

THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

JULY 2024 - ISSUE 68



SOUTHERN WOODSHIRE

Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

JULY

10, 18 & 24 Nursery propagation

3 Aboriginal bushfood walk

10 Aboriginal bushfood walk

11 Scamper through the jungle

18 Junior birding

24 LHCA walk

26 Nursery gardening group

28 Treeday

31 Bush Whackers

AUGUST

14, 15 & 28 Nursery propagation

7 Aboriginal bushfood walk

10 Natural Dyeing

22 Bird spotting walk

23 Nursery gardening group

25 Bonnet Bay Wildflower Walk

SEPTEMBER

11, 19 & 25 Nursery propagation

4 Working with woody weeds

10 Bird spotting walk

15 The Bushcare Fair

19 Bird spotting walk

27 Nursery gardening group

Cover image - epicormic growth after a fire
- Nathan Clare



Norm Dixon Reserve - SSC

Bushcare update

By Jason Salmon - Team Leader Bushcare

Bushcare, it's more than just pulling weeds, it's events, activities, learning, connecting and more...more... morning teas! Welcome to the July edition of the Bushcare Bulletin.

The Bushland Unit has been very busy on all sorts of programs and projects, all with the same end result in mind - protecting and preserving the natural areas of Sutherland Shire. Some staff have been busy using regular rain days to prepare the next round of Watercourse Rehabilitation Program projects. This program has a considerable budget to undertake environmental restoration works in creeks and drainage lines across the Sutherland LGA. It allows Council to engage bush regeneration contractors to work in areas often well beyond the reach of the Bushcare Program and our wonderful Bushcare Volunteers.

The federally funded Saving Koalas Fund Community Grants round 2 project is progressing well. So far, 50 interpretive signs have been installed, at entry points in locations all through the Woronora River Valley and several hundred hours of bush regeneration work has been undertaken by contractors in Engadine and Woronora Heights. Over 300m of wallaby-proof fencing has been installed at Lucas Heights Conservation Area prior to the planting of 2000 koala food and habitat trees and groundcovers. This project will continue through to June 2025.

As usual we have lots of events and activities coming up. There is literally something for everyone, if you're not into dyeing (who is!) you can up-skill your botany with botanist Dan Clarke who will be guiding three walks this quarter including the Bonnet Bay Wildflower walk in August. Bushcare Officer Bradley van Luyt will be making useless privet useful and all the Bushcare staff will be bringing the biennial Bushcare Fair to Parc Menai in September once again.

On behalf of the Bushland Nursery Unit I would also like to fair well our Natural Areas trainee Eli Ireland who will be finishing up in July to start a Bachelor of Marine Studies at Wollongong University

In another farewell and recognition of the highest order, Norm Dixon Reserve in Woronora was officially proclaimed in May 2024. Norm, alongside his wife Betty were Bushcare champions in the Woronora Valley for over three decades. The reserve is located at the junction of The Crescent and Prince Edward Park Road and is adjacent to The Crescent Bushcare Group where Norm and Betty volunteered.

Joseph Banks Native Gardens Spotlighting

By Grace Lonergan - Bushcare Officer

Joseph Banks Native Plant Gardens at Kareela is a hidden gem for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts. While the gardens are renowned for their diverse array of native plants, it also offers a unique opportunity to spot some amazing Australian native animals.

It was a balmy autumn night at the gardens, the sun setting over the trees, giving way to a bright full moon. A group of 20 wildlife enthusiasts gathered at the entrance, ready to embark on a unique adventure. Led by Ricki Coughlan, a renowned wildlife expert, the spotlighting tour promised to reveal the nocturnal creatures.

As we set out into the darkness, Ricki's enthusiasm and knowledge instantly set the mood for a fantastic adventure. Armed with powerful torches, we ventured into the gardens, our eyes scanning the shadows for any sign of movement. The air was filled with the scent of possums and the sound of crickets and frogs, setting the tone for an eventful night.

Ricki's expertise shone, as she spotted creatures that would have gone unnoticed by the untrained eye. We saw a ringtail possum peering down at us from a hollow in a flooded gum, it watched us inquisitively. We also spotted two species of frog, striped marsh frog and Peron's tree frog, two huntsman spiders, great grey slugs, a roost of noisy miner birds and a loud screeching colony of bats flying above the bright night sky.

We explored different habitats the gardens have to offer such as the fern garden, silver garden, bush tucker garden and the native bushland, each teeming with unique wildlife. The spotlighting tour was not just a thrilling experience but also an educational experience, leaving us with a deeper appreciation for our natural world. It is so important for us to protect and promote the importance of conservation in urban areas. Without these green spaces, we risk losing flora and fauna alike.

If you're a wildlife enthusiast or simply looking for a unique experience, Sutherland Shire Council Bushcare will be holding more spotlighting events later on in the year, so keep an eye for our next one.



Tawny Frogmouth - Bill Howse

Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch!

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

On 18th April we hosted renowned weed forager Diego Bonetto for another weedy walk along Forbes Creek at Engadine.

It was a glorious day with lots of sunshine and no need for the heavy raincoat I had in my day-pack. I'm no meteorologist...

We had quite the crowd gather on Burraddar Ave with over 20 walkers of all ages coming along to listen, learn and maybe lunch. This latest weedy walk occurred during school holidays, so we had more young folk along than usual. Maybe they don't eat their greens at home but they had the chance to get them extra fresh this time at Forbes Creek.

The menu included cat's ear (furry and bitter, like most cats really), dandelions (of course! A foraging staple), chickweed (extra fresh and green), oxalis or wood sorrel (tangy and sour. Good with fish) and even turkey rhubarb (leaves edible and sour like sorrel. DON'T EAT THE TUBER!!). Many of our new weedy walkers are not horticulturalists, so Diego has some great ways to explain and describe the plants that we were foraging. For chickweed he says to look for the single row of fine hairs along the stem, "Like a cockscomb" and when the stem is pulled apart gently the inner stem is revealed intact looking like a bone in a leg "like a chicken bone". The chicken-based analogies seem quite appropriate for chickweed.

Diego has some very valuable advice on foraging, suggesting that one shouldn't harvest if you don't know if an area has been sprayed or not, start in your own garden because in your garden you know where the dog has been and my favourite "if it looks like a stick, it probably tastes like a stick"

It wasn't only tucker that we had a look at. Diego showed us that much maligned weed of wasteland Fleabane and talked about how its insect repellent properties encouraged its use around the home and supposedly helped to keep away the fleas that carried plague. How about that?!?

Up the creek and down again without a paddle but plenty of weeds our walk culminated with Diego laying out his harvest on a rock and going over them again, answering a few questions and promoting his book (it's a beauty. Buy one!).

As Bushcare events go it was a pretty good one. A nice mob of people, a pleasant wander about in the sunshine and all the weeds you could eat. Sounds like a free lunch to me!

If you missed out on Diego's weedy wander you'll get the chance to do it when we welcome him again at our Bushcare Fair at Parc Menai on 16th September 2024. I hope we'll have enough weeds left for him!



Foraging group - Bradley van Luyt

Nursery seed wish list

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

The nursery is always in need of fresh seed. We have a great seed bank and an even better data base of where and when seed is collected. With our monthly calendar showing what to target each month, our seed stocktake shows us what seed the nursery is in particular need of or getting low in. Over the next few months, keep an eye out on site for the following species.

July will have one of the nurseries most popular species, *Acmena smithii* ‘minor’ ready for collection. Another species to look out for in July is *Callitris rhomboidea*.

August is a good month to look out for *Crowea saligna* and *Lomatia myricoides*.

In September be on the look for *Olearia microphylla* and *Olearia tomentosa*.

Although these next few months are limited for collecting specific species, it is a perfect opportunity to keep an eye out for seed that can be collected all year round. The following species are all in need of collection; *Banksia marginata*, *B. robur* and *B. spinulosa*. *Callistemon linearifolia*, *C. pinifolius* and *C. subulatus*. *Hakea dactyloides* and *H. salicifolia*. *Leptospermum juniperium*, *L. lanigerum* and *L. trinervium*. *Melaleuca ericifolia*, *M. linarifolia*, *M. nodosa*, *M. squamea* and *M. squarrosa*. The nursery is getting quiet low on *Eucalyptus camfieldii*, *E. consideriana*, *E. eugenoides*, *E. longifolia*, *E. luehmanniana*, *E. oblonga*, *E. obstans*, *E. paniculata*, *E. racemosa*, *E. robusta* and *E. sieberi* to name a few. In saying that, Eucalypts can be a tricky one to collect, so take advantage of any low hanging or fallen branches of any species.

Happy collecting and as always, check with your Bushcare Officer before collecting and always stick to collecting guideline of 10% off each plant.



Olearia tomentosa - Emma Brame



Banksia ericifolia - Emma Brame



Hakea salicifolia
subsp. *salicifolia*

Hakea salicifolia seed
- Emma Brame



Eucalyptus
camfieldii

Eucalyptus camfieldii seed
- Emma Brame



Olearia tomentosa

Olearia tomentosa seed
- Emma Brame

Cat's claw creeper - *Dolichandra unguis-cati*

By Chris Banks - Invasive Species Officer

Cat's claw creeper is a native of tropical to moist temperate climates of Central and South America and the West Indies. This plant is listed as a Key Threatening Process within NSW due to its potential impact upon endangered and vulnerable plants and Endangered Ecological Communities, specifically Lowland Subtropical Rainforest. This plant was introduced into Australia as an ornamental climber about 50 years ago but like any good weed it took advantage of the favourable conditions of its new found home and escaped into surrounding bushland and beyond. Within NSW its distribution is restricted to eastern NSW, ranging from the NSW/QLD border south to Batemans Bay. It is also established as a weed in QLD and recorded as a rare garden escape in Victoria. Within the Sutherland Shire Council area, this weed tends to be sparsely scattered with thankfully no known large infestations detected.

It's easy to see how cat's claw has become such a problematic and damaging weed of riparian areas north of Sydney, where climatic conditions more closely mirror that of its native environs. Growing as a woody vine, cat's claw creeper can climb to 30m over trees, smothering and killing them by restricting access to light and strangling growth. This impressive vertical growth is achieved by a combination of 3-pronged claw structures which act like tendrils to grab and hold onto substrates, and roots arising along stems, similar to Ivy. The sheer weight of the vines have also been known to fell trees and snap branches. This dense aerial growth is matched on the ground where it can carpet an area and suppress the germination of native plants and smother existing ground vegetation. Fruit, in the form of an elongated bean or pod, can measure up to 50cm and develop in late summer, early autumn. Seeds within are numerous, their light, papery, winged form greatly enhancing the plant's ability to disperse via wind and elevation significant distances. Once established cat's claw creeper can be quite stubborn to remove and control due to the extensive network of roots and tubers.



In our favour, though, cat's claw creeper is easily identified by the bright yellow, trumpet shaped flowers produced in Spring. On closer inspection, the small "cat's claw" tendrils and elongated seed pods also make for easy confirmation.

From a biosecurity standpoint, Council and landowners have a duty to ensure this plant is prevented from spreading from their land and a requirement to mitigate the risks of introduction and establishment. In order to protect priority assets such as Endangered Ecological Communities, and eliminate the chances of further spread, it is illegal for persons to import cat's claw creeper into NSW.

Hopefully you will never cross paths with this climber but in any case, awareness

and familiarity are our greatest weapons in neutralising the damaging effects of weeds such as this, which pose a biosecurity risk. If you do spot a vine which matches this description, please take a photo or grab a sample and get in touch with the Bushland Unit to confirm identification.



Dolichandra unguis-cati seed - Chris Banks



Dolichandra unguis-cati leaves - Chris Banks

The Fray

Bushcare's Shire partners are active all year round and continue to host events. All welcome volunteers to help run the programs that help protect the Shire's natural areas. Contact the groups direct if you wish to find out more information or participate

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

(SUTHERLAND GROUP)

Sutherland APS group, meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7.00pm at the Gynea Community Centre, 39 Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland>

Website: <http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>

Contact Ralph Cartwright on 9548 1074



ROYAL NATIONAL PARK (FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL)

If you are interested in our program please contact Royal Area office on 9542 0632 or email: royal.nationalpark@environment.nsw.gov.au. For

more about Friends of Royal check their web page: www.friendsofroyal.org.au/

MENAI WILDFLOWER GROUP

Meetings and propagation workshops are held at the Illawong Fire Station. For activities check out our Website and Facebook page.

Website: www.menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au



BOTANY BAY BUSY BEES

The group meet and work on the mornings of the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month, excluding December & January, 9.00am to noon at various locations within the park. Habitats range from coastal heath to tall woodland.

Morning tea is provided and tools supplied. Call Kamay Botany Bay National Park to enquire: 9668 2010. The group meet at the visitors centre in the Park.



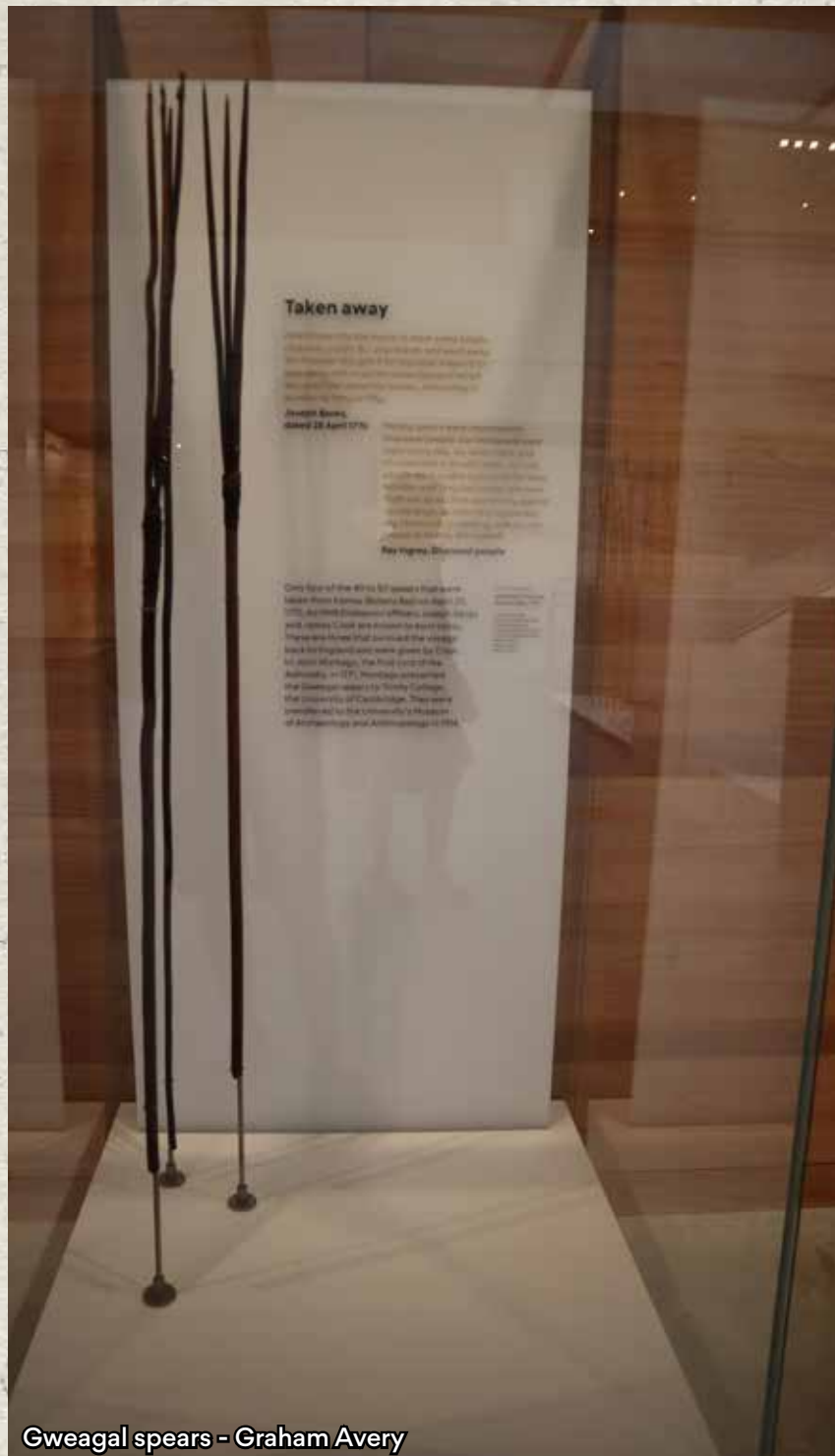
Dharawal Heritage Artefacts Returned to Australia

By Graham Avery - Natural Areas Aboriginal Heritage Officer

Gweagal Spears

The four Gweagal spears will be returned to Australia permanently from University of Cambridge in England after 254 years since 28 April 1770.

Noeleen Timbery, Chairperson of the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council, Ash Walker, Chairperson of the Gujaga Foundation Inc., and David Johnson, a young descendant of the Bidjigal, travelled to England to be on a reconciliation pathway with the University of Cambridge and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. They all agreed with repatriating the Gweagal spears back to Australia permanently. The spears arrived in Australia on the 4th of May 2024 at Sydney International Airport. The spears will be returned to Australia and cared for at the Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney until they can be showcased at a new visitor centre that's being built on country at Kurnell



Gweagal spears - Graham Avery

I believe the spears are made from Menai's grasstree - *Xanthorrhoea concava*, *X. media* or *X. resinosa* because those flowering stems are straighter than *Xanthorrhoea glauca* and *X. arborea* on the coast or estuarine.

Plant materials on the spears

The spears are 3 metres long, but the spears were cut to fit into the small Bark of Endeavour or put into the display in London.

The spears are made from grasstree - *Xanthorrhoea* species (*X. concava*, *X. resinosa*, *X. media*).

Resins are potentially from *Xanthorrhoea* species or *Acacia* species.

Ropes are potentially made from Stringybark - *Eucalyptus* sp. (inner bark), Illawarra flame tree - *Brachychiton* sp., brown Kurrajong - *Commersonia* sp., and native sedge - *Lepidosperma prospectum*.

Prongs are potentially made from *Eucalyptus* or *Acacia* species.

It will be interesting to make eight more replicas of those Gweagal spears for Aboriginal education in the Sutherland Shire, to those who are interested in Aboriginal heritage and native plants. This would provide more insight into how Aboriginal people lived in the bushland areas for 8,000 years during the Holocene period especially the Gweagal people.

Flowerpedia

By Cris Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader

Everyone has those books at home, that you don't look at often but when you do, it's brings memories back to you. One of the books I have was from an author talk I attended at Sutherland library quite a few years ago now. The book is titled Flowerpaedia by Cheralyn Darcey - published by Rockpool Publishing.

Cheralyn was an entertaining speaker, with a vast knowledge of the meanings of flowers stemming from a passion for nature, organic gardening, and the connections people have with plants.

The book is divided into several sections. Section one, lists an extensive A to Z list of meanings that you may wish to convey and the flowers that represent the message. For example, You are not alone- native nose, *Boronia serrulata*, Warning- firethorn, *Pyracantha coccinea*

Section two lists flowers alphabetically by their common name, and describes the emotions or messages that they represent.

Flannel flower, *Actinotus helianthi* - calm, healing, I'm sorry, I trust you, I want to be closer to you. Privet- *Ligustrum sinense* - defence, mildness, prohibition

Section three is where Cheralyn lists National flowers, Birthday flowers, Anniversary flowers and so much more. It is good to see that 4 out of the 12 listed are species of our local area. Australian flowers of the month.

January - billy buttons, *Pycnosorus globosus* - peace

february - blue gum flower, *Eucalyptus globulus* - healing, get well

March - orange Banksia, *Banksia ashbyi* - enthusiasm, education, learning

April - tea tree, *Leptospermum myrsinoides* - congratulations, good luck

May - Crowea, *Crowea exaltata* - possibilities, resolution

June - Geraldton wax, *Chamelaucium uncinatum* - assertiveness, independence

July - Gynea lily, *Doryanthes excelsa* - awareness, consequences

August - Waratah, *Telopea speciosissima* - survival, courage, bravery

September - golden wattle, *Acacia pycnantha* - joy, optimism

October - flannel flower, *Actinotus helianthi* - calm, healing

November - kangaroo paw, *Anigozanthos manglesii* - forgiveness, healing

December - rosella flower, *Hibiscus heterophyllus* - strength, opportunity.



Actinotus helianthi



Telopea speciosissima

What's growing at the nursery

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

As you may have read in previous articles, the nursery loves experimenting on introducing new species to the nursery's range. Every year sees a number of new species added to our propagation list and our availability list (which can be found online and updated every quarter). The past year has seen such species as, *Carex brunnea* Greater Brown Sedge, *Pallaea falcata* Sickle Fern, and thanks to nursery volunteer, George, *Bulbine bolbosa* Golden Lily added to the nursery's list, which is proving very popular with its beautiful golden yellow flower and succulent like leaves. To add to this, the nursery has been busy experimenting on new species, some of which are looking very promising in adding to our list. Here are just some of the species we very much hope to see added over the next year.

***Doodia caudata* - Small Rasp Fern**

Another successful fern species added to the increasing list of ferns grown by spores. Our first batch has been very successful and relatively fast for spore grown ferns. Compared to other fern species that can take up to 12-24 months, this species has taken seven months to reach tube stock size. As the common name suggest, it is smaller in size to the common Rasp fern *Doodia apera*, growing to around 30cm tall. Like most ferns, it prefers moist shade usually in open forest and along creek banks in sheltered positions.



***Cassina denticulate* - Stiff Cassinia**

This species seems to be a very straight forward propagating it from cuttings. Nearly a 100% strike rate from a small batch of cutting material has been tubed up and will likely be used as stock plants to take cuttings from. This will hopefully see a new coastal species added to our list. It is an erect shrub that can grow up to 2 meters tall. It has pale yellow flowers, similar to *Ozothamunus diosmifolius* Paper Daisy, from October to January. For the gardeners, this will make a great hedging plant.



***Comesperma ericinum* - Pink Matchheads**

I am really hoping to continue our success with this species. With its beautiful cluster of 'matchhead' pink-lilac flowers in spring, I am sure it will be a very popular plant in the nursery. Nursery staff are hoping seeds currently germinating continue growing and can eventually be used as stock plants for seed collection. To add to this, we have had limited success with cutting and have a new batch underway. Bushcare Officer, Grace, was fortunate to be the one to collect the seed and cutting material for nursery staff to experiment with and we are all watching this one in anticipation. It grows to approximately 1-1.5 metres tall and is found mostly in semi shaded positions in heath and woodlands with well drained soils.



***Persoonia laurina* subsp. *laurina* - Laurel Geebung**

This is a very exciting species to hopefully introduced permanently to the nursery. *Persoonia* species are notoriously hard to propagate, both by seed and cutting. The nursery has, however, had success with some of our local species and growing them from seed. It takes 18 months to grow to tube stock size. Cuttings have been tried but have not had good strike rates. But happy to say with this species, we have had luck with cuttings. A small amount of cutting material and to all of our surprise, struck roots quite easily and notably fast for this species. Again, the successful cuttings have been tubed up in hope to use them for stock plants for further cuttings and possible seed collection. *Persoonia laurina* is a small erect shrub, growing up to 1 meter tall. It has rusty yellow-coloured flowers in October to December followed by a drupe with a single seed in it. The leaves resemble laurel as the common name suggests.



Persoonia laurina subsp. *laurina* - Emma Brame



Bulbine bulbosa - Emma Brame

Bush Whackers at Albert De Lardes

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

It was the fifth Wednesday of the month and we headed out west for another great Bushwhackers morning. This time the irregular event was hosted by Sabrina Thompson and the volunteers at Albert de Lardes Reserve Illawong. Sabrina had been successful in securing some assistance from NSW Local Land Service to assist in the regeneration of this site and our event helped promote the cooperation between SSC and LLS

The weather was glorious and bode well for a nice morning of Bushcare. We had quite a crowd on the ground this time. All of the Bushcare Officers (of course. Some one has to make the morning tea) and our fearless Bushland Team Leader, Jason, our Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Graham Avery, the Bush Regen Team, both of our Invasive Pest Species Officers (acting) and we even had Caitlyn the work experience kid with us. As well as a plethora of SSC types we had a great volunteer turnout including the regular Albert De Lardes vollos. Twenty two pairs of hands were on the ground to help whack the bush at Albert D.

The day started with Graham doing an acknowledgment of country and smoking ceremony. We all walked through the fragrantly resinous smoke of the smouldering green eucalyptus leaves. The smoking ceremony is an Aboriginal belief that people can inhale smoke from the green eucalyptus or melaleuca leaves, and to get rid of bad spirits because of those leaves have anti-bacterial properties to treat bad infections. Similarly leaves can be crushed and the oil vapours inhaled through the nostrils to treat or clean "bad spirits" that are coughs, colds, influenza, and fevers. A bit like a Vicks inhaler without the plastic and artificial substances. A few of us have been coughing and spluttering of late so it probably did us a world of good.

Sabrina gave a brief intro and description of the day's work and then we got stuck in. In our sights were the Albert D big bad three: Asparagus, Mother of Millions and African Lovegrass. Ugh! So we'll be digging then? Yep. The morning resonated with dull thump thump of picks chopping into the ground as the Lovegrass and its incredibly tough and fibrous root system was slowly prized from its temporary home. Snip snip went numerous secateurs as long berry covered fronds were cut from the asparagus ferns and this was soon followed by more thump thump thumping as the crowns were



Graham preparing the smoking ceremony
- Grace Lonergan



Jason removing asparagus fern
- Grace Lonergan

wrenched out. Now and again an “ouch” was heard as a prickle made its way through a glove and there was also a bit of murmured cursing as millions of mothers of millions were exposed as other weeds were removed. Oh man!!!! Keep on digging, snipping and pulling.

Advances were made, some natives were found and then SMOKO!!!! That got people moving. Freshly brewed coffee, a big new teapot full of loose leaf tea and an array of sticky sweet things carefully cut up by Grace, taking time off from her job as site photographer. Morning tea in the sunshine is always a highlight of Bushwhackers.

As the last dregs of a hot brew were swilled back the crowd was assembled for a history walk and talk guided by Graham and one of volunteers Greg Jackson. Greg and his wife Pam are long time residents of the area and are accomplished archaeologists with a rich knowledge of the history of Albert De Lardes reserve. Graham spoke about the significance of the site to Aboriginals and showed the group some shell middens. Greg talked about European heritage on the site including the survey marker left by Major Thomas Mitchell where he landed, leading the first survey group across the Georges River in 1842.

Walking, talking and weeding continued until the pack up call was made. The last weeds were pulled (“I’ll just get this one and this one and this one”) then with various grunts groans white bags of weedy waste were slung over shoulders and we trudged out of the bush to Eli on the regen truck.

Phoof! Job done. Farewells were made “see ya at the next one” as we piled into the ute for the trip back to the nursery. Where to for the next one?

Bushwhackers is held on the fifth Wednesday of the month with our next one on Wednesday 31 July. Location tba, but I’m sure it’ll be weedy!

African lovegrass

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

During our recent Bushwhackers at Albert De Lardes Reserve Illawong we were up against a few different weeds. One was *Eragrostis curvula* or “African lovegrass” (called variously throughout the day as “a frickin’ lovegrass” or “I frickin’ love grass!”). It is from southern Africa so I can understand the African part of it’s common name but when you’ve been trying to dig this tough customer out all morning its hard to imagine why it is called lovegrass. I don’t think any of us have any kind of affection for the stuff.

The NSW Weedwise website <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/3> tells us this large tussock forming perennial was introduced accidentally prior to 1900 but has since been deliberately introduced for experiments. What was that experiment? How weedy will this get? Did we really need to know? It can get up to 1.2m high and can grow abundantly in dense banks. Despite its abundant foliage and plentiful seed (which can last up to 17 years in the soil might I add) African lovegrass is not very nutritious for livestock. Because of this it can take over pastures and disturbed areas. Where do we see it? Rarely do we see it in “good” bushland but certainly along roadside, and those disturbed edges of our sites. It’s hardy but we can kill it. It responds well to Glyphosate based herbicides but if your infestation isn’t too large digging it out is certainly a viable option. If there’s seed on it remove and bag it then with knife, pick, gyprock saw or hori-hori dig around the fibrous root mass and lift it out of the ground. I like to take all weed matter off site but you could leave it like mulch or hang it in the trees to dry and die as long as the seeds are off.

And why is it called lovegrass? It’s in the botanical name. The name of the genus is derived from the Greek words ἔρως (érōs), meaning “love”, and ἄγρωστις (ágrōstis), meaning “grass”. So, there you go! Thanks Wikipedia!

BUSHCARE WORKDAYS

Workdays can be cancelled at short notice. (BvL) etc after the time denotes the first initial of the Bushcare Officer responsible for the group.

1ST SATURDAY

Lucas Heights Conservation Area, 8.00am (JS)
Gunnamatta Park 8.30am (GL)
Wanda Beach, Cronulla 8.30am (ST)
Alcheringa Reserve, Miranda 12.30pm (ST)
Tea Tree Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (GL)

2ND SATURDAY

Maandowie, Loftus 8.30am (GL)
Freya St, Kareela 8.30am (ST)
Struen Marie Reserve, Kareela 10.30am (ST)
Yarra Vista Court, Yarrawarrah 1.00pm (ST)

3RD SATURDAY

Burraneer Park, Caringbah 8.30 am (GL)
Hall Drive Reserve, Menai 8.30am (ST)
Beauford Park, Caringbah 1.00pm (GL)
Corinth Road, Heathcote 12.30pm (ST)

4TH SATURDAY

Akuna Avenue Oval, Bangor 8.30am (ST)
The Esplanade, Cronulla Point 8.30am (GL)
Biddy Giles Park, Kirrawee 12.30pm (ST)
Various reserves, Maianbar 1.30pm (GL)

1ST SUNDAY

Carina Bay, Como 8:30am (GL)
Bass & Flinders Point, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
Burnum Burnum Sanct., Jannali 9.00am (ST)
The Crescent Creek, Woronora 1.00pm (BH)
Oyster Creek Gully, Jannalli 1.00pm (GL)
Kingswood Road, Engadine 1.00pm (ST)

2ND SUNDAY

Kareena Park, Caringbah 8.30 (ST)
Fernleigh Road Res, Caringbah 9:00am (BH)
Kareela Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (BH)
Ingrid Rd/Anitra Reserve, Kareela 1.00pm (ST)

3RD SUNDAY

Prince Edward Park, Woronora 8.30am (BH)
Honeysuckle Reserve, Jannali 8.30am (GL)
Paruna Reserve, Como West 9.00am (ST)
Grays Point Reserve 1.00pm (GL)
Buckinbah Place Reserve, Lilli Pilli 1.00pm (ST)

4TH SUNDAY

Darook Park, Cronulla 8.30am (BH)
The Glen Reserve, Bonnet Bay 8.30am (ST)
Savilles Creek, Kirrawee 8.30am (GL)
Banksia Res, Engadine 1.00pm (ST)
Marina Crescent, Gymea Bay 1.00pm (GL)
Rutherford Reserve, Burraneer, 1.00pm (BH)

1ST MONDAY

Whitton Street, Heathcote 8.30am (BvL)
Taren Point Shorebird, Taren Point 9.00am (ST)
Columbine Close, Loftus 1:00pm (BvL)
Brigalow Place, Engadine 1:00pm (ST)

2ND MONDAY

Delta St, Sutherland 9.00am (BH)
Koolangara Res, Bonnet Bay 9:00am (ST)

3RD MONDAY

Hakea Street, Yarrawarrah, 8.30am (BvL)
Port Hacking Rd Res., Sylvania 9.00am (ST)
Australia Rd, Barden Ridge 9.00am (BH)
Nelson Street, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

4TH MONDAY

Young Street Reserve, Sylvania 9.00am (ST)

1ST TUESDAY

Myra Creek, Loftus 8.30am (BvL)
Dunoon Place Reserve, Bangor 9.00am (BH)
Menai Conservation Park, Menai 9.00am (ST)
Upper Forbes Creek, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)
Surrey Place, Kirrawee 1.00pm (BH)

2ND TUESDAY

Caravan Head Res, Oyster Bay 9.00am (BvL)
Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (BH)
Forbes Creek South, Engadine 1.00pm (BvL)

3RD TUESDAY

Forestgrove Drive, Menai 9.00am (ST)
Kareena Park, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)
Sesquicentenary Pk, Heathcote 9.00am (BvL)
Corea Street Reserve, Sylvania 1.00pm (ST)
Darook Park Sth, Cronulla 1.00pm (BH)

4TH TUESDAY

Bottle Creek, Heathcote 8.30am (BvL)
Loftus St, Bundeena 9.00am (BH)
Lilli Pilli Point Reserve 9.00am (ST)
Hungry Point Res, Cronulla 12.30pm (ST)

1ST WEDNESDAY

Windy Point, Cronulla 8.30am (ST)
Bundeena Reserve, Bundeena 9.00am (GL)
Prices Reserve South, Woronora 9.00am (BH)
Simpson Rd, Bundeena 11.30am (GL)

2ND WEDNESDAY

Cabbage Tree Point, Bundeena 9.00am (BvL)
Constables Point, Maianbar 9.00am (GL)
Green Point Rd Res, Oyster Bay 9.00am (ST)
Alcheringa Reserve 9.00am (BH)
Gooyong Reserve, Bangor 1.00pm (BH)

3RD WEDNESDAY

Croston Rd, Engadine 9.00am (BvL)
Albert Delardes Reserve, Illawong 9.00am (ST)
Gooyong Riverside, Woronora 9.00am (BH)
Dunwell Avenue, Loftus 1.00pm (BvL)

4TH WEDNESDAY

Forest & Corella Roads, Kirrawee 9.00am (BvL)
Newcombe Street, Maianbar 9.00am (GL)
Wattlebird Reserve, Caringbah 9.00am (BH)

1ST THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve 9.00am (GL)
Louden Avenue, Illawong 9.00am (BvL)
John McKinn Park, Cronulla 9.00am (BH)

2ND THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
Parc Menai 8.30am (BvL)
Native pollinator Garden 9.00am (BH)

3RD THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
Eighth Avenue, Loftus 8:30am (BvL)
Savilles Creek Reserve, Kirrawee 9.00am (GL)

4TH THURSDAY

Kareela Golf Course 7.00am (GL)
Drysdale Place, Kareela 9.00am (BH)

1ST FRIDAY

Coonong Creek Reserve, Gymea 8:30am (GL)
Ewey Creek, Miranda 8.30am (BvL)

2ND FRIDAY

Ninth Avenue Reserve, Loftus 9.00am (BvL)

3RD FRIDAY

Farrer Place, Oyster Bay 8.30am (BvL)
Kyogle Place, Grays Point 8.30am (GL)
Gunnamatta Foreshore, Cronulla 1.00pm (GL)

4TH FRIDAY

Kiora Road South, Yowie Bay 8:30am (BvL)
Shiprock Reserve, Lilli Pilli 9.00am (GL)
Community Nursery, Gymea 9:00am



Spider web - Emma Brame

To join Bushcare
please go to

<https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Bushcare-Volunteers>



Don't forget our Facebook page. It is a hub to share information, photographs and video amongst users. Log onto Facebook, search 'Sutherland Shire Bushcare' and 'like' the page.

Bushland Activities

Special Events

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 31 July

9:00am - 12:00pm

The Esplande, Cronulla

If you're curious about Bushcare, come along to Bush Whackers at the The Esplande, Cronulla. This special Bushcare event is the perfect excuse to get out and meet new people and learn about the Shire's beautiful bushland.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 28 July

9:00am - 12:00pm

Wanda Beach, Cronulla.

9:00am - 12:00pm

Banksia Reserve, Enagdine.

There's no doubt this is one of Australia's longest running environmental programs and participation is available to all. Book your spot through our our events page on Council's website.

BONNET BAY WILDFLOWER WALK

Sunday 25 August

10:00am - 3:00pm

Join Bushcare for a guided walk through the bushland reserves of Bonnet Bay where we will enjoy the spectacular display of wildflowers. There will be a free sausage sizzle at lunch, supplied by Bushcare. All activities start from Bonnet Bay Public School.

BUSHCARE FAIR 2024

Sunday 15 September

10:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Parc Menai.

This biennial event with displays, demonstrations, giveaways and a sausage sizzle. This event helps us engage the

wider community and brings all our Bushcare partners together. Come along to this event and meet with representatives from Bushcare, Greenweb, the Community Nursery, Menai Wildflower Group, Rural Fire Service, Wires and many more.

Bushwalks and Guided Nature Walks



ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

Wednesday 3 July

10:00am - 11:30am

Joseph Banks Native Garden

Wednesday 10 July

10:00am - 11:30am

Gunnamatta Park

Wednesday 7 August

10:00am - 11:30am

Joseph Banks Native Garden

Join Council's Native Areas Aboriginal Heritage Officer, Graham Avery, for a guided walk where you will learn about Australian native bushfood.

SCAMPER THROUGH THE JUNGLE

Thursday 11 July

9:30am - 11:30am

Our "Scamper through the Jungle" Bushcare event has become our most successful school holidays activity for kids, and it's free! Form a small team or pair and collect clues as you race through the amazing gardens of the Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve. Recommended for primary school ages, parents are welcome to accompany their children on this activity. Registration is required.

JUNIOR BIRDING

Thursday 18 July

9:00am - 10:30am

Join Bushcare and bird expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a special school holiday event aimed at introducing children to bird spotting and nature.

LUCAS HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA WALK

Wednesday 24 July

9:00am - 12:00pm

Join Bushcare and botanist, Dan Clarke, as we explore this seldom visited reserve on the west of the Shire. This walk will highlight the extensive conservation work Bushcare has undertaken in partnership with the Mill Creek Mountain Bike Community.

GUIDED BOTANICAL WALK

Thursday 22 August

8:00am - 11:30am

Join Bushcare and botanist, Dan Clarke, for a guided botanical walk through Burnum Burnum Sanctuary.

BIRD SPOTTING WALK

Tuesday 10 September

8:00am - 11:30am

Thursday 19 September

8:00am - 11:30am

Join Bushcare and bird expert, Ricki Coughlan, for a guided bird spotting and walk through various parks and reserves.

Free Courses and Workshops

DYEING WORKSHOP

Saturday 10 August

10:00am - 3:00pm

Learn the basics of natural dyeing using a range of plant materials, including some seasonal weeds. We will cover mordanting and other treatments to help the fibres retain their colour; making basic dye baths and decorative techniques.

WORKING WITH WOODY WEEDS

Wednesday 4 September

8:30am - 4:00pm

Join Bushcare on a journey to discover what to do with woody weeds. You'll learn how to turn useless privet into one of the most useful of objects - a spoon. All tools, materials and morning tea supplied.

Boneseed Time

By Nathan Clare

It's that time of year again when boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera*) is in flower, allowing us to easily identify plants that may have been by unnoticed during the year. boneseed is a subspecies of bitou bush that is not restricted to the coast and will happily grow in both disturbed and undisturbed sites. Seeing the impact of its sibling, bitou bush, on coastal environments, boneseed has been placed under a total eradication order across New South Wales under the Biosecurity Act. As such boneseed is Sutherland Councils number one priority weed with the aim to prevent it from becoming widespread. So between August – November take a second look at any yellow flowers you may see around the Sutherland Shire and report any boneseed to Sutherland Shire Councils Invasive Species Officers on 9710 0333. For identifying characteristics and further information on Boneseed visit the Weedwise website and search for boneseed or visit the link <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Boneseed>



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And follow the prompts

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