



## The 17th Annual Bushcare Landcare Awards at Remony Farm 2014

Oh what a night, it was pretty epic; in fact some people said it was the best Bushcare Landcare Awards that they had ever been to. A big call; so if you missed out here's a run-down of what happened. After biting our nails for 2 weeks prior to the event with all the rain and thunderstorms, the heavens cleared and the weather was perfect for a late Sunday afternoon get together.



We had a bit of a theme at the awards this year being "local produce", and it all went down a treat. Having the event at Remony Farm, a local Landcare award winning farm that supplied some of the local produce for dinner, as well as showcasing its local bush regeneration site and revegetation areas, was all inspiring. To top off the local produce theme the awards consisted of local produce from Hawkesbury Harvest Hampers.

Clr Paul Rassmussen, and Vanessa Keyzer from the Greater Sydney Local Services were in attendance to provide invaluable assistance with the awards. Those acknowledged this year, was everyone, because you all do such great work, but to be specific about it all, the awards included -

Feel the serenity at Remony

- The Hawkesbury Community Nursery Green Thumb Award - Wendy Lawson
- Rookies of the Year – St Albans Village Weed Wackers
- 10 Years Long Service – Jan Kofron, Heather Winch and Patrick Cooper
- Toni May Memorial Award for Excellence in Bushland Regeneration - Peter Mobbs.
- Environmental Group of the Year - Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group
- Environmental Volunteer of the Year - Kay Rowe

Kay Rowe facilitates lunchtime Landcare at Kurrajong East Public School. Since 2010 she has been

finding interesting and engaging ways to encourage her students to participate in Landcare activities. Together with her students she has slowly controlled the weed and restored bushland at the back of the school and her students are very proud of the work they have undertaken. Kay recognises the importance of passing on skills to our younger generations so they continue to protect our environment. Kay has also been actively involved with Glossodia Park Bushcare for many years restoring the valuable Cumberland Bushland in the reserve; thanks Kay.

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**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: [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).**

**We would love to hear from you.**

## Editorial

Hi movers & shakers. Well this edition has been a long time coming. There is plenty to read, from all the great stuff that happened in 2014 to what's planned for 2015. This is what I like to call a bumper edition, so don't read it all at once. Enjoy it over a glass of red, or a glass of full creamed dairy milk, or a nice hot cup of tea; whatever takes your fancy. Now I'm really keen to get some more workshops happening for

2015, so have a look at page 7 on the workshops / training for 2015 and let me know if you're keen.

Thanks to those who contributed to this edition; your groovy articles makes the newsletter what it is. So get your motor running for some serious bush regeneration for 2015 and away we go! Happy Days!

Marty Gauci  
Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG Facilitator



**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](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au). We would love to hear from you.**

# Grant Update

from Land Management Officer - Michael Pattison

**Hawkesbury Reveg** – Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) has provided additional funding for Council revegetation projects over the next two years. The project aim is to improve the condition of the vegetation and habitats present in Council reserves, as well as improve connectivity and reduce the impact of fragmentation and edge effects. 8000 plants will be planted across 5 hectares over two years.

**GSLLS** has provided additional wetland funding to remove invasive weeds from Pughs and Bushells lagoons. These lagoons provide important habitat for waterbirds and are both within the Richmond Woodlands Important Bird Area (IBA) listed by Birdlife International. The lagoons of the IBA support wetland birds including Australian Little Bittern, Red-necked Stint, Royal Spoonbill and Red-necked Avocet. Eight wetland birds found in the area are listed as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, these being Comb-crested Jacana, Black Bittern, Black-necked Stork, Freckled Duck, Painted Snipe, Mongolian Plover and Black-tailed Godwit (NSW NPWS 2000; Atlas of Australian Birds database). A small numbers of the endangered Australasian Bittern has been reported as well as a number of species protected under international migratory bird agreements. See <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site> for more information.

**GSLLS** has provided funding for ongoing Lantana control at half Moon Farm. This project has been running over the last few years and is showing great signs of success. Annual monitoring of Lantana density is continuing across the site.

**Mac Valley Arundo** – HCC and GSLLS has partnered in a project to reduce the impact of *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) on riparian vegetation in the Macdonald Valley. The project will run over two years to remove Arundo from Council reserves and roadsides. This runs in conjunction with another project for similar works on private land funded by GSLLS.



**Year 3 of ET Wheeny Creek Restoration** – We are now half way through the final year of the Wheeny Creek Restoration Project funded by the Environmental Trust. So far the project has treated invasive weeds over 20 hectares of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Alluvial Woodland.



**Year 4 of Hawkesbury River Resto** – This project is going well and continues to reduce the impact of weeds on Council riverside reserves.



**The NSW Rural Fire Service** has provided funding through the Bush Fire mitigation fund to create an Asset Protection Zone at Bowen Mountain. The aim of this project is to reduce fuel loading directly behind the houses to alleviate some of the risk in bushfire season. Additional funding has been provided to create a control line at Charles Kemp Reserve to protect Western Sydney Dry Rainforest from the proposed hazard reduction burn.



**The Department of Lands** has provided \$30,000 in funding to assist in the control of invasive weeds at Yarramundi Reserve.



## In Memory of four of our Dearests

One of the best parts of my position as Community Bushcare Officer at Council would have to be meeting and working with wonderful, real and honest volunteers. Working with you guys is a true injection of enthusiasm and a form of encouragement. You all seem to care about what you do and you do so much - and most of the time everyone is so friendly and helpful. But one of the hardest and saddest things of the job is the loss of these great people. Over the past year, four volunteers associated with Hawkesbury Bushcare have sadly passed away. I can speak for the whole Hawkesbury Bushcare community when I say these people have truly left an impressionable mark on the area.

The common denominator that these four wonderful people had was a love for the natural environment - particularly that of the Hawkesbury. I hope somehow another voice and individual will continue their great work. Never the less they are and will continue to be missed.

### Geoff Morley

Geoff Morley was involved with the Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group. He was always very positive, friendly and polite to everyone he met.

Having grown up in Ebenezer as the son of a riverboat man (Barney Morley) Geoff was well known by locals. He had an amazing knowledge of the river and of local history, often sharing his memories at Bushcare - memories of local people and things about the river. He shared stories such as where the platypus were, the path of the river during floods, the 1942 flood when he had pneumonia and his father took 10 hours to boat him up to Windsor to the doctors house. He had a strong sense of community, a deep respect for the river and the bush. Most of all, Geoff was a warm, fun, energetic and caring man who deeply valued his family, community, history and the local environs. (Melissa Medo)

### Toni May

Toni May had a curiosity of the world, was involved with Matheson Park and one of those lucky enough to work with the Bradley Sisters at Mosman. She was witty, opinionated, a lover of the arts, fiercely independent and a proud bush regenerator.

### Leonie Burt

Leonie Burt helped get a Settlers Road Bushcare site up and running with a few keen locals, way back in September 2005, to see a Buddleia infestation go. A real mover and shaker for the Macdonald Valley – she got many landholders started in regenerating the bush along the Macdonald River. Leonie was happy go lucky, friendly and not just a half glass full, but more so a glass overflowing. Leonie was very fond of Toni May and worked on Toni's property for perhaps 3 years; the feeling between them was mutual. Some people say they shared the same dry wit and curiosity of the world.

### John Lennis

John Lennis was also involved with the Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group. Although not a true volunteer, he worked for the HNCMA. I'm sure John gave more than he received. To John it was not a job, but an avenue to connect people and nature. John had humour, wisdom and patience all rolled into one. John gave terrific insights into the values of the bush to Indigenous people.



# Hawkesbury Community Nursery Update

**2** 014 for the Hawkesbury Community Nursery was pretty huge. More than 19,000 plants left the Nursery, ranging from groundcovers, bushes, shrubs and trees to find a new home in private gardens, farms, reserves and along the river.

Throughout the year the Nursery was involved with a stack of community events and supplied a lot of free plants at these functions. Some of these events included the Hawkesbury Show, National Tree Day, Kurrajong Memorial Park Opening, TAFE Open Day at Richmond, Bowen Mountain Festival, Kurrajong Community Event at McMahon Park, Wisemans Ferry Fair, Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony, Earthcare Spring Fair and George Street Reserve Open Day.

These events encompassed over 2,500 native plants provided to residents and visitors of the Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury Show and National Tree Day plant giveaways have proved to be a regular local favourite amongst visitors to the



The big happy bunch of nursery volunteers

Show and Community Nursery. These events wouldn't have been so successful without the support of the Community Nursery volunteer group, who are such a positive driving force in producing top quality plant specimens.

There are currently over 100 different species in stock at the nursery and they are looking pretty awesome. As the months

start getting cooler, this will be a great time to plant and now that those epic school holiday trips are over, it will be easy enough to do some follow up watering. The full range of the available plants can be seen at <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment2/bushcare/community-nursery>

The Hawkesbury Community

*Remony 2014,  
Continued from page 1*

We had a fair bit of moving speeches, a highlight of which was about the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group and their Firestick Program [www.firesticks.org.au](http://www.firesticks.org.au). Den Barber gave a great presentation on an Aboriginal led network which aims to revive the use of cultural fire practices to improve biodiversity, have a connection with the land and create a sense of community. To express your interest email [yellomundeeffiresticks@hotmail.com](mailto:yellomundeeffiresticks@hotmail.com) or call 4720 6202. All Welcome!

To tell you the truth, they were great speeches all round and it was really lovely to be around such a great group of people. So what will we do for 2015 Awards? I welcome your suggestions, ideas, help and feedback to make the 2015 Awards, bigger, brighter, bubblier & bush regenerator.....

Nursery is open on Wednesdays (9am-1pm) or by appointment for native plant sales. You can find us at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave, next to the Companion Animal Shelter. Ph (02) 4560 4651 or email [Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



## BUSHCARE IN ST ALBANS

### Well it is Official

No this article is not about an engagement or marriage, oh well sort of....

Metaphorically speaking it could be – we'll let you guys decide... the formation of a new Bushcare Group in St Albans is pretty exciting news. After a site meeting with a few interested parties at St Albans Park and after a few "paper, scissors, rocks", it was decided that the best meeting time would be the 3rd Sunday of the month, with the group doing the standard time period from 9am to 12 noon (always a winner). The newly formed "St Albans Village Weed Wackers", officially started on Sunday 16 February, 2014 and they are now going leaps and bounds with what they had hoped to achieve.

So far the St Albans Village Weed Wackers have targeted a few weed species that include a stack of Arundo Grass/ Giant Reed, Turkey Rubarb & Wandering Jew and welcome all hands on helpers. The group have targeted weeds holistically and work in conjunction with the various social points of the Park and at the same time incorporating some of the standard Bradley Method techniques.



Kate Hughes, Melissa Medo & Vera Zaccari amongst the Blue Gums

Future jobs for the Bushcare Group include planting, bush regeneration, seed collection, and Bushcare sign and track maintenance of the 'Biodiversity Walk'. This exciting new Bushcare Group would not have happened if it was not for the guidance of the "Rescue the future – restoring the Macdonald Valley ecosystem" grant that the Macdonald Valley Association Inc. had implemented to make the Macdonald Valley a better place for all.

But it's not all about the weeds, a few good social BBQ gatherings have been held on their workdays. These BBQ's are a great way to start the Bushcare year and get to know some of your local friends better.

**For further information and expression of interest – contact Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries (02) 4560 4525 [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).**

# Cats Claw Creeper

The Cats Claw Creeper (CCC) Program is progressing well. Over the past 12 months an information day and bus tour was held through Kurrajong with Jacob Phillpot the main guide and MC, which proved to be a real winner.

At present a stakeholder group has been formed which consists of representatives from HRCC, HCC, NPWS, GSLLS and private landholders who have met a few times to assist with the program. About 30% of landholders who have been notified with the CCC on their properties have expressed interest or taken up offers of assistance.

Enter the Green Army who will be working on various sites in the Hawkesbury in the up and coming months.

The facts; CCC is a woody climber with stems extending over 20 m. The leaves have two leaflets, with a three-clawed tendril (the cat's claw) growing between them. The vine produces long, flat, narrow pods 15 to 45 cm long which contain numerous winged seeds 2 to 4 cm long including the wing. Swollen underground tubers grow along the roots. Flowers are large, bright yellow, bell-shaped and produced in spring. CCC is an aggressive climber which completely smothers shrubs and trees. [http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/347154/awmg\\_cats-claw-creeper.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/347154/awmg_cats-claw-creeper.pdf)

If you think you have CCC on your property or want to be involved with CCC Program, register your interest with Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer (02) 4560 4525 [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au). Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) has developed an information guide booklet (see pic below) for landholders on its control. For your free digital or hard copy version contact Martin Gauci.



## GEORGE STREET RESERVE BUSHCARE BUSHCARE GROUP BEGINS

It is with great pleasure to announce that the new Bushcare Group at George Street Reserve, Bligh Park is up and running. We had a pretty big turnout for the first Bushcare meeting held back in November last year, with people coming along to show their support and interest to help and improve their local patch of Cumberland Plain bushland. This is the first Hawkesbury Bushcare Group on the eastern side of the Hawkesbury River in more than 10 years, so well done. If you missed out all is not lost, we mainly did a meet and greet, had a cuppa and small feed and talked about a few of the issues affecting the reserve and where to meet in 2015.

The date and time chosen for the new George Street Reserve Bushcare Group is the 4th Sunday of the month from 9am-12 noon commencing on Sunday 22 February 2015. The group will meet at the play equipment next to Bligh Park Community Centre. It is proposed that the Bushcare Group work in the vicinity of the play equipment and as time passes, other areas will be identified and targeted to be regenerated.

What you need to bring will be sturdy footwear, hat, eye protection, long sleeves (pants & shirt), sunblock, some drinking water and a small bite to eat should you get hungry during this period.

For more information on how you can get involved in George Street Reserve Bushcare Group please contact Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248 or [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



The new George Street Reserve Bushcare Group, willing and able



# 2014 WORKSHOPS REVIEW

## MICROBATS WORKSHOP

by Jutta Hamilton

A fabulous informative evening led by Microbat expert Dr Brad Law (NSW DPI) and Mark Chidel (The Hills Shire Council) where we learned that Microbats are a protected species and that it is a real bonus to have them roosting in tree hollows on your property or even in your roof. A feature of the night was the setting up of a few harp traps at the start of the talk and which were later released on dusk; a real wow experience.

Microbats play a vital role in the health of ecosystems. They eat a wide range of insects, including mosquitoes, moths, beetles and bugs, helping to keep their numbers in check. Good foraging areas for Microbats include over water or around trees-especially big trees. You can often see Microbats at dusk, patrolling along tree lined corridors like roads or tracks like a silent flash.

More importantly we also learned simple ways to create ideal habitat for these gorgeous little creatures on our own land. Most Microbats rely on shelter like tree hollows in large, old or dead trees or dead limbs on live trees. The number of hollow bearing trees is declining as more and more large old live and dead trees are being removed. As the number of roost sites decreases, bat populations will decline. Without adequate numbers of roost sites for shelter, bats are vulnerable to predators and less able to successfully rear their young.



Fly be free. Photo - Peter Op't Land

## FROGS by Rebecca Mooy

On a Saturday evening in September, 25 participants came along to hear Arthur White from Frog & Tadpole Study Group NSW Inc. (FATS), give an interesting talk about frogs along Redbank Creek. On our walk along the Creek we heard at least 3 species of frogs. One of those seen was a Leaf Green Tree Frog *Litoria phyllochroa*, sitting on a clump of Lomandra. In the past, 24 species of frogs have been recorded in Hawkesbury. However, recent studies only found 50% of the species to now exist.

### Some frog facts & tips

- Protecting creek banks by restoring the habitat is important for frogs.
- Having good native vegetation along the creeks banks assists in filtering rain water runoff before it enters the creek, thereby reducing fertilizers and chemicals entering the waterways as the majority of Frog species are highly sensitive to pollution.
- Frogs to Creeks are like the "canaries in the coal mine". A range of frog species found using a local creek are indicators of good water quality and healthy habitat.
- Tadpoles also have natural predators including birds, gambusia (a pest fish) and other native fish, and turtles.
- Frog populations are in decline in the urban environment due to the use of fertilizers, pesticides, weed killers, road runoff such as oils and detergents that enter local creeks either over land or via storm water. Reduction in vegetation along the Creek banks also reduces frog habitat.

Frogs generally spend part of their lifecycle in water, and their moist skins are especially sensitive to pollution. Ways of reducing the impact of pollution on frogs include:

- preventing chemicals such as petrol, insecticides, detergents and fertilisers from entering waterways
- reducing water run-off and preventing rubbish, silt and garden waste from getting into stormwater drains
- constructing and maintaining sediment traps near waterways, especially when disturbing surface vegetation cover
- if you have a property, keeping a wide belt of vegetation around water bodies as a buffer zone for contaminants and to control erosion
- avoiding wearing insect repellents and other lotions if you go swimming in areas where frogs live.

Frogs are another excellent reason for having a native garden. The less fertilisers & pesticides used in our gardens regardless of how close you live to a creek, the better off frogs are going to be.

Some useful websites on frogs website <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/ThreatsToFrogs.htm>  
<http://www.fats.org.au/>  
<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment2/bushcare>



Leaf Green Tree Frog *Litoria phyllochroa*, along Redbank Creek is not tolerant of pollution and is now rare in the Cumberland Plain. Photo - Rebecca Mooy

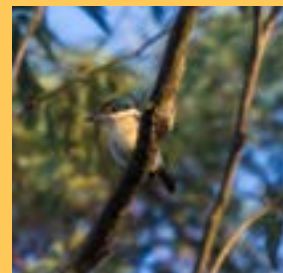
## BIRDS

We all got to Swallow Rock Reserve, Ebenezer bright and early to hear the dawn chorus and Keith Brandwood from the **Cumberland Bird Observers** (CBOC) was there to tell us what bird was what and why it is important to have a wide variety of native plants to support an array of native birds. It all gets back to habitat really.

If you don't have adequate plants to create a home for our native birds, it's simple, you won't have native birds. The best plants to have are those that

occur around your home naturally, that are native of course.

We saw close to 40 different native bird species which included:-Australian Woodduck, Wedged Tail Eagle, Wonga Pigeon, White Throated Tree Creeper, Golden Whistler, Lewins Honey Eater, Sacred King Fisher, Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike, Red Rumped Parrot, Sea Eagle (go Parra!), Dollar Bird (my favourite), Eastern Spinebill and more.



Sacred Kingfisher, looking out for breakfast. Photo - Michelle Nichols

# 2014 WORKSHOPS REVIEW

## continued

### JENOLAN CAVES

by Trish Butler

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to staff from National Parks and the Jenolan Caves Trust for facilitating a wonderful volunteer bush regeneration weekend at Jenolan Caves. This fabulous initiative being led by the NPWS Oberon office was a great way to spend a weekend meeting like-minded people and learning about the invasive pest threats to the unique karst geology at Jenolan Caves.

The co-operative and informative staff led by Trish Kidd were inspirational. The trainers were patient and supportive; teaching volunteers about Jenolan's unique biodiversity values and the most effective and safest way to control the invasive Sycamore Maple trees that are consuming 50ha of the Reserve. It was refreshing to be involved in a program where staff are so passionate about their work. The volunteer crew were spoiled with all meals over the weekend but particularly a BBQ dinner that catered for all tastes on the Saturday night. This was after we had been led through a couple of the amazing caves by a Trust Guide. Seeing some platypus in the lake the following morning was truly another bonus.

I hope that National Parks NSW continues with this kind of program as it appeals to people outside of standard programs. It was a unique opportunity to learn new skills and transfer some with like-minded people, see new weeds and control techniques, and discover new programs at work. I wish all the staff involved the best and will continue to be involved in these types of programs for years to come.



This is a stalactite not a stalagmite - trust me



All geared up and ready to go and get those Sycamores

So how can you help your local microbats, frogs & birds?

Join a Bushcare or Landcare Group to help your local bushland.

Get some native plants for your garden, use less chemicals, read this article again and tell your friends.

### Me & Merroo

by Danny Lett

Merroo Crown Reserve is doing well in spite of almost no rain in many months; well prior to November 2014 anyway. Very little weed has been found in my regular visits to this amazing reserve, mostly just a few young African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*.

The Fringe Lillies *Thysanotus tuberosus* maybe 20 or so have finished flowering now and are one of the natives that keep me coming back for more. I am continually finding more native species and have nearly reached the magic 100 of different native species; 94 to be precise. Well, if you count the 8 different



weed species I've identified it would be over 100 – you do the math!

If I look hard enough I'm sure I'll get my tonne.

Fringe Lilly *Eragrostis curvula* and *Thysanotus tuberosus*  
Photo - Danny Lett

**Weed All About It** - Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program  
Volume 15 Issue 1 Summer 2015  
This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

## Next e-waste recycling event March 2015!

Last year, the e-waste recycling event in June collected almost 35 tonnes of e-waste for recycling. Let's work together to try and beat this record at the next e-waste event on 21 & 22 of March 2015. The event will be held at Hawkesbury Showground, Clarendon, from 9am to 3:30pm each day and will target every day household electronic items that people struggle to dispose of in an environmentally responsible matter.

Around 16.8 million televisions, computers and related accessories are disposed of each year in Australia, of this staggering amount only 20-30% of these products are recycled.



**For items that will be accepted and not accepted for recycling**, please visit the e-waste recycling event [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au), <https://www.apple.com/au/recycling/computer/community.html>, call 1800 334 776 or email Council Waste Education Officer [ophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



## HEY TOSSER!

Take your rubbish with you



In 2014, Council received funding from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority to tackle litter (especially cigarette butts, which make up 43% of total litter) in three hotspots:

1. Windsor St, Richmond
2. North Richmond Shopping Centre car park
3. McGraths Hill McDonalds/KFC car park

### This project encompasses the following components:

Education & Community Engagement, Infrastructure, Enforcement

For more information or to help out on Clean Up Australia Day at Windsor St Richmond, 1 March 2015, call Sophie Barrett, Waste Education Officer on **4560 4566**.

email: [Sophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## MICROBATS OUR UNSEEN FAUNA

Microbats are an unseen part of our native fauna and represent one third of mammals present in our ecosystem. These nocturnal insect eating bats are so small they can fit in the palm of your hand and have had the ability to find their niche within our natural ecosystems. They are an essential part of our ecosystem in both harvesting insects in controlling insect population as well as pollinating our native plants. There is possibly up to 20 species of microbats living within the Hawkesbury area; with over a third of these are vulnerable to global extinction<sup>1</sup>.

Microbats hunt for their food – small insects - using specialized sonar. These ultrasonic calls vary between each species, in much the same way as bird calls do, but for a more practical purpose<sup>1</sup>. Being nocturnal creatures you may catch a glimpse of a microbat or two around dusk or early evening. Have a look for a “moth on steroids” both in size and flying speed.

The roost site for a microbat is its home, where it sleeps, mates and is protected from the elements and predators. These roost sites may vary from, caves, culverts, mines, tunnels and stone basements. The majority of these species roost in tree hollows and under the bark of trees. It is these species that prefer tree roosts that are under significant threat. For most of the tree-roosting microbats, preservation of forested area (native vegetation) is the only reliable method of providing adequate daytime roosting resources for these species<sup>2</sup>.

The Ku-ring-gai Bat Conservation Society Inc. <http://www.sydneybats.org.au/> has kindly donated some “Microbats of Sydney” posters to Hawkesbury Bushcare; see <http://www.sydneybats.org.au/microbats/microbats-of-sydney-poster/> Posters are limited and are available to existing active Bushcare groups and volunteers. For more details contact your Community Bushcare Officer Marty.

“But wait there’s more!” Hawkesbury Bushcare have been donated some microbat roost boxes. Once again these boxes are for active Bushcare Groups and volunteers. For more details contact your Community Bushcare Officer Marty. For more information on microbat roost boxes, for construction, maintenance and installation, go to - <http://www.batrescue.org.au/docs/building%20a%20microbat%20nestbox.pdf> & <http://www.sydneybats.org.au/microbats/>

Some other useful bat websites and links include -

-<http://ausbats.org.au/bat-fact-packs/4562894228>

-<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/Factsheet5TreeHollows.pdf>

1. 2009 Report “Silent Night” Community Bat Study - Peter Ridgeway, Hills Shire Council

## Hawkesbury Bushcare Training 2015 - tell us what you want what you really really want!

This is a call out for expression of interest to all Bushcare volunteers and those who receive the Bushcare Newsletter. In 2015 Hawkesbury Bushcare will be developing a number of workshops and small courses on natural areas and we would like feedback and suggestions on what areas need to be covered. Some of these suggestions have included:

- Introduction to bush regeneration (4-5 hours)
- Habitat for your Bushcare site and home garden and what is habitat. (4-5 hours)
- Plant recognition for native plants & weeds (4-5 hours)
- Make your own nest box (half day)
- Plant Propagation workshop (2-3 hours)
- Get to know your Eucalypts & gum trees of the Hawkesbury area (full day)
- Indian Myna Trap building Workshop (2-3 hours)
- Native bird watching outing (2-3 hours)
- Sustainable Horse Property Workshop (full day)
- Paddock Farm Weeds (4 hours)
- Biodiversity on Grazing Farmland (2 day)
- Sedges workshop (2 day)

These workshops will only be run with a minimum of 15 participants, so we look forward to your feed back. If you are interested in any of these workshops or small courses please contact Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator on (02) 4560 4525 [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) to register your interest.

<http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/IgnitionSuite/uploads/docs/Microbat%20Project%20Final%20Report%202009d.pdf> &

2. Taken from “Microbats in the Sydney Region” excerpts from a talk given by Glenn Hoye  
-[http://www.sydneybats.org.au/index.php/download\\_file/view/176/85/](http://www.sydneybats.org.au/index.php/download_file/view/176/85/)



*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*.  
Photo - Peter Ridgeway

# Volunteer Profile



**Name:** Mark Anderson

**Group:** Navua Community Group.

**Group Location:** Navua Reserve, GROSE WOLD.

**Time with Group:** About 22 years – Since 1992.

**Position in Group:** Volunteer.

**Occupation:** Bush Regenerator

**Reason for Volunteering:**

Get involved in the Hawkesbury Community; and Navua Reserve needed some TLC.

**Best Achievement:** Navua Community Group received Bronze Award for Revegetation and Restoration Rivercare in the Year 2000.

**Favourite Native Species:** Blueberry Ash *Eleocharpus reticulatus*, Water Gum *Tristaniopsis laurina*, and Everlasting Daisy Bush *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*.

**Most Hated Weed:** African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*.

**6 people you would like to invite to dinner:** Roy & HG, (John Doyle as "Rampaging' Roy Slaven" and Greig Pickhaver as "H [Harry] G Nelson"), Tim Flannery, Paul Kelly, Richard St. Barbe Baker and Peter Garrett.



## Lend a hand and help clean up Australia on Sunday, 1 March 2015

Every year Clean Up Australia Day encourages and inspires thousands of Australians to take to their local park, waterway, bushland and streets and to help make a difference to their local environment.



Register your own Clean Up Site now in a few simple steps:

- Find a site in the Hawkesbury that you think is in need of a Clean Up
- Register your Clean Up site as an individual or on behalf of your group or school, at [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register/](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/register/)
- Receive your Clean Up Kit (please allow two weeks for delivery)
- Promote your Clean Up site amongst family, friends and colleagues
- Have fun on the day and don't forget to report back to Clean Up Australia with your Clean Up report and site documentation!

Sites must be registered with Clean Up Australia to receive assistance. Dumped rubbish will not be collected by Council and may incur a fine.

**If you are interested in participating in the Hawkesbury City Council Clean Up group at Windsor St, Richmond, contact the Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566 or email [Sophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.BARRETT@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).**

For more information, contact Clean Up Australia on **1800 282 329** or visit [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au).



## WORLD WETLANDS DAY @ PITT TOWN LAGOON 01.02.15

**By Mark Fuller**

Over 40 attendees, including international guests Kay from Canada and Guilia from Italy, met at Pitt Town Lagoon as the Cumberland Bird Observers Club [www.cboc.org.au/](http://www.cboc.org.au/) held its traditional 'World Wetlands Day' outing. The water levels were too high for most shore birds; however we did manage to flush a Latham's Snipe while walking around the perimeter.

On the walk a male Mistletoebird and a Sacred Kingfisher provided the group with good views and a splash of colour while Pink-eared-Ducks twirled around on the lagoon. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle provided our raptorial content and we'd notched up around 50 species before most of the group headed for Scheyville National Park for morning tea.

Scarlet Honeyeaters called all around while we had tea, later Noisy Friarbirds were seen near the headquarters, from the smallest to the largest of the honeyeater family. I lead the group to a nearby equipment depot where we managed to find a sizeable group of Rainbow ee-eaters and marvel at their agility as they hawked for insects.

It was then off to Maraylya Park for lunch where we met up with Keith and some others that had stayed at Pitt Town. We identified the Musk Lorikeet calls from those of the Rainbows as we ate lunch. Later, an Accipiter appeared, it was a classic Sparrowhawk/ Goshawk bird.

An afternoon stroll along Cattai Creek at Glenorie proved fruitful as we added Rufous Fantail and Azure Kingfisher to the list, making a tally of 88 species for the day. Many people, both visitors and members, said how much they'd enjoyed the day for both the friendliness of the group and, of course, the birds.



*I spy with my little eye, something beginning with "B"*



# 2015 Jenolan Volunteer Weekends

Now if you are seriously kicking yourself that you missed out on the Jenolan Caves Sycamore experience in 2014, all is not lost. In 2015 Trish Kidd and her dynamic group of fantastic happy helpers have set aside some dates for more Jenolan Caves experiences.

These dates are: -

## AUTUMN

March 28th & 29th  
May 2nd & 3rd

## SPRING

September 12th & 13th  
October 17th & 18th

If you've been before – we would love to see you back. If you've been meaning to come and not made it yet – now's your chance. For your detailed pdf invite, contact Trish (details below). For more information go to -

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Whats-On/blue-mountains/sycamore-war-volunteer-weeding-jenolan-caves>

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkVolunteering.aspx?id=N0351>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOg\\_CiGO\\_jM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOg_CiGO_jM)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVJcslzx7r8>

Like us on [www.facebook.com/jenolancaveslandcare](http://www.facebook.com/jenolancaveslandcare) and distribute via your networks.

Bookings are essential; contact Trish Kidd, Project Officer NPWS Office – Oberon  
Email [trish.kidd@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:trish.kidd@environment.nsw.gov.au)

P:(02) 6336 1972  
M: 0423 527 740



What a view

## Upcoming GSLLS Workshops



**Bilpin Environments** - find out more about the special values of Bilpin and what is being done to protect them, how you can help and whether you are eligible for funding for work on your place.  
Tuesday 10th March 2015.

Register online - <https://nswtrade.wufoo.com/forms/2015-bilpin-environments-community-workshop/>

For more details call Angie Fricker 4725 3040 or email [angie.fricker@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:angie.fricker@lls.nsw.gov.au)

**Hot Spots Workshops Kurrajong** - Learn how to address fire risk whilst protecting environmental values in the Kurrajong and surrounding areas. Learn about Bell-miner Dieback and its relationship to Lantana. Create your own fire plan and learn about fire ecology

Learn how to control Lantana and more  
Thursday 5th and 26th March 2015 Kurrajong (both workshops require attending)

To register contact Bruce Hanson (02) 8867 7972 or 0417 740 315 or email [bruce.hansen@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bruce.hansen@rfs.nsw.gov.au), <http://hotspotsfireproject.org.au/>

## Floating Landcare - begins 2015 on a wave of achievement

Landcare's adventure conservation program, Floating Landcare, took out the Environmental Protection Award at the 2014 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Clean Beaches Awards in December 2014. A partnership project in the Hawkesbury Estuary involving: Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Landcare Australia, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and a number of local Councils, Floating Landcare brings volunteers and corporate teams to boat only access locations in the Hawkesbury estuary, to manage weed hotspots, collect litter and assist with the annual Lion Island Penguin Count.

Floating Landcare will hold its first activity in early March 2015 and new volunteers are welcomed. To find out more about Floating Landcare or download an activity calendar visit <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees-plants-and-bushland/floating-landcare>.

To RSVP email [floatinglandcare@gmail.com](mailto:floatinglandcare@gmail.com) or contact Rebecca Mooy at Greater Sydney LLS on (02) 4725 3055



Volunteers celebrate a great day out regenerating Hungry Beach at the Base of West Head in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.



# 2015 Hawkesbury Bushcare Calendar

*Help the environment and have an enjoyable day*



SITE LOCATIONS	GROUP	DAY	TIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Kurrajong/Kurrajong Heights Areas</b>															
Singletons Reserve, Kurrajong	Mill Road Bushcare	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday	9am – 12noon	*	6	6	3	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	*
Don Street Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Don Street Bushcare	Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
McMahon Park, Kurrajong	McMahon Park Bushcare	Last Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	22	29	26	31	28	26	30	27	25	29	*
Matheson Park, Kurrajong	Matheson Park Bushcare	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	9am – 12noon	*	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	*
855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong	Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare	Various	Various	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>North Richmond/Grose Vale Areas</b>															
Navua Reserve, Grose Wold	Navua Community Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	1	1	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	*
Redbank Creek, North Richmond	Redbank Creek Bushcare	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	9am – 12noon	*	11	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	14	11	*
<b>Glossodia/Ebenezer/Sackville Areas</b>															
Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia	Woodbury Reserve Bushcare	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	9am – 12noon	*	14	14	11	9	13	11	8	12	10	14	
Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer	Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	9am – 12noon	*	28	28	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	28	*
Aboriginal Memorial Reserve - Lower Portland	Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	1	1	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	*
<b>Wisemans Ferry/Macdonald Valley Areas</b>															
561 Settlers Road, Lower Macdonald	Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	9am – 12noon	*	21	21	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	21	*
St Albans Park, St Albans	St Albans Village Weed Wackers	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	15	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	*
<b>Windsor and Surrounds</b>															
Hawkesbury Community Nursery 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave (next to Animal Shelter)	Nursery Volunteer Group	Wednesday	9am - 1pm	*	Open every Wednesday or by appointment, excluding Public Holidays. Contact the Community Nursery Officer for further details (02) 4560 4651										*
George Street Reserve, Bligh Park	George Street Reserve Bushcare	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	22	22	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	*

\* Optional workdays that can be negotiated with the various Supervisor/s

## Come and grow some native plants for your property, school, community, Bushcare or Landcare Group

### What to Bring?

- ▶ Sun hat
- ▶ Sturdy shoes
- ▶ Long sleeve shirt
- ▶ Long pants
- ▶ Sunscreen
- ▶ Drinking water
- ▶ Eye Protection
- ▶ Enthusiasm
- ▶ A sense of humour
- ▶ A smiley face
- ▶ Joke
- ▶ A love of the environment

### Enquiries

Martin Gauci  
Community Bushcare Officer  
Hawkesbury City Council  
Phone: (02) 4560 4525  
Email: [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

This document contains important information.  
If you do not understand it, contact the  
Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 436

**Hawkesbury City Council**  
Address: 356 George Street  
Windsor NSW 2756  
Mailing Address: PO Box 146  
WINDSOR NSW 2756  
Phone: (02) 4560 4444  
Fax: (02) 4560 7143  
Email: [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au  
Council Website  
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am-5pm





# 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.*

## HIMAG VOLUNTEER AREA COORDINATORS (VAC) AND TRAP AVAILABILITY

**Leif Rosengaard:** Hobartville VAC & free trap hire.

4578 2189 [leifemail@aol.com](mailto:leifemail@aol.com)

**Leigh Williams:** Sackville VAC 0437 498 589

[leigh.williams@pacific.net.au](mailto:leigh.williams@pacific.net.au)

**Peter Ryan:** Pitt Town VAC & free trap hire. 0431 430 800

**Justin Arndt:** Glossodia & surrounds VAC

0421 647 339 [himagglossodia@gmail.com](mailto:himagglossodia@gmail.com)

**Brad Clay:** Wilberforce / East Kurrajong VAC bh: 4560 4532

ah: 4576 3393 [bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

**Troy Hogarth:** Bowen Mountain VAC 0417 300 076

[troy.hogarth@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:troy.hogarth@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Jenny Fraser:** Kurrajong & surrounds VAC

0409 817 548 [himagkurrajong@gmail.com](mailto:himagkurrajong@gmail.com)

**Men's Shed:** Trap Construction & sales,

23 Bosworth Street, Richmond, contact: Les

0408 442 955, Mondays & Wednesdays.

**The John Morony Correctional Complex.** Trap construction &

sales, corner of The Northern Road and Richmond Road,

Berkshire Park Contact: Allan Lister 4582 2219

[allan.lister@dcs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allan.lister@dcs.nsw.gov.au) (Best to call in morning periods)

For more Detailed **HIMAG** info. Go to - [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag) or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker. Or contact for general enquiries contact Martin Gauci Council's Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator, (02) 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248, [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## THANKS TO GEOFF

Geoff Wynn was the first VAC for HIMAG when it started in 2009. Unfortunately Geoff will no longer be involved with HIMAG. Geoff has hired out hundreds of Pee Gee Traps from his home at South Windsor. He has also undertaken regular yearly trap building workshops at the Community Nursery for those who wanted to make their own trap and learn some handy hints first hand from an experienced trapper. To say Geoff will be missed would be an understatement. He has been a major reason why HIMAG has been successful over the years, particularly helping and advising residents in other neighbouring councils and encouraging other residents of the Hawkesbury to trap and be a VAC for their area. Geoff will be leaving the Hawkesbury and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the work he has put into Indian Myna control. The world needs more Geoff Wynns!

## CALLING FOR NEW VACS

There is a number of Volunteer Area Coordinators (VAC) in the Hawkesbury. The role of the VAC is to be the primary contact point for HIMAG, both for the local community and Council within that town/ village group. The VAC will make contact with others in the area that has been in touch with Council about Indian Mynas (IM). The Council facilitator will facilitate the establishment of local town and village trapping groups, provide the education materials and public information for IM control activities and be a source of information and advice to the VAC. Ideally the VAC needs the support of a other dedicated people to help the local group get up and running and to manage the data on numbers caught etc. VAC will also be the ones to explain trapping techniques and to manage the local groups' membership and activities.

Are you interested in being a VAC for your local area, particularly those suburbs that are not covered through HIMAG? Are you already an experienced IM trapper? Do you think you could pass on your enthusiasm and successful trapping skills to

others? Please contact Martin Gauci on (02) 4560 4525, 0413 195 248 or email [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## HAWKESBURY MENS SHED

A big 'Thank you' goes to Greg from the Mens Shed Richmond who has now retired and moved up north for a "Sea Change" - he may even be helping with the Mens Shed up north to get some Pee Gee Traps started. Greg was a major cog in the wheel at the Mens Shed at Richmond, taking the phone orders for traps to be made and picked up. Thanks heaps Greg for your great support over the years, it was indeed a pleasure working with you.

Welcome aboard Les who has been a strong supporter of the Mens Shed and Indian Myna Control. I must say he is quite a character. Les is now the point of contact for the Mens Shed - contact him on on 0408 442 955 if you require a Pee Trap.

## AVOID BREEDING SHY BIRDS

This little article was in the last issue of the newsletter, but this cannot be stressed enough.

**IMPORTANT TRAPPING TIP** - Avoid breeding "shy birds". Euthanize birds at night, when other Indian Mynas are asleep/roosting. Therefore, they will be unable to see or hear this occurring and will not learn to avoid the Pee Gee Trap. If Indian Mynas hear what is called a "distress call" from other Indian Mynas, they become more wary of things that are nearby. If they see a Myna being captured by a human inside a trap, then they also become more wary of that spot, which means that we could end up with Myna populations that avoid traps. For all the science, go to <http://andreasgriffin.weebly.com/>. To hear the various Indian Myna Calls go to <http://andreasgriffin.weebly.com/myna-callsphotos.html>

## INDIAN MYNA NEWSLETTERS

There are a few good Indian Myna Newsletters out there at present that are well worth the read.

## Clarence Valley Conservation In Action Landcare (CVCIA)

The CVCIA are a very proactive trapping Community Group. I am particularly impressed at their "modification of the Pee Gee Trap with a "trap door" for those birds who have worked out to escape. See Clarence Valley Myna Newsletter No 15; <http://cvcia.org.au/resources/landholder-newsletters/>

## Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG)

The CIMAG are always putting together a cracker newsletter from one of the 'God Fathers' of Indian Myna Control. Some of CIMAG's newsletter 'Myna Matters Bulletin' interesting articles are the DNA project, IM control in the Pacific, being recognised nationally through various awards, having national TV coverage, 2013 Conference on YouTube and available on DVD, plus much, much more! See <http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/> go to 'Myna Matters Bulletins'.

Both Newsletters highlight the importance of trapping the juveniles over the summer months. Juveniles are naive and can be readily trapped - so long as wary parents are not with them. January and February are usually high capture months - when we get mostly juveniles, the future breeders. Every one we trap and dispose of is doing our wildlife a world of good and giving your neighbourhood some quiet. - Bill Handke

## KEEP ON TRAPPING

Keep up the great trapping everyone tell and encourage your friends to trap, why not even share your trap around to make it twice as effective.

## PENRITH AND BLUE MOUNTAINS TRAPPING

Indian Myna control is building momentum in both the Penrith and Blue Mountains local government areas, with over 50 people registered on the HIMAG mailout database list. This could be for a few reasons; visitors to the Hawkesbury Show, proactive VACs like Geoff Wynn, community open days or nagging IMs with residents having a gut full.

Another reason could be Brett Griffin:

*I started trapping IM in 2012, after seeing a steady but obvious decline in native birds in my neighbourhood. Originally from the country town of Bathurst, where the IM have only just started to appear and where natives still rule the roost, it is disheartening to see the impact these introduced pests have on our fauna.*

*I personally have removed over 150 IM since 2012, and although I certainly don't enjoy the process, what I do enjoy is the steady return of natives to my yard.*

*My goal is to get as many like-minded people together and to form a Penrith Indian Myna Action Group, similar to that of Hawkesbury and Canberra, both of which have achieved tremendous success. I strongly believe that with enough interest and dedicated people, we will be able to get Council assistance and public awareness, especially around supermarkets and fast food outlets where these birds run amuck. I've created a dedicated email address for Indian Myna enquiries. It is: [P.I.M.A.G@hotmail.com](mailto:P.I.M.A.G@hotmail.com) (obviously an acronym for Penrith Indian Myna Action Group). Alternatively my Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/170629799636170/>  
Regards Brett Griffin*

## FERAL SCAN AND MYNA SCAN

Feral Scan and Myna Scan is a great way to help Australia map feral animals, via citizen surveillance. A national interactive website resource for public recording of myna observations and activities, mapping and centralising data on myna populations, problems and control programs.

Visit Feral Scan at [www.feralscan.org.au](http://www.feralscan.org.au) and Myna Scan at [www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/](http://www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/)

## NESTING

I get a few calls from residents about Indian Mynas in relation to the problem they are causing and where they are nesting. Now this one I reckon takes the cake, or BBQ for that matter. Maybe Sam Kekovich (Australian media and sporting personality) could give an Indian Myna a bit of a plug for the Australia Day Lamb BBQ commercials. They are always a good laugh. I apologise to the person who sent this picture in, I do not recall the owner of the picture. Please let me know how your trapping is

progressing and if the BBQ got used for Australia Day; I would love to hear from you.

But let this be a lesson to clear out any nesting material in roofs and anywhere else for that matter; particularly in the months of October when IM are beginning to nest like crazy. This is an effective way to stop the breeding cycle.



## BALI MYNA PROJECT

Did you know that the endangered Bali Myna has its closest relations with the Indian Myna? How does this help?

With predators and competitors destroying the few nest sites of the Bali Myna, simply releasing birds back into the wild is futile. To help solve this problem, I plan to rear some Indian Myna chicks here in Australia and introduce them to captivity where I can use them as test subjects for a series of predator-proof nest-boxes.

The captive Indian Mynas will be kept in pairs in large aviaries with the boxes on offer for them to use as they please. The favoured nest-boxes will be set up for wild Bali Mynas. A veterinarian has been organised to come on board the project to do necessary health checks and euthanasia. No Indian Mynas will be released.

I have a background in working in many wildlife parks and zoos with a passion for wildlife conservation.

How can you help? If you notice any feral Indian Myna nest sites, please let me know. I would like to take the chicks and raise them for the project. Please call me on 0401 195 248 or email me at [lachlan.manning@austmus.gov.au](mailto:lachlan.manning@austmus.gov.au). I look forward to working with your group.

## BIRD TOURS

Are you sick of knowing just what an Indian Myna looks like. The Hawkesbury has one of the most diverse bird populations in all of Australia. A few early morning bird watching tours are planned for 2015 with some local bird experts "ornithologists" (say that 10 times fast). Contact Martin Gauci on (02) 4560 4525, or mobile 0413 195 248 or email [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) to register your interest for the next bird tour.

Hawkesbury City Council

The General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council  
PO Box 146, Windsor 2756



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