

Hawkesbury Community Nursery recognised and appreciated - by Tracey Reid

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery was presented with a Community Partnership Award for ongoing support of the Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD).

AFFORD is a not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to helping people with a disability. AFFORD implemented a retirement research project in conjunction with the University of Sydney, La Trobe University (Melbourne) and Molde University (Norway) in 2009 to support AFFORD's ageing population.

This program is offered to supported employees age 45 and over so they participate in typical retirement activities. The program is based on mainstream ageing activities - Volunteering and Membership within a community group.

Activities are weekly and held within the participant's local community and are based on the individual needs and wants.



"Hawkesbury Community Volunteer Group recognised and thanked by AFFORD"

Participant Graeme Riley was supported by staff at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery to volunteer on a weekly basis. This has allowed him to learn basic nursery and garden skills but has also given him a great social outlet.

"Without Community groups like Hawkesbury City

Councils Community Nursery our program would not be a success."

Thank you once again for your support towards Graeme and AFFORD.



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Hawkesbury Citizen of the Season

Nominate your friend or existing volunteer that does awesome work for the community at a Bushcare site, Nursery or Indian Myna Control. Stand up and be counted Hawkesbury Bushcare and HIMAG!

For further information go to <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/community-awards/citizen> and click on the link "nomination form".



Editorial

What do doctors and dentists waiting rooms, hair salons, cafes, library, Hawkesbury Regional Museum and Art Gallery and the Community Centres throughout the Hawkesbury all have in common?

They all have a copy of the Hawkesbury Bushcare Newsletter "Weed All About It".

This is a great way for local industry and groups to support their native bushland, flora and fauna. If you know of a local waiting room

or café that would like to host a few copies of "Weed All About It", please contact me to discuss further. Once again, thanks for the contribution of articles.

The Bushcare end of year celebration will be fast approaching, so if you have an idea, for place, time, date, theme, my door is always open. Enjoy the read, and Happy Days.

Marty Gauci
Community Bushcare Officer

If you are interested in being involved in any of the Hawkesbury Bushcare sites, or would like to contribute to this newsletter, please contact Council's Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525, or email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. We would love to hear from you.

Grant Update

from Land Management Officer - Michael Pattison



Environmental Trust - Little Wheeny Creek Restoration Project

Year one of the three year project to protect the environmental values of Little Wheeny Creek within Singletons Reserve (Mill Rd Reserve) and Diamond Hill Drive Reserves is drawing to an end. Over the year we have completed weed mapping for Diamond Hill Drive Reserve and over 800 hours of bush regeneration at Singletons Reserve. These reserves hold pristine vegetation that has been predominantly protected by geophysical aspects of the landscape.

In the coming year we hope to hold a Community Awareness Day and further the weed control effort into Diamond Hill Drive Reserve.

Thanks to all involved with the project so far, including the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority for the additional funding complementing the project.



Biodiversity Fund Hawkesbury River Restoration

Year one of the project is almost complete with over 4000 hours of bush regeneration activity and over 2000 trees planted across several low resilience sites. Works have been undertaken on approximately 60 hectares of Council reserves to enhance biodiversity values.

Future works will focus on follow up weed control and further planting where necessary.

Successful Applications Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project

The Land Management Department has been granted funding through the Local Government and Shires Association to implement priority actions of the HCC Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

The project aims to protect and conserve threatened flora species located in high conservation priority roadside vegetation. We are using this as a pilot project and focussing on protecting *Acacia pubescens* around Scheyville/Pitt Town area. The project will include signage for significant roadside environments and training of roadside maintenance crews.



Applications Pending Crown Lands Weed Control

Council has applied to the Department of Lands for funding to implement further weed control on Crown reserves managed by Council. We have requested funding for 8 reserves to target High Priority weeds such as Senegal Tea, African Olive, Honey Locust, Madeira Vine and Ludwigia.

Estuary Management Program

An application has been submitted to the NSW Estuary Management Program to remediate bank erosion at Governor Phillip Park. Areas around the boat ramp and along the Hawkesbury River have suffered from erosion and large sections of the bank have slumped into the river.

The project will aim to improve bank stability through hard and soft engineering

techniques and include revegetating with native sedges and rushes.

National Tree Day 2013

Free Plants at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery

This year for National Tree Day Council staff have decided to think outside the square a bit. As part of Local Government Week, Hawkesbury Bushcare and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery will be giving away over 1000 native plants (trees, shrubs and ground covers). To get your free plants come along to the Hawkesbury Community on the designated time and date. What you need to bring will be a proof of residency (rates / drivers licence etc.). A total of 2 plants per person with a maximum of 6 plants per family will be provided (plants will be provided to those in attendance only). A tree planting demonstration will be taking place at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery to educate the public on the value of native plants.

When Wednesday, 24 and Saturday, 27 July 2013

Where Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave (next door to the animal shelter)

Schedule Wednesday 10am-12noon and Saturday 9am-12noon

Contact Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, on 4560 4525, or email. martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Hawkesbury Show - Native Plant Giveaway

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery gave away 900 native plants over the three day Hawkesbury Agricultural Show. This was a great opportunity for Council to give something back to residents and Show on lookers.

This has now been the fourth year that the Hawkesbury Community Nursery has provided free plants to the public at the Hawkesbury Show and has proven a real winner. Great plant advice was on hand as well, as this helped people get the right plant both to suit their home, soil and situation.

If you missed out on getting some native plants from the Hawkesbury Show, come along on a Wednesday (9am-1pm) and get some help picking the right plants for your garden. The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Rd,

Mulgrave, next to the companion Animal Shelter, phone 4560 4651. Pricing start from \$1.

Thanks to the helping hands of many Bushcare and nursery volunteers, the nursery is now selling over 80 different locally native plant species for gardens, farms, and revegetation projects. There is great choice of trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers for sandstone or clay derived soils.



McMahon Park, a park for all

by Trish Buttler

McMahon Park in Kurrajong has been used for sport for many years. It is Crown Land, looked after by Hawkesbury City Council. The area of the park is approximately 10 acres and Little Wheeny Creek runs along the western edge. There is an oval for soccer and cricket and it is also used by schools for athletic carnivals. In 2009 there was an expansion to the Community Centre.

In the early 20th century, much of the native vegetation was removed from Kurrajong to make way for the orchards that supplied Sydney with fruit. Riparian zones along creeks were not considered very important during that period but in recent years this perception has changed. The park has always been a popular picnic spot for local residents and is still used thus.

About 20 years ago, a keen local bush regenerator decided to remedy the weed issues in this parkland, which had been mowed down to the privet edge on the creek. The Council was requested to stop the mowing down to about 100 metres from the creek edge so that eventually a native tree buffer could be established.

This has been an ongoing process over the years, with the McMahon Park Bushcare Group working there regularly and students from Richmond TAFE assisting while learning the art of bush regeneration.

The result is an area of about five acres of shale/sandstone bushland that provides habitat for fauna, such as snakes, bandicoots and about 40 species of birds, and at last count, 83 identified native plant species. It is a fantastic example of the resilience present in this land and the diversity of local plant species. The pristine waters of the creek are also home to a rare

breed of fish, the Macquarie Perch. This water is tested monthly for purity.

In 2010, interpretive signs were placed throughout the bushland and we have evidence that they are being read, especially by children.

The recovery of this park is an inspiration, and many students in environmental fields are greatly encouraged by the results. The privet has still not been completely removed from the banks because the native trees have not recovered sufficiently. Small privet still appear throughout the bushland, Lantana is rarely found and the weeds being concentrated on now are Wandering Jew (TRAD) and grasses such as African Love Grass (*Eragrostis curvula*), Carpet Grass (*Axonopus fissifolius*) and Ehrharta (*Ehrharta erecta*). The situation of the park in a residential and small farm lot area of Kurrajong will always pose a weed problem unless the native bushland can become strong enough to repel these weeds. The McMahon Bushcare Group meet on the last Sunday of every month and always welcome new helpers.



Bushcare Group and Richmond TAFE working together to upgrade the walking track

World Wetlands Day – Breakfast with the Birds

World Wetlands Day stood up to its name and provided us with an early downpour, but that didn't dampen the spirits of all 40 of those who were keen to see some of the Hawkesbury's finest birds. The morning kicked off at Pitt Town Lagoon; followed by a mighty breakfast cooked by HCC Land Management Officer Mick Pattison at Longneck Lagoon.

Cumberland Bird Observers, Hawkesbury Bushcare, HNCMA, HRCC and NPWS were all there to join forces to make a great morning of bird watching; complimented by an outdoor BBQ breakfast that may possibly go down in history. Thanks to Keith Brandwood who led the binocular embraced birdos and the rest of us who looked, listened and learnt a lot.

Wetlands also help to trap and utilise nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen, converting them to valuable food to sustain birds, fish and frogs. They act as storage basins for floodwater providing slow water release and also provide valuable drought reserve for grazing stock.

Wetlands are amongst our most important, endangered and under-valued environments. Termed the "kidneys" of our waterways, they act to filter out pollutants and improve water quality. Wetlands containing tall reeds and rushes act to trap and immobilize water containing pollutants.



"Look, up in the sky! It's Superman! it's a plane! No, it's a BIRD!"

More than 75% of commercial fish species require estuarine wetlands to complete part of their lifecycle. Many local and migratory birds also utilise wetlands as breeding and roosting sites.

Prior to human impact on coastal floodplains of northern NSW, approximately 80% of the floodplain was wetland, the other 20% floodplain rainforest. Settlement by humans has greatly impacted wetland distribution, with now only 20% wetlands left on our floodplains.



Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group [HIMAG]

HIMAG is a coordinated community project to improve the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury area through community education and humane control of Indian Myna Birds.

We had a great trap building workshop back in September with a number of Pee Gee Traps made - see picture below. Let us know if you would like to make a trap and we'll put you on the list for the next workshop. Alternatively you can buy your own for about \$50, make your own for a bit less or hire for free. For a full list see the website link below.

Please keep sending your capture data to your closest Volunteer Area Coordinator (VAC) so we can gauge the effectiveness of HIMAG.

Happenings around the traps – reader's story

Late last year my wife Doris, noticed a nest that some Indian Mynas had built in a cavity in a back room. Knowing they are a pest and noisy birds, she decided that she has to get rid of it. So she pulled all the nesting material; twigs and rubbish from the cavity and threw it on the decking, after which she handled all the nesting material to be thrown out.

Within two weeks Doris started to feel unwell; she had a temperature, nausea, no energy, would not eat, so she went to her GP. He referred her to a pathologist for several blood tests. As soon as the blood results were received, Doris was told to go straight to the doctor's surgery. The result came that she was anemic; the doctor ordered a bone scan as he feared that she had cancer, the result came negative so he sent her back to pathology for blood culture again the result negative. The doctor was at a loss to figure out what else could be wrong so he contacted the Infectious Disease Specialist at Nepean Hospital and they started more tests.

After four weeks of tests, the GP asked the question "Do have you any birds at home?" to which Doris replied "No, however, we had an Indian Myna's nest and I cleared it out." The GP said that this is what you have a disease from birds when you inhaled the dust of their droppings. She is now on antibiotics to try and clear this virus thanks to these pests.

I contacted Penrith City Council to ask them how to capture the pests and was told that they could not help me at all; they told me to ask WIRES. I contacted WIRES and they said they could not help me neither but to contact Bill Handke from the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group who might help me, he in turn asked me to contact HIMAG via Hawkesbury City Council who in turn put me on to Greg at The Men's Shed to obtain a trap to do my bit to eradicate these pests from our environment.

Thank you to all the above groups for your help.
Kind regards
Rom and Doris Sultana
Leonay NSW

Geoff Wynn – Windsor and Surrounds VAC.

Geoff Wynn, the Volunteer Area Coordinator for the Windsor/South Windsor / Bligh Park Area is now on twitter and facebook, have a look at his successful skills. Geoff has also made about 10 traps and hires these traps for 1-2 weeks for a \$50 refundable deposit once the trap is returned.



Geoff Wynn at the trap building workshop

Contact: Geoff Wynn to arrange a trap: 0439 070 162 or email himagwindsor@gmail.com; Twitter = @himagwindsor Facebook = himagwindsor

2013 Indian Myna Conference

HIMAG was recently invited in the plenary discussion at the 2013 Indian Myna Conference, "Towards Best Practice Indian Myna Control", which was held on Wednesday, 19 June at the Discovery Centre, CSIRO, Canberra. There were a number of guest speakers at this conference, from various government agencies, universities, community groups as well as Susana Saavedra who has totally eradicated mynas from three of the Canary Islands (Tenerife in 1999, Gran Canaria in 2006 and Fuerteventura in 2008) see

www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/Myna%20Matters%20Bulletin%202020.pdf

HIMAG highlighted its success stories, giving a brief overview in how HIMAG began and evolved. It is hoped that this talk will hopefully encourage other local councils and community groups to follow suite.

The 2013 conference was worth its weight in gold and I made some great contacts with the day providing me / HIMAG with some great avenues to proceed with. Stay tuned for the next edition of "Weed All About It" for a more detailed breakdown of the conference.

For more information on the 2013 Indian Myna Conference www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/2013%20Conference%20Program.pdf

For more Detailed HIMAG information, go to www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag or contact Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries (02) 4560 4525 mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

BUSHCARE EVERYWHERE!

So far for 2013, Hawkesbury Bushcare has been involved with both the Royal Easter Show, the Hawkesbury Show and the Autumn Harvest Earthcare Fair. Its aim at these events is to inform the community of all facets of the Bushcare program, that being bush regeneration through Bushcare, The Hawkesbury Community Nursery and Indian Myna Control via HIMAG.

Upcoming events that Hawkesbury Bushcare will be involved in will include:

- Sunday, 14 July: Naidoc Week, Richmond Park, Richmond
- Wednesday, 24 July: National Tree Day, Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Mulgrave
- Saturday, 27 July: National Tree Day, Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Mulgrave
- Friday, 26 – Sunday, 28 July: Retirement and Lifestyle Expo, Rosehill Racecourse; as a joint initiative of the Volunteer Coordinator Network (VCN) and HNCMA
- Saturday, 10 August: Biodiversity Training Day, Chain of Ponds Reserve, Stannix Park Road, Ebenezer
- Saturday, 14 September: Richmond TAFE Open Day, Richmond
- Saturday, 28 September: Seed Collection, Workshop, MacDonald Valley
- Saturday, 21 October: Bowen Mountain Festival, Bowen Mountain
- Sunday, 27 October: Scarecrow Festival, Kurrajong
- Saturday, 30 November - Sunday, 1 December: Small Farm Expo, Hawkesbury Show Ground, Clarendon

Hawkesbury Clean Up at the Regionals

by Vanessa Keyzer

The Hawkesbury region is lucky enough to be home to two recent winners at the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) Regional Landcare Awards: Zhan Patterson and Colo High School.

Zhan, a young woman who is leading the way in empowering youth in the Hawkesbury area has won the 'Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award'. Zhan worked with 12 local schools and youth groups as part of the Hawkesbury Environment Network's "Alive!" program on a range of projects that addressed issues such as food security, bush regeneration, stormwater harvesting, native plant propagation, urban agriculture and water re-use. Zhan was nominated because of the success with which she ran this program, and also because of her passion and drive. For more information, go to <http://www.hen.org.au/alive>.

Colo High School was awarded the Junior Landcare award. The school has been very active in Landcare since 2011, when they conducted a biodiversity audit on remnant bushland with the help of Brewongle Environmental Education Centre. The founding group then ran a whole school assembly with an inspirational presentation to motivate fellow students, and was the pilot school for the HNCMA's "Landcare in Your School" Toolkit. More than 110 students have since been engaged in Landcare activities.



Zhan Patterson presented with the 'Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award'

Short films of each Landcare Award winner were produced and can be viewed on the HNCMA's website <http://www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/news/6701.html>

TAFE course - Eucalypts

Interested in learning more about the Eucalypts and Ecological Communities of Western Sydney and the Lower Blue Mountains? Richmond TAFE teacher Peter Mobbs is conducting the workshops so you will be in excellent hands.

Hawkesbury Bushcare will subsidise this by 75% for active Hawkesbury Bushcare volunteers.

There are two separate Eucalyptus courses; these comprise of:

Identification of Vegetation Communities. Learn the identification of local vegetation communities and their distribution in Western Sydney and the Lower Blue Mountains. Topics covered; plant community composition, identifying tools and keys and distribution patterns and relationships across the landscape. Inclusive dates of Thursday, 29 and Saturday, 31 August and Saturday, 7 September 2013.



Eucalyptus punctata
Photo: Michael Kemp

Local Eucalypts – Associations and Distribution.

Learn the identification distribution of Eucalypts in Western Sydney and the Lower Blue Mountains. Topics covered; identifying feature and tools, distribution patterns and soil preferences. Inclusive dates of Thursday, 18 and Saturday, 20 July 2013.

Peter can be reached on Peter.Mobbs@tafensw.edu.au (02) 4570 9060 or 0414 512 884. See the following link for more information <http://wsi.tafensw.edu.au/colleges-and-specialist-centres/richmond/>

WANTED

unwanted televisions and computers

by Suzanne Stuart

Have you ever wondered what you can do with that old computer or television that you don't use any more?

Hawkesbury City Council has been pondering the same question recently and decided to form a partnership with TechCollect and the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association to run two computer and television recycling collection weekends.



The collections weekends were held between Friday, 1 and Sunday, 3 March and again on Friday, 17 and Sunday, 19 May at the Hawkesbury Showground with great success.

The response from the local community, local small businesses and from those outside the area was overwhelming. At the first event, over 800 people came to leave their old computers and televisions and at the second event nearly 600 people also came along.

Council plans to run future computer and television drop off events. Techcollect has several permanent sites in Western Sydney for a free drop off. View these at <http://techcollect.com.au/nsw-locations/>.

Biodiversity on Crown Reserves Pilot Training at Chain of Ponds Reserve

If you have been lucky enough to have completed an online survey about the existing biodiversity at Chain of Ponds Reserve; well never fear the next step is here. The Reserve has now been surveyed for basic ecological information and the field data sheets tested. From this a training program has now been developed, all are welcome to attend this innovative event, but please RSVP.

Time	9am -12noon
Date	Saturday, 10 August 2013
Location	Chain of Ponds Reserve, Stannix Park Road, Ebenezer
RSVP	Mick Pattison 4560 4531
Email	michael.pattison@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Weed Review

Cat's Claw Creeper by HRCC



Terrestrial High Risk Weed

Botanical name: *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

What does it look like?

A large vine with bright yellow bell-shaped flowers, 4-10 cm long and up to 10 cm wide leaves have two leaflets 5-25 mm long, with a three-clawed tendril (the cat's claw), 3-17 mm long, growing between them. The vine bears very long, narrow and flat pods containing many seeds and has a vigorous root and tuber system with elongated, glossy green fruit, dark-brown as they mature, 15-50 cm long, 8-12 mm wide; each fruit contains numerous oblong seeds, 10-40 mm long, 4-10 mm wide.

Where does it grow?

Prefers warm-temperate, tropical and sub-tropical areas and can be found in gardens, over fences, along roadsides, waterways and in disturbed rainforests.

How does it spread?

The creeper spreads by water, wind, floods and humans can also spread the tuberous roots.

How does it affect the environment?

Cat's claw has become a serious weed that will smother large trees and shrubs.

Who is HRCC?

HRCC (Hawkesbury River County Council) is a single purpose authority to control and remove declared noxious weeds for Hills Shire, Blacktown, Penrith and Hawkesbury City Councils. The noxious weeds list can be found on our HRCC website, at www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any questions regarding noxious weeds, please contact us at 6 Walker Street, South Windsor 2756, by telephone on (02) 4587 0230 or by email council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au.



Cat's Claw Project

by Robin Woods

This is an introduction about a problem which will devastate the beauty and attractiveness of the Kurrajong area. You may not be aware of the devastation happening to many big trees, bushland areas and gardens in the Grose Vale-Kurrajong area, all due to a highly invasive vine, Cat's Claw Creeper.

Hawkesbury Environment Network, [HEN], has begun a two-year control program to map and plan eradication of this weed. This is a collaborative educational and action-based project with government funding, assistance from agencies and other groups including local Landcare group, Hawkesbury Rainforest Network [HRN].

An initial planning meeting of stakeholders (land owners, local businesses and contractors) will be held shortly and this is the first call for your expression of interest.

Left unchecked, this weed which is now listed as nationally significant, has the capacity to destroy our bushland, just as it was doing up in the northern river valleys along streams and in rainforests. We need to keep it out of Little Wheeny Creek and get it out of local bushland areas.

What we need are:

- volunteers to help identify and letterbox affected properties;
- assistance in contacting any land or property managers to run an education program and train them;
- help in spreading the word through various networks including Kurrajong Forum and local businesses; and
- contact with new landowners in the area to provide them with factual information to help them manage weeds and enjoy their bushland values.

There will be some very informative workshops about effects of weedy vines on fauna habitat, and some visits to interesting sites not usually accessible to the public.

Please reply to this email to indicate interest at this stage, and be put on our mailing list for bulletins.

For further enquiries, please ring Robin (Woods), Project Contact and HEN Secretary, on (02) 4572 1635 or 0414 672 014, or robin@hen.org.au

The Cat's Claw Creeper Control Project is supported by the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority with funding from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund.



Cat's Claw Creeper extending 20 metres into eucalypts in Kurrajong

Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer profile



Name: Elizabeth Chellingworth

Group: Mill Rd, Matheson Park, Chain of Ponds, Woodbury Reserve, Hawkesbury Community Nursery and the Hawkesbury Heights Youth Hostel bushcare

Group Location: Kurrajong, Ebenezer, Glossodia and Hawkesbury Heights

Time with Group: 11 years in June 2013

Position in Group: Volunteer

Occupation: Bush Regenerator

Reason for Volunteering: Originally to bring a Duke of Edinburgh student for community service

Best Achievement: 7 years working for Good Bush People in the Hawkesbury catchment.

Favourite Native Species: Delicate groundcovers - Solanum, Hibbertia, Goodenia, Scaevola, Plectranthus etc.

Most Hated Weed: *Acetosa sagittata* at Swallow Rock

Six people you would like to invite to dinner: Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Frank Woolworth, Kevin McCloud, Dylan Moran, Geoffrey Robertson.



Sick of graffiti around your reserves?

To report graffiti go to <http://www.vandaltrak.com.au>

This website is a database of 'tags' that the NSW police use that can help lead to convictions.

Alternatively, graffiti can be reported to the police assistant line 131 444 under malicious damage; this will then be referred to the local police - Windsor Police (02) 4587 4099.



Flora Corner

by Merv Sharkie

The life and times of *Indigofera australis* or Austral Indigo to us lay people. It is widespread in open forest and woodlands in southern Australia from the south east of Western Australia to North East Queensland.



It can handle drought but loves a drink and is frost hardy. It is a slender shrub of the pea family growing to two metres high with blue green foliage; the flower colour is unusual, ranging through soft purple hues, often pinkish. The flowers are smooth in short spires in the leaf axils, freely produced and showy. They may open at any time from mid September and may continue till November in a cool spring. After flowering, the shrub is hung with shiny, bright green pods ripening to produce squarish hard seed.

Indigofera is genus of about 700 species of which about 30 are found in Australia. The most commonly encountered species is *Indigofera australis*. The plant is a useful food plant for butterfly larvae (caterpillars). Flowers are a pollen and nectar source for many native insects, including native bees and wasps. The plant was an interesting food source, as the Australian Aborigines crushed the leaves and added these to water to kill or stun fish and eels. Speaking of eels, go Parra.

Indigofera australis is grown at and may be purchased from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

Nursery Bus Tour

by Jutta Hamilton

In May this year, a group of nursery volunteers from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery visited Hornsby Community Nursery to see how things were done over there. We were amazed at how productive and professionally the nursery was run. Many questions were asked and Nursery Manger, Ross Rapmund was not shy to answer all of them. We enjoyed lunch in the garden and entertainment area of the nursery and everybody commented on the nice atmosphere of the surrounds.

John Jose entertained us on the way home with his ukulele playing and fine operatic voice. The tour was well worth the experience and has given us all some great ideas in how to take the Hawkesbury Community Nursery the next step further.



"Nursery Volunteer Group as happy as ever from the bus tour and John Jose's musical expertise"

Smile for the Camera

Wildlife Cameras on loan

Always wanted to find out who lives in your bushland patch?

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority has a new program loaning our automatic wildlife cameras. The motion-activated cameras are easy to set up and will photograph wildlife day and night without a flash.



The cameras are available for free loan to Bushcare/Landcare groups and to land owners actively regenerating their bushland. Loans are subject to availability.

Contact: Peter Ridgeway on peter.ridgeway@cma.nsw.gov.au or phone 0401 481 037 to register your interest.

Hawkesbury



Training

We are looking for caring people to train as licensed volunteer wildlife rescuers and or admin, publicity, fundraising etc. Animals cared for include, wallabies, gliders, kookaburras and more.... Two day training course on Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 July, with an introductory on Monday, 15 July 2013.

Contact wireshawkesbury@gmail.com or call 4577 2669.

Hawkesbury Bushcare

Scheduled Meeting Times

Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

Mill Road, Kurrajong
1st Saturday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Matheson Park Bushcare

Matheson Park, Kurrajong
1st Saturday of the Month (1pm-4pm)

Navua Community Group

Navua Reserve, Grose Wold
1st Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Chain of Ponds Reserve Bushcare

Stannix Park Road, Chain of Ponds Reserve,
Ebenezer
2nd Saturday of the Month (9am-12.30pm)

Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

Spinks Road, (40 Acres), Glossodia
2nd Saturday of the Month (1.30pm-4.30pm)

McMahon Park Bushcare

McMahon Park, Kurrajong
Last Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Sunnyvale Bushies

Lower Macdonald Valley
561 Settlers Rd, Lower Macdonald
3rd Saturday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Bellbird Hill Reserve Bushcare

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
Various work days

Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

Swallow Reach Place, Ebenezer
4th Saturday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong
Various work days

Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare

Aboriginal Memorial Reserve, Lower Portland,
1st Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Redbank Creek Bushcare, North Richmond

Susella Reserve and Peel Park, North Richmond
2nd Wednesday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights
Various work days

Community Nursery Day

Hawkesbury Community
Nursery, Mulgrave
Every Wednesday (9am-1pm) and
by appointment on 4560 4651

If you are interested
in being involved in
any of the
Hawkesbury
Bushcare sites, or
have any enquiries,
please contact
Community

Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560
4525, or email: martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

We would love to hear from you.



Hawkesbury City Council

