



# NEWSLETTER

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



## B U S H C A R E

WINTER 2024 – ISSUE 62

### COORDINATOR'S UPDATE

by Gareth Debney  
Bushland Management Coordinator



Caption: (L to R) Petros Nikoloudis, Dick Gall, Sissi Stewart (holding the Living Legend Award), Michelle Rose and Chloe Mason at Primrose Park Bushcare site on 21 April 2024 by Andrew Scott

On Friday 19 April, Council hosted the 2024 North Sydney Community Awards. Among many wonderful members of the community who were recognised, it was great to see our very own Ishnika Lokuge, a Wenona secondary student, win the Next Generation Award for her Bushcare volunteering. Ishnika has continued well beyond her original commitment as part of the Duke of Edinburgh program, and has inspired her mother and younger sister to join as well.

Ted Greenaway, an 11-year-old from Cammeray, also won the Next Generation Award. Ted has worked with both the Bushland and Streets Alive teams to install nestboxes near his home, and to plant a native habitat garden for local wildlife.

Primrose Park Bushcare volunteer Sissi Stewart received the Living Legend Award for her long-term dedication to North Sydney's Building Bridges to Boorowa (BB2B) project. Running since 2000, BB2B is a unique environmental partnership between North Sydney Council, Boorowa Community Landcare

Group, and Hilltops Council. Volunteers from Sydney spend a weekend planting native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers on local farms, helping to combat erosion, salinity, habitat loss and fragmentation. Sissi has been involved in the project from the beginning and has attended nearly every year since, braving the ever-variable weather conditions while being an unfailingly positive and encouraging member of the team.

The Bushland team and 33 volunteers recently travelled to Boorowa for our 25<sup>th</sup> annual trip. The balmy conditions, combined with well-prepared planting sites, allowed us to plant just over 5,000 locally native trees and shrubs across three properties. Look out for a more detailed update in the spring newsletter. In recognition of BB2B's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Council submitted the project in the Community Partnerships category of the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards. Much to our delight, the project was shortlisted. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in June, which several BB2B volunteers and members of the Bushland team will

attend – hopefully, we will be successful!

Council's fire management capability has been boosted, as all members of the Bush Regeneration team undertook Basic Firefighter training over four days at the Coal Loader. This qualification is essential for staff involved in managed or hazard reduction burning. We hope the soggy weather conditions of the past few years will clear up so we can reimplement the managed burn program outlined in our Bushland Rehabilitation Plans 2019-2029.

Recent sightings of Powerful Owls (*Ninox strenua*) in Cremorne, Cammeray, and Waverton remind us how fortunate we are to have Australia's largest nocturnal bird of prey, which is listed as 'vulnerable' under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act, maintaining a stable population in our challenging urban environment. Powerful Owls are a striking sight, especially when observed clutching one of their favourite prey animals, such as a Grey-headed Flying-fox; Eastern Ringtail Possum or Brush Turkey in those massive claws. Last year, it was fantastic to see



a Powerful Owl pair successfully fledge their young owlet in Wollstonecraft. Apart from habitat loss, one of the main threats Powerful Owls face is vehicle strike. Adopt-a-Plot participant David Field captured footage recently of a disoriented Powerful Owl standing for several minutes in the middle of Kareela

Road, Cremorne Point. Thankfully, the owl soon gathered its senses and took to the sky before any drivers passed by.

Lastly, I'd like to introduce our new Service Unit Manager for the Community Resilience and Sustainability section of Council (which includes the Bushland

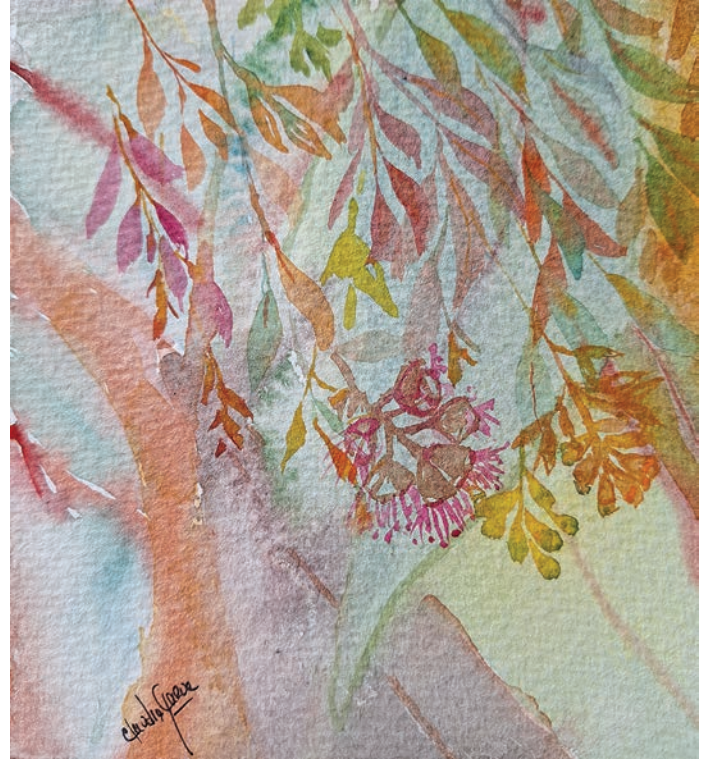
team). Previously with Inner West Council, Gabrielle Rennard has a wealth of experience managing volunteer and community support programs. Welcome aboard Gabby – we look forward to showing you around North Sydney's bushland reserves and sharing a morning tea with our amazing Bushcarers!

## Eucalypt Walk and Talk Review

A group of keen participants gathered in fine weather at the Coal Loader for a Eucalyptus Walk and Talk facilitated by Paul Gadsby, environmental scientist and self-confessed Eucalyptus nerd. He began with an engaging overview of the eucalypt family and its main distinguishing features of fruit (or gum nuts), leaf shape and growth habit, and bark type. Using these, he demonstrated how to distinguish between the three genera now recognised – Eucalyptus, Corymbia and Angophora. If the leaves are opposite you have an Angophora; if they grow alternately on the stem it will be either a Eucalyptus or Corymbia. To distinguish between these two genera take a look at the fruit shape – are they shaped like an urn, that is with an indent before swelling back out to the rim? Then you likely have a Corymbia species. If they range from a cup to pear or egg shape then they are one of the 1000+ Eucalyptus species! From here, identifying individual species becomes a combination of fruit characteristics; leaf shape and colour (and sometimes smell); bark type; inflorescence (the way individual fruit are grouped and grow from the stem); overall tree height and shape; and then some local knowledge of the location, soil type, and endemic species.

Paul produced specimen boxes for each participant, and a dozen labelled paper bags, each filled with the fruit of a specific species. From these, we made up our own labelled collection, a great way for us to look back and remember what we had learned.

The last part of the day was a most enjoyable and informative walk with Paul around Balls Head, ably shepherded by Tom Windon from Council's Bushland team. Together they pointed out the various species of endemic Angophora and Eucalyptus growing in the reserve, as well as some of the introduced Eucalyptus species planted in less informed times. We observed features such as the fruit, leaves and bark, and



Caption: Watercolour by Claudia Garcia, local artist and Eucalypt Walk and Talk participant

tried to identify at least the genera. *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum) was the easiest to identify by its beautiful, mottled grey and pink bark and convoluted branches, with opposite leaves and deeply ridged fruit the decider. We also identified several Eucalyptus species including *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt), *Eucalyptus piperata* (Sydney Peppermint), and *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum).

by Ruth Mitchell – Bushcare Volunteer

## TALKING BUSHCARE HISTORY AT U3A

On Tuesday 23 April, I co-presented a talk on the evolution of bush regeneration along with Yolande Stone, Vice President of Mosman Parks and Bushland Association, for the University of the Third Age (U3A) in the Sydney CBD.

Yolande spoke about how sisters Joan and Eileen Bradley developed their approach to bush regeneration in the

mid-1960s – the inception of the local Bushcare movement. Mosman Parks and Bushland Association was established around the same time to advocate for the protection and conservation of local bushland.

Continuing the story of the evolution of bush regeneration, I spoke about the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR), which was set up in the mid-1980s to protect Australia's natural environment through ecologically sound management and repair of ecosystems, and its AABR Accreditation

program for bush regenerators.

I finished by telling attendees about how North Sydney Council's Bushcare program was formalised in the early 1990s, and how we are now supported by more than 100 volunteers helping to regenerate local bushland reserves.

U3A is an international education movement for those in their third 'age' of life (over 50s and not working full time). Many thanks to Vicky Moss of U3A – Sydney Inner West Region for being a great host.

by Andrew Scott – Bushcare Officer



# WILDLIFE WATCH UPDATE (MARCH TO MAY 2024)

The bouts of rain then the beautiful sunshine we had over autumn helped many living things flourish! Moments of downpours also left some creatures wanting to seek a retreat from the rain, including a Brush Turkey spending time at the door of the Bushcare nursery office and a mother Ringtail Possum with young hiding in a native balcony garden, where they could keep dry, before returning to their drey in a nearby Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp.*) tree.

After the downpours, many lizards sought to warm themselves in the sun. The Gecko pictured right, however, is nocturnal and likes to hide away during the day, as it would make an otherwise tasty treat for a Kookaburra! A dead Red-bellied Black Snake was found on the road... and a European Red Fox crossing one. A Tawny Frogmouth swooped down to catch an invertebrate in a car's headlights and a bold Powerful Owl made a surprise, up-close appearance on a Family Spotlight Walk at Balls Head.

Autumn 2024 sightings included:

- **Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko** (Cremorne) sheltering in a storage room during the midday sun, noted eating cockroaches at night.
- **Eastern Great Egret** (Primrose Park) foraging on the sandbank.
- **Green Tree Snake** (Camberay urban) popping its head out of a crack in a cement wall.
- **Eastern Ringtail Possum** (Wollstonecraft) mother and her adolescent twins seeking shelter on a native balcony garden during heavy rain.
- **Powerful Owl** (Cremorne urban, Tunks Park, Balls Head Reserve) sitting on the road momentarily looking around, sheltering in dense understorey during the day, sitting in a tree being observed by fascinated bushwalkers... and another in a sparse rough-barked gum tree holding the remains of a Grey-headed Flying-fox and being harassed by twelve Pied Currawongs and eight Noisy Miners swooping at it and calling non-stop (the owl made bleating calls in return).
- **Long-nosed Bandicoot** (Camberay urban) eating invertebrates in the lawn.
- **Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard** (Wollstonecraft) sunning itself on the lawn (looked pregnant).
- **Eastern Whipbird** (Camberay urban) calling just outside of Tunks Park.
- **European Red Fox** (Cremorne) walking across a road.
- **Tawny Frogmouth** (Cremorne Reserve, Cremorne urban) resting in a tree during the day, swooping in front of a car to catch an invertebrate at night.
- **Brush Turkey** (Cremorne urban) juvenile exploring the garden.
- **Red-bellied Black Snake** (Waverton urban) found dead on the road under the railway bridge.
- **Teddy Bear Bee** (Kirribilli) feeding on *Salvia* flowers.
- **Long-tailed Pea-blue Butterfly** (Cremorne urban) resting in a vegetable garden.
- **Tiger Moth** (Kirribilli).
- **White-faced Heron** (Anderson Park, Cremorne Point) foraging at the mouth of the waterway, hunting on the edge of the lawn in a garden (met by a Brush Turkey who kept walking by).
- **Variegated Fairy-wren** (Cremorne Point Reserve).
- **Leaden Flycatcher** (Primrose Park) female fluttering around catching insects in bushes and on the grass.
- **Red-browed Finch** (Badangi Reserve).
- **Golden Whistler** (Primrose Park).
- **Grey Fantail** (Badangi Reserve) heard calling.
- **Crested Tern** (Coal Loader Wharf, Cremorne Point).
- **Rakali** (Flat Rock Creek, Primrose Park) footprints seen on the beach and on mudflats.
- **Haswell's Shore Crab** (Balls Head Reserve) feeding under a rock shelf.
- **Black Prince Cicada** (Neutral Bay urban) on a tile floor.
- **Fig-leaf Moth** (Cremorne urban) in a stairwell.



Caption: Southern Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Phyllurus platurus*) by Evelyn Pravaz..

Please send in your wildlife sightings and stories for our next newsletter. You can contribute through the Biocollect website or by contacting us at Council. For a full list of species, go to [www.ala.org.au/biocollect](http://www.ala.org.au/biocollect) and, under Citizen Science Projects, search for NSC Wildlife Watch.

Find out more about the program at [northsydney.nsw.gov.au/WildlifeWatch](http://northsydney.nsw.gov.au/WildlifeWatch) or contact Council's Bushland Project Officer on 9936 8100 or by email [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

by Karina Hanemann - Bushland Projects Officer



# HOW COUNCIL PROTECTS OUR URBAN FOREST

## Urban Forest Strategy Update

by Jessica Karam  
Urban Forest Officer

From capturing air pollution and cooling the city to encouraging outdoor activity and improving mental health, our urban forest has many benefits. Council is always looking for ways to preserve and grow our tree population, and to raise awareness and appreciation of why we need a healthy urban forest.

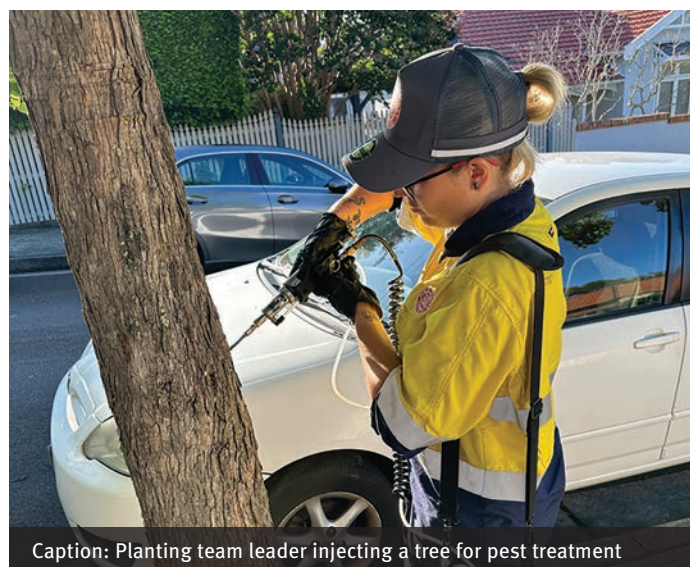
Our **Trees for Newborns** program began in July 2023, aiming to increase the tree canopy on private land by giving residents trees to plant on their properties to commemorate the births of their children or grandchildren.



One way we contribute to the **protection of trees** is through improving legislative controls.

We reduced the height for which you need a permit to remove or prune a tree, from 10 to 5 metres, in the North Sydney Council Development Control Plan in 2020.

We're now reviewing the Development Control Plan again to strengthen the legislation that protects trees from urban developments and vandalism.



Caption: Planting team leader injecting a tree for pest treatment

Maintenance of our urban forest helps to maximise trees' benefits and longevity. Trees in parks and on roadsides are watered on a schedule, treated for infections when needed, and pruned according to Australian standards.



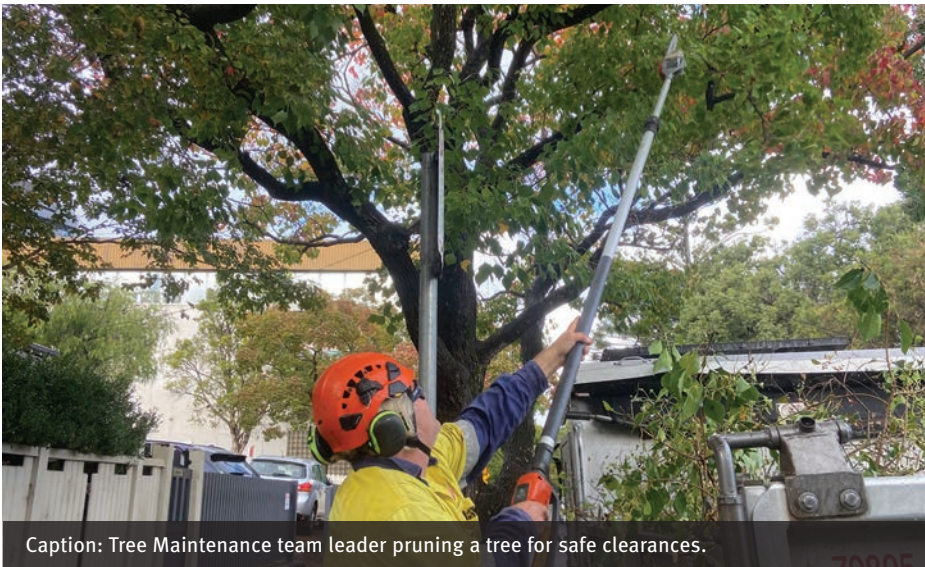
Caption: Planting team after planting a tree at the park.

Caption: Residents participating in the Trees for Newborns program



**Tree planting** is another major task. The Urban Forest team plants at least 350 trees each year to replace dead, dying or ageing trees.





Caption: Tree Maintenance team leader pruning a tree for safe clearances.

**Monitoring of the urban forest** is an ongoing job. Consultant arborists do a tree audit every five years to visually evaluate the health, condition and valuation of our street trees.

An environmental consultancy assesses the canopy cover every two years using remote sensing techniques. Images are captured by airplane and the collected data is analysed to understand the state of canopy cover around the LGA (see Table 1), ‘urban heat island’ areas, the health of vegetation, and how all of this is changing over the years.

North Sydney’s overall canopy cover steadily declined from 34% in 2008 to 25% in 2022, despite efforts to preserve the urban forest. Several factors contributed to this decline, including a trend for paved outdoor areas, urban consolidation, and changes to laws allowing tree removal without replacement.

Whole LGA		% of NSC LGA land area	Target cover Based on industry best practice	1997	2001	2008	2014	2017	2020	2022	Canopy loss since 2008
				%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	Overall Canopy Cover	100	34.4	19	24	33.9	30.7	28.2	27	24.9	9 (26%)

Table 1. Canopy cover in North Sydney LGA, 1997 to 2022

Major state government infrastructure projects such as the B-line, Sydney Metro stations, and the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade (WHT/WFU) further impact canopy cover.

During the construction of Metro stations, 35 trees were removed. Sydney Metro is funding the planting of 121 new trees, promising a future net increase in canopy cover. Council will plant 59 of these trees on Crows Nest roadsides.

It is predicted 3,000 mature trees will be removed by the end of the much larger WHT/WFU works. A draft tree replacement program proposes replacing the trees at a 2:1 ratio – this would mean planting 6,000 trees, prioritising the area within 500m of the project’s boundaries.

Council and the community are concerned about the feasibility of accommodating such a large number of trees in our compact urban LGA. The reality that newly planted trees take 20 to 30 years to reach full maturity adds to the challenge ahead.

For an in-depth look at how our urban forest is tracking and how we can make the most of its benefits, given the challenges we are facing, join our upcoming Urban Forest Strategy Webinar on Thursday 22 August, from 6.30pm to 8pm. The session will also include a talk about Council’s Native Havens program.

Book online: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/UrbanForest](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/UrbanForest)

# HAVE YOUR SAY ON NORTH SYDNEY’S NEXT TEN YEARS

For the past month, Council has been seeking the community’s feedback on all aspects of North Sydney’s future through a series of discussion papers, surveys and events.

There’s still time to make sure your voice is heard before this opportunity to have your say closes on Sunday 23 June.

We need your feedback to help us collectively explore the shared challenges and opportunities we are facing. For example, how can we make best use of our open space for the benefit of different groups? How do we nurture social inclusion and belonging in our community?

Have your say on Open Space and Recreation, Social Inclusion and more at [yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

# FERN SPOTTING

in North Sydney

by Lauren Walker  
Bush Regenerator

Ferns are among some of the most unique and intriguing plants around today. Their kingdom and many of their overall features first appeared in the Devonian period, almost 360 million years ago. Ferns have a very primitive form in that they don't produce flowers – they simply form spores on the undersides of their fronds. The spores drop around the parent plant and are spread by wind, water, animals and gravity. These plants provide a diverse selection of habitats for invertebrates, birds and mammals in various ecosystems. They fill every niche, from the smallest groundcover, to reaching up among the midstory and canopy.

Although not primarily known for ferns, Australia is host to a variety of species. Most are distributed on the east coast, concentrated in the rainforest and gully areas of Queensland and New South Wales. Many North Sydney reserves capture pockets of just the right kind of humidity and moisture to allow various species of ferns to thrive, though identifying between them can be tough!

## BRACKEN FERN (*Pteridium esculentum*)



Caption: Bracken Fern, taken 30 April 2024 at Balls Head by Clare McElroy

One of the most widespread ferns in North Sydney and indeed across most of the country. It is well known for forming large dense colonies on forest edges and disturbed areas. Bracken Fern grows from a single stalk at a time and develops a thick leathery frond that feels tough and durable. It has compound leaves that branch twice off the main stalk, with each leaflet fusing more towards the tip. These ferns can be found in almost all North Sydney's reserves but feature most prominently at Badangi and Tunks Park.

## RASP FERN (*Doodia aspera*)



Caption: Rasp Fern, taken 8 March 2024 at Primrose Park by Lauren Walker

A raspy rough clumping ground fern of up to 40cm in diameter, widely known for its sandpaper texture. New growth often takes on a reddish hue, which can stand out from a distance. Slow growing, this fern – much like others of its kind – likes to sit in moist sheltered gullies among leaf litter. You may find this fern if you wander through parts of Primrose Park.

Reference:  
*Field Guide to the native plants of Sydney* by Les Robinson 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.  
*Australian Ferns and Fern Allies* by D.L.Jones and S.C.Clemesha  
*Encyclopaedia of Ferns* by David L.Jones

## SICKLE FERN (*Pellea falcata*)



Caption: Sickle Fern, taken 8 March 2024 at Balls Head Reserve by Lauren Walker

A thin erect fern growing up to 60cm tall in well drained forested areas, often forming large colonies on rocky or uneven ground. The Sickle Fern features alternate pinnae that are dark green, thick, and leathery to the touch. It may be mistaken for a weedy variety of fern (Fishbone Fern) due to its similar characteristics. This fern can be found around Brightmore Reserve and Primrose Park.

## FERN ID WALK AND TALK

Saturday 31 August | 10am to 1pm

Join the Bushland team for a guided walk around Primrose Park to learn about the great variety of native ferns found in the North Sydney Council area. Recommended for people aged 12 years plus. Wear shoes and sun protection.

Book online: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/FernID](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/FernID)



## ROCK FELT FERN (*Pyrrhosia rupestris*)



Caption: Rock Felt Fern in Primrose Park, taken 29 May 2024 by Andrew Scott

An intriguing-looking fern, the Rock Felt Fern features flat-form fronds that are simpler than those of most ferns, growing upwards from a trailing rhizome. It is a lithophyte – which means that it exclusively grows on rocks and rock faces. It is reasonably small; though it may trail a bit along the rocks, its fronds only grow up to 10cm long. It can be found in parts of Balls Head Reserve, Badangi Reserve and Primrose Park, but you must know where to look!

## NECKLACE FERN (*Asplenium flabellifolium*)



Caption: Necklace fern, taken 18 January 2023 at Balls Head by Lauren Walker

A small dainty strappy fern up to 20cm long, appearing on rock faces and ledges. These ferns have opposite pairs of small, light green fan-shaped fronds lining the stems, occasionally lined themselves with spores on the undersides. These Necklace Ferns are reasonably common in Balls Head and Badangi Reserve but may be difficult to spot due to their preferred habitat and size.

## HARSH GROUND FERN (*Hypolepis muelleri*)



Caption: Harsh Ground Fern, taken 19 March 2024 at Brightmore Reserve by Lauren Walker

Harsh Ground Ferns are also widespread. These ferns are most commonly found in dense colonies with many crisscrossing trails of rhizomes, that can give rise to many fronds in a small area. Their fronds can reach 1.5m tall, with a dark to light green compound leaves that branch three times off the main stalk. Their leaflets are much less harsh to the touch than the plant's name suggests. The harsh ground fern appears across parts of Primrose Park, Brightmore Reserve, and sections of Badangi Reserve.

## FALSE BRACKEN FERN (*Calochlaena dubia*)



Caption: False Bracken Fern, taken 12 October 2023 at Badangi Reserve by Lauren Walker

Not to be mistaken for 'true' Bracken, False Bracken Fern is much less widespread and well known. Rather than forming colonies of any density, these ferns grow opportunistically in whatever gaps they can find. They grow on a single stalk up to 1.5m high and grow long, light green, and lacy. They have compound leaves that branch three times off the main stalk and are fine and soft to the touch. False Bracken may grow taller on average than Bracken Fern and with a longer frond length overall. These ferns can be found in odd pockets in a variety of reserves including Tunks Park, Badangi Reserve and Balls Head Reserve.

## ELKHORN FERN (*Platycerum bifurcatum*)



Caption: Elkhorn Fern in Primrose Park, taken 29 May 2024 by Andrew Scott

Elkhorn Fern is unique and intriguing among those found in North Sydney. They are epiphytic, which means rather than growing on the ground, they prefer to grow on trees. They grow from a basal point that connects to the tree but doesn't parasitize it. The fern then grows strangely leaflike fronds up to 30cm long that branch to look like horns as they curl downwards from the base. The overall impression resembles a peculiar green leafy bowl or nest attached to the side of a tree. These ferns aren't too common in the North Sydney area, with a few to be found in the more gully-like areas of Badangi Reserve, Primrose Park and Balls Head Reserve.

## ROUGH TREE FERN (*Cyathea australis*)



Caption: Rough Tree Fern, taken 28 March 2024 at Cremorne Point by Lauren Walker

The taller of the two tree ferns found local to North Sydney, the Rough Tree Fern can be 2.5 to 6m high. It features rough bark on a slim stalk, most of which is taken up by signature dollar markings. These strange oval-shaped marks are left by fronds that have either fallen or died off over the years, peeling away fully to leave behind a scar where their base once was. The fronds themselves are large and rough at the base with feathery-feeling pinnae along the length. This tree fern is common in gully-like reserves such as Cremorne Point, Primrose Park and Tunks Park.



# BUSHCARE EVENTS CALENDAR

Bookings must be made for all events at: [www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare) or 9936 8100 unless otherwise stated.

## JUNE

- 13 **Fungi and Tree Health webinar** | Thursday 6.30pm to 8pm  
[www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Canopy-of-Life-Tree-Festival](http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Canopy-of-Life-Tree-Festival)
- 22 **Weaving with Weeds** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 23 **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Cruise** | Sunday 10am to 1pm

## JULY

- 7 **Bush Walk - Balls Head** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
- 9 **Family Bush Walk - Berry Island** | Tuesday 10.30am to 12pm
- 11 **Spotlight Walk** | Thursday 5.30pm to 8.30pm
- 12 **Twitter Bingo** | Friday 10.30am to 12pm
- 26 **Schools Tree Day** | Friday
- 28 **National Tree Day** | Sunday 9.30am to 11am

## AUGUST

- 11 **Native Havens Garden Tour** | Sunday 9am to 1pm
- 17 **Nestbox Building Workshop** | Saturday 10am to 2pm
- 22 **Urban Forest Strategy Webinar** | Thursday 6.30pm to 8pm
- 31 **Fern ID Walk & Talk** | Saturday 10am to 1pm

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Introduction to Wildlife Watch** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
- 7 **Bushcare Stall – Produce Markets** | Saturday 8am to 12pm
- 8 **Bushcare Essentials Training** | Sunday 10am to 1pm
- 14 **Composting with Weeds** | Saturday 10am to 1pm
- 15 **Wildflower Walk – North Head** | Sunday 8am to 2pm
- 21 **Community Nursery Open Day** | Saturday 9am to 12pm

## BASIC FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

Council's Bushland team and staff from surrounding councils had the chance to take part in firefighter training at the Coal Loader in April. The four-day Basic Firefighter course, run by Fireground, consisted of three days of theory – learning about weather conditions, types of fire, fire behavior, safety and equipment, and radio communication – and one day in the field implementing containment rake hoe lines, using a drip torch, and working as a team to put out mock fires.



Caption: The Bushland team using the hose on the Cat 1 fire truck.

While the Bushland team won't be fighting any wildfires, completing the course means we are now able to participate alongside Fire Rescue NSW in some long-awaited prescribed burns in some of our bushland reserves. Prescribed burns are an essential tool for the regeneration of bushland.

On the last day, the team met at Balls Head Reserve to put some of the skills they learned in the classroom into practice. We created a control line to mineral earth and, more importantly, used the fire trucks. Ku-ring-gai Council generously provided a Cat 1, which carries water and all the different types of hoses, personal protective equipment, and other equipment on board. Fireground trainers Russ and Damo also provided a Cat 9, a smaller truck with smaller water capacity, but able to travel over less accessible terrain.

by Tom Windon – Bush Regenerator

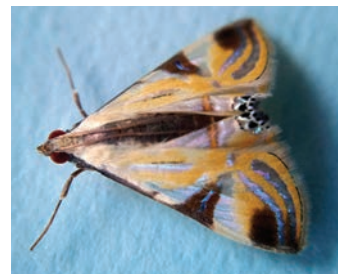
## FIG-LEAF MOTH PROFILE

This Fig-leaf Moth (*Talanga tolumnialis*) was found in Neutral Bay. The caterpillars of this moth feed on the young leaves and shoots of native and cultivated figs.

At first sight, the Fig-leaf Moth looks like a small pale brown moth (its wingspan is just 3cm) with dark spots on the outer edge of the wing. But if you look closer with a macro lens or a magnifying glass, you can see beautiful iridescent stripes and spots.

Fig-leaf Moths have been recorded in Papua New Guinea, the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales. There are 817 records of this moth in the Atlas of Living Australia, but this is only the second record for the North Sydney LGA. The first record was made by a Wildlife Watch volunteer who found one on the Harbour Bridge in 2018.

It's always worth having a closer look at little brown moths. Sometimes, they are amazing.



Caption: Fig-leaf Moth by Anne Pickles

by Anne Pickles – Wildlife Watch Volunteer



Did you know North Sydney Council Bushcare has a Facebook page? Like us at [www.facebook.com/bushcare](http://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](http://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/bushcare](http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/bushcare)**