

THE BUSHCARE BULLETIN

OCT 2024 - ISSUE 69



Bushcare Calendar

Date Event

OCTOBER

9, 17 & 23 Nursery propagation

8 Aboriginal bushfood walk

12 Nursery Open Day

22 Bird spotting walk

25 Nursery gardening group

29 Bird spotting walk

30 Bush Whackers

NOVEMBER

13, 21 & 27 Nursery propagation

5 Seed collecting

12 Spotlighting at Greenhills

14 Seed collecting

19 Seed collecting

23 Nursery gardening group

28 Kayaking at Bonna Point

28 Seed collecting

DECEMBER

11 Nursery propagation

3 Seed collecting

8 Bushcare BBQ

10 Aboriginal bushfood walk

12 Seed collecting

Cover image - *Grevillea sericea*
- Emma Brame



Bushcare update

By Jason Salmon - Team Leader Bushcare

Welcome to the spring Bushcare Bulletin

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge volunteers Tony and Carol Allen who were recently awarded the Southern Sydney Volunteer Team Winner at the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award. When Tony and Carol migrated to Australia from the UK, they became passionate advocates for preserving the natural environment in their new country. For the past 10 years they have volunteered with the Sutherland Shire Council Bushcare program, attending seven different groups per month.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge Barbara Jones, a member of the 3 Bridges Community Volunteers and also a Bushcare volunteer at Bass and Flinders Point. Barbara was awarded Southern Sydney Senior Volunteer of the year and also took out the gong for the Southern Sydney Volunteer of the year for 2024 Well done Barbara, Carol and Tony!

We had a very successful fourth edition of the Bushcare Fair at Parc Menai. It was doubtful in the lead up if we would go ahead with the forecast calling for over 60km/hr winds through the day. Fortunately, we had a nice patch of bushland, namely Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, to fully protect us from the gusty winds. Unfortunately, many people were cautious to venture outside and our numbers were down on previous years events. Nonetheless everyone who did show up had an enjoyable time checking out the variety of stalls and listening to live music thanks to the Bundeena Ramshackle Orchestra. Thanks to every one who came along and to all the stalls and volunteers who attended them throughout the day

Once again we have been fortunate to receive important funding from Crown Lands to implement Priority weed, Deer and Fox Programs across the Sutherland Shire. Weeds and vertebrate pests have a severe impact on our natural areas and this funding will allow important control programs to continue. Funding has also been received to manage and maintain the vast Don Lucas Reserve at Cronulla

The Spring Bushcare Gathering is fast approaching and will be held at another new venue, the Sutherland Arts Theatre, we have two fantastic guest speakers lined up, Dr Jiale Zhu will be talking about his research on how local native trees and plants provide slope stability to reduce landslides and erosion. Dr Thomas Mesaglio will be discussing native plant surveys, inaturalist and citizen science.

Also don't forget about the Bushcare Christmas BBQ on Sunday 8th December. Enjoy the bulletin!

Blooming beauty

By Grace Lonergan - Bushcare Officer

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve in Kareela is a haven for nature lovers and gardening enthusiasts. To add a pop of colour and celebrate Australia's unique flora, a new pink native wildflower bed has been created. This project aims to showcase the beauty of indigenous plants whilst promoting biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Pink is also my favourite colour, and I have always been interested in the striking beauty of pink wildflowers.

The new garden bed is slowly being transformed from an overgrown mass of *Dianella*, to a beautiful display of Australia's vibrant pink species. Some of the species we have planted so far include:

Isopogon latifolius, *Phebalium woombye*, *Boronia pinnata*, *Commersonia magniflora*, *Eremophila maculata*.

We have some other really exciting species coming soon that are currently being grown. These include:

Dasymalla terminalis, *Eremophila calorhabdos*, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, *Pimelea ferruginea*, *Hakea laurina*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium*.

These plants are not only visually striking, but also attract native bees, butterflies, and birds, supporting the local food chain. The species chosen have been arranged to create a gradient of pink hues, from soft pastels to vibrant magentas that will bring a display of colour throughout the seasons.

Let's come together to appreciate and protect our plants at the Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve. We will be updating the Bushcare Facebook page with new species we are showcasing at the gardens.



Fire in The Shire

By Nathan Clare - Coordinator Bushland

Fire has forever played an integral role in the Australian environment, but with increasing urbanisation and population, the natural fire regime has become disrupted. While we obviously don't want uncontrolled fires occurring in the landscape, we need fire to support the natural environmental processes and protect our suburbs.

The Bushland Unit has found itself playing an increasing role in the organisation of hazard reduction burns on council land that are completed by the Rural Fire Service and Fire Rescue NSW. The goal of these hazard reduction burns is two fold. One, is to reduce the fuel levels in bushland areas to minimise an out of control fire potentially harming people and property. Two, is to have fire play its natural and important role in the environment.

As many native plants have evolved with fire, some species have developed a dependency on it to stimulate the opening of seed pods, germination and new growth. If you've seen the nursery staff roasting Banksia cones on the barbecue, you'll get what I'm talking about. Vegetation types that benefit from fire include dry sclerophyll forests, grassy woodlands, heath and ridgetop communities that are frequently dominated by Myrtaceae and Proteaceae plant families. On the other, hand some vegetation types would not naturally burn and do not benefit from fire such as wet sclerophyll forests, sheltered gullies and rainforests which are avoided during these burn activities.

As with most things in life, balance is the key. Bushland needs to be burnt regularly to get the benefits of germination, but not too regularly that there is not enough time to recover. The soil and leaf litter need to be not too wet that the area wont burn and cause excessive smoke but not too dry that the burn will become too hot too quick and scorch the canopy. The wind needs to be.... and so on and so forth. Point being that achieving the right conditions for a burn to be approved to go ahead are difficult, but with the right preparation and some luck with the weather, it is all possible.

If you visit Coonong Creek Reserve at GyMEA Bay, Menai Conservation Park or Caravan Head Reserve at Oyster Bay you will notice that some of the reserve has been burnt and some has been left unburnt. This isn't because it was Friday afternoon or that someone became bored part way through, but is done purposefully to achieve a mosaic burn pattern. By burning in stages and keeping sections of bush intact it allows a refuge for native wildlife to use and move through while the burnt areas are recovering. This approach is one of many aimed at protecting native wildlife from the negative impacts of fire.

During the preparation stages there is also clearing of debris around large trees to prevent fire climbing into the canopy, thorough environmental assessments and reviews of each area prior to burns taking place and adjusting the burn area around the presence and needs of endangered species. By following these processes we aim to have a low intensity burn that will not only assist native flora and protect residential areas but also protect native wildlife from out of control wild fires that could cause devastation.



Mosaic burning at Caravan Head Reserve
Oyster Bay - Nathan Clare

Botany Bay Colebee was also known as Warugin or Wargubilyi

By Graham Avery - Natural Areas Aboriginal Heritage Officer

When I researched deeply into Dharawal history to find sources on Dharawal plant names, I came across the Aboriginal plant names along with illustration of 18 plants from Botany Bay area on TROVE with the name Kolbi on each plant.

I thought this Kolbi was from the Gadigal clan group of the Dharug language, so I assumed that these plant names were Dharug words. However, I later came across William Dawes' note in The Notebooks of William Dawes on the Aboriginal Language of Sydney, Book B on page 45, I realised that this Kolbi was from the Gweagal clan group of the Dharawal language in "Botany Bay area" in Kurnell and Cronulla. I find this amazing because those eighteen plants with Aboriginal names are more likely to be Dharawal names.

Kolbi's original name was Warugin meaning 'boomerang' in Dharawal language, and boomerang is a Dharug word. This proved that Gweagal people spoke Dharawal language in south Botany Bay. I think it is possible these plant illustrations with Gweagal names were collected from Kurnell area in 1790s. Warugin was a son of Mety, head of the Gweagal clan, and Warugin's sister, Kurubarabula, she was a wife of Bennelong, a Wangal man from Dharug language group.

Warugin, a friend to a Gadigal man named Colebee was also known as Cadigal Colebee, they exchanged names to build good relationship from two different language groups, that was why William Dawes wrote his name down as Kolbi, and the colonists knew him as Botany Bay Colebee.

At the end of the day the evidence is still questionable, but with the information available this is the way I'm leaning. I would be happy to put these 18 plant names along with William Macarthur's 1850s collection of Doctor Ellis' Dharawal plant names.

Below is the list of Warugin's Gweagal plant names from 1790s:

Dharawal name	Common name	Botanical name
Bellabeyang, Tinagan	Native Parsley	<i>Platysace ericoides</i>
Bulre pulin	Guinea flower	<i>Hibbertia salicifolia</i>
Camputaga, leyanga yangra	Heath Milkwort	<i>Comesperma ericinum</i>
Cameracama	Coastal Rosemary	<i>Westingia fruticosa</i>
Carabyudya, woodyilley bulla	Wedding Bush	<i>Ricinocarpus pinifolius</i>
Comerang	Mountain Devil	<i>Lambertia formosa</i>
Damon, Bruganmugul	Handsome Flat-Pea	<i>Platylobium formosum</i>
Gurrigany	Coastal teatree	<i>Gaudium laevigatum</i>
Mareyaniu	Bacon and Egg Flower	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>
Mauinya, Merrygalyary	Pine Heath	<i>Astroloma pinifolium</i>
Merrygula	Trailing Guinea Flower	<i>Hibbertia dentata</i>
Mororu	Common Aotus	<i>Aotus ericoides</i>
Purbur, maniy	Sunshine Wattle	<i>Acacia terminalis</i>
Tamone dura lang	Narrow-leaved Geebung	<i>Persoonia linearis</i>
Tinatura, Wingen wi	Pink Bell Flower	<i>Tetratheca sp.</i>
Wareganya	Pink Boronia Flower	<i>Boronia pinnata</i>
Watewa	Sandfly Zieria	<i>Zieria laevigata</i>
Ye yatong	Sydney Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>

Nursery tours

By Cris Breitenbach - Nursery Team Leader

The SSC Community Nursery regularly run behind the scenes tours for a wide variety of participants. They have ranged from preschool friends in their hi-vis vests, school groups, gardening clubs, Probus, native plant societies, staff from other councils, Council's young leaders group and probably the most bizarre - a mini bus full of Saudi Arabian men, who arrived unannounced.

Experienced nursery horticulturalists lead the tour, showing all stages of production, from seed processing, to propagation, through to retail, leading the participants through the various structures in the nursery and sharing knowledge of individual species along the way. Our tours last between 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the level of interest shown (possibly a year 10 group lasted only 30 minutes).

There are many reasons people enquire about and attend our nursery tours, such as:

Networking and being with likeminded people. Participants may come as part of their own group but quickly realise how connected they are to their community, by talking to staff and getting to know each other better. Tours also present an opportunity for us to extend this community connection by promoting the various options of volunteering with Bushcare, and events that are regularly run.

Providing an informal and fun way to learn, as tours promote an open space for sharing information on different experiences with all aspects of propagation and growing plants in pots and gardens. Visual learning, demonstrations and hands on learning encourages people to eat some flowers, try some berries and crush and smell a variety of leaves. Our display gardens around the nursery, are used to inspire the use and appreciation of our local natives and provide information on suitable plants for a variety of situations.

Tours are educational and tailored to the interests of the group. Nursery staff from other councils are always keen to learn about our seed collection calendar, record keeping and the experiments in propagating new species we are always undertaking. Pre-schoolers are more interested in finding frogs, touching foliage and looking for gnomes in the pollinator garden. Residents of the Shire are always keen to hear about many of the Council's programs such as Bushcare, Greenweb and Greenstreets.



Nursery tour - Emma Brame

Challenge yourself to develop new skills, use new methods, and learn about reliable products to access and use at home. This skill and knowledge transfer works both ways, as the nursery team can also learn from our participants from their experiences and successes. Our own professional learning is dependent on the exposure of visits to other nurseries, to see their operations and have the opportunity to speak to other professionals in our field.

Learn about future study and job options. We talk about the variety of jobs that exist under the nursery / bush care banner and options available to gain employment. A large variety of courses are available and for those studying online, a practical component is often required, which we can assist with in the nursery.

If you are interested in a tour for your group, contact the nursery:
nursery@scc.nsw.gov.au



COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN DAY

8AM – 2PM
SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

You're invited to browse the extensive range of local plant species that are perfect for local gardens and for planting projects around Sutherland Shire.

Just a friendly reminder:

- to bring along a bag or box to carry any purchases you make on the day
- to bring your free native seedlings voucher from the July rates notice to collect your two free native seedlings
- that we don't accept cash or cheques as payment. You can pay via EFTPOS and credit card (with no merchant fees).

sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au



What's happening at JB Gardens?

By Polly Simmonds - Joseph Banks Team Leader

A lot has been happening over the last year, towards restoring a beautiful, robust, resilient and sustainable native garden that can continue to flourish throughout droughts, flooding rains and climate change.

Plants! Plants! Plants!

We have been creating more diversity and adding more of our local native species that have adapted to thrive in local conditions. With our Bushcare and APS volunteers, we have planted hundreds of plants with most grown by Sutherland Shire Community Nursery.

The reserve is the perfect place to show off and increase awareness of our stunning local native plants to people who might not be able get out into the bush; and show how local native species can be used to great success in a garden setting. Planting local native species in urban gardens provides a green corridor for wildlife that helps against the impacts of urban clearing and fragmentation to our native flora and fauna. Another big bonus is local native plants, planted carefully in the right spot and soil, tend to flourish without needing copious fertilisers, water, chemicals, imported materials or fussing. Low maintenance!

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve also contains native plants from all over Australia that many people may normally not get to see; demonstrating a wide range of our unique Australian flora.



Ghost fungus - Polly Simmonds

Groundcover goodness

A greater diversity of native ground covers have been planted throughout the gardens. These protect and condition the soil, allow air and moisture exchange, provide habitat for beneficial native microfauna, help block weeds (reducing the need for herbicide), and assist in creating a diverse mycorrhizal network throughout the soil. This helps with nutrient cycling and exchange, gradually eliminating the need for fertiliser and improving overall plant health and resilience. They also look beautiful and add to biodiversity!

Healthy plants and diversity can reduce pests and diseases, reducing the need for insecticides and fungicides. We have started recording and learning about the different fungi present in the reserve (good and bad), with a vision of utilising the good

fungi as a fascinating colourful component of the gardens. We have ghosties! And one that stains wood blue! We are aiming for healthy soil, with abundant beneficial fungi; and for runoff leaving the site into our waterways and bushland to be as clean as possible.

Dealing with deplorable debris....

In June last year, we had a Bush Whackers day where we removed about 14 truckloads of debris and build-up out of the warm rainforest section. Although fallen organic matter is beneficial, it is not when it is 30-50 cm deep and swamping plants! Normally in a tropical rainforest this biomass would break down and be reabsorbed by plants very quickly, and in drier forests bush fires would provide regular clean-ups. We have continued to remove and thin out the fallen litter throughout the Reserve, aiming to leave a shallow depth of mostly decayed matter containing ample beneficial leaf mould, bacteria, fungi, worms, beetles, slaters, millipedes and other good micro critters. We have stored and reutilised some of this (already decayed/ quick to break down) material to protect soil,



Billy goat - Polly Simmonds



Eli building the compost bays
- Polly Simmonds

block weeds and reintroduce beneficial organic matter and organisms back into barer, unhealthy areas.

We bought a Billy Goat leaf vacuum which mulches leaves as it vacuums the paths. This stops leaves being blown onto plants, and removes the need for hours of laborious raking of leaf piles. We've installed compost bays built out of recycled pallets to compost the mulched leaves. The compost will be used toward reducing the amount of fertiliser and water used on site, the amount of waste leaving the site and material needing to be brought in (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Malevolent mulch?

We are no longer bringing in raw wood chip mulch. Wood chips take a very long time to break down, and during this process, draw nitrogen away from plants and raise soil pH making it harder for most native plants to absorb the nutrients they need. Imported mulch can also bring in pathogens that kill and make your plants sick. The existing imported wood chip mulch at the reserve is packed with exotic black African beetle larvae, and lacks an abundance and diversity of beneficial native ground layer and soil organisms. The black African beetle larvae, while helping to break down the wood chips, exist in huge numbers occupying the space where our native beetles should be, and also sicken and kill plants by eating their roots. The adult beetles chew plants at or just beneath ground level and may chew right through the stem or cause 'ring barking'.

The magpies follow us around while we're planting, ready to snap up all the pest grubs we throw to them. They have trained us well. They are also great at finding the grubs themselves and are doing their bit to keep these pests down.

Incidentally, not all soil larvae are bad. In healthy soils, there are many good beetles such as Christmas beetle or fiddler beetle. The way to tell the difference is black African beetle larvae are big, fat, creamy white, c shaped, with an orange brown head, translucent lower half through which you can see eaten matter that looks like soil, 6 legs, and a horizontal (as opposed to vertical or Y shaped) bum opening.

What about weeds?

We are getting the weeds under control with as much hand weeding and non herbicide techniques as we can, significantly reducing the weed seed load and amount of chemicals being used. We are keeping a watchful eye to ensure we don't create more weeds and to nip things in the bud that could spread to and become a pest in our surrounding beautiful bushland. For example, we have removed many many non local native and/ or cultivar cordylines, hibiscus, *Passiflora aurantia*, *Alectryon tomentosa*, and hovea that don't stay put, and pop up everywhere throughout the gardens and have potential to become pests. I even had to remove *Pelargonium australe* I had planted myself, as it was multiplying at an alarming rate.

Events

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve is an amazing place for enjoying and learning about our native flora and the ample fauna that utilise it. Graham Avery regularly runs ethnobotanical tours in the Reserve, teaching local and international people about our unique cultural heritage. These have had rave reviews. Most school holidays we run our regular Scamper In the Jungle and the kids have a ball. Bushcare meets in the reserve the first Thursday of every month from 9am-12pm. The Australian Plant Society Sutherland Group have volunteer work days on the first Sunday of each month, and also run regular events and garden tours. There are evening tours, yarning circles, sketching/ painting, English lessons and more. More info about what's on is available in the Bulletin and through Hazelhurst, the library and our Council Community Nursery. You can drop into the reserve any day between 9am and 5pm.

Seed hit list

By Emma Brame - Nursery Horticulturist

With the weather warming up and things well in to bloom, peak seed collecting season will be upon us soon. Over the next three months there should be plenty of seed out there to collect and with this earlier warm spell of weather, we might even see a few species fruit and set seed sooner than usual.

In correlation with the nurseries seed stocktake and current plant/seedling stocktake (done bi-monthly), I have compiled a “seed hit list” for staff and volunteers to target when out in the field. This is helpful for two reasons. Firstly, to ensure we don’t take any unrequired seed to allow natural regeneration to take place. And secondly, it helps nursery staff and specialised seed sowing volunteers, Christine and Carol, to coordinate nursery production and operations, ensuring tube stock/seedlings numbers are maintained throughout the year. Also, so plant orders are met with in the time frame negotiated between nursery staff and contractors.

One of our biggest orders this year was for 6000 tube stock. As you can imagine, this takes some time and effort to coordinate when you consider all the factors different species require to successfully germinate and grow to optimum health. For example, some species need pre-treatment like scarification or soaking in boiling hot water before they are sown. Some species will only germinate in particular seasons and rely heavily on temperatures throughout the year. Consideration must be taken for how long a particular species takes to germinate. Some species can take as little as 4-6 weeks and others may take anywhere from 6 weeks to a few months and even up to a year or longer.

Another situation to consider is when seeds from fleshy fruits are used. They must be processed and sown fresh, usually within 2 weeks of collection, as they will not store like other species in our seed bank as they will retain too much moisture. Seeds are processed from seed pods, capsules, filler, leaves, and any other debris for storage to help keep moisture from affecting the seed and rotting. It is then weighed, sealed in a foil bag, labelled with it's genus, species, weight, where it was collected from and who collected it. Incredibly some seeds will retain viability for years if stored correctly and refrigerated between 3-7c. Thankfully, the majority of our regular contractors order with plenty of time to allow the nursery to fulfil orders.

With all that being said, here is the seed hit list for the upcoming months. If unsure, check with Bushcare Officers or Nursery staff if unsure of the species or what the fruiting body looks like. Also, the seed guide is always available to refer to at the nursery. Lastly, please remember to stick to the collecting guideline of 10% off each plant. We can’t wait to see what comes in and I may even get see you out “in the wild”.

Happy collecting!



Hovea lanceolata - Emma Brame



Pomax umbellata seed - Emma Brame



Kunzea capitata - Emma Brame

October

Allocasuarina torulsa, Bossiaea stephensonii, Coronidium elatum, Glochidion ferdinandi, Gompholobium species, Hovea species, Pimealia linifolia.

November

Acacia brownii, A. hispidula, A. myrtilifolia, A. terminalis, Comesperma ericinum, Daviesia ulicifolia, D. corymbosa, D. mimosoides, Dillwynia species, Grevillea species, Leucopogon lanceolata, Lomandra longifolia, Mirbelia rubiifolia, M. speciosa, Moorinda jasminoides, Myrsine variabilis, Notelaea longifolia, Pandorea pandorana, Panicum simile, Patersonia species, Pelargonium australe, Persoonia species, Pomax umbellata, Pomaderris species, Stylidium species, Synoum glandulosm.

December

Acacia decurrens, A. implexa, A. irrorata, Actinotus helianthii, Allocasuarina diminuta, Billaderia scandens, Cupaniopsis anacardioides, Echinopogon caespitosus, Geitonoplesium cymosum, Hibbertia scandens, Kunzea capitata, Leucopogon parviflorus, Lomandra confertifolia, Microlaena stipoides, Rhagodia condolleana, Themeda australis, Zieria species.

Do you know a local hero?

Sutherland Shire Council is searching for unsung heroes in our community and we need your help to identify them.

Each year, the Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year Awards celebrate some of the incredible contributions within our community.

The program highlights our community's academic, artistic, and sporting achievements. It also recognises the unsung heroes who give their time and skills to help others. These contributions make Sutherland Shire a better place to live, work, and play.

We are calling for nominations for Environmental Citizen of the Year - a citizen or community group that has made an outstanding environmental achievement in our community.

People and community services nominated must live or operate within the Sutherland Shire. Nominations close 14 October 2024.

Nominate your local hero

go.ssc.nsw.gov.au/Local-hero



DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO?

Give a local hero the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year Award.

Nominations can be made across six categories:



Community Group of the Year



Environmental Citizen of the Year



Citizen of the Year



Sports Citizen of the Year



Young Citizen of the Year



Young Sports Citizen of the Year



Nominate via:
go.ssc.nsw.gov.au/Local-hero

Nominations close 14 October 2024



A Fair way to spend a Sunday

By Bradley van Luyt - Bushcare Officer

On Sunday 15 September, we had our fourth biennial Bushcare Fair. It's a big get-together and display day to promote Bushcare and our like-minded friends.

As in previous years our chosen venue was Parc Menai and we had folks coming from all over to show their wares and spruik good things about Bushcare and how to look after their local environment and live more sustainably.

It was a big day. As big as our annual BBQ? I'm not sure but it feels like it. I'm glad we don't do it every year.

With months of preparation behind us we finally gathered at the Nursery to do the ultimate briefing load up and then off we ventured to the greater west (ie Menai)

I was first there, unlocked the gate, rolled in and waited for everyone to bump in and I shivered. It was windy. Will we survive? Will anyone come? Will our gazebos get blown to Hurstville???

Bump-in is always "fun" and the wind made it even more exciting, but we muddled through and in no time a veritable tent city of stalls and gazebos had sprung up and soon we were ready for business. Along the southern edge of the park, we were nestled in to the toe of the adjoining Sydney Turpentine Ironbark remnant and we were nicely sheltered from the worst of the windy weather. I was busy with my own little stall so I didn't get much time to see what everyone else was doing but I know we had a good swag of talent on show for the day. Our weed forager Diego Bonetto was guiding weedy walks around the park and bush, our good folk from the SSC Community Nursery were selling



Working with woody weeds
- Jason Salmon



The Bushcare Fair
- Bill Howse

plants and doing demos. There was a native animal show, U3A Shire Sketchers, the folks from Local Land Services were talking about feral animals and then at one stage there was a mad dog running about which was from Tate Animals and showing how it could detect koala poo! (I told you it was mad..!) Our good friends from Australian Plants Society Sutherland Group and Menai Wildflower Group (many of whom are also our volunteers) were also there nerding out on all things native horticulture. We weren't the only Council types there either. Our Environmental Science Unit, Sustainability Officer, Waste Services and even Libraries were there showing how their services help in making the shire a greener place. And there were snags. And coffee. Tops!

Me? Unsurprisingly I was working with woody weeds. With a slew of common woody weeds on display I was able to start the conversation on their impacts on bushland and how we can kill them. But the work doesn't stop there. I'm trying to use craft as a way of raising awareness about our Bushcare program, so I ran some short workshops on turning useless old Privet into dandy little plant tags. When I wasn't instructing or spruiking I was sitting on the bench in the sunshine carving away. Saw, split, shave away the pith. Chop in then pare out the flat for the plant name then point the other end like you'd sharpen a pencil. Strip the bark, chamfer a few edges and done! I reckon I could knock one out in just over a minute. Great fun, very satisfying. And a wonderful way to work with waste from woody weeds. Better than leaving it for the termite or hoiking it to landfill.

As my last shaving blew away the message came around that it was nearly packing up time. One more swipe with the slojd knife and then tools down and I joined the pack up process. Bump-in maybe "fun" but pack up is just plain ordinary. Tired, sore, wanna go home but still there's a work to do. All hands got busy, and our ephemeral Bushcare Village was gone as if it had blown away in the wind. The wind seemed to keep a lot of punters away this time but those who came along had a great time. I hope it'll be bigger and even better in 2026! (and not quite so breezy...)



Weeds galore- Jason Salmon



Sketch of the Bushcare and Nursery stall
-Jan, U3A member

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, Jannali 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

ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

Tuesday 8 October
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.

NURSERY OPEN DAY

Saturday 12 October
8:00am - 2:00pm
Location: Sutherland Shire Community Nursery, Gymea.

Can't make it to the nursery during the week? This is your chance to use your voucher to get your free plants. Bring a bag or a box with you for your plant purchases.

BIRD SPOTTING WALK

Tuesday 22 October
8:00am - 11:00am
Thorp Road, Woronora

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

BUSHCARE GATHERING

Saturday 26 October
10:00am - 1:00pm
The Sutherland Arts Theatre, Sutherland

The Bushcare Gathering is a chance to catch up with other Bushcare groups, listen to a couple of guest speakers and enjoy a light lunch. Please note that the venue has changed again.

BIRD SPOTTING WALK

Tuesday 29 October
8:00am - 11:00am
location to be advised

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

BUSH WHACKERS

Wednesday 30 October
9:00am - 12:00pm
Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve

If you're curious about Bushcare, come along to Bush Whackers at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Kareela. This special Bushcare event is the perfect excuse to get out and meet new people and learn about the Shire's beautiful bushland.

SPOTLIGHTING AT GREENHILLS WETLAND

Thursday 14 November
7:30pm - 9:00pm

Our Invasive Species Unit will give you an insight into their priority weed and pest animal program. Afterwards we will observe native frogs and hopefully spot some turtles and mammals as well. BYO torches please and all children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

KAYAKING AT BONNA POINT, KURNELL

Thursday 28 November
8:30am - 12:00pm

The Invasive Species Unit will host a guided kayaking trip in Botany Bay, where you will enjoy and learn firsthand about our important estuarine ecosystems and the threats to them from invasive species.

BUSHCARE XMAS BBQ

Sunday 8 December
Location: Fernleigh Reserve
184 Gannons Road, Caringbah South.

Join us to celebrate the achievements of the year and catch up with friends. Bookings are essential for this event. An invite will be sent out to active volunteers later in the year

ABORIGINAL BUSHFOOD WALK

Tuesday 10 December
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.

Special Events

SEED COLLECTING

- **Tuesday 5 November**
9:00am-12:00pm, Thorp Road, Woronora.
- **Thursday 14 November**
9:00am-12:00pm
Viburnum Road, Loftus.
- **Tuesday 19 November**
9:00am-12:00pm Florence Parade Trail, Grays Point.
- **Thursday 28 November**
9:00am-12:00pm The Grand Parade, Sutherland.
- **Tuesday 3 December**
9:00am-12:00pm Greenhaven Road, Grays Point.
- **Thursday 12 December**
9:00am-12:00pm Woronora RSL.



Scaevola calendulacea
- Emma Brame

Ludwigia peruviana

By Bill Howse

Ludwigia peruviana, or water primrose, is a fast-growing invasive aquatic weed. It forms dense colonies in slow-moving and static waterways where it can change water flows, outcompete native plants and reduce food and shelter for native animals.

Ludwigia is an upright perennial shrub growing up to 3m tall. The flowers are bright yellow, usually with four, but sometimes five or six petals and present during spring to autumn. The leaves are prominently veined and usually alternate along the stem. Each seed pod can contain up to 4000 seeds. The seeds are spread by flowing water and birds and are able to germinate in as little as 4 days.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/82>



Bushcare Contact Details

PHONE

02 9524 5672

And follow the prompts

EMAIL

bushcare@ssc.nsw.gov.au

WEB

www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

JASON

0414 193 874 (Mon-Fri)

jsalmon@ssc.nsw.gov.au

BRADLEY

0414 193 710 (Mon-Fri)

bvanluyt@ssc.nsw.gov.au

BILL

0414 193 709 (Sun-Thur)

whowse@ssc.nsw.gov.au

SABRINA

0414 193 873 (Sat-Wed)

smthompson@ssc.nsw.gov.au

GRACE

0408 538 143 (Wed-Sun)

glonergan@ssc.nsw.gov.au



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