

Christmas Awards and Wood Fired Pizza

What a fantastic day! The 2012 15th Bushcare Landcare Awards was at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Mulgrave. You couldn't of asked for a more beautiful day with home made wood fired pizza. It was hard to tell if there was more talking or more eating going on.

There was more than 60 people, comprising mostly of the Bushcare and Landcare volunteers, with Parks staff, Michael Pattison and Jutta Hamilton, HNCMA staff Vanessa Keyzer and Huw Evans. Attendees were as cheerful as ever. Councillors consisted of Mayor Kim Ford and Councillor Jill Reardon, with apologies recieved from Mary Lyons-Buckett. A big thanks goes to those Councillors who attended.

While munching on a few slices pizza, we got the ball rolling with the awards. Marty Gauci, Vanessa Keyzer and Mayor Kim Ford presented the awards. Those who were acknowledged for their past and present efforts included:-

- The Multi Tasker Young Achiever Award - Rebecca Sullivan
- For outstanding Achievement in Environmental Community Awareness, training, participation, involvement, attention to detail, innovation, collaboration, inspiring driven passion and focus for the natural living environment along Redbank Creek.



Councilor Mayor Kim Ford, with the Hawkesbury Community Nursery Volunteers with speeches by John Jose.

- Redbank Creek Recovery Team
- 10 Years Long Service – Ian McEwan & Elizabeth Chellingworth
- Environmental Group of the Year – Nursery Volunteer Group/ Hawkesbury Community Nursery
- Environmental Volunteer of the Year - Linda Anderson

John Jose undertook a stirring speech on behalf of the Community Nursery Group and Hawkesbury Bushcare and highlighted a quote from Joan Bradleys, book "Bring Back the Bush".

"Help the bush to help itself, for the sight of fresh new native plants regenerating of their own accord is a joy for all".

This for me had to be one of the most encapsulating moments of the day, as this is what Bushcare is all about, undertaking bush regen; working from good bush areas to bad, letting native

plant regeneration dictate the rate of weed removal and planting is always a last option, the 3 R's (retain, regenerate, replant) - now that's another story.

Well after all the brouhaha of more pizza, pavlova and pancakes, we had a few pictures and some more speeches, but then we got down to the nitty gritty. A Bushcare / Landcare trivia and boy didn't we all get competitive. Now I think everyone who participated was a winner, so thank you for getting involved, giving it a go and coming along. To those who couldn't make it and everyone else, see you all in 2013.

Thanks for your feedback, nominations and suggestions in making this day another one to be remembered. Without you this day would not be possible.

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

Grant Update

from Land Management Officer - Michael Pattison



Environmental Trust Chain of Ponds Reserve

The three year Environmental Trust Grant for Chain of Ponds reserve is now complete. A team of contract bush regenerators have been undertaking the rehabilitation works alongside the Chain of Ponds Bushcare Group. In that time approximately 2272 hours of contract bush regeneration, 796 hours of volunteer bush regeneration, and 114.5 hours of volunteer supervision has been completed.

Excellent progress has been made in controlling those weeds that threaten the River Flat Eucalypt Forest. The recent warm weather and rain has induced a new flush of annual weed growth and Council has committed funding for this financial year to maintain control.

Little Wheeny Creek Restoration Project

Council has been successful in our application to the Environmental Trust for a three year project to protect the environmental values of Little Wheeny Creek within Singletons Reserve (Mill Rd) and Diamond Hill Dr Reserves. These Reserves hold pristine vegetation that has been predominantly protected by geophysical aspects of the landscape.

Ongoing engagement and education of local landholders will protect investment in rehabilitation activities and ensure the success of the project for years to come.



Biodiversity Fund Hawkesbury River Restoration

Council has been awarded a six year,

\$600,000 project to protect and restore council reserves along the Hawkesbury River. Sites include Cattai Bridge Reserve, Charles Kemp Reserve, Churchills Wharf Reserve, Deerubbin Park, Green Hills Burial Ground, Half Moon Farm, Hawkesbury Park, Howe Park, Navua Reserve, Riverside Drive, Skeleton Rocks, South Creek, Swallow Rock Reserve (Argyle Bailey) and Yarramaundi Reserve.

The main aim of the project is to implement ongoing bush regeneration activities to promote the recovery of native vegetation and improve the condition of our bushland reserves and riverbank. Some sites will require revegetation works to ensure bank stability and reduce the risk of erosion. Many of the sites have active volunteer bushcare groups so the activities funded will enhance the work of these groups.



Hawkesbury-Nepean
Catchment Management Authority

HNCMA Chain of Ponds

The HNCMA has provided \$10,000 of funding towards the ongoing restoration at Chain of Ponds Reserve. Matching funds from Council this will see the project continue and allow follow up work to protect areas treated during the Environmental Trust project.

Singletons Reserve (Mill Rd Reserve)

A \$15,000 grant has been provided for Singletons Reserve to extend the works outside the zones of the Environmental Trust project. This will allow works to progress into the transition woodland and compliment those of the Trust project.

Oakville Reserve

Funding for the continuation of bush regeneration works at Oakville Reserve

has been secured with the HNCMA providing \$8,000 and Council investing a further \$6,500 to protect the critically endangered Shale/Gravel Transition Forest.

Woodbury Reserve

\$8000 from the HNCMA and \$6000 from Council has been committed to the ongoing regeneration and protection of the Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands at Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia.

Local Government
Association of NSW



Shires Association
of NSW

Applications Pending Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project

The Land Management Section is submitting an application to the Local Government & Shires Association to implement priority actions of the Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. The project aims to protect and conserve threatened flora species located in high conservation priority roadside vegetation.



UWS

The Land Management Section are supporting an interesting application by a UWS research lecturer to explore the species richness and composition of belowground communities in Cumberland Plain Woodlands and determine if restoration of highly degraded sites also restores the belowground communities. Should this be successful, information will be provided to educate us all about these communities and their role in a healthy ecosystem.

Editorial

Hello Bush Regenerators, Green thumbs, Indian Myna Hunters and those who like the bush and dislike weeds with a serious vengeance.

This issue bids farewell to Nicola Booth and welcomes aboard Michael Pattison. Now I don't want to split hairs over these two Land Management Officers; but a sincere thanks to Nicola and all the best in her new role at Ryde Council. Mick, as we all call him, has hit the ground running, and we are a lucky to have another focused Land Management Officer at Council.

2012 has been action packed with Indian Myna Trap Building workshops, as well as Seed Raising and Native Bee workshops.

Let me know what you would like to learn about the natural environment and we'll try and get a workshop organised. A few things thrown around include fungis, as opposed to fun guys,

frogs, birds, nest box building and plant propagation.

The native bee workshop was a real buzz and if you would like to make your own native bee hive go to www.beesbusiness.com.au or www.aussiebee.com.au for some great ideas and instructions.

Thank you again to all the volunteers for the work you have put into the bushland reserves throughout the Hawkesbury. Keep up the great work!

To all you, your family and friends have a nice and safe festive season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2013!



Blue-Banded Bee, photo from www.aussiebee.com

Dear Editor

Dear Editor,

"Weed All About It" is title of this, our Bushcare Newsletter and we the converted faithful (vollies) read on as we have done for years. On two occasions recently friends have said "John, I saw a pic of you in some weeding paper" that was at the library etc. It then occurred to me that our newsletter title, whilst it may be a clever play on words, fails as a turn on title to the casual browsers of Mr and Mrs Stringbag in the library or wherever the mag is placed. Surely if we are to entice people to read our rag, become interested in bush regen and then hopefully join us, we need a more alluring title.

Would the T.V. show "Sex in the City" have enjoyed the same level of success with the title "Weeding in the City" I think not. Would Ken have been so interested in Barbie if instead of the glamour life style she lead with flash cars, horses and caravans she presented a more domesticated image weilding a mop and bucket, dish cloth and toilet brush. Dapper Ken would have moved on.

"Weed", the noun is bad enough but as a verb it is just awful. Yes we do weed, but lets not boast about it. We need to search for an euphemism for that unspeakable task that we are required to do. The British Airforce was patrolling the skys over London during the Olympic Games, unauthorised aircraft were "dispatched" now that is a nice comfortable way of saying blown out of the sky, rather like posting a letter, is dispatching.

So if we accept that the W word is to be dispatched, what new title can we give our rag that will be appealing to the said Mr and Mrs Stringbag, the most obvious that comes to my mind is of "Sex in the Bush", or "Love Thy Bush" "Nurture Nature with Us" perhaps this question should be put to our readership and be guided by their responses of alterntative titles. Or, or, or maybe I am wrong and everyone other than me is quite comfortable with the present title. Could I be wrong, really and truly wrong?

John Jose, Chain of Ponds Bushcare and Hawkebsury Community Nursery

Land Management Officer Introduction

Hi to all the community groups, volunteers and friends of the Hawkesbury Bushcare program.

My name is Mick Pattison and I am the new Land Management Officer at Council. I started in late September so I have met some of you at the Nursery and Bushcare party. For those of you I haven't met, I look forward to meeting you over the coming year.



Michael Pattison

I am really enjoying the role and have finally got my head around everything that's going on in the region (I think!). I am impressed by the level of enthusiasm and commitment by all you volunteers and will make myself available to help in any way I can.

I completed my degree in Aquatic Science in Victoria some years ago then moved to NSW to undertake a Masters in artificial wetlands for urban stormwater management. Over the past 5 years I worked for a not-for-profit, non government organisation, WetlandCare Australia as a project manager in the Sydney, Hawkesbury & Southern region. I had been involved with both Michelle and Nicola over that time, managing some local wetland projects on behalf of Council. I also held some great "Breakfast with the Birds" field days each year on World Wetlands Day and would like to continue that in this role.

I have a passion for fishing and all things aquatic and see my role as Land Management Officer as an extension to those passions, because poor land management leads inevitably to poor water quality and heaven forbid, less fish.

I will work closely with Marty and Jutta and try to keep up to date with everything that's going on in Bushcare and the Nursery. Feel free to blame Marty for anything I don't know!

All the best for Christmas and the New year.



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.

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

We had a great trap building workshop in September with a number of Pee Gee Traps made. If you would like to make a trap and we'll put you on the list for the next workshop. Alternatively you can buy your own for about \$50, make your own for a bit less or hire for free.

Trapping tip from Jeff Wynn – Windsor & Surrounds VAC. If you have one bird that has worked out how to walk in and out of your trap, I would be careful they don't show others. My advice is to put the trap a way for a few weeks and maybe just

put a little bit of food out to keep them coming around. I would give the trap a really good wash also.

In a week or two I would suggest that you put lots of food in the actual trap and only a minimum in the feeding chamber side. This may see them try to go up the valve to get at the food they can't reach. A myna is just a winged Gorden Gecko, "Greed is Good".

In any event, my biggest tip I tell everybody is not to leave the trap out for too long. This result may become common.

For more detailed HIMAG information, please visit www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator, 4560 4525, or email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Psyllids In Western Sydney

by Mark Anderson

Over the last two years a Psyllid infestation has been occurring in Western Sydney. Most local government areas are affected including Blacktown, Fairfield, Holroyd, Strathfield, Hawkesbury and Penrith. This is resulting in the decline of health and appearance of trees.

Psyllids are host-specific and feed on one species of plant and at present it is the *Eucalyptus molucanna* (Grey Box). The Cumberland Plain Woodlands have a very high population of this tree in Western Sydney.



Psyllids are native fauna that naturally occur in moderate abundance in localised areas. Psyllids are sap sucking insects that secrete a sugary shield (lerp) which provides them with some degree of protection from small predators and parasites. They suck the sap and plant juices out of the leaves turning them yellow-brown and eventually causing dieback.

There have been three Psyllid outbreaks over a period of 18 years in the Mount Druitt area near Blacktown, with the last one occurring in 1996. Each time *Eucalyptus molucanna* was the host. Most eucalypts can cope with high Psyllid numbers for a couple of seasons and recover after the population declines. Repeated defoliation, however, will deplete the trees reserves faster than they can be replaced by photosynthesis. This can eventually lead to the death of the tree.

Psyllids outbreaks can often last for 3 years and in the 1996 outbreak most of the Grey Gums recovered. The present

infestation started around 2010 but is on a far greater scale this time. The extent of dieback in some parts of Western Sydney is quite high. One of the bushland parks I manage is Plumpton Park in the Mount Druitt area, 12 months ago the park had canopy cover. The trees seem to be so stressed they tried to put out new leaf growth (epicormic shoots). Within months, these new shoots die resulting in complete death of the tree.

The trees within the park and surrounding areas are showing very low survival rates. Considering the record rainfall last Spring/Summer with plenty of moisture in the ground I thought it would result in a high rate of recovery of the trees but unfortunately this hasn't happened.



The University of Western Sydney are monitoring the Psyllids population and outbreak at several locations in Western Sydney. Control measures using insecticide spraying while trees are small or stem injection when the trees are large can be very expensive to carry out on such a large scale. Natural enemies include a parasitic wasp, which have been found on the leaves at Plumpton Park but not in high enough populations to control the Psyllids. Many birds also feed on Psyllids including honeyeaters, rosellas, bell miners, thornbills and pardalotes. In October 2008, the Department of Environment and Conservation listed forest eucalypt dieback associated with over-abundant Psyllids and Bell Miners as a key threatening process. Unfortunately, Plumpton Park has a large population of native noisy miner birds who dominate the area, preventing the other birds from colonising here.

Tree planting programs will need to be undertaken in the future to restore Plumpton Park and others areas of Western Sydney.

Ignore the Symbol!!

When it comes to plastics and recycling its best to ignore the symbol. They actually refer to the type of plastic the item is made from, not its recyclability!

So place all your household rigid plastics into your yellow lidded recycling. Rigid plastic include:

- Meat trays,
- Yoghurt containers,
- Takeaway containers,
- Rigid plastic packaging,
- Plastic cups and plates,
- Cherry tomato and strawberry punnets.

Exceptions are: polystyrene, plastic bags and strapping, chip packets, cling film, bread bags etc.

TIP: Think of it like this. When it comes to biscuits, the tray that holds the biscuits is recyclable, but the outer wrapping is not.

If you're unsure or have a question regarding recycling contact Council's Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566.



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
Kurrajong/Kurrajong Heights Areas																
Singletons Reserve, Kurrajong	Mill Road Bushcare		1 st Saturday	9am – 12:30pm	*	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5	2	*
Don Street Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Don Street Bushcare		Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
Bellbird Hill Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Bellbird Hill Bushcare		3 rd Friday	9am – 12pm	*	*	*	19	*	*	19	*	*	18	*	*
McMahon Park, Kurrajong	McMahon Park Bushcare		Last Sunday	9am – 12pm	*	24	31	28	26	30	28	25	29	27	24	*
Matheson Park, Kurrajong	Matheson Park Bushcare		1 st Saturday	1.30pm – 4:30pm	*	2	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	5	2	*
855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong	Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare		4 th Saturday	9am – 12pm	*	*	*	27	*	*	*	24	*	*	*	*
North Richmond/Grose Vale Areas																
Navua Reserve, Grose Wold	Navua Community Group		1 st Sunday	9am – 12pm	*	3	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	*
Near the North Richmond Bridge	Nth Richmond Community Group		Various	Various	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
Redbank Creek, North Richmond	Redbank Creek Bushcare		TBA	TBA	Contact the Community Bushcare Officer for further details (02) 4560 4525											
Glossodia/Ebenezer/Sackville Areas																
Chain of Ponds Reserve, Ebenezer	Chain of Ponds Bushcare		2 nd Saturday	9am – 12:30pm	*	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	*
Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia	Woodbury Reserve Bushcare		2 nd Saturday	1:30pm – 4:30pm	*	9	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	12	9	*
Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer	Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare		4 th Saturday	9am – 12pm	*	23	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	26	23	*
Aboriginal Memorial Reserve - Lower Portland	Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group		1 st Sunday	9am – 12pm	*	3	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	6	3	*
Wisemans Ferry/Macdonald Valley Areas																
561 Settlers Road, Lower Macdonald	Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare		3 rd Saturday	9am – 12pm	*	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	*
Hawkesbury Community Nursery																
Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave Shelter & Sewage Treatment Plant.	Nursery Volunteer Group		Wednesday	1pm	*	Open every Wednesday or by appointment, excluding Public Holidays. Contact the Community Nursery Officer for further details (02) 4560 4651										

* 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 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: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450.



Hawkesbury City Council
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Council Website: www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:30am-5:00pm



Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo



Spider



Carpet Python



Echidna



Eastern Long-eared Bat



Squirrel Glider



Gecko



Quoll

Woodland Wildlife

Part of the Australian bush, woodlands are home to a variety of native animals, many of which depend on hollow logs and trees for shelter, foraging and nesting. By removing firewood from woodlands, people deprive these animals of their homes and can threaten their survival. Look where the animals in the picture live and then match each animal to their shelter type. One match has already been done for you.

Animal	Type of Shelter
Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Rocks and Logs
Spider	Tree Hollows
Carpet Python	Hollow Logs
Quoll	Tree Bark
Echidna	Tree Hollows
Eastern Long-eared Bat	Rocks and Logs
Squirrel Glider	Tree Bark
Gecko	Hollow Logs



Natural Heritage Trust

Helping Communities Helping Australia

A Commonwealth Government Initiative



The Highs and Lows of Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia

By Kay Rowe, Woodbury Bushcare Member and Glossodia Resident

The Woodbury Reserve Bushcare Group started in October 2007. Since then we have been battling tradescantia, motorbikes, vandalism and the lack of members.

Woodbury Reserve is located in the middle of the Glossodia community. It features a recreational area including an oval (soccer and cricket), playground equipment and a skateboard ramp.

To assist the Council in the upkeep of the oval, a dam was developed along the watercourse. The dam is home to a wide variety of birdlife including egrets, ducks, herons, moorhens and even the odd pelican. A grassland area and a woodland area combine to complete this reserve.

The reserve area comprises of an open grassland area and then a lovely piece of Cumberland Plain Woodland area bounded by a small creek and residential properties. Over the years of bushcare we have worked to remove lantana, blackberry, wild tobacco, grasses, bridal creeper, mother-of-millions, moth vine and trad (to mention a few).

The main problem of Woodbury Reserve is the vandalism, along with the continued degradation of remnant areas by motorbike riders.

The dam along the watercourse has been under attack from cars and motorbikes over the years. Apparently it is fun to drive into the dam and then try and get out!!! This has caused damage to the dam walls creating an overflow and the shortage of water. A few years back the Council installed a lockable gate to stop vehicle entry. This has stopped the many cars from entering and driving around the reserve and into the dam. Unfortunately the motorbike rider can't be stopped! The Council has assisted by discontinuing the

mowing of the grassland area. This has encouraged regrowth of the bushland and has made a marked difference to the motorbike usage. The bikes still come but the longer grass has been a great deterrent. Maybe it is the increased snake activity in the long grass, we don't know but this tactic has worked.

Unfortunately many park users abuse the area by continually destroying vegetation by snapping, chopping, removing and knocking down trees around the reserve, using these trees to dam up the creek and to burn when groups of youths congregate. We have even had them build a cubby house using wire frames camouflaged in trad!

There are a number of walking tracks that the public have made around the reserve. These are used by the community for bushwalking, walking the dog and pushbike riding. This is a very valuable area for the Glossodia community who use and enjoy this reserve. At any time during the weekend you can come along and find different groups throughout the reserve enjoying the great outdoors.

One of the favourite activities by the young people of Glossodia is fishing in the dam. It is full of carp and make for easy catching.

As a Bushcare Group we have made great progress in this reserve. We have the lantana under control as with mother of millions. Yearly maintenance is all that is required at the moment. It is surprising even with our small numbers what we can achieve each month. We have been lucky enough over the years to receive grants



Woodbury Reserve Bushcare Group

to assist in weed eradication. Our major problem is the tradescantia. Recently we have received a grant of \$8000 from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to combat the tradescantia in the drainage channel/creek area.

The main problem of our Bushcare Group is maintaining workers. We have had up to six workers but the work must be too mundane to keep them around. Normally three of us turn up month by month and work away fighting our war on weeds. On occasions we have had young people visit who are working up their hours for Duke of Ed, we have held special days including a day with the Hawkesbury Young Landcare. Let us hope that when these young people visit we plant a seed, that one day will sprout and they too will find a patch of their own to look after for future generations.

Next time you are coming though Glossodia, call into the reserve and see this great area for yourself.

With the Council's Plan of Management in place for Woodbury Reserve we are hoping for continued council assistance in improving this area for all the community to enjoy.

Thanks for the Memories

from Nicola Booth



It has been a very fulfilling three and a half years working for Hawkesbury, as I have been able to undertake a diverse range of projects to assist the environment and associated programs. The Hawkesbury is such a beautiful area and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute to the area and work of Bushcare volunteers. To the volunteers and colleagues who each have their own distinct characters and passions about natural environment; I have enjoyed working with you, and will dearly miss these folk.

I now hand over to Mick Pattison. He has great knowledge about wetland ecology and bushland restoration. I wish Mick all the best in this role, and hopefully I will catch some of you around the traps.

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2013!



National Tree Day

The 2012 National Tree Day held at Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve was a real hoot. Everyone got stuck into the plantings and before we knew it, we had row, amongst row, amongst row of native Acacias, Gum Trees, Sand Paper Figs, Paperbarks and She Oaks. Plantings were done along the entry fence lines to both beautify the reserve entry, create a better wildlife corridor for native fauna and further stabilise the river bank.

It was a great community day all round, with the involvement of the Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare Group, Lions Club of Hawkesbury Bells Line Inc., the Landcare Group Willow Warriors. Councillor Leigh Williams and Jill Reardon along with ALP candidate for Macquarie Susan Templeman joined the community to help plant trees. A thanks also goes to National Tree Day Volunteers and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery volunteers for growing such great specimens.

The 2013, National Tree Day will be on Sunday, 28 July, so stay tuned for the coming site in the next edition. Let me know if there is a particular site that you would like to see more trees in.

Contact: Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, 4560 4525, or email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
For more National Tree Day information please visit - www.treeday.planetark.org.



Volunteers creating oxygen for the Hawkesbury.

KIDS CORNER

Answers

Red-tailed Black Cockatoo - Tree Hollows
Spider - Tree Bark
Carpet Python - Rocks and Logs
Quoll - Hollow Logs
Echidna - Hollow Logs
Eastern Long-eared Bat - Tree Bark
Squirrel Glider - Tree Hollows
Gecko - Rocks and Logs



WHO is HRCC?

WHO IS HRCC?

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

If you have any questions regarding noxious weeds please contact us at:

DEPOT/OFFICE: 6 Walker Street, South Windsor 2756

PHONE: 02 4587 0230

EMAIL: council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au

Senegal Tea Plant

Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

Noxious Weed Class 1 – State Prohibited Weed. “The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.”

What does it look like?

- Stems are ribbed, pale green and erect, becoming prostrate as they lengthen and age.
- Stems are hollow which allows the plant to float.
- Shiny dark green leaves grow 5-20cm long, with serrated margins.
- White pom-pom like flowers occur in groups at the ends of stems in late spring or early summer and continue until temperatures fall.

Habitat

Senegal tea prefers tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions and will grow in damp floodplain soil, on the margins of creeks and dams, in wetlands and in still or slow-flowing fresh water. Plants can grow fully when submerged.

How does it spread?

It is an aggressive invasive plant capable of growing up to 15cm per week. It can propagate from leaf fragments and by seed.

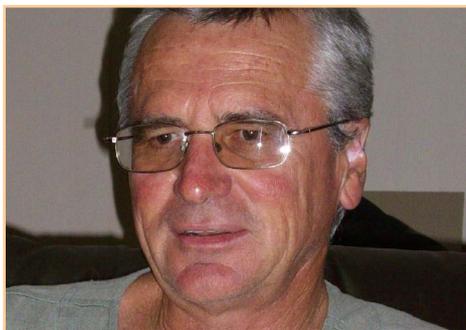
Problem

Dense mats can block waterways and competes with other species.

- Senegal Tea Plant has been found in the past along Redbank Creek, North Richmond. If you see this weed, please report it to HRCC.



Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer profile



Name: John Parmenter

Group: Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare Group

Group Location: Aboriginal Memorial Reserve, Lower Portland.

Time with Group: Just over 2 years

Position in Group: Volunteer

Occupation: Retired gardener



Reason for Volunteering: Preservation of the environment has always been very important to me and now I have time on my hands.

Best Achievement: Pulling away the lantana to reveal retaining walls that hadn't seen the light of day for 50 years or more.

Favourite Native Species: I don't really have a favourite but I do like the white-trunked gums. I think this is Sydney Blue gum, *Eucalyptus saligna*.

Most Hated Weed: *Lantana camara*.

Six people you would like to invite to dinner: Aung San Suu Kyi, Tim Flannery, Peter Fitzsimons, Mandawuy Yunupingu, David Suzuki and Dr. Fiona Wood.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery

By Jutta Hamilton

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery now has many native plants of local provenance for sale.



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

Come along on a Wednesday (9am-1pm) and get some help picking the right plants for your garden. The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave, next to the companion Animal Shelter, phone 4560 4651. Plants start from \$1.

Beauty and the Beast



Brenda Smith & Jutta Hamilton enjoying the native garden

Unlike a fairy story, this miracle has actually happened and exists in your local Community Nursery. When first introduced to *Bursaria spinosa* (Native Blackthorn) and its prickly thorns, I took a dislike to this straggly, dreary, opportunistic, unattractive specimen. Definitely a beast to cope with in the bush, paddock or elsewhere! However I have good cause for changing my mind.

Due to Marty's vision our nursery garden planted in 2009, has grown a handsome hedge; two thick walls with plenty of healthy foliage, which has been clipped into order. This would be a most respectable addition to any home garden and a haven for small birds. Dainty, white, fragrant flowers appear from January-April.

Here is proof that proper management and a decent haircut can transform an uncontrolled beast into a disciplined and useful beauty.

I do love Spring! Regards from Brenda.

Local Land Services and CMA Amalgamations

The NSW Government recently announced that the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority will be merged with the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority as part changes to the regional service delivery model. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority's area of operation now includes all the areas previously covered by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority. Sydney Metro CMA and Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA are now collectively called Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA.

More information about the work of Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Authority can be found at www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au.

CMA's across NSW will also be further amalgamated with Livestock Pest and Health Authorities (LHPA's) and the agricultural advisory arm of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) into a single entity called "Local Land Services". Local Land Services should be up and running by January 2014.

You can read more about Local Land Services on the NSW DPI website, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices. Its still business as usual for the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA until further information becomes available.

You can have your say about the new Local Land Services at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices.

Thirteen Environmental Sustainability projects have been



developed as part of the Alive! project being run by the Hawkesbury Environment Network.

Schools and youth groups involved include: Bede Polding and Xavier College, Colo and Hawkesbury High Schools, Bligh Park, Ebenezer, Hobartville, Kurrajong, Maraylya, Richmond and Richmond North Public Schools, Saint Monica's Primary School and Girl Guide groups throughout the Hawkesbury.

The projects have focused on addressing environmental issues from waste to creating bird habitat and water conservation. Students from the communications department of the University of Western Sydney have also been developing mini documentaries of each of the projects. Have a look at some of the draft documentaries at www.youtube.com/user/AliveProjectHEN.

Each group involved in the project will be sharing their work with other young people from across the region at the Alive! Youth Conference. The Conference will be held over 2 days at the University of Western Sydney, Richmond campus on February, 20 and 21, 2013. It will be a culmination and celebration of the work the students have been doing to contribute towards creating a sustainable Hawkesbury region.



Students from Saint Monica's Primary School harvesting from their garden and attending to their newly established worm farm and compost bin.

For more information about the project or the Hawkesbury Environment Network, please visit www.hen.org.au.

World Wetlands Day - "Breakfast with the Birds" Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Bushcare will be holding a community event to celebrate World Wetlands Day on Saturday, 2 February 2013. The location of the event is yet to be confirmed.



The Beauty of Birds at Pitt Town Lagoon

The day will begin with some birdwatching and a short talk by the Cumberland Bird Observers Club about the wonderful birds that inhabit our precious wetlands. This will be followed by breakfast (provided) and a discussion about the importance of wetlands and how we can all help preserve them.

Everyone is welcome and attendees will be provided with a wetlands information kit containing some facts about wetlands, where you can go for help or advice and some other goodies.

For further information or to register your interest in attending please contact Council's Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560 4525 or email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Floating Landcare - Workers on Water

Come and join in our latest adventure conservation activity! Floating Landcare is a project coordinated by the HNCMA in partnership with Pittwater, Hornsby and Gosford Councils and NPWS with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. Volunteers visit boat access only locations along the Hawkesbury and Pittwater, and help restore the local environment.

It's a great way to see beautiful places that you wouldn't normally get access to and make a difference at the same time!

Locations mostly need bush regeneration with some litter collection and tree planting. Floating Landcare will meet at various times over next 18 months.

All training and tools provided.

To register and to receive a copy of the Floating Landcare Activity Calendar, contact Rebecca Mooy from the HNCMA on 4725 3055 or email rebecca.mooy@cma.nsw.gov.au.

Hawkesbury City Council



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