downside, we need to know the right way to remove ticks without causing potential complications! For starters – never use tweezers, instead use Lyclar® scabies cream on small / nymph-size ticks. For larger 'shellback' ticks, use a dimethyl ether spray to freeze the tick. With both these methods, leave the tick in-place after application for several



Caption: (L to R) Catherine and Edward Grinham representing Cammeray Scout Group at North Sydney Council's National Tree Day site in Hamilton Reserve, Cammeray on Sunday 6 August 2023.

69 community members volunteered to help the Bushland Team plant a total of 1,532 trees, shrubs and groundcovers to improve wildlife habitat and expand bushland areas adjoining Tunks Park, North Sydney's most species diverse bushland remnant.

minutes. It should die in situ and either fall out of your skin or come out easily with a scraping of your fingernail. Also, please report any tick bites to your Bushcare Supervisor as we keep a register of numbers and locations so that hotspots can be identified, and precautions taken.

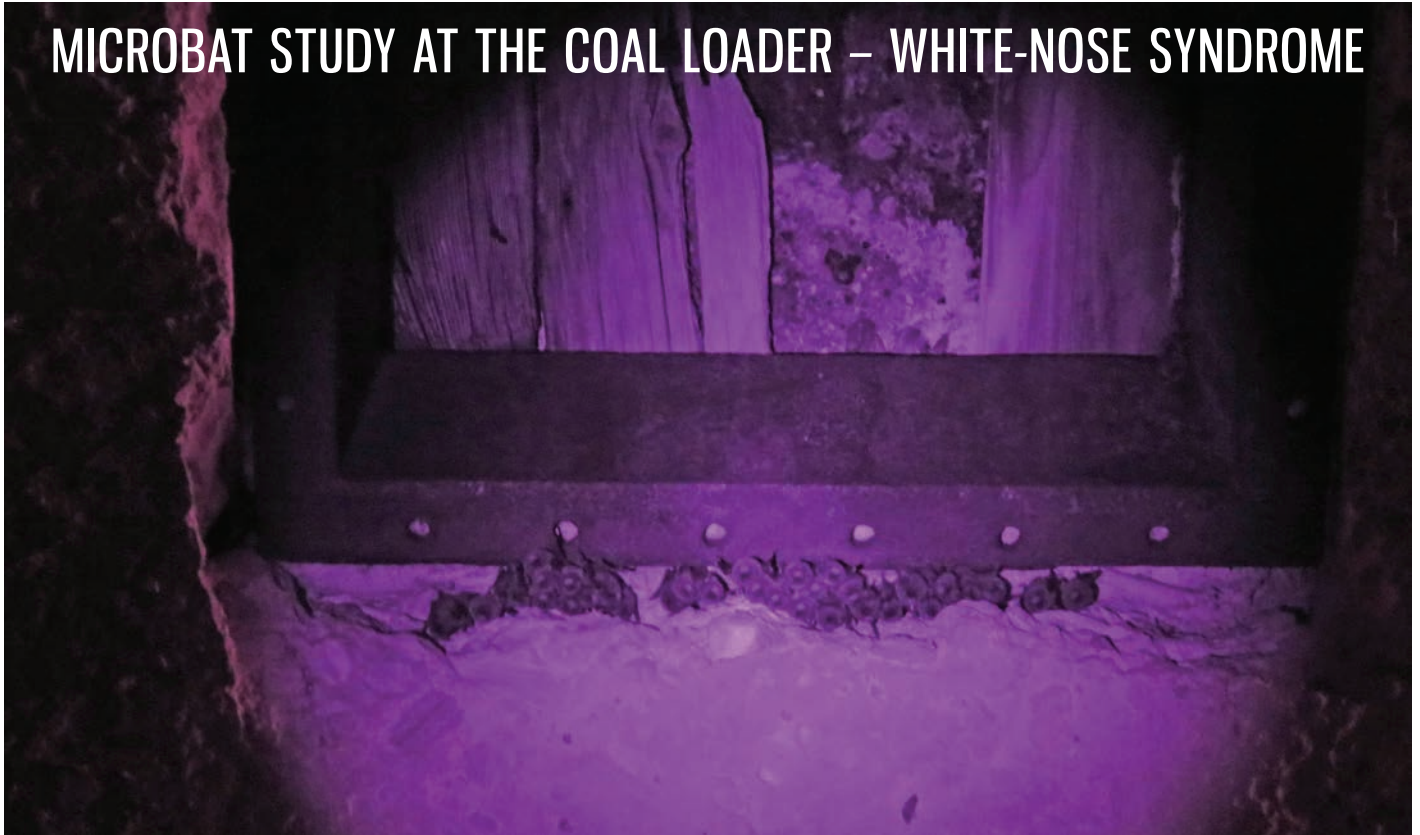
In late July, we were informed by a member of the public that they'd seen a Red-eared Slider Turtle just upstream of the Tunks Park weir in Cammeray. Red-eared Slider Turtles are an introduced species from North America and are considered a high-risk biosecurity threat to natural aquatic ecosystems. They are sometimes kept illegally as pets and then released when owners no longer want to care for them. Where breeding populations establish, they can have a serious impact on ecosystem function, compete with native turtles and potentially harm people as they carry Salmonella bacterium. The Bushland Team organised to borrow specially designed (non-harming)

traps from Northern Beaches Council and have deployed them in the creek in order to catch and remove this invasive species – before it can get a (webbed) toehold.

On 20 July, the Bushland Team hosted Dr Matthew Hall from the University of Sydney for a talk about his research on urban Brush Turkeys. Over 40 members of the public joined the online talk,

which covered the biology of Australian Brush Turkeys, how their population has responded to urbanisation over time and some of the ways people can deal with the less endearing behaviors of this species – especially in residential gardens. The fascinating talk was recorded and can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/aogusgccSGs>

MICROBAT STUDY AT THE COAL LOADER – WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



Caption: Infrared image of the Large Bent-wing Bat colony at the Coal Loader for the White-nose Syndrome Study by Dr Nicholas Wu, 7 July 2023

*The Bushland Team recently had the opportunity to join a microbat study at the Coal loader with Dr Nicholas Wu and PhD student Tomás Villada-Cadavid for Western Sydney University (WSU) to help predict the vulnerability of our Large Bent-wing bat population (*Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*), formerly known as the Eastern Bent-wing bat, to White-nose Syndrome.*

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a lethal fungal disease that has killed more than a million cave-roosting bats in North America. Bats die from this disease because the fungus grows on their skin during hibernation, and the skin irritation causes them to wake up more often. This increase in arousal causes bats to exhaust their energy reserves and in turn, decreases their survival in winter. A risk assessment recently revealed that the fungus causing this disease is expected to arrive in Australia in the next 10 years, where it could potentially affect our native bat species. However, we have very little basic knowledge about our cave-roosting bats to allow us to predict their vulnerability to WNS.

Our project aims to determine the vulnerability of cave-roosting bats to WNS by examining:

1. suitable cave microclimates for the fungus to grow in
2. hibernation biology such as how often bats wake up during winter and how much fat they use up

If we can predict which species are likely to be at risk to WNS, we can initiate management efforts earlier which will help prevent or reduce negative outcomes.

The research is funded by the Australian Research Council

Linkage Grant and led by Associate Professor Christopher Turbill at Western Sydney University (WSU). The research team is examining the cave microclimates, counting bat numbers, measuring fat usage during winter, and swabbing cave surfaces and bats for the fungus. The researchers use a variety of techniques including camera traps to measure activity inside the caves, microclimate loggers to measure ambient temperature and humidity, thermal cameras, and acoustic loggers to measure bat activity at the cave entrance. The researchers will monitor caves and bat activity for multiple winter seasons until 2025.

Dr Nicholas Wu and PhD student Tomás Villada-Cadavid are currently collecting data from the field for the first winter season. Both researchers have a passion for caving and bats, and they have currently visited 12 caves and mines across NSW from the Kempsey region down to Yarrangobilly. Nicholas has experience with the chytrid fungal disease and frog declines, while Tomás has over eight years of experience working with bats and caves in Europe and South America.

Nicholas will be presenting the current results of this study to North Sydney Council's Environmental Services Reference Group on the 7 November.

WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE (WINTER 2023)



Caption: White-faced Heron by Tim Van Leewen courtesy of birdlifephotography.com

Well, there were no shortage of bird sightings this winter! From large to small, waterside to woodland, many were seen - Fairy-wrens foraging in thickets, Tawny Frogmouths asleep in trees, Brush Turkeys getting their nests ready for Spring and White-faced Herons making appearances in backyard gardens (foraging in lawns, leaf-litter and occasionally eating fish from frog-ponds)!

Some were lucky to spot lesser-seen animals such as Swamp Wallabies and birds such as the Pacific Baza and the Buff-banded Rail. Have a look below to discover more sightings... and if you're keen, do get out to the places below, take your binoculars along with your patience and see what you can observe! Please record any sightings for our Wildlife Watch program.

- **Mangrove Heron** (Primrose Park) hunting in the intertidal zone
- **Sydney Seastar** (Cremorne urban) slowly making its way along the sand
- **Long-nosed Bandicoot** (Hamilton Reserve) found dead on road
- **Pacific Baza** (Tunks Park)
- **Buff-banded Rail** (Smoothery Park) foraging in disturbed leaf litter being turned-over by a Brush Turkey
- **Brush Turkey** (Neutral Bay urban, North Sydney urban, Kurraba Point, Grassmere Children's Playground Cremorne, Primrose Park, Badangi Reserve, Kirribilli urban, Cremorne Point) mound-building and looking for food; walking about; having a dust-bath
- **Rakali** (Balls Head Reserve, Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park, Berry Island, Quibaree Park) swimming along the Coal Loader foreshore and leaving footprints in other sandy locations
- **Tawny Frogmouth** (Neutral Bay urban, North Sydney urban, Kirribilli urban, Badangi Reserve) sleeping in casuarina and poplar trees during the day; out for dinner at night including hunting by streetlights from a melaleuca tree; nesting with chicks)
- **Oleander Butterfly** (Brightmore Reserve)
- **Red-triangle Slug** (Cammeray urban)
- **Australasian Darter** (Cremorne Point Reserve)
- **Australasian Figbird** (Beside St Leonards Park, Cremorne urban) sunbathing at top of tree with others

- **Swamp Wallaby** (Flat-rock gully)
- **Pale-lipped Shadestink** (Kirribilli urban) sunning itself
- **Grey-headed Flying-fox** (Cremorne Point Reserve) dead, being eaten by a Brush Turkey
- **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** (Hamilton Reserve) feeding on casuarina tree seeds
- **White-browed Scrubwren** (Waverton Park, Balls Head Reserve, Brightmore Reserve, Primrose Park, Badangi Reserve, Cremorne Point Reserve, Berry Island)
- **Australian King-Parrot** (Waverton Park, Primrose Park, North Sydney urban, Neutral Bay urban) eating privet berries; eating Lilly Pilly fruits
- **Little Black Cormorant** (Waverton Park, Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park) hunting fish at low tide
- **White-faced Heron** (Cremorne urban, Coal Loader Waverton, Kurraba Point Reserve, Primrose Park) foraging in gardens; resting at lookout points; hunting fish at low tide
- **Golder Whistler** (Primrose Park)
- **Sacred Kingfisher** (Primrose Park) hunting fish at low tide
- **Eastern Whipbird** (Primrose Park, Cremorne Point, Badangi Reserve)
- **Musk Lorikeet** (Cremorne urban) flying overhead
- **Satin Bowerbird** (Primrose Park)
- **Variiegated Fairy-wren** (Badangi Reserve) with others
- **Spotted Pardalote** (Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park)

For a full list of species, go to:

<https://www.ala.org.au/biocollect/> Under 'Citizen Science projects', search for NSC Wildlife Watch.

You can contribute sightings directly through the Biocollect website, via our App on Biocollect or by contacting us at Council. Find out more about the program by searching for Wildlife Watch on our website: <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/>

For further information, contact the Council's Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100 or by emailing council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

by Karina Hanemann
Bushland Project Officer

BUILDING BRIDGES TO BOOROWA 2023

By Gareth Debney & Andrew Scott



Caption: Bushcare Volunteers and staff for Boorowa tree planting weekend, 27 May 2023

On Friday 26 May, 22 volunteers including Council's General Manager Therese Manns, Mayor Zoë Baker and Councillors Georgia Lamb, Shannon Welch and William Bourke joined Council's Bushland Management Team for our annual tree planting weekend in Boorowa, south-west NSW.

The weather was cool, but comfortable as we met our partners Boorowa Community Landcare Group in town, before attending the first planting site at Sam & Nikki Burton Taylor's property 'Breakfast Creek Station' at Godfrey's Creek (the Burton Taylors hosted a planting site last year also). Here we planted 700 native trees and shrubs along the edge of Lachlan Valley Way. The opportunity presented by such a highly visible site on the busy road to Cowra was not lost on Landcare, with plans now afoot to install signage at the planting site that promotes our unique urban-rural partnership project, in time for next year's 25th anniversary.

On Saturday, the North Sydney contingent travelled to Nick & Pen Gay's property 'Willowglen' at Hovells Creek near Frogmore, an expansive 10,000 acre (4,000 hectare) mixed farm, that breeds Angus and Wagyu beef cattle, produces merino wool, prime lamb and grows multi-species fodder crops for livestock. This was our first planting at Willowglen, however, Nick's family have been involved

in Landcare for over 20 years.

Here we planted a further 2,300 native trees and shrubs. Allan McDonald, one time native plant nursery operator, worked alongside us on the day and demonstrated the use of the Hamilton Tree Planter that makes a planting hole (within a rip line) the right shape and depth for the tube stock, eliminating air gaps.

We worked either side of a creek line within a massive erosion gully, framed by rolling rocky hills. Pen said, this planting is part of a soil erosion mitigation project, that aims to reduce sedimentation of the Lachlan River Catchment via Hovells Creek. The project is funded by a 50:50 matching contribution between the landowner and the South-East Local Land Services. The picturesque site will be on the agenda for future visits to see how the riparian corridor recovers.

On Saturday evening, we all sat down to a celebratory dinner at the Boorowa Ex Services & Citizens Club, sponsored by Hilltops Council. It was a wonderful evening and very well represented by both local councils. In addition to our Mayor and Councillors, Hilltops Council was represented by Mayor Marg Roles and Councillors John Piper and Jo Mackay.

Early Sunday morning, a few braved the frosty temperatures to glimpse one of

the shy platypus that live in the Boorowa River – not all were rewarded for their dedication, but a few lucky wildlife watchers were!

Before heading back to Sydney, the volunteers visited Hawkhill, a property owned by the Mason family and one where North Sydney volunteers have planted many times over the years. Hawkhill was one of the earliest adopters of revegetation for biodiversity and farm productivity outcomes.

Even before tubestock plants were commercially grown and relatively easy to source as they are today, landowner Elizabeth Mason was growing her own trees using seed collected from remnant trees on their own property. Elizabeth said she now provides this seed to Allan to grow.

Today, Hawkhill represents a blueprint for other landholders who seek to rehabilitate their properties and improve the land for future generations. After adding 500 trees and shrubs to what will become another bushy corridor across the property, our weary volunteers boarded the bus with a great sense of accomplishment and the warmth of thanks from our Boorowa Community Landcare Group friends. A wonderful weekend was had by all, and we are looking forward to returning in 2024.

GREATER SYDNEY LANDCARE and BUSHCARE FORUM and AWARDS

FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2023 AT KATOOMBA

by Victoria Whitney – Brightmore Reserve Bushcare Group Convenor

Council's Bushland Team offered volunteers the opportunity to attend the 2023 Greater Sydney Landcare & Bushcare Forum at Katoomba in early June, with Andrew Scott assigned as escort and driver. I jumped at the chance! It's too easy to focus on your habitual bush regen projects, remaining unaware of other areas' challenges and how local groups meet them. I always find it stimulating to learn how individuals are motivated to initiate efforts to protect and conserve our natural environment, against the odds.

On the theme of Connectivity, forum presenters discussed cultural burning, habitat connectivity, monitoring koalas and wildlife in the Hills and Hornsby District, and socially connected farming in towns and cities. All thought-provoking.

On the trip home Andrew prompted us to nominate our favourite forum session. UWS's Hawkesbury-Nepean Platypus Research Project was the one for me. I grew up with Leslie Rees' book *Shy the Platypus* (still available), the

life story of a female platypus living in an eastern Australian stream. I loved Shy and never doubted that we would always find platypus in the wild. But just like koalas, platypus numbers are dramatically declining due to land clearing, interference with waterways, water pollution, sediment build-up, yabby traps, cats, foxes, and the devastation of the 2019-20 bushfires.

Not much is known about where these secretive creatures live. Dr Michelle Ryan from UWS's School of Science showed us maps based on years of observations. With the help of volunteer citizen scientists and students, Environmental DNA testing of water courses was undertaken, collecting water samples from catchment areas from Cattai to Castle Hill. There were some surprises. In the Penrith area, an unknown platypus population was found using Mulgoa and Jerry's Creek tributaries as habitat.

Did you know that the platypus is NSW's animal emblem?

I don't expect ever to see a platypus in the North Sydney area, but I'm glad to

know they're still out there. As human population growth continues, we can hope that community awareness, engagement, research, collaboration, and habitat restoration ensure this unique species survives.

After the formal program, Andrew, Frennie and I chose a field trip to the former Katoomba Golf Course, now being transformed into Blue Mountains City Council's Planetary Health Precinct. The initiative is a work in progress, with a vision of "providing a framework to reassess and adapt human practices to better support a healthy planet for current and future generations". It's quite contentious with local users who fear being shut out of the open space. Those of us mourning the recent loss of half of Cammeray golf course might wonder... but apparently there are plenty of golf course options in the district.

On that late afternoon, after sitting in session all day, it was certainly delightful to spend an hour walking across the old golf course and among the trees in the mild mountain air.

NSC BUSHCARE NEWSLETTER 30TH ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION

To commemorate the North Sydney Council Bushcare program's 30th anniversary, the complete collection of North Sydney Council's Bushcare newsletters is now available for public access via the NSW State Library Indyreads platform.

To encourage the use of this resource, the Bushland Team will give away copies of the Grasses of Coastal NSW field guide or Pasture 'weeds' of coastal NSW by Harry and Carol Rose to the first 10 entries received that correctly answer the questions below. Winners to be announced in the next edition of the Bushcare newsletter.

How to access the collection

1. Visit <https://indyreads.libraries.nsw.gov.au>
2. Login with your library card details
 - a. Select Library* (eg Shorelink for Stanton Library Card Holders)
 - b. Enter Library Card Bar Code

- c. Enter Library Card Pin (last 4 digits of your card's bar code if you haven't set a pin)
3. Search 'Bushcare' and then relevant info (eg year)
4. Select the 'Borrow' button and then 'Read' button

How to enter the competition

1. Enter the following survey monkey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KNCJMKY>
2. Enter your name and contact details and whether you received the hard copy or E-newsletter
3. Answer the following questions correctly, multiple choice answers are provided
 - i. Name the location (city/town) of NSW State Landcare Conference where North Sydney Council Bushcare and Boorowa Community Landcare

Group received the Government Partnerships with Landcare Award (Clue: see Summer 2015 – Issue 28)

- ii. Who welcomed Tristram Thomas (AKA Trusty) to the Bushland Team in 2005 (Clue: See Issue 1, January 2005 pp1)
- iii. In which issue did NSC Bushcare celebrate its 25th Anniversary?
- iv. How many Bushcare groups are reported to be in operation in the very first edition of the Bushcare Newsletter (Issue 1, pp1)?
- v. Who was the winner of the Bushcare Legend Award for 1997 (Clue: see Issue 1998 No.14)

* Note any NSW library card can be used to login to the State Library's Indyreads platform.

Great prizes to be won

Hungry Possum

by Tim Windon - Bush Regenerator

Having a possum around can be a pain when you're growing veggies in your backyard or even just trying to maintain a small garden around your home. So, you can imagine that maintaining a nursery with thousands of plants right next to a headland full of healthy bushland and hungry possums comes with some problems.

There is no way to get rid of possums all together (not that you should consider that) -it's our destruction of their habitat and living in and around bushland that has forced them into our houses, our gardens, and lives.

The Common Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) will eat lots of plants if given the chance. Eucalypt leaves are a favourite, but they'll nibble the leaves of other plants in our gardens as well. The main reason for this is sugar. When plants photosynthesise, one of the first products of the process is glucose, which is why saplings make for a sweet snack and more mature plants mostly get left alone. (It also explains why we humans enjoy baby fruits and veggies too!)

There are many things you can try to deter a hungry possum from destroying your plants, such as sprays, chilli powder and even Tabasco® sauce, but these don't always work and could possibly harm the possum. There is only one guarantee to make sure there is no chance of your plants getting eaten or damaged and that is to keep your plants completely out of reach.

The bushland team was reminded of this one morning when we arrived to see 15 trays of possum damage (mainly eucalyptus saplings) at the Bushcare Community Nursery. With National Tree Day coming up fast, we had to think of a solution quickly.



Caption: Caged plants at the Bushcare Community Nursery by Tom Windon

As you can see in the photo (above) we used recycled materials such as bamboo stakes and chicken wire to whip up a quick possum-proof cage. Quick, easy and cheap to make, it stops any possums from enjoying a midnight snack while ensuring no damage is inflicted on the possum. Something like this works much better than any netting or cloth as it keeps the possums out indefinitely (not through lack of trying) and removes any chance of possums or other wildlife getting tangled or stuck in the material.

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT: GULLY FOREST REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT NEWLANDS LANE

Nearly 30 years ago, Harry Howard Reserve was a very different place. The canopy and midstory were heavily degraded by weed infestation and required supplementary planting. Among others, a full stand of Blackbutts (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) was planted at the corner of Newlands Lane and Meadow Lane to replace non-native vegetation previously removed.

For almost 20 years they stood proud to encase the reserve in a natural roof. However, one by one each tree began to suffer, steadily browning then fully losing their leaves and lives in the process. Today, only a small fraction of the original plants remains.

Some theories have been put forward as to why the trees are dying off, including disturbance from recent developments, seepage from the nearby stormwater drain and poor adaptation to specific microclimates on site.

With some careful consideration of the conditions present in Newlands Lane - as well as assessment of the growth of some more recent infill plantings - a potential solution has been crafted.

We've observed species such as the Black Wattle (*Callicoma serratifolia*), Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), Sydney Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), and Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona australis*) outlasting many other plantings within Harry Howard Reserve, adapting well to the lower light conditions and moist environment found there.

With a long-term goal in mind of providing a reliable seedbank to assist in restoring local gully vegetation, we are planning to take advantage of the unique nature of Newlands Lane. Our Gully Forest Replacement Project will see us planting a variety of species that we feel are not only better suited to the conditions in

Harry Howard Reserve, but will also boost the diversity of surrounding sites via natural seed dispersal methods.

Each new planting will be closely monitored but, as we've learnt from the Blackbutts, only time will tell. We are hopeful that this project will succeed, and that Newlands Lane will be brighter and more vibrant than ever!

Caption: A view of the recent plantings from July at Newlands Lane taken by Lauren Walker at Harry Howard Reserve 24.7.23



by Lauren Walker - Bush Regenerator

WEED TO WATCH PRAIRIE GRASS (*Bromus catharticus*)



Caption: Prairie Grass (*Bromus catharticus*) seedheads at Makawao, Maui - Plants of Hawaii by Forest & Kim Starr



Caption: Prairie Grass (*Bromus catharticus*) by Larissa Kabakov, 2023

Family: Poaceae

Bromus is Latin meaning 'oats' and *catharticus* meaning 'cathartic'.

Distribution: A native of South America, Prairie Grass (*Bromus catharticus*) can be found as an introduced species in Australia. This grass occurs over a wide area of temperate Australia where adequate moisture is available. It is a common weed in disturbed areas, lawns and along roadsides. In North Sydney, we find this grass along the edges of bushland reserves and among grassy habitats.

Description: *Bromus catharticus* is a robust winter annual or short-lived perennial grass growing up to approximately 1 metre in height. It is a densely tufted grass with an erect or spreading habit. The leaves feel smooth to the touch. They are flat and light green in colour. These long, narrow blades are loosely folded and grow 10-45cm long, 3mm wide. The base of the leaves has a hairy, dry sheath and reaches to a pointed tip. The easiest way to identify this plant without the seed head is looking for the dried-out papery base.

Large seed-heads are openly branched with a drooping appearance when mature. They consist of large, flattened flower spikelets and are made up of 6-12 florets, which are green to purplish-green in colour. Keep a look out for the wheat-resembling seed heads.

Reproduction and Dispersal: This weed reproduces entirely by seed. The seeds are readily spread through mowers, slashers, and dumped garden waste. Also, seed dispersal occurs by water movement, wind activity and animals (eg mammals and birds).

The seed germinates throughout the year, though predominately through autumn. Over the cooler months, young plants form large soft clumps of leaves. Flowering occurs mainly during Spring and Summer. From late Summer, the plants have spent their seeds and slowly die back.

Environmental Impact: Prairie Grass is regarded as an environmental weed in Australia. It can take over an area and out-compete native ground layer plants, inhibiting natural regeneration in bushland. This makes it very important for us to control this weed and stop it from dominating suitable habitats in our bushland reserves.

Control: So, what to do? Prairie Grass is not native to North Sydney and plants found in bushland or natural areas are treated as weeds and removed. The shallow fibrous root system makes this grass very easy to remove either by hand or using a knife to crown around the base. Spot spraying the grass can be efficient when there is no seed present and in areas where there will be no effect on native plants. Even just removing the seeds will help break the weed-seed cycle.

Larissa Kabakov - Adopt-a-Plot Supervisor

FURTHER READING

- Weeds of Australia - *Bromus catharticus* (lucidcentral.org)
- PlantNET – FloraOnline (*Bromus catharticus*)
- Factsheet - *Bromus catharticus* (lucidcentral.org)
- Wolff, M.A. (2011). *The Weed Book* – Identifying and removing weeds and introduced species from your garden

BUSHCARE EVENTS CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **Introduction to Wildlife Watch** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 2 **Growing Native Wildflowers** | Saturday 9am to 12pm
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov/bushcareevents
- 3 **Living with Trees** | Sunday 9am to 10.30am
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov/bushcareevents
- 4 **Illawarra Grevillea Gardens Visit** | Monday 8am to 4pm
- 6 **Lane Cove Bush Kids - Wattle it Bee** | Wednesday 9.45am to 11.15am
Bookings: www.lanecove.nsw.gov/bushcareevents
- 10 **Introduction to Bushcare Training** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
By invitation, contact the Bushcare Officer for further information 9936 8258
- 13 **Introduction to Bushcare Training** | Wednesday 10am to 1pm
By invitation, contact the Bushcare Officer for further information 9936 8258
- 16 **Composting with Weeds** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 23 **Community Nursery Open Day** | Saturday 9am to 12pm

- 26 **Family Bush Walk – Berry Island** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 27 **Family Kayak** | Wednesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 28 **Family Spotlight Walk** | Thursday 5.30pm to 9pm

OCTOBER

- 7 **Seed Propagation Workshop** | Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm
- 8 **Wildlife Watch Walk and Talk** | Sunday 7.30am to 11am
- 28 **Bushcare Visit - Scyeville NP** | Saturday 8am to 4pm

NOVEMBER

- 11 **Weed Recognition & Control** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 12 **Floating Landcare - Hungry Beach** | Sunday 7am to 4pm

DECEMBER

- 10 **Bushcare Volunteer Christmas Party** | Sunday 5pm to 8pm
By invitation, contact the Bushcare Officer for further information 9936 8258

The Bushland team runs several corporate volunteer activities throughout the year which assist with weeding, planting, stabilising slopes, litter collection and hazard reduction for bushfire protection.

The latest group were from Penguin Random House, a local publishing company consisted of 13 eager and willing volunteers who came to Fred Hutley Reserve in Cammeray on 27 July 2023 to assist with fuel hazard reduction, woody weed, and vine removal, mulching for weed suppression and supplementary planting of local native shrubs.

Approximately half a ton of ground and aerial fuels were removed from the reserve and 40 local shrubs were planted to replace structure and diversity for the animals that frequent the area.

The day finished with a delicious spread of food including cheese, fruit, and crackers.



Caption: Penguin Random House corporate volunteers at Fred Hutley Reserve, Cammeray 27 July 2023

by Tristram Thomas - Bush Regeneration Team Leader

Heather Curdie, the coordinator for Penguin Random House corporate volunteer group said

“Thanks again to Tristram and his wonderful team for hosting the day – it really was so good to be involved in a variety of work that’s involved in 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.

Would you like the newsletter emailed to you instead? www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/subscribe