

#### VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

#### Editorial

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Autumn 2012

#### sports G'day fans, planet savers, enviro ambassadors, weeds slayers and air breathers. 2012 and another year has arrived already. I really am looking forward to this year in seeing a few of the Bushcare sites and getting a few more articles out of you. Stay tuned for up and coming events to follow on from the success of the Hawkesbury Bushcare 2011 events.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jutta Hamilton to Hawkesbury City Council and the Community Nursery. She has already made a huge difference in both her environmental enthusiasm and horticultural professionalism. It's comforting to know the nursery is in such fantastic hands.

Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter. I hope you enjoy the read. Happy Days!

#### Marty Gauci **Community Bushcare Officer** Phone: (02) 4560 4525 mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

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# **Bushcare Landcare Festivities Were Too Cool**

McMahon Park Community Centre, Kurrajong to mark the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bushcare Landcare Achievement Winners on the night were: Awards.

The event was attended Councillor Paul Rasmussen to High School Landcare demonstrate support on behalf of the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Kim Ford. He showed their appreciation for our volunteers work and highlighted the importance in restoring and valuing natural areas.

HCC Bushcare Officer Martin Gauci accompanied by his CMA was colleagues Vanessa Keyzer and Huw Evans who all demonstrated appreciation to the volunteers dedication to restoring Hawkesbury Catchment. Rasmussen, Martin Gauci and

Another year has passed and a Vanessa Keyzer presented awards celebration was had at the to acknowledge volunteers for their achievements.

> The Jumper Leads Award - Bellbird Hill Bushcare Group by New Kids on the Block Award - Colo Rookies of the Year Award -Hawkesbury Environment Network and Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group The Green Thumb - John Jose 10 Years Long-Service Award -Carol Gibson, Three Valleys Landcare

Environmental Group of the Year -Charles Kemp Bushcare Group Environmental Volunteer of the Year - Vickii Lett

the To follow through from the success CIr of the 2010 awards, Stacy Etal

Continued to page 7 .....



Winners are grinners at the Bushcare Landcare Awards.

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

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### New Greenhouse up and running

It rained and rained and after that it rained a bit The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is at 10 more; but that didn't stop the masses from coming Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. For further information to the official opening of the upgrade at the on nursery volunteer days, view the bush calendar Hawkesbury Community Nursery on Wednesday, 1 at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au, or contact the February 2012.

Council Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 and mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.





Paul Bennett, Hawkesbury-Nepean **Catchment Management Authority and** Councillor Kim Ford, Mayor of Hawkesbury cut the ribbon to officially open the upgrades.

Mayor of the Hawkesbury Councillor Kim Ford was in fine form, cutting the opening ribbon with HNCMA officer Paul Bennett. included Other dignitaries General Manager of HCC Mr Peter Jackson, Councillor Jill Reardon, State Member for Macquarie Louise Markus, ALP candidate for Macquarie Susan Templeman and all HCC senior management.

The nursery upgrade involved the purchase and installation of an automated temperature control that consists of automatic opening vents and shade screens. Other infrastructure includes galvanised steel benches and the manufacture and installation of a wash down facility, which will improve hygiene, consistency and productivity. watering The upgrades were made possible by \$45,000 funding from the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program and \$10,000 in funding from Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority. The project was assisted by the vision of Councils Land management Officer Nicola Booth.

Nursery volunteers meet once a week on a Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. New volunteers, community and school groups are welcome to access and utilise this free service to learn about their local flora and/or the nursery industry.



Guests tour the new greenhouse.



Paul Bennett, Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, Councillor Kim Ford, Mayor of Hawkesbury and Nicola Booth, Council's Land Management Officer, sow the first commemorative seeds to be placed in the greenhouse.

## The 'Eco Group' Excursion, by Jennifer Goedde (Bede Polding, Eco Group)

A cloudy Wednesday, I woke up on 17 November 2011 in the same old bed and the same old room. I woke up at the same old time as I do each and every morning, at seven fifteen. I travelled to school in the same old bus, as every other day. I arrived at school at the same familiar time and homeroom proceeded in the usual way. Alas, this day would prove to be different, it would be exciting and rewarding.

The rest of the Eco Group and I left school on a cloudy day and arrived twenty minutes later at Charles Kemp Reserve. We trudged down to the



Eco Group students planting in harmony on the banks of the mighty Hawkesbury River, at Charles Kemp Recreation Reserve.

river and up again several times to collect water. All together we dug 59 holes. We filled them with water. Inside them we planted different types of native plants to Australia.

That Wednesday was a perfect day for the hard work. I must say that it was a surprisingly satisfying job. This excursion was not only enormous fun but also extremely beneficial to our country's wonderfully diverse ecosystem.

On our day out we planted many different types of native trees, these included wattles and gum trees. Some of these species of trees are becoming endangered due to urban sprawl. Natural habitats of Australian wildlife needs to be preserved to ensure their continued existence, as well as producing more oxygen for us to breathe.

To conclude this had been an extremely worthwhile project. The excursion proved to be extremely beneficial as well highly social and enjoyable. Contributing our time and efforts to helping to save the planet from a sticky mess that we as humans have caused. This can be empowering and satisfying as well as enjoying the world God provided for us all.

So lets all pitch in and have fun, hang out and save our planet.

# Introducing to the Hawkesbury Community Nursery...., by Jutta Hamilton



volunteers and staff who use the continue learning more with you all. Hawkesbury Community Nursery. My

Community Nursery Officer. I'm very excited about this new position and am looking forward to helping The Community Nursery will now be run by our grow local native plants for the community.

growing all sorts of plants for over 20 years in the nursery industry, but my special interest has been in native plants. Native plants are so important to the environment in so many ways, they naturally fit Hawkesbury to our climate, and they support the local wildlife propagated and us humans as well.

Privately, I'm an active member of the Still Creek be reached at the Catchment Landcare Group (upstream of Berowra nursery on Mondays, Creek) and our home participates in the 'Lands for Wednesdays Wildlife' scheme.

This is a great opportunity for me to share my come over and say horticultural knowledge and my interest in nature, g'day.

Hello to all community groups, conservation and land management and to

name is Jutta Hamilton and I am your See you all soon and lets grow some nice plants.

new Community Nursery Officer Jutta Hamilton, with Martin Gauci stepping back from his nursery Professionally, I have been propagating and role to concentrate more on the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program. With Jutta's huge industry experience, we should see a wider range of native

plants to the being and ready to be sold to the public. Jutta can and Thursdays or by appointment. So



Jutta Hamilton.

# Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer Profile



Name: Michael Kemp.

**Group:** Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare Group.

**Group Location:** Charles Kemp Recreation Reserve, Ebenezer.

Time with Group: About 2 1/2 years.

**Position in Group:** The Boss, I'm the Convener, I think.

**Occupation:** Photographer/Stay at home dad (to Noah).

**Reason for Volunteering:** To preserve my Grandfathers legacy.

**Best Achievement:** Rallying the local community to help save and protect Charles Kemp Recreation Reserve.

Favourite Native Species: Native Orchids.

Most Hated Weed: Lantana - I hate the smell.

**6 people you would like to invite to dinner:** Kate Grenville, Lady Ga Ga, Johnny Rotten, Gary Oldman, Clint Eastwood and Iggy Pop.

# Hawkesbury River DVD

The HNCMA in partnership with a bunch of other great people has produced a fantastic short film called "For the love of the river" about plastic pollution in the Hawkesbury. To watch the film visit:

www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/

<u>multiattachments/6240.html</u> or if you are an environmental educator and would like your own copy on DVD then please contact Rebecca Mooy by phone (02) 4725 3055, or

rebecca.mooy@cma.nsw.gov.au



Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

#### Getting Ready to Retire, by Nicolette Gambin

Graeme joined the Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD) 'Transition to Retirement' program and was supported to drop a day of work to become a volunteer at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Graeme, who all his life has been a shy man, now socialises with other volunteers and has been attending the nursery weekly for over 14 months.

The volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery made Graeme feel comfortable attending, and he now feels that he has made friends there. "My life changed a lot coming here...me and meeting all the ones [volunteers]. I like having morning tea with all the others and having a joke with Martin".

Graeme's mentors at the nursery have been teaching Graeme nursery skills as well as teaching him how to write. Graeme now applies these skills at home, teaches others about plants and practices his writing skills. Since attending the nursery, Graeme has become more independent, more confident and open to socialising with people in the community. Graeme's confidence has progressed so dramatically that he is even presenting his experiences at conferences.

These changes in Graeme may not have taken place so significantly without the exceptional support from Martin,

Olympia, James and the other volunteers at the nursery. would personally like to thank Martin and team for his supporting the AFFORD Transition Retirement to program and for the positive impact they have had on Graeme's life.



Graeme (left) and Martin having a cuppa and a laugh at the nursery.

# Free Platypus Sightings App.

We seem to be hearing about more platypus sightings in different parts of the Hawkesbury lately. Platypus sightings

have traditionally been forwarded to the Australian Platypus Conservancy by post, email or via the online reporting facility at <u>www.platypus.asn.au</u>



Now, thanks to the help of Robert Ewing in Canberra, there is a new method – a platypus sightings app that can be downloaded for free at the following link: <u>http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/platypus-sighting/</u>

id434192866?mt=8

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Hawkesbury BUSHCARE	H	SITELOCATIONS	Kurrajong/Kurrajong Heights Areas	Mill Road Reserve, Kurrajong	Don Street Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Bellbird Hill Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	McMahon Park, Kurrajong	Matheson Park, Kurrajong	855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong	North Richmond/Grose Vale Areas	Navua Reserve, Grose Wold	Near the North Richmond Bridge	Glossodia/Ebenezer/Sackville Areas	Chain of Ponds Reserve, Ebenezer	Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia	Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer	Aboriginal Memorial Reserve - Lower Portland	Wisemans Ferry/Macdonald Valley Areas	561 Settlers Road, Lower Macdonald	Hawkesbury Community Nursery	Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. Next to the Animal Shelter & Sewage Treatment Plant.	Hawkesbury City Councils Internet Web Address	Any enquiries? Contact Martin Gauci the Community Bushcare Officer at Hawkesbury City Council (02) 4560 4525	

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#### WEED ALL ABOUT IT

**VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1** 

# **Bushcare Happenings**





2011 was the year for events in Hawkesbury Bushcare. We had some fantastic events, outings, plantings and training days. Stay

tuned for 2012 activities, as dates will soon be set for some awesome events. Pictures of events are:

1. Bushcare Bust Tour, looking at various Bushcare bush regen sites.

2. Bushcare Basics, bush regen course. 3. National Tree Day, at Yarramundi Rv. 4. Plant Recognition Course, natives

and weeds.







Myrtle Rust Awareness, by Nicola Booth

Myrtle rust, a relative of the guava rust that originates from South America, has made it's way into the Hawkesbury and surrounds. If you spot \* symptoms similar to these in the photos below, please do the following:

- Leave it be! touching the plant means you can more easily transport the rust to other sites, particularly if you don't treat your by the Department of Primary Industries.
- had the rust cut out of them, are more great fact sheets and brochures. susceptible to dving. If the plant is

strong enough it will cope with the rust infection on its own.

- Avoid visiting those areas where the rust is known.
- And contact the exotic pests hotline to notify of myrtle rust and send photos to biosecurity@industry.nsw.gov.au.

clothes and use hygiene methods as stated Visit the website for more information http:// www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust There has been reports of trees infected, that and go to the "resources page". There are some



Melaleuca plant with fresh infection.



On this Agonis flexuosa cv. 'Afterdark' plant, you can see a full-blown infection of bright yellow pustules of Myrtle rust.

#### WEED ALL ABOUT IT

# Bushcare Landcare Festivities Were Too Cool, (continued from cover page)

provided a brilliant "Welcome to Country" that would make any Australian proud. Her appreciation, mind set and focus was warmly welcomed by those present.

Attendees were entertained by rock duo "Raggedy An" who played all the classics with some oldies, goodies and even a Christmas jingles.



A new proud owner of a Hawkesbury Bushcare cooler - Peter Mobbs.

Peter Mobbs gave an inspiring and emotive speech in handing over the "Volunteer of the Year Award" to Vickii Lett. Vickii has large shoes to fill; size 9 1/2 to be precise.

No one went home empty handed as everyone was a winner. Attendees received a drink cooler as modeled by a cheeky Peter Mobbs (seen left). These coolers, promoting the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and Hawkesbury Bushcare are for active Bushcare and Landcare volunteers. If you did not receive your cooler, visit your Bushcare Supervisor and they

Vanessa Keyzer, Martin Gauci, John Jose, Councillor Paul Rassmussen and Garth and Brenda Smith.

# Land For Wildlife; Seen this sign?

Land For Wildlife is a non-binding conservation based program designed to support landholders that are interested in conserving bushland and habitat on their properties without a legally binding agreement. The Program offers a site assessment of your property; including identifying vegetation communities areas of habitat value and species list. Land For Wildlife also provides access to education, open days, a newsletter and an avenue of support to improve

knowledge of native vegetation on private land.

How do I get involved? Contact the C o m m u n i t y Environment Network on (02) 4349 4759 or visit www.cen.org.au.



will be able to provide you with one. Show off your flash cooler at your next social gathering!

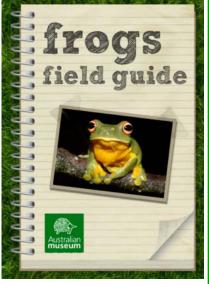
The 2012 Bushcare Landcare Party is already in the pipeline, but nothing is finalised as yet, so email your ideas, suggestions, feedback and 2012 nominations to mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

A huge thanks to those that came along to the 2011 Bushcare Landcare Party and especially for the award you all gave the Bushcare Officer Marty, it is greatly appreciated. To those that couldn't make it, see you all at the 2012 Awards.

Finally a big thank you to all the Volunteers for the work you have put into the bushland throughout the Hawkesbury.

# Free Australian Frogs iPhone App !

The Australian Museum has launched a new iPhone App all about Australian frogs. Using the Frog Field Guide you can browse comprehensive information about including frogs, photographs and calls; discover nearby frogs; explore frogs by body colour, toe pad size, webbing and belly colour; and use the Frog Log to compile your own location-



based collection of frog sightings and images. Go to <u>http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/frogs-field-guide/</u>id497300932?mt=8

# Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group (HIMAG) Update



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

The Hawkesbury Indian Myna Program is running Bob Pickworth - Tennyson, reports well since its inception in October 2009. PeeGees On 2 April, Mario and his wife, Vanessa, Denise, traps are available through a few avenues; please Cathy, John were able assisted by Phil Whittaker in see Volunteer Area Coordinators (VAC) and trap list constructing 8 Indian Myna Bird traps. Phil is an on next page. Alternatively, you can make your own engineer and was able to give common sense trap. Indian Myna information can be found on advice from his experience in trap building, for Council's website at <u>www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/</u> which we were all very appreciative – thanks Phil. environmental-services/natural-environment/indianmyna-control-program-himag

closest VAC so we can gauge the effectiveness of for a total cost of \$25. Several of those who HIMAG. Various trap builders and trap makers have attended have caught multiple birds already - well a bit to report on.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE TRAPS Alexia - Kurrajong Hills, reports

Thank you so much for the Indian Myna information you sent me. I went to the Men's Shed on Wednesday and purchased a trap for catching the is of course necessary to rid the district of these little buggers. Unfortunately, Thursday was so wet I feral pests. Please note that the RSPCA does not had to wait until Friday to set it, but it was worth the approve drowning or gassing with carbon monoxide wait! As you can see from the below photo, as of (car). 5pm Friday we had 9 of the imports in containment. The first one was in the cage by 6am thev kept appearing through and the day. Unfortunately this means that there were more than we originally thought, but its great that the trap is working so well.

We are going to pass it around to a few others here on rotation until we get the numbers down. Much better than trying to shoot them. I really can't thank the Men's Shed and Leif Rosengaard enough. Together with the information Hawkesbury Council sent me, the little buggers didn't stand a chance.

Thanks and Kind Regards, Alexia, Kurrajong Hills.



Alexia's highly effective trap; trap correctly and the birds will come!

Following the "Pee Gee" trap design it took us about 3 1/2 hours to make the traps from start to Please keep sending your capture data to your finish. All were completed to a high standard and done folks.

> I also demonstrated on the day, the humane dispatching of the birds by the RSPCA approved method of "cervical dislocation" or breaking their necks. Although the least pleasant of the tasks - it



Bob Pickworth and a few Tennyson locals. "If you build it they will come."

### **Geoff Wynn - Windsor and surrounds**

Another successful trap building workshop was held with 8 people building a "Pee Gee" trap in few hours and learning a few tips and tricks in how to catch Indian Myna Birds. If you missed out on this trap building workshop and would like to attend one in the future, contact Marin Gauci and he'll put you on a list and contact you when the next workshop will occur.

### Frozen Carcasses Wanted for PhD study

Adam Cardilini from Deakin University, is doing a PhD in Environmental Science, studying the genetic variation of Indian Mynas and Starlings across Australia. Therefore Adam is very keen to get dead frozen samples of Indian Mynas. He is

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#### WEED ALL ABOUT IT

## HIMAG Update (continued from page 8)

happy to pay for postage or alternatively he can collect the frozen samples in his travels, as with his studies he is regularly traveling along the East Coast. Geoff Wynn: Windsor / Bligh Park VAC & free trap hire. 0439 070 162 <u>himagwindsor@gmail.com</u> Leif Rosengaard: Hobartville VAC & free trap hire. 4578 2189 leifemail@aol.com

For further information Adam can be reached on: Adam Cardilini, Deakin University, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, 75 Pigdons Road, Waurn Ponds, VICTORIA, 3126 Mob: 0431 566 340, Email: apcar@deakin.edu.au

#### New VAC for Kurrajong

Jenny Fraser has kindly raised her hand to help the Kurrajong and Kurrajong Hills area control Indian Mynas. Jenny's details can be seen under the VAC list.

Feral Animal Mapping Website This is a great website filled



with information on feral animals including Indian Mynas. Select a feral animal and get started at www.feralscan.org.au

# VOLUNTEER AREA COORDINATORS (VAC) AND TRAP AVAILABILITY

Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries 4560 4525 mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

4578 2189 leifemail@aol.com Leigh Williams: Sackville VAC 0437 498 589 leigh.williams@pacific.net.au Merv Rutter: Wilberforce VAC 4575 2072 Peter Ryan: Pitt Town VAC & free trap hire. 0431 430 800 Justin Arndt: Glossodia & surrounds VAC 0421 647 339 himagglossodia@gmail.com Brad Clay: Wilberforce / East Kurrajong VAC bh: 4560 4532 ah: 4576 3393 bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au Troy Hogarth: Bowen Mountain VAC 0417 300 076 troy.hogarth@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au Jenny Fraser: Kurrajong & surrounds VAC 0409 817 548 himagkurrajong@gmail.com Men's Shed: Trap Construction & sales, 23 Bosworth Street, Richmond, contact: Greg 0409 443 884, Mondays & Wednesdays.

Left: Good. Noisy Minor (Native), this bird is protected.

If you are interested in helping the native animals of the Hawkesbury contact HIMAG today.



# Grant Update from Land Management Officer, by Nicola Booth





#### **Environmental Trust Project**

Chain of Ponds - ET - grant is now coming to completion with a track headway and sign to be installed to complete the project. Total value, \$35,000 over 3 years.



Hawkesbury-Nepean

I Catchment Management Authority

#### HNCMA

New funding from HNCMA incentives programs for biodiversity. Council received \$8000 for bush regeneration at Oakville Park to assist in naturally regenerating threatened Shale Gravel Transition Forest and Cumberland Plain Woodland. Since commencing bush regeneration works the following threatened species have flourished; *Marsdenia viridifolia, Acacia pubescens* and *Dillwynia tenuifolia*.

Riverine Ecosystems Grant - receiving \$10,000 for Chain of Ponds Reserve for assisting in maintaining past works on *Tradescantia* (Trad) and to control woody weeds and vines in poorer areas.

Riverine Ecosystems Grant - administered through the

HNCMA, council received \$2,500 for bush regen to control the *Buddleia* infestation on the Macdonald River at the Old Cemetery Site in St Albans.



# Australian Government

#### Hawkesbury Community Nursery Upgrade

Nursery Upgrade now complete; greenhouse, associated infrastructure and wash-down bays have now been installed to assist production and user accessibility for volunteers. In total about \$45,000 was spent on the upgrade that was received by the Australian Government's Regional and Local Infrastructure Program and \$20,000 was spent on installing benches, a new seed fridge, seedbank database and seed collection from the HNCMA.

#### Hawkesbury Bushcare Project

We have completed and installed four fantastic Bushcare signs at Sunnyvale Bushies, Chain of Ponds, Navua and Charles Kemp Recreation Reserves. Administered by HNCMA through Caring For Our Country; these sites will make the public aware that the community are actively involved in undertaking bush regeneration at the various sites; take a look.

# Hawkesbury City Council



if not claimed within 7 days please return to The General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council P.O. box 146, Windsor 2756

# Weed All About It

# Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Hawkesbury City Council

Vol 13 Issue 1 Autumn 2012

This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper

# ★ ★ ★ ★ Native Plant Sale 🛧 ★ ☆ 🛧 🖈

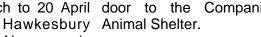
From 21 March to 20 April door to the Companion 2012 the Community Nursery is

having a huge native plant sale. Native to the Hawkesbury area these hardy plants provide food and habitat for Native animals and are suitable for use in:

- Domestic and commercial gardens
- Acreage and landscaping
- Revegetation projects.

All excess stock must go to make way for the new 2012 spring stock. Normally plants sell from \$1.65, but in this sale plants will be sold for the bargain price of three for \$1.

Hawkesbury Community Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, across the road from Windsor High School and next





Equipment for revegetation works is also sold and includes tree guards and bamboo canes.

For more information on the Community Nursery and the plants available, please contact Council's Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

The nursery is open; Wednesdays 9am-1pm or by appointment. To make the nursery sale even more accessible, we will be opening on the two Saturdays 31 March and 14 April, 2012, from 10.30am -1.30pm.

