



HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Weed All About It

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Volume 17, Issue 1

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Autumn 2017

Bushcare Landcare Awards at Yellomundee

The Bushcare Landcare Awards at Yellomundee Regional Park was a lovely night (once the cool breeze kicked in and the flies all dissipated). This was the 1st time the awards were held at Yellomundee as every year we strive for something with a slight sense of originality and inquisitiveness. For those who were brave a camp over was held and for those who did, what a night and morning to remember!

The Awards once again did not disappoint. Uncle Lex did a smoking ceremony and welcome to country and Uncle Chris gave an Aboriginal cultural talk; both of which left a memorable positive impression with me and many others. Thanks Chris and Lex.

The evening was a chance for all volunteers to meet each other, exchange ideas and collaborate on future projects. We had a good old fashioned BBQ that is beginning to make my mouth water again (note to self, do not write article before lunch); with all fed and accounted for.

Councillor Danielle Wheeler attended to present the awards; of which it consisted of -



Some of the proud recipients

- The Hawkesbury Community Nursery Green Thumb Award – Lesley Hayes
- The Sensational Supervisor Award – Melissa Medo
- The Super Strong Bushcarer – James Miller
- The Brave Bushcarer – Jack Miller
- The Fledgling Bushcarer – Noah Kemp
- The Observant Bushcarer – Charlotte Miller
- The Caring Bushcarer – Catherine Miller
- The Curious Bushcarer – Max Reuter-Medo
- The Green Bushcarer – Charlie Reuter-Medo
- The Pioneering Bushcarers Award – John & Gaye Parmenter
- Environmental Group of the Year – The Hawkesbury Community Nursery

- Environmental Volunteer of the Year – Robin Woods.

Robins involvement had included -

- Secretary and Web Manager of the Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN). See <http://www.hen.org.au>
- Key involvement in pulling together the Wetlands of the West Symposium 2016 in which over 150 people attended
- Involved in the formation of new Bushcare Groups

- Running Green Army projects targeting wetland and lagoon restorations works.

A big thanks to all those who attended and helped to organise this event, with a special thanks to Landcare and HCC staff and not to mention the local National Parks staff who hosted the awards, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Hopefully an event such as this can create further interest in the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group and positive community interest in Yellomundee Regional Park. Ideas, suggestions, locations and feedback for 2017 awards are always welcome to make the 20th Annual awards HUGE!!!!

Editorial

Hello Everyone,

Welcome 2017! The Hawkesbury Show will be coming up in early May this year and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery as in the past will be giving away a stack of native plants at this event; so be sure to check out the HCC tent at the show. These plant give aways are a great way to extend and create native fauna habitats in the urban and rural environments and a great way to improve the overall health of the mighty Hawkesbury River.

A Hollows as Homes workshop will be held in Kurrajong in May (details page 2). This is a great educational opportunity on our native fauna that rely on hollows to survive.

Thanks to those articles that were sent in and I welcome future articles to this newsletter. Enjoy the read people.

Happy Days
MartyG

Marty Gauci
Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG Facilitator
mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



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.

Cumberland Land Conservancy, community owned conservation by Wayne Olling

What happens when you combine land conservation, flora regeneration and wildlife recovery?

Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc. (CLC) is a not-for-profit, community charity established to protect and restore the natural environment in Western Sydney. We have just created the first community-owned conservation reserve in the region and are looking for your help! CLC is a little over a year old but our members and committee will include many familiar faces. So what have we been up to?

Protecting bushland

Our core purpose is to acquire and conserve land for conservation. CLC manages land for one purpose only - conservation – and protects it forever under legal covenant. Land can be donated by the public, corporations or government knowing it will be protected and restored.

CLC are proud to already be managing our first property (under trust) at Mulgoa. This 38 hectare woodland will be owned and managed by our members – passionate locals like yourself. We have named the property "Wallaroo" in honor of the mob which call this site home.



CLC Open Day, photo Mark Fuller

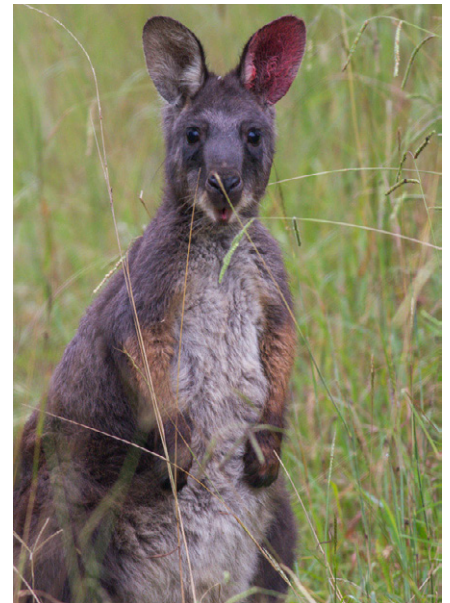
A smaller 6 hectare property has also been approved for handover to CLC (sale price \$1) and we are awaiting the legal processes to be completed.

Restoration

From the start we've recognised that it isn't enough to protect land – we need to restore it too. So we've jumped straight in with restoration projects on land we are acquiring and other properties that need a hand. CLC is a registered Landcare group and we are looking for new members to help us restore our bushland. Of course as a

member you become a co-owner of the bush you are restoring! Our biggest tasks are the typical weeds of the Cumberland Plain Woodland: African Olive, Small and Large-leaved Privet, Cats Claw Creeper and introduced pasture grasses.

We have also begun some fascinating wildlife recovery. A major problem for wildlife in the region is the lack of fallen



Wallaroos at Wallaro, photo Mark Fuller

timber. So we have been rescuing Eucalypt logs from the chippers of tree surgeons and developers and restoring this at 'Wallaroo'. If you know an arborist or developer willing to donate and transport logs for wildlife please let us know!

How you can help

You can help by just being a member (annual fee \$10), making a donation or assisting with on-ground activities like Landcare.

Visit us at www.cumberlandlc.org.au for more details or check us out on Facebook.

Hollows as Homes by Kirsty Reynolds

After attending a seminar on 'Hollows as Homes' I was truly inspired. Hollows are used by around 300 animal species around Australia, with at least 64 of these threatened by extinction.

The project gathers information on hollows currently being used by wildlife, whether they are natural hollows in trees or artificial man-made nest boxes. Information is collected to help understand what animals are using hollows, where the hollows are, what tree the hollow is in, how high up it is and other details. The more information is gathered, the better understanding on how to help conserve the future of our wildlife.

If every Bushcare group or caring landholder spent 10 minutes a week watching a hollow and submitted the data at www.hollowsashomes.com, can you imagine the information we could gather!

Hawkesbury Bushcare has been lucky enough to get the team from Hollows as Homes to run a workshop on hollows (approx. 3hour duration) for Saturday 20 May 2017 in Kurrajong. To register for this cool workshop contact -

Martin Gauci
(02) 4560 4525 or
0413 195 248 or email
mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. Places are limited and bookings are essential.



Galah in tree hollow
Photo: J Turbill OEH

NEST BOX BOOK

- By Peter Ridgeway

The updated 'Build your own Wildlife Nest Box. A guide for Western Sydney' booklets are now available from Greater Sydney Local Land Services. There is both an electronic copy and a hard copy A4 booklet. Copies of this book are also available for loan from the Windsor and Richmond Libraries.

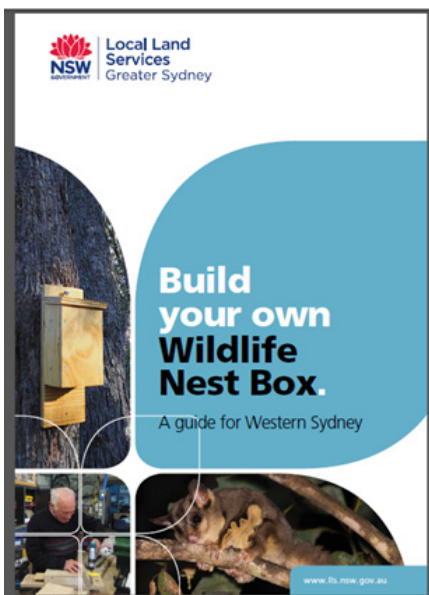
Most of our wildlife needs tree hollows for shelter but trees can take 100 or more years to develop hollows. Where natural hollows are limited, you can help your local wildlife by installing nest boxes.

This book was developed to encourage community to build boxes for the species which most need it and ensure quality construction which will provide homes for wildlife for years to come. The fauna targeted include: Sugar, Squirrel and Feathertail Gliders, Pygmy

Possums, Antechinus, Microbats, Red-rumped Parrots, Musk Lorikeet and Pardalotes. Nest boxes can make a big difference in reversing these species decline and because they are small, these boxes are less prone to invasion by more aggressive (larger) species.

If you would like a hard copy please just let us know. Small quantities are available free of charge while copies last - just send us your mailing address and we can post them to you. If you would like bulk copies please contact us with your needs and we can arrange a quote for printing. We hope you enjoy and wish you the best success in restoring our native wildlife. Contact Peter Ridgeway, Senior Land Services Officer (Biodiversity), Greater Sydney Local Land Services. T: 02 4724 2125 Mob. 0401 481 037 Peter.Ridgeway@lls.nsw.gov.au

For the download version the guide is available here: <http://greater-sydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/publications>



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KOALA TRACKING IN THE HAWKESBURY

by Dr Kellie Leigh



Executive Director of Science for Wildlife and adjunct at the University of Sydney.

Following the bushfires back in 2013, koalas were spotted in parts of the Mountains in which they had not been seen for decades. Following that event, I initiated the Blue Mountains Koala Project under not-for-profit organisation Science For Wildlife. It is a research and conservation project that includes surveys of the Hawkesbury area and much of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The koala is a threatened species under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and as a fluffy iconic species it makes a great flagship species for learning more about and conserving eucalyptus habitats.

This is a particularly challenging project as although we know koalas are likely to occur in some places, they can be incredibly hard to detect. A lot of the habitats contain tall forests with trees over 40m tall and lots of canopy so the koalas are hidden, while in other areas where the soils are a bit sandier they are likely to be in lower numbers with much bigger home ranges, so they occur in low densities.

To find the koalas, we really need the community's help. We are encouraging people to report any sightings of koalas as once we have a good number of records it tells us which habitats we should undertake more detailed ecological surveys in. There are some habitats we know it's not worth looking in but there are others where we would not have expected to find koalas but are receiving sighting reports.

We also want to identify the threats to koalas, so having information on where koalas are being seen entering urban areas and encountering high speed roads and domestic dogs is important.



Me releasing a newly collared koala after capture and a health check

The koalas in the wider Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury regions have more tree choice than anywhere else in Australia; eucalypt diversity is one of the main values of the World Heritage listing. To be able to protect the koalas we need to understand what habitats they use and which food trees are important. We collar and track koalas at selected sites and so far at one site on rich shale soils in Wollemi National Park we found that *Eucalyptus punctata* was a strong favourite, along with some use of *Eucalyptus deanei*, but then we found koalas on other soil types that favoured *E. piperita* and *Corymbia gummifera*. At one of our new sites along the Colo River they're using a range of ironbarks and stringybarks. It looks like koalas are using a wide variety of species and that changes depending on their location. We have a lot more to learn about them.

If you see or hear a koala please report your sighting via Science for Wildlife. You can also register to become a volunteer on the project, and come out in the field with us to do surveys. www.scienceforwildlife.org or email info@scienceforwildlife.org, or find us on facebook, www.facebook.com/ScienceForWildlife.

HEEN Time

Thanks heaps to Chris Vella from Western Sydney University (WSU) who organised a real ripper of a meeting, with a stack of interesting interactive speakers; here's a summary of the minutes taken by Andrew Hewson from Penrith Council.

Dr Ian Wright from WSU presented on water quality in creeks. Australia's creeks are quite fragile due to our unique environment, which means urbanisation easily negatively affects them. As little as 10% of impervious surface in a creek's catchment has a direct correlation to decreases in water quality in the creek. Concrete too negatively impacts on water quality in creeks by changing the chemistry of the water. Calcium from concrete pipes could be a larger issue than other key parameters like phosphate.

Dr Justin Welbergen from WSU presented on flying fox colonies from across Australia and the work to mitigate extreme heat on them. Flying foxes are vulnerable to extreme heat, because they are unable to self-regulate their body heat when it is over 42 degrees. They identified a need to come up with a more strategic approach to help flying foxes; as a result they developed an online heat stress forecaster <http://www.animalecologylab.org/ff-heat-stress-forecaster.html>. It considers projected temperatures, location of flying fox colonies and size of flying fox colonies. This then enables them to prioritise which colonies to assist to maximise their effectiveness.

Angela Colliver, National Treasurer Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), presented on some of the initiatives being coordinated by AAEE to help schools and other organisations. She also has some teaching resources available at www.colliver.com.au/resources and can be contacted on angela@colliver.com.au. The NSW AAEE conference is being held on 27-29 September at Lane Cove <http://www.nswconference.org.au/>. They're keen to get people and students to present on projects that they have been directly involved with. AAEE have created some resources for National Science Week, with a Future Earth theme; see <http://www.scienceweek.net.au/>. She has developed a Human Society and Its Environment Learning across the curriculum: Cross-curriculum priorities teacher resource K-10; see http://www.aaeensw.org.au/sites/default/files/fnl_hsie_ccp_sust.pdf.

Some of the other round table updates included –

- Kreative Koalas. Participating schools will receive a giant fibreglass koala to decorate, around a key sustainability theme of their choice. With the help of a Young Ambassador, they will also develop their own project to create positive change on this topic. More information on <http://www.kreativekoalas.com.au/>
- Young leaders are encouraged to participate in the Young Sustainability Ambassador program, which will see them receive useful personal development and professional experience <http://youngsustainabilityambassadors.com.au/apply-now/>
- The Bowen Mountain sustainability fair is being held on 29 April.
- NPWS are running a series of programs in the local area to promote biodiversity and raise awareness of local threatened species. These include an Easter hunt with a twist <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/guided-tours/wilderquest-easter-hunt-with-a-twist> and brunch with a ranger <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/guided-tours/wilderquest-brunch-with-a-ranger>

HEEN Meeting Calendar

Term	Week	Date	Venue
2	5	Wed 24 May	Longneck Lagoon Environmental Education Centre
3	8	Thur 7 Sep	Windsor High School (TBC)
4	5	Wed 8 Nov	Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre (TBC)



Find & join HEEN on Facebook, it's great way to keep in touch. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367351370101225/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

PHIL'S FOREST at Hawkesbury Riverbank: some history of a much-worked site. By Robin Woods

Decades ago the Hawkesbury riverbank across from North Richmond became a target for local man Phil Knobbs to undertake restoration works; removing rubbish, clearing masses of weed, and planting hundreds of casuarinas, eucalypts, wattles and native grasses. He and his two sons undertook this in virtual secrecy; raising seedlings in milk cartons at home and planting away from public scrutiny.

The understorey was cleared of trad, native grasses such as weeping meadow and basket grasses took over. Other trees such as sandpaper fig and native peach formed an intermediate layer. In about 2002, Phil, who by then had others helping him, took on a grant which enabled much greater vision. The area next to the bridge approach was turned into a virtual garden of native plants under the powerline easement. Some of those plants still can be seen; but sadly, this section is now rapidly degrading from its original state to a mass of the worst riverbank weeds under a "spray and walk away" system.

Our Bushcare group now wants to try to return the site to something more attractive to the passing traffic and are in



"It's a Bushcare army!"

the process of planning and discussions with the authorities. We will keep you posted!

Phils Forest Bushcare meets on the 1st Sunday of the month from 9am-12noon. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248 or mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Windsor Wharf - the fish are dying

One of our dedicated Bushcare volunteers, John Jose has been dutifully planting, weeding and restoring the riverbank in and around the Windsor Wharf Reserve (adjacent to the Windsor Bridge) for about three years but he has now hit a real wall in what he describes as a true disgrace.



A despondent John needs your help

John has planted the garden beds near the wharf countless times but the plants keep being dug up by people who seem to be digging up worms for bait when fishing. Unfortunately it leaves the soil exposed which is then susceptible to weeds and erosion.

Ironically, native vegetation growing along riverbanks is proven to be a real winner for fish

populations along riverbanks. So people digging up the riverbank plants means the exposed soil runs down into the river when it rains, creating a murky water with very little oxygen in it making it difficult for the fish to flourish.

John would truly welcome a helping hand along the riverbank at Windsor Wharf (adjacent to Windsor Bridge) to restore such a historic riverbank and for people to take ownership of this great location. To volunteer and help John restore this part of the riverbank, contact Council's Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Did you know?

- Turbidity is a measure of water clarity or murkiness.
- Excessive levels of suspended solids in water causes high turbidity. This can reduce aquatic plant growth due to lack of light, or completely smother plants as the sediment settles.
- Aquatic animals can die when there are few or no plants to eat or if their gills are blocked by dirt.
- Suspended solids can make it difficult for animals to breathe by clogging or damaging their gills, or making it difficult for animals that filter-feed to collect food. As the suspended particles settle to the bottom they can also smother animal habitats, eggs and larvae.
- Turbid water also heats up more than clear water, which can reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen available for aquatic animals to breathe. Over time, unnatural levels of turbidity can reduce the biodiversity in a waterway.

For more information see: <http://www.ozcoasts.gov.au/indicators/turbidity.jsp>

2017 Regional Landcare Bushcare Forum 'Back from the brink'

Greater Sydney Local Land Services will once again be hosting its annual forum for landcare, bushcare and other environmental volunteers.

When: Friday 19 May from 9.30 am - 2.00 pm.

Where: The Harbour Terrace, Taronga Zoo, Mosman

This year's focus is on projects that are helping to save key threatened species with some amazing snapshots of conservation projects undertaken by both local volunteer groups and the Taronga Zoo's Conservation Program.

The day includes:

- Presentations on the zoo's key conservation projects
- Latest funding opportunities
- Biennial Landcare Awards
- Volunteers who are protecting local threatened species
- Free afternoon pass to explore the zoo!!

This is a free, fully catered event and numbers are strictly limited. Register at - <https://gsls.wufoo.com/forms/pea07oy1kt38cl/>

For full details including selection criteria and categories, please visit - <http://greater-sydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/our-region/community-groups/2017-greater-sydney-regional-landcare-awards>

Nominations close on Sunday 30th April 2017. Winners will be announced at the Greater Sydney Regional Landcare Bushcare Forum held at Taronga Zoo on Friday 19th May 2017.

To discuss a nomination or for more information please contact Vanessa Keyzer, Greater Sydney Local Land Services Regional Landcare Facilitator, (02) 4724 2118 or vanessa.keyzer@lls.nsw.gov.au



Local Land Services
Greater Sydney



The Regional Landcare Facilitator Programme is a project of the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

TurtleSAT the Turtle App

Australia's freshwater turtles are under serious threat, and they need our help for survival! Mounting evidence now suggests that many turtle species are declining across vast areas of Australia due to widespread drought, fox predation and human activities. To ensure their survival, some important evidence needs to be gathered, and it needs to be gathered quickly.

TurtleSAT is a new website where communities are mapping the location of freshwater turtles in waterways and wetlands across the country.

Australia's unique freshwater turtles are in crisis - their numbers are declining and your help is needed to record where you see turtles in your local area.



If you are unable to do Bushcare (for whatever reason) but are technologically able, this is a great way for you to help your natural ecosystems. There are a quite a few apps out there now, just like TurtleSAT that take on this great citizen science approach to help us understand fauna and flora populations, their threats, movements and more.

For more information go to - <https://www.turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/default.aspx>

Urban Fox Ecology Project - We need your help

Western Sydney and Sydney University along with The Botanic Gardens have teamed up for an innovative study on our terrible troublesome foxes. This project aims to assess fox behaviour, habitat and prey preferences across a gradient of urban density (e.g. Sydney City to Blue Mts N.P.). They will be investigating how their diet composition changes as you move away from the coast and away from population centres. The methods include GPS tracking foxes, assessing scats and stomach contents.

Carcasses and scats can be sent to -

Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury Campus

A) From Londonderry Rd - enter via Vine Dr

B) From Blacktown Rd - enter via Campus Dr

Call Vanya (0479056693) or Ben (0427004036) prior to arrival, to arrange drop-off outside the gates to C17. If carcasses could please be sealed within a garbage bag or similar that would be much appreciated.

For further information on this project, please contact Dr John Martin, Wildlife Ecologist Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands 02 9231 8058 or mob 0447 487 094. For Fox Scat Collection Protocol fact sheet, email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



Even echidnas aren't safe from foxes.

Photo: Georgeanna Story, courtesy IA CRC

Men of the Trees NSW closes and passes its hopes to others

By Robin Wood

With the passing of a special group as for a friend there is always some regret and sadness at what has been lost forever.

Men of the Trees (MOTT) NSW has finally had to close its books and hand over the proceeds of its management to Hawkesbury Environment Network [HEN]. The story of MOTT which has chapters in all states goes back to Richard St Barbe Baker who founded the Society of the Men of the Trees in 1922 in Kenya. He devoted his life to convincing others of the menace of soil erosion and the need to stem the encroaching deserts of the world; and thereby provide food for the increasing world population. By some estimates, organisations he founded or assisted have been responsible for planting at least 26 billion trees internationally.

It is now an international, non-profit, non-political, conservation organisation, which is involved in planting, maintenance and protection of trees. Branches started in NSW, Queensland and Western Australia; and these also link with similar groups in South Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and England.

The NSW group were instrumental in the whole concept of raising trees from seed and finding suitable sites to re-establish woodlands and forests. It had strong and enduring links in the Hawkesbury region. MOTT NSW had funded a bush regeneration project at Scheyville National Park by Muru Mittigar, an Indigenous group that teaches horticulture and bush regeneration skills. It also had run a schools project which supplied plants to Bede Polding, Windsor Pre-school, Kurrajong Public School, Windsor High School and Richmond TAFE. Since 1982 MOTT had planted at over 100 sites in the greater Sydney region and at Lismore, Mudgee, Bathurst and Bega. A riverside restoration site on the Hawkesbury at Richmond adjacent to the bridge to North Richmond is showing the height and density of the type of forest once seen all along the River banks on the lowlands. Between 1981 and 2006 over 200,000 trees were planted, many

of them grown at the MOTT Nursery hosted by Frank and Libby Braybrooks on their property at Cattai. One of the very active members was Colo High schoolteacher Alec York. Linda and Mark Anderson and their son Ben continued the tradition in the Hawkesbury with their work as part of a Bushcare team looking after Navua Reserve on the Grose River.

MOTT NSW President, Mark Anderson and his wife Linda attended a recent committee meeting of HEN in order to donate a cheque of \$10 000 for works similar to the MOTT



Mark and Linda Anderson handing over the cheque to the HEN Committee

aims: to assist in retention and repair of our woodlands and forests through planting and bush regeneration as well as through education. Their program had gradually run down due to loss of active members and also due to loss of schools involvement. The AGM held in November agreed to disband and spread the accrued money across other groups, including HEN. Mark stressed that money was able to be used for all layers of vegetation, mulch, guards, and maintenance. HEN Chair Jules Wright thanked Mark and Linda for their remarkable work and the donation to HEN to maintain the main thrust of revegetation. "Considering how much bushland is currently under threat through urbanisation spread to our area, this is a timely handover. We hope HEN may increase the understanding of the importance to maintain connections between bushland remnants for habitat for our many species of fauna and especially birdlife."

Letting St Barbe Baker have the last words:

On the NSW MOTT site is a video showing the final meeting and tree planting with this story told by one of the members. Richard St Barbe Baker said to children as they were about to plant trees: "We give this plant with our hands to the earth; and with our hearts for all the world to share."

More details at <http://menofthetreesnsw.com.au/>



Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group (HIMAG)

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.

HIMAG VOLUNTEER AREA COORDINATORS (VAC) AND TRAP AVAILABILITY

Leigh Williams: Sackville VAC 0437 498 589

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

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

ah: 4576 3393 bclay@hawkesbury.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: 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 (Best to call in morning periods)

For more Detailed HIMAG info. Go to –

<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment/pest-animals/indian-myna-control-program-himag> or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker. Or contact Martin Gauci: HCC, Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248, mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

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>

CANBERRA UPDATE

CIMAG, the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/>, have really set the standard for

Indian Myna trapping and education in Australia, if not the world. Their recent Indian Myna newsletter reported on a few interesting items.

Some of these included

Local School Trapping: Schools tend to be one of the hotspots for mynas. Mynas frequent schools as there is always plenty of scraps in the playgrounds during term: during school holidays, mynas will come to the school in the expectation of an easy feed: without the kids providing that, they find the bait in the traps irresistible.

So it would be really valuable if we could get traps into more schools during the school holidays: if you have contacts at schools, could you please raise this matter with the principal. Advise them of the massive benefits: improved school amenity and lower health risks from having less mynas around schools.

Pest Bird: CIMAG have managed to get the ACT Environment Minister to agree to include the myna as a "Pest Animal". CIMAG encourages the public to write to the ACT and federal Environment Ministers requesting that they declare the Indian Myna as a Threatening Process. CIMAG has strong scientific evidence to support this, especially that of Kate Garrock based on her PhD research in Canberra.

Myna Scan: Have you seen the Myna Scan website lately? Great innovations in trapping and monitoring and some free apps not only in Mynas but other feral animals too. See - <https://www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/default.aspx?clear=true>
<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/field-guide-to-pest-animals/id634197149?mt=8>

THANKS TO LEIF ROSENGAARD

Thanks so much to Leif Rosengaard who has been a strong advocate for Indian Myna control in the Hawkesbury, particularly that of the Richmond and Hobartville area. Leif has been a dedicated Volunteer area Coordinator in myna control since the inception of HIMAG back in 2009. He has hired out countless Pee Gee traps, demonstrated how they work and passed on his skills to so many people in effective trapping techniques. Leif is now ready for someone new in the Richmond area to step forward to help their local community in Indian Myna control. If you feel you are a successful Indian Myna trapper and would like to pass on your trapping skills to others in your area, please contact Martin Gauci (02) 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248 or email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Free Worm Farming and Composting Workshops

Council is running three workshops about composting and worm farming at the EarthCare Centre at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Campus on how to create and maintain your own compost bin or worm farm.

- Saturday 22 April, 10am-12pm, Composting Workshop
- Sunday 30 April, 10am-12pm, Worm Farming Workshop
- Wednesday 3 May, 6pm-8pm, Composting Workshop

Attend for your chance to win either a worm farm or compost bin! Children welcome, bookings essential and light refreshments provided.

For further details go to <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste-management/waste-and-recycling/lets-talk-about-composting-and-worm-farming>

RSVP: justin.murphy@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or call 4560 4566.



This project was supported by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy.

SITE LOCATIONS		GROUP	DAY	TIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Kurradjong/Kurradjong Heights Areas																
Singletons Reserve, Kurradjong	Mill Road Bushcare		1 st Friday	9am – 12noon	*	3	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	*
Don Street Reserve, Kurradjong Heights	Don Street Bushcare		Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
McMahon Park, Kurradjong	McMahon Park Bushcare		Last Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	26	26	30	28	25	30	27	24	29	26	*
Matheson Park, Kurradjong	Matheson Park Bushcare		3 rd Friday	9am – 12noon	*	17	17	21	19	16	21	18	15	20	17	*
855 Comleroy Road, Kurradjong	Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare		Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4651											
North Richmond/Grose Vale Areas																
Navua Reserve, Grose Wold	Navua Community Group		Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
Near the North Richmond Bridge, Nth Richmond	Phil's Forest Bushcare		1 st Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	*
Glossodia/Ebenezer/Sackville Areas																
Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer	Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare		4 th Saturday	9am – 12noon	*	25	25	22	27	24	22	26	23	28	25	*
Aboriginal Memorial Reserve, Lower Portland	Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group		1 st Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	*
Wisemans Ferry/Macdonald Valley Areas																
561 Settlers Road, Lower Macdonald	Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare		3 rd Saturday	9am – 12noon	*	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	*
St Albans Park, St Albans	St Albans Weed Wackers		3 rd Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	*
Windsor and Surrounds																
Hawkesbury Community Nursery 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave (next to Companion 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 th Sunday	9am – 12noon	*	26	26	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	*

* 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
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Hawkesbury City Council
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Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

This document contains important information.
If you are unable to contact the
Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450



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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4pm