



HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Weed All About It

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Volume 13, Issue 2

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Winter 2012

Riverbank Rehabilitation - A game of wait and see...

by Mark Anderson

Undertaking rehabilitation works on a riverbank can be a real waiting game to see if all the work that you've carried out over time will stand up to the aims that you hope to achieve.

It only takes one flood that might wash away your revegetation works and then there is the not knowing of when it will come during the establishment of your plantings.

The Navua Community Group has been conducting Revegetation / Restoration works in Navua Reserve since 1993. This has included weed control and planting riparian species along the riverbank on the Grose River.

Our main aim was to rehabilitate the riverbank removing threatening weeds and revegetating using local native plant species and improve the ecological and scenic value of the riverbank and the river system as a whole.

In 1991, a large flood caused considerable damage to Navua Reserve. Large sections of the riverbank were totally washed away. When the Group formed in 1993 the riverbank was in a very bad state; Balloon Vine was all over the existing riparian vegetation, Willow Trees choking the river, forming monocultures, shading out native vegetation and reducing native plant diversity for the food source



Above: The 1991 Flood at Navua Reserve, resulting in some heavy duty erosion in the carpark.

of native animals; and large erosion gullies caused by inappropriate 4WD use. Since 1993 only small floods have tested the revegetation works on the riverbank. Earlier this year was the highest river levels since 1991, inundating most of the reserve, twice in a matter of weeks.

After the river levels dropped, it was good to see the Group's work over the years had no damage to the riverbank with only an old Acacia falling into the picnic area. Time will tell when the big flood comes

and hopefully they will have the same results.

The species planted were:

- *Casuarina cunninghamiana*
- *Eucalyptus deanii & tereticornis*
- *Acacia floribunda, longifolia & binervia*
- *Callistemon salignus*
- *Angophora subvelutina*
- *Lomandra longifolia*
- *Austrostipa ramosissima*
- *Melaleuca styphelioides*
- *Leptosperum polygalifolium*



Above: Recent floods at Navua Reserve were not so big, with the native vegetation holding things together.

Inside

Grants Update 2



Lock those dates in..... 3 & 4

Recycling..... 4



Volunteer Profile..... 5

Community Nursery..... 5



Indian Myna Information..... 4 & 6



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



Grant Update

from Land Management Officer, Nicola Booth



Hawkesbury-Nepean
Catchment Management Authority

Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority: Woodbury Reserve \$8,000 GST inc.

Tradescantia has flourished within the drainage channel in this reserve and this funding will be spent towards following up previously worked areas.

Mill Road Reserve \$15,000 GST inc

Mill Road has a variety of weed issues and environmental problems associated with inappropriate vegetation management from neighbouring properties. This money will be used towards pushing back walls of infestations of Lantana, Wild Tobacco Tree and Cat's Claw Creeper situated close to the old tip site.

Chain of Ponds \$10,000 GST inc.

This site has been worked on extensively for about 15 years and previous works are at a maintenance stage. This new pool of funding is to assist in areas that have recently been controlled for Tradescantia. The money will also go towards canopy protection in areas previously not worked.

Oakville Park \$8,000 GST inc.

Works began on this site in 2009 with great results in assisted natural regeneration. Threatened species such as *Marsdenia viridifolia* and *Acacia pubescens* have flourished. This funding will be spent towards follow up and vine control within the reserve.



Australian Government
Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

Biodiversity Fund - Clean Energy Futures - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Community: Hawkesbury River Biodiversity Project 2012-2018

\$600,000 GST exc.

The Hawkesbury River Biodiversity Project spans over six years from 2012 through to 2018. It focuses on improving biodiversity within Council managed reserves along the Hawkesbury River (within a 1 km proximity). This money will be used towards funding bush regeneration, weed control, revegetation, fencing and signage. The main project areas at this stage will be the following Parks/Reserves:

- Riverside Dr, Yarramundi
- Yarramundi Reserve, Yarramundi
- Navua Reserve, Grosewold
- Hawkesbury Park, North Richmond
- Hanna Park, North Richmond
- Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis
- Howe Park, Windsor
- South Creek, Mulgrave - revegetation along Sewerage Treatment Plant's land.
- Cattai Bridge Reserve, Cattai
- Swallow Rock Reserve (Argyle Bailey Memorial Reserve), Ebenezer
- Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer
- Skeleton Rocks Reserve, Lower Portland
- Half Moon Farm, Leetsvale

To find out more about the Clean Energy Future plan, go to
www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au



Department of
Primary Industries
Catchments & Lands

Crown Land Weed Control Grant: Yarramundi Weed Control Grant \$4000

Weed control focusing on serious weed problems such as Balloon Vine, *Acer negundo* and other woody weeds.

Swallow Rock Weed Control Grant \$3500

Weed control at Swallow Rock focusing in areas of poor accessibility. This money will be spent towards rope work on steep slopes on lantana and vines.



Environment Trust: Little Wheeney Creek Restoration Project 2012-2015 \$49,500 GST Exc.

Creek bank vegetation restoration activities to enhance habitat for Macquarie Perch and Platypus. A component of this project will be to educate the local community on appropriate land management techniques, not necessarily engage them in environmental volunteering.



Editorial - Message from Marty

Hello everyone,

I hope you find this issue of some use. It is with this issue we bid farewell to Nicola Booth, who will be moving to Ryde Council. Nicola's hard work and effort at Hawkesbury will be greatly missed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nicola for her determination, focus and sense of humour at work, as it is not always easy. Nicola played a massive role in the implementation of the new Greenhouse at the Community Nursery, so her legacy will live on, or grow on, in a controlled environment!

To limit paper demand, if you would like to receive your "Weed

All About It" digitally, please send me an email and I'll put you on the mailing list.

Thanks again to those who contributed to this newsletter.

Enjoy the read and happy days!

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



Hawkesbury Bushcare

Keep these dates free



The remainder of 2012 is jam packed with fun filled environmental events. Please note that bookings are essential for all activities as places are limited.

Check out the details below!

Preparing your Property for the Fire Season

Tuesday, 14 August, 7pm – 9:30pm, Deerubbin Centre, Tebbutt Room, 300 George Street, Windsor.

Join Council and the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Service to learn how to best manage and prepare your property before the fire season. Items to be discussed include; Survival Plans, preparing your property, environmental approvals required for vegetation removal associated with bushfire preparation and Hawkesbury's Open Burning Policy and associated fines.

Free information pack and light refreshments provided.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or RFS on 4560 6400.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Seed Raising and Native Plant Growing

Wednesday, 15 August, 9.15am sharp – 11.15am at Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave.

Learn the art of seed raising and grow your own native plants and receive one free native plant. Tea & Coffee provided.

Contact: Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer on 4560 4651.

Email: jhamilton@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Composting Workshop

Thursday, 16 August, 10am – 11.30am, Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave.

Come along to a composting workshop and learn how to turn your waste into worms.

Contact: Amanda Monaco, Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566.

Email: amonaco@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Recycling Workshop

Thursday, 16 August, 6.30pm – 8pm, Deerubbin Centre, Stan Stevens Room, 300 George Street, Windsor.

What happens to your recycling and what's so important about it? Free screening of the documentary "The Story Of Stuff". Participants will also go into the draw to win composting equipment.

Contact: Amanda Monaco, Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566.

Email: amonaco@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Weed Identification and Plant Giveaway

Saturday, 18 August, 9.30am – 12noon, Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave.

Free swap; weed for a native plant. Bring a sample of a weed along to the nursery to be identified by our friendly Community Nursery Officer. Offer open to the first 100 people.

Contact: Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer on 4560 4651.

Email: jhamilton@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Seed Raising & Native Plant Growing Workshop

Saturday, 18 August, 10.15am sharp – 12.15pm at Hawkesbury Community Nursery, 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave.

Learn the art of seed raising and grow you own native plants and receive one free native plant. Tea & Coffee provided.

Contact: Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer on 4560 4651.

Email: jhamilton@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Redbank Creek Bushcare Discovery Day

Saturday, 25 August, 9am sharp – 1pm. Susella Crescent Redbank Creek, North Richmond.

Learn how to reconnect with the bush and help restore and look after a creek and its native animals. Free Lunch.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Native Bees

Saturday, 1 September, 9.30am sharp – 11.30am.

Celebrating National Wattle Day and get up close to our native stingless bees. Free Wattle plant and morning tea provided.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

2012 Hawkesbury River Source to Sea

1-9 September 2012

Experience the Hawkesbury River and celebrate Landcare week! Join us on a paddle of the river (you can choose what length and day) or join us at one of our lunch or dinner meeting sites.

Contact: Vanessa Keyzer, Regional Landcare Facilitator, HNCMA, on 4725 3041.

Email: vanessa.keyzer@cma.nsw.gov.au



continued on page 4...

Hawkesbury Bushcare

Keep these dates free - continued

Bushcare Major Day Out

Saturday, 8 September:

9am -12.30pm, Chain of Ponds Reserve, Ebenezer.

1.30pm - 4.30pm, Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia

Be part of this Australia wide movement. To find out more visit, www.bushcaresmajordayout.org or see it on Facebook.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Indian Myna Trap Building and Trapping Workshop

Sunday, 16 September, 8am – 12noon

Make an Indian Myna trap and learn how to use the trap as well as deter these birds from your garden by using native plants. BYO materials and tools.

Morning tea provided.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Native Fauna Workshop

Saturday, 6 October, 9am – 1pm

Celebrate World Habitat Day and Animal Day, learn about, understand and see Hawkesbury's iconic native animals and their habitat. Morning tea provided. BYO lunch.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Bowen Mountain Market Day and Sustainability Fair

Saturday, 20th October, 8.30am - 3pm

Fun family day, games, BBQ, activities, face painting, music, raffles, live animal show. Come buy, sell or swap your plants, seedlings, fruit, vegies, pots, small bric-a-brac, jams, cakes, biscuits, flowers, pies.

Demonstrations of composting, building a sustainable vegie garden, planting drought tolerant plants.

To book car space or market stand. Phone Alison; 4572 1309, Sylvia/ Geoff: 4572 1842, or Ron: 4572 1645 For details, contact Robin on 4572 1635 or email robin@hen.org.au

Bushcare Landcare Awards Celebration

Sunday, 25 November, Brunch at 10.30am, Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

Enjoy, eat, talk, laugh and be entertained amongst friends.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525.

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Recycling in the Hawkebsury

Hello Bushcarers, My name is Amanda and I am the Waste Education Officer at Council.

I take my job very seriously and am constantly found looking in bins all over the Hawkesbury, and in one case, was even found hiding in a bin!

Do you know what I find when I'm searching in these bins...Contamination! And lots of it!

In fact in a recent audit, it was found that 17% of waste found in Hawkesbury garbage bins was recyclable material that should have been sent to VISY for recycling, not to landfill.

Did you know that whatever you place into your rubbish bin goes directly to the Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility at the Driftway and goes straight into landfill? In the Hawkesbury there is no sorting of your rubbish.

One of the best tips I can give you about recycling, especially in regards to plastics, is to ignore the numbers and symbols on the plastic. If it's a rigid plastic from your bathroom, kitchen or laundry, then it's recyclable. If it's a soft plastic like plastic bags, cling film, chip packet or bread bags then its not recyclable.

Another tip is to recycle everything you can. Recycling helps to preserve natural resources, reduce air pollution, save energy and cut greenhouse gasses.

And if you're unsure, check the Waste and Recycling pages of Councils website, www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au under the "Environment tab" or call me on 4560 4566.



Waste Education Officer
Amanda Monaco, inspecting a
general waste bin (red lid).

Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer Profile



Name: Patricia O'Toole

Group: Mill Road & Matheson Park Bushcare Group

Group Location: Mill Road, Kurrajong

Time with Group: About 9 years

Position in Group: Volunteer

Occupation: Retired but not idle. I assist my husband Ian with our radio museum who draws on my support serving morning tea to visiting groups. Gardening, in what started as a native one has become more a collection of plants from friends but I love spending time in it. Other activities include bush walking, bridge, U3A classes, Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, church activities and travelling. Ian reckons I'm never home.

Reason for Volunteering: It has something to do with a love of the Australian bush. When I was quite young, Mum took me on short walks in the local bush where she also grew up. Later, Dad took us on picnics which always included a walk in the bush. To me the bush has a special beauty when growing the right plants. I like to think my efforts, small as they are, help to restore this.

Best Achievement: Seeing Shale Sandstone Transition Zone Vegetation taking over and flourishing after the removal of large Privets.

Favourite Native Species: *Clerodendron tormentosa*. It grows around my home and is occasionally found in the local area. I am very disappointed that my *Clerodendrons* have been attacked by some disease which damages the flowers and prevent the calyx and seed from developing into their showy red and black florescence.

Most Hated Weed: Hard to decide between Madiera Vine and Cat's Claw Creeper.

Six people you would like to invite to dinner: Dick Smith, My Sister-in-law at a fancy restaurant, Sally Sara (ABC reporter), Cadel Evans, a teenage person (How do they think?) and Julia Gillard (Ian's choice so he could stir her).



Community Nursery Plant Sale - a Great Success!

By Jutta Hamilton



James Nethery & Martin Gauci at the Hawkesbury Show, promoting the Hawkesbury Community Nursery

The recent plant sale at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery was well attended. Over 3000 locally native plants found a new home in residential gardens and on rural properties.

The sale brought many interested residents out to have a look at the community nursery, and many returned home with native plants and a much better understanding of which plants are best suited for their specific situations.

Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci; Nursery Officer, Jutta Hamilton and many of the Nursery Volunteers assisted the plant buyers to make the best choice and select plants best suited for their local soils, vegetation type or garden needs.

A large number of plants were purchased to become part of revegetation and river stabilisation plantings on private properties. After the recent floods some river frontage residents realised how important it is to maintain the native vegetation along the river banks, to stop river bank erosion.

A percentage of these plants were also given away at the recent Hawkesbury Show over three days. This has been done now for the past three years and has proven to be a real winner with residents. In the words of James Nethery, "Much excitement was shown when Hawkesbury residents received their free plants and expert advice at the Hawkesbury Show; by Marty and myself".

The Community Nursery is now in full propagation mode to supply a wider variety of native plants to the Hawkesbury district.

Located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, next to the Companion Animal Shelter, the Community Nursery is open to the public weekly on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm or by appointment by calling Jutta on 4560 4651 or email jhamilton@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.





Photo Competitions, Prizes & Stickers

WANTED: Feral Photos!

Feral Photos competition is now open! This free competition is looking for the best original photographs of pest animals, pest animal damage and pest animal control or monitoring activities in Australia.

For more information visit, www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos

Send your entries via email to:

annette.brown@dpi.nsw.gov.au or by mail to: Feral Photos 2012 - Invasive Animals CRC, Annette Brown, Locked Bag 6006, Orange NSW Australia 2800. Competition closes 30th September, 2012.

Water in The Landscape photo competition – Western Sydney

This is all about water in Western Sydney and is open to young and old. Submit your photos of water (the good, bad and the ugly) in Western Sydney. For more information on categories, prizes, how to enter, terms and conditions visit, www.waterinthelandscape.org.au or contact Zhan Patterson 9671 4333 extension 104, zhan@wsroc.com.au or Judith Bruinsma 9671 4333 extension 106, judith@wsroc.com.au. Competition closes 31st July, 2012.

Want an Indian Myna Sticker?

Peter West from the Invasive Animals CRC has sent a stack of these stickers (see right) to HIMAG to encourage people to control and report on Indian Myna's via the MynaScan website - for Indian Myna recordings, go to www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan. This has now attracted a total of 3,600 records of sightings, and hundreds of damage and control data records. This helps reveal trends in populations, their range and hence the emerging threats. MynaScan will soon be available in a mobile phone-friendly version, allowing anyone with a smart phone or mobile phone to enter data in their local area using mobile technology. For your free MynaScan sticker, contact Martin Gaudi.



Hawkesbury Bushcare Scheduled Meeting Times

Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

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

Matheson Park Bushcare

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

Navua Community Group

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

Chain of Ponds Reserve Bushcare

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

Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

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

McMahon Park Bushcare

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

Sunnyvale Bushies

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

Bellbird Hill Reserve Bushcare

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights
Various work days on
3rd Saturday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

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

Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong
Various work days

Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare

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

North Richmond Community Group

Various work days

Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights
Various work days

Nursery Volunteer Group

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

Hawkesbury City Council



Postage Paid
Australia



Weed All About It - Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program.
Vol 13 Issue 2 Winter 2012
This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper

If not claimed within 7 days please return to
The General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council
PO Box 146, Windsor 2756