



Volume 20, Issue 1

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Autumn 2020

## The Hawkesbury Koala Story – the best in Australia!!

**K**oalas have been doing it pretty tough in the Hawkesbury over the last few years; particularly with the ongoing drought followed by the devastating fires over summer. Residents of the Hawkesbury are pleased to know that the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains koala is the most diverse koala in Australia. This genetic diversity is something to be extremely proud of and something that we should cherish and retain.

The Hawkesbury with its varied diverse soils and topography, has a diverse range of gum trees that occur through these areas. As a result, Koalas don't just favour one tree species a but a variety of them. They do have favourites which are classed as 'primary food tree species'. Those also liked, but not as much as the first lot are classed as 'secondary food tree species', then their final choice is the stringy barks, which is classified as 'stringybarks/supplementary species'. Some of the trees that occur in the Hawkesbury under these categories can be seen in the table on page 7.

For the full list of the tree species, go to - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/koalahabitat.htm#central>

Koalas will move around the Hawkesbury, particularly if it's a juvenile or young male wanting to find a new territory. Over the past few months there have been a large amount of Koala sightings from various places around the Hawkesbury that include –

Kurrajong, Wilberforce, Cumberland Reach, Leats vale, Mountain Lagoon, Colo Heights, Kurrajong Village, Blaxland Ridge, Bowen Mountain, Grose Vale, Colo, East Kurrajong, Glossodia, Bilpin, Freemans Reach, St Albans, Sackville, Kurrajong Heights, Grose Wold, Berrambling, Macdonald Valley, Lower Portland and I'm sure if your suburb has not been listed, keep an eye for them and report them on the Koala App <https://koala.nsw.gov.au/2019/08/26/new-koala-app-launched-i-spy-koala/> (see page 6) or report a Koala sighting through Science for Wildlife at <http://scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project/> or via Facebook on <https://www.facebook.com/koalaspotter/>.



L-R. 'Mudgee Marine' recovering from starvation/drought at Mudgee & 'Kurra Kellie' one of the lucky survivors of the Gospers Mountain fire. Photo Morgan Philpott.

The biggest threats to koalas in the Hawkesbury are –

- **Deforestation and fragmentation.**

That is the bushland where they live, hide, keep cool in during the summer period, eat, sleep and travel through is being cleared.

- **Domestic dog attacks.**

Domestic dog attacks are the biggest impact on Koalas, and on the limited resources of the local Hawkesbury WIRES volunteers. If you want to help WIRES and retain the genetic diversity of the Hawkesbury & Blue Mountains Koalas some of the most important things you can do to help are:

continued on page 7

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



# Editorial

Hello Everyone. This is a special stay at home COVID-19 isolation edition.

More than a lot has happened over the past few months, from drought, fire, flood and to now COVID-19 and for this reason we have made it a bumper issue. This edition has had some great contributions from community members and as we all seem stretched during this time, their contribution is probably even more important and valued; thanks so much for your help.

So you've heard it all; stay at home, isolate; but don't vegetate. Now we are at home the garden is a perfect avenue to keep our mind, body and soul occupied and especially with your bush regeneration skills your home weeds will be hopefully reducing by the day. For some weed tips, see page 5.

All Hawkesbury Bushcare activities have been temporarily suspended until further notice. Bushcare sites will still be undergoing maintenance schedules by our Bushcare supervisors, so we are hoping when you return and the COVID-19 rules and regulations have been lifted your sites would have progressed in a positive way.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery has recently been closed however I can pass on some great news in that the nursery has resumed operational business under new guidelines with contactless orders, payments and

pickups. For more information on these guidelines, please contact Jutta Hamilton or see the below article on this page.

The Local Mens Shed in Richmond is currently closed due to COVID-19, so the construction of Indian Myna traps and nest boxes have currently been put on hold.. For more information on this, please contact me (see contact details below).

Please look after your physical and mental health during this time; well, all the time really. The Hawkesbury Bushcare community is a fantastic bunch of people so I'm hoping you are all keeping in touch with and supporting each other through various legal means. The following links provide updates, advice and support to get through this.

FEDERAL [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

STATE [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

LOCAL [www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au)

So stay safe people and Happy Days!!

**Marty Gauci**

Community Bushcare Officer  
(02) 4560 4525

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



## Community Nursery and COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, access to the Hawkesbury Community Nursery has been restricted. The great news is that you can order and buy and pickup plants via a contactless service. This arrangement meets all government regulations for COVID-19. It is great weather for planting native plants and we can give you advice and guidance on plant selection and planting. To help us provide these plants and maintain hygiene the following conditions and arrangements apply:



- Plant orders must be of 30 plants or more
- The **current list of available plants** can be found at at <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/places-and-facilities/community-nursery>
- Once you have determined which plants you are after, please contact Jutta or Martin by phone or email (see details below). They will discuss your selection, outline

how to make payment and arrange a pickup time.

For more information and to order plants, please contact:

Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer: Mon, Wed and Thurs (02) 4560 4651 or

[Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer

(02) 4560 4525, 0413 195 248,

[Martin.GAUCI@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Martin.GAUCI@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Hawkesbury  
Community  
Nursery



### Supporting our environment and our community during COVID-19

While you are isolated at home, weeding and planting in your garden or undertaking your own revegetation works can be a rewarding and a positive way to stay motivated, active and healthy. This will benefit both your physical and mental wellbeing.

Local businesses (landscapers, gardeners, bush regenerators, and so on) that need native plants for their works can now purchase plants from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery so that they are still able to run their business.

People using these plants from our nursery will be improving the Hawkesbury's natural environment by creating and extending the native vegetation in both suburban and rural environments.

During autumn, the daily average temperature and current rainfall pattern makes it the ideal time to plant. If you need less than 30 plants, maybe you could arrange with a friend or family member to organise a group purchase. You'll be supporting the community nursery, the environment and your garden. So, happy planting!



# 2019 Hawkesbury Bushcare Awards and end of year Celebration

The 22nd annual Bushcare Awards for 2019 was a lovely day at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Councillor Amanda Kotlash was her friendly self and presented the awards to the Bushcare and Community Nursery volunteers which included –

- The Hawkesbury Community Nursery Green Thumb Award – Michael Eggleton
- 10 Years Long Service to Bushcare – Michael Kemp, Eve Stones, Andrew Stones and Gillian Miller
- Certificate of Appreciation for Koala Fest Hawkesbury, Sunday, 8 September 2019 – Hawkesbury Koala Working Group
- Toni May Memorial Award Excellence in Bushland Regeneration – Wendy Lawson
- Super Scriber Scripting Award - Jocelyn Howden, Patricia O'Toole, Wez Champion, Karen Barron, Patricia Butler and Viki Winton
- Lifetime Membership to Hawkesbury Bushcare - John Jose
- Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award – Gillian Miller

The Environmental Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Gillian Miller for her strong commitment to the restoration of Charles Kemp Reserve in Ebenezer. With the help of the Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare Group, Gillian has achieved amazing community involvement with this reserve. Gillian has constantly thought outside the square with her conservation efforts and to her credit this Bushcare Group is possibly the most successful Bushcare Group in Western Sydney.

Congratulations Gillian and all the Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteers, you all do such amazing work.

Everyone is welcome to join their local Bushcare group as well as the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and lend a hand. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Martin Gauci, Council's Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).



The 3 Super Miller Girls proud of their efforts. L-R Catherine, Gillian and Charlotte.

## PHEEN Update

by Andrew Hewson

(PHEEN – Penrith Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network)

PHEEN meetings unfortunately for 2020 have been put on hold as teaching staff are stretched to capacity with the current COVID-19. However thanks to the digital format of Facebook there have been regular posts by those believing in the powers of plants like -

- Luke and Jane creating an amazing frog pond and bush food garden.
- Chris embracing the digital technology of environmental education (7 years before COVID-19 arrived).
- Vege gardens and worm farm ideas.
- Brewongles calming influence to the big picture of PHEEN and nature.



Ashley Mulcahy at Glenmore Park High School giving us a guided tour.

PHEEN aims to facilitate links and learning opportunities between educators, youth workers, and people interested in the sustainability/ environmental field. If that's you, and you're based in the Penrith or Hawkesbury area and feel you can benefit from and contribute to PHEEN, then join the Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/367351370101225/>.

As this is a closed group, you will need to answer a few questions with where, how and why. This will make it a thousand times easier for the host to process your application.

One of our meetings for 2019 was a great tour and adventure at Glenmore Park High School which has a lot of sustainability projects going with students raising money through collecting cans and bottles, constructing vegetable gardens and getting out into the local community to run annual data collections about the local environment for both HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment) and Science. Ashley is very enthusiastic about not only having projects happen but ensuring they are valid learning experiences. He is not only leading a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Environment Club that is building an aquaponic garden bed, but also has a NESA approved Ecology elective ready to run in 2021 which he hopes will lead the next generation of advocates for the Cumberland Plain.

Thanks Ash your enthusiasm and passion is inspiring.



# Severe drought, fire to flood!

## The Hawkesbury River Flood of 2020

by Richie Benson

They said it would come, and it did; much more than we needed actually. The rain fell and local creeks and rivers flooded, giving them a good flush out.

The recent floods have again changed our local waterways for good and bad. Huge torrents of water roaring out of the Grose River saw piles of trees being swept downstream. The wild flooding in the Grose River may have been from the high rainfall runoff in the Grose catchment, as the fires had impacted the native vegetation cover, which normally absorbs and slows rainfall dispersal. River and creek banks which had limited vegetation on them suffered severe damage, with some of the giant Eucalypts aged hundreds of years, even losing their footing. Navua Reserve was severely damaged with entire revegetation projects which have been established for decades, swept away. If it wasn't for the great revegetation works that Navua Community Group had done over the past 20 plus years the erosion may have been a lot worse!

The water flowed on into the Hawkesbury. Riverbanks continued to slump with more trees bearing the brunt. Unfortunately, we saw unacceptable amounts of plastic flowing downstream and accompanied by items from caravan parks as they go under too. Plastic pollution really needs addressing in our waterways. I have worked in some horrifying conditions in Western Sydney creeks and they mostly all flow to our river.

Some parts of the riverbank were completely infested

with weeds. Some sections were retained, and others were almost completely wiped, allowing us to start again in river and River Flat Forest recovery. I have taken this opportunity at Deerubbin Park, Cornwallis as I weed away and add new tube stock to regain stability.



Erosion and deposition along the banks of the Grose River at Navua and Yarramundi Reserves. Photo Richie Benson.



Lots of mud was left behind. Almost up to my knees in places. The great thing is, Eucalyptus and Casuarina trees and many other natives, continue dropping their seed on the moist, nutrient rich topsoil with good germination. It is amazing to see nature respond and reclaim the land we too often take for granted. Weeds are also taking advantage. Castor Oil trees are germinating in their masses and *Ludwigia peruviana* is too. It's important we ensure control on these weeds while they are manageable and save our little natives.

At Cumberland Reach, our Landcare sites took a hit. Sections of our revegetation works were destroyed, but I feel we also benefitted greatly. We had riverbank sections which were at 90°, were metres high and extremely difficult to retain. The flood caused slumping and formed 50° slopes. We have already

planted tube stock to help retain the slope. Lately, I have taken the opportunity to plant River Flat Forest species in many of my private and public sites across the Hawkesbury. With high levels of moisture which will take us well into next spring, it's a great time to get them established. During winter, foliage may not grow too much, but the roots will, preparing them for a fantastic growing season.

Onwards and upwards, keep going!



# Nocturnal Nature Safari by Tom Covell

Hi, I'm Tom Covell and I'm lucky enough to run Hooked on Nature <http://hookedonnature.com.au> where I get people back into nature, and hooked on unlocking the stories of wildlife, plants and fungi. I truly believe that the more people connecting to nature in the garden, their local reserve or national park, the better understanding they will have of our environment, and the more people will want and know how to conserve it.

Hawkesbury residents have been in for an immersive treat in nature. Under the guidance of well-lit torch and an even brighter curiosity for the world, we set out to three beautiful reserves around the Hawkesbury, all on the quest to discover the amazing wildlife that makes our home special.

The first adventure was at Chain-of-Ponds Reserve. Here we were dazzled by five gorgeous little sugar gliders gliding down from the woody stag tree better known as habitat high-rise. Then it was on to McMahon Park, Kurrajong. We were entertained by a myriad of beetles and bugs, and the bats – they were phenomenal! We had at least fifteen or so microbats diving and darting underneath the big floodlights illuminating the oval and snavelling up mountains worth of mosquitoes.

Lastly, we adventured to Redbank Creek in North Richmond. Possums better than a trapeze artist manoeuvred over the creek in vines, and the trapdoors were amazing. Bouncing out of their perfectly formed holes, they grabbed cockroaches and millipedes for all who attended.

The Hawkesbury is teeming with life and we have some amazing environments on the edge of our beautiful homes. We are truly lucky to live in such a biodiversity-filled place that is the Hawkesbury.



Enthusiastic participants of all ages at McMahon Park. Photo Angela Maier.



Wolf spiders are allies in the grass, guarding the home against invading pests; Redbank Creek North Richmond. Photo Tom Covell.

*"Thanks Marty and Tom for a great night! Three possums, a water dragon, microbats, fish, frogs, trapdoors, ants, insects and more!"*

Thanks to the great support from Hawkesbury Bushcare, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Hawkesbury Community Nursery that made these exciting nature experiences possible and a memorable event for all.

## WEEDS & COVID-19

With many of us suddenly spending more time at home, it's a good opportunity to get a few jobs done around your property or home. Weeding is a great way to release the stresses of life and connect with nature. Now is the perfect time to look out for weeds as there are many popping up and in flower after the recent rains.

Get on top of your weeds!

My favourite websites for; identification of local weeds, brochures, weed removal techniques and short educational videos.

<https://sydneyweeds.org.au/>

<https://weedsbluemountains.org.au/identify-weeds/>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds>

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

<https://www.aabr.org.au/>

If you need help with weed identification, download the WeedWise App <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/nsw-weedwise-app>



For a list of high risk weeds in NSW see

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/feed-and-fodder/managing-biosecurity/high-risk-weeds>



The Hawkesbury River County Council is our local weed regulatory authority and will have information about priority weeds in the Hawkesbury.

Contact: <http://hrcc.nsw.gov.au/>

Phone: (02) 4574 9600 or

[council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)

# I Spy Koala

Download the new koala sightings app -

<https://koala.nsw.gov.au/2019/08/26/new-koala-app-launched-i-spy-koala/>

The NSW Government has launched a new app – I Spy Koala.

The app allows community members to record their sightings of koalas in the wild.

App users can enter information about the location and condition of the koala, as well as photos and other information.

Data from the app will be available for access through the interactive NSW Government Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED) portal. The SEED Portal was developed with and for the community of NSW as a central place for everyone to find data about the environment.

Reporting koala sightings is essential to help koalas in the wild. Better information about koalas leads to better koala conservation and better planning decisions.

The app is available for download for Apple and Android devices.

Important: If you see an injured koala, please call your local Hawkesbury WIRES <https://www.wires.org.au/branch/hawkesbury> 1300 094 737 for help.



## Cockspur Coral Trees on the Hawkesbury

by Richie Benson

Over the past few years, I have noticed Cockspur Coral *Erythrina crista-galli* trees really starting to take hold at the toe of our local creeks and riverbanks. I would suggest, our worst infestations were in South/Wianamatta Creek and Hortons Creek, Pitt Town. We now see the infestation reaching down into the brackish waters.

Cockspur Corals were introduced into Australia as an attractive ornamental plant, with masses of bright red flowers during the warmer months and covered in unwelcomed thorns on all parts of the tree, including the trunk.

Cockspur Corals invade the tow of river/creek banks and can invade entire wetlands. As they quickly establish and grow like wildfire, they out compete most of the plants around them, losing critical flora which assists in erosion control and reduces the quality of the once invaluable habitat for our beautiful Aussie fauna.

Unfortunately, Cockspur Corals drop seed which floats on to new sites and establishes itself. Seedlings have a huge tap root, storing loads of energy, which will

sometimes make hand removing or control via herbicide application difficult. It's important to follow best practice control methods for best results.

Cockspur's can also spread vegetatively, meaning it can spread from fragments. This allows entire trees or branches which are left in water or damp areas after initial control, to develop epicormic growth and recolonise on the toe of the bank or in wetlands.

To control, consider contacting the Hawkesbury River County Council for advice (as they are our Local Control Authority) or check out the NSW WeedWise website for more information. Contact: <http://hrcc.nsw.gov.au/> Phone: (02) 4574 9600 or [council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au) <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/CockspurCoralTree>



Cockspur Coral Tree *Erythrina crista-galli*

We can still make a difference. Unlike many of our weeds, Cockspur coral tree has a long way to go before it reaches its niche in establishment and impact. Let us increase our native diversity and ensure there is No Space for Weeeeds!

Image source - <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/CockspurCoralTree>



# Koala Fest Hawkesbury 2019 by Jocelyn Howden

The second Koala Fest was organised by the "Hawkesbury Koala Working Group (HKWG)" and held in Governor Phillip Park, Windsor in September 2019. The day was attended by over 700 people, many locals and people from wider Sydney and even a few international visitors.

Our guest speaker was Chris Gambion from the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) who spoke eloquently about the plight of koalas in our environment. Also attending were Federal Member for Macquarie, Susan Templeman, Local State Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston and Deputy Mayor of Hawkesbury, Mary Lyons-Buckett. Local Councillor Danielle Wheeler was the MC for the day. The smoking ceremony was performed by Uncle Wes, who recently turned 98. Happy birthday Uncles Wes!

Stall holders ranged from Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Hawkesbury WIRES, NPWS & DPIE, Hawkesbury Bushcare, Brewongle Environmental Education Centre, Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Land for Wildlife, Hawkesbury Landcare Network, Greater Sydney Landcare and the Hawkesbury Men's Shed to the Remakery and many more community information stalls like Girl Guides. Waste-free catering was provided by local food and coffee stalls.

The interactive wildlife show of Australian Wildlife Displays with Anthony Stimpson was very popular with kids, as was plaster painting of native animals and a guessing competition and koala facemask making at the HEN stall.

Divinia Eather and Colleen Fricker provided great music to entertain the visitors while many interesting discussions with visitors led to a greater understanding of conservation, koalas and their preferred food trees, and other environmental issues.

HKWG would like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to a successful day.



Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie, Richie Benson, founder of Koala Fest, Councillor, Mary Lyons-Buckett (Deputy Mayor) and Robyn Preston, Member for Hawkesbury.

## Hawkesbury Koala continued from front page

- Plant a few gum trees on your property that Koalas will like to eat (see page 2 & call Jutta at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery 4560 4651). These trees can be potential koala feed trees for WIRES volunteers when an injured koala is being treated,
- Retain the natural areas on your property so koalas can travel and exist in,
- Join patches of bushland to create connectivity of natural areas.
- Lock up your dog at night to prevent it from any potential koala attack or kill.

If you live in Koala territory, be a responsible pet owner. You can do this by containing your dog in your own yard so it is unable to roam and the probability of a potential dog attack on Koalas can be significantly reduced.

### Primary food tree species

Parramatta red gum <i>E. parramattensis</i>	Swamp mahogany <i>E. robusta</i>
Forest red gum <i>E. tereticornis</i>	Tallowwood <i>E. microcorys</i>
Ribbon gum <i>E. viminalis</i>	Cabbage gum <i>E. amplifolia</i>

### Secondary food tree species

Blue box <i>E. baueriana</i>	Woollybutt <i>E. longifolia</i>
Grey gum <i>E. punctata</i>	Brittle gum <i>E. michaeliana</i>
Blue box <i>E. baueriana</i>	Woollybutt <i>E. longifolia</i>
Monkey gum <i>E. cypellocarpa</i>	Brittle gum <i>E. michaeliana</i>
Grey box <i>E. moluccana</i>	Western grey box <i>E. macrocarpa</i>

### Stringybarks/supplementary species

Thin-leaved stringybark <i>E. eugenioides</i>	White stringybark <i>E. globoidea</i>
Heart-leaved stringybark <i>E. camfieldii</i>	<i>E. blaxlandii</i>



# Testing the Waters with Mick by Michael Pattison

Last year we received funding from OEH Estuary Management program for 3 years to produce an annual Estuary Health Report card. This involves monthly water quality monitoring along the Hawkesbury River from Windsor to Wisemans



Using a syphon plunger to sample the water column.

Ferry. We monitor for nutrients, turbidity, chlorophyll a (algae) and total suspended solids at 5 specific locations (Windsor, Cattai, Lower Portland, Wisemans Ferry and the Lower Macdonald). We also use a multi-probe that measures various parameters such as dissolved oxygen, salinity, pH and conductivity continually for the length of the river in the Hawkesbury.

The results of this monitoring will be compared to National guideline values to provide a picture of the health of the system. The annual report will be provided to our community so everyone is able to have a better insight into the condition of the river. We hope this will create more awareness into the issues the river faces and how people's actions impact the quality of the water. The results may also help us identify areas where

we could undertake remediation works to improve water quality, such as improving stormwater outlets or conducting riverbank revegetation projects.

Our aim is to have Hawkesbury residents aware and engaged in the quality of our river and taking action to improve and sustain it for generations to come.

## Volunteer Profile

**Name:** Fiona McDonald

**Group:** Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare Group

**Group Location:** Sunnyvale, LOWER MACDONALD

**Time with Group:** About 13 years

**Position in Group:** Volunteer

**Occupation:** Administration Manager

**Reason for Volunteering:** To learn about native vegetation and meet people

**Best Achievement:** Climbing Mount Roraima in Venezuela

**Favourite Native Species:** Native violet *Viola hederacea*

**Most Hated Weed:** Mother-of-millions *Bryophyllum* species

**6 people you would like to invite to dinner:**

Michael Palin, Jacinda Ardern, Rick Stein, Poh ling Yeow, Candice Fox and Costa Georgiadis.



Are you stuck at home?

Have you always wanted to set-up a worm farm or compost bin?

Now is your chance!

Join the Compost Revolution

50%  
Discount  
Free home  
delivery

Council is providing a 50% discount on worm farms (including the worms), compost bins and bokashi bins. This includes free home delivery.

Search Online for Compost Revolution or visit <https://compostrevolution.com.au/>

There is also an online tutorial to help you get started.

Any questions please contact Council's Waste Education Officer on 4560 4566 or email [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



This project is a NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.





# Land For Wildlife

The Land for Wildlife (LFW) program is a voluntary property registration scheme for landholders who wish to manage areas for biodiversity and wildlife habitat. LFW encourages and assists landholders to include nature conservation along with other land management objectives. The program is free for landholders to join and is not legally binding. Registration in the scheme will not change the legal status of a property.



The Community Environment Network (CEN) facilitates and supports LFW in New South Wales in partnership with interested local organisations. CEN holds a licence to co-ordinate

the LFW program and to use the Trademark in NSW. The licence requires CEN to adhere to a number of protocols to ensure the standards of LFW are consistent across Australia.

Landholders who join the LFW program receive:

- A Free site assessment;
- A Free LFW sign;
- Advice on suggested management strategies and actions for the property;
- Support and encouragement for landholders to carry out nature conservation on their land;
- Invitations to workshops on local environmental matters including threatened species and endangered ecological communities. Information on weed control is also provided in some of the workshops;
- Quarterly newsletters; and
- Advice, information and support for funding applications and registration of all properties assessed, being a LFW member can also assist with obtaining grants.



Picture Source: <https://www.cen.org.au/projects/land-for-wildlife/central-coast-hunter-land-for-wildlife-231>

If you do decide to join, we will be able to come out and do a free site assessment, flora survey and give you advice on weed removal. We can also advise you on grant opportunities to help fund your rehabilitation project.

For further information on LFW see <https://www.lfwseq.org.au/> or see our Expression of Interest form to join LFW - [https://www.cen.org.au/images/projects/land\\_for\\_wildlife/forms/lfw\\_cc\\_hunter\\_expression\\_interest.pdf](https://www.cen.org.au/images/projects/land_for_wildlife/forms/lfw_cc_hunter_expression_interest.pdf)

If you have further questions, contact us on - 0428 434 334 or Email: [landforwildlife@cen.org.au](mailto:landforwildlife@cen.org.au)

## Phil's Forest Update by Robin Woods



The Phil's Forest work day went extremely well! A huge pile of mulch was delivered, so those who could did some shovelling around the newest plantings spreading the mulch. Later we had a tour through the "sunken forest" which had been inundated by the floods to see the recovery undertaken by the Blue Tongue team to tidy up our newest work area; thanks Blue Tongue. There are now masses of castor oil plant seedlings everywhere, (how long do these last in the soil?), but Angus tells us they can simply and easily be killed by whipper-snipper while they are at the seedling stage; great!

We were lucky enough to be helped by Federal Member for Macquarie Susan Templeman, who was not afraid to get her hands dirty. Susan provided us with the Water in the Landscape Grant and wanted to hear and see firsthand our trials, tribulations and triumphs. We then went down into the forest to look at the plant responses. Commelina and Oplismenus are both starting to spread and hold the soil; both ideal native plants for this situation!



The Phil's Forest Bushcare Group with Susan Templeman; an honorary member for the day. Photo Robin Woods.

We are now growing a variety of groundcovers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and hopefully soon we can transplant these to add to another native layer of biodiversity bank stabilisation along the riverbank.



# 11 Hard Hitting Questions with Hawkesbury Bushcare

If you have been involved with Bushcare or Landcare in the Hawkesbury over the past five years or so, or have been a keen reader of Weed All About It, I would assume you would of heard of 'Richie Benson'. Over the past few years, Richie has been riding a wave of environmental achievements, but these achievements are by no means a flash in the pan.

In my view, I would say Richie is a positive by-product of the ALIVE\*1 grant program implemented by the Hawkesbury Environment Network with Hawkesbury Schools back in 2013 that had then morphed into HEEN\*2 and then PHEEN\*3. Having seen how hard Richie works with his determination and passion, I have no doubt Richie would still be achieving what he has if these groups did not exist; it has probably just made his job just a little bit easier. Richie is exactly what the Hawkesbury needs, easy going, young, funny, focused, positive, and energetic with a drive and passion to help his local environment. I was lucky to have a chat with Richie and I managed to ask him a few 'hard hitting' questions....

## Q1. What's your name? (great just checking)

A1. Richie Benson

## Q2. What's your favourite colour? (warming up now)

A2. Navy blue due to its sense of peace and integrity.

## Q3. What are you most passionate about?

A3. I am most passionate about building a healthy and resilient natural environment for all aspects of life on earth to live a free and beautiful life. I enjoy helping the community to engage in actions to help preserve our natural environment, while also guiding the true appreciation and understanding of our position within the web which we live.

## Q4. At what age did you realise you liked nature & the natural environment?

A4. I have always appreciated nature. I'm not sure where it came from, but I've certainly had the perfect opportunities to do so. Growing up in and on the banks of the Hawkesbury River at Cumberland Reach, I was surrounded by open Flood Plains, Wetlands, Western Sydney Dry Rainforest, Aboriginal Reserve with engravings and the well treed, rolling sandstone hills of old spirits. Living in a place like this, how can you not enjoy it, appreciate it and understand the need for real protection of all flora and fauna?

## Q5. If there was anyone in your younger years that guided you and nurtured your passion for nature, who would that person / those people be & what did they do to help, guide or inspire you?

A5. I would say there are lots, but I think Pop really guided me through starting a vegie garden and getting chickens. Nan and Pop always told me about Balloon Vine and Lantana which was a big problem as we fished under the big weeping willow at our beach. Little did they know, my very young mind was soaking it all in and quickly decided I needed to be a doer. I can never forget the invaluable contribution Jenny Chapple gave as my teacher at Ebenezer Public School. Jenny was so committed to supporting the Garden Group and the Garden Group was



Richie Benson with Vanessa Keyzer at the 2019 Greater Sydney Local Landcare Services Regional Award at Parramatta Park.

*so committed to supporting her. I really don't know where I would be today without that involvement right up to Year 6 and then continuing with Steven Body as one of my teachers at Hawkesbury High School.*

*Steve was another committed bloke and was the creator of the school Landcare group which I received massive support and had great lengths of involvement. With these like-minded people surrounding me, you can really start to see a pattern happening here...*

## Q6. What's your favourite plant & why?

A6. That's a massive question. I have huge appreciation for every plant and its position. While my favourite plant has changed numerous times over the years, I would have to say *Eucalyptus robusta*. It has a beautiful coastal look, is a koala food tree, produces masses of flowers and acts as a great street tree.

## Q7. What are some of the environmental achievements that you have made over the years that are important to you or that you are most proud of and why?

A7. Some of my biggest achievements include the 2017 Hawkesbury Bushcare Landcare Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award, Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) Young Landcare Leader Award at the 2019 Regional Bushcare and Landcare Awards, the 2019 Austcover NSW Young Landcare Leadership Award and the 2020 Australia Day Local Hero Hawkesbury Award. These awards recognised my efforts in founding the Cumberland Reach Landcare Group (which held community planting events on the banks of the Hawkesbury River), founding and working with a great team to deliver Koala Fest, contributions to local committees such as Hawkesbury Environment Network and Hawkesbury Landcare Network, volunteering for Hawkesbury City Council Bushcare and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, assisting Council with tree giveaway days and more.

Continued on page 11..



## Hard Hitting Questions continued from page 10

*I cannot thank the people enough who have supported me and/or worked alongside me to be able to achieve these things. I am so proud to achieve the things we have. There is still so much to do but this demonstrates the power and determination of our strong-willed community. That's what really counts. Thank you!*

### Q8. What's your favourite native animal & why?

A8. *Again, like plants, I don't like to pick a favourite, but I would have to say the Koala. An animal so under threat and an animal I haven't seen much of. I have seen many in the wild in the Riverina along the Murrumbidgee River, but only one here in the Hawkesbury. I have seen footage and heard eyewitness accounts, at one time just 10 minutes before I got to site; but still couldn't find Blinky!*

### Q9. In the words of Cher. If you could "Turn Back Time"; and meet the 13 year old (or age to Q4?) Richie Benson; what would you tell him or what advice would you give him?

A9. *Hey Richie, take it easy. Give yourself some free time and listen to the advice of others to look after yourself too. It's so easy to burn out with huge workloads not only in the workplace, but also when you get home.*

### Q10. What is your most hated weed?

A10. *Cat's Claw Creeper! In my professional and volunteer*

*capacity, I don't think I have found a worse weed!*

### Q11. So Richie, you have achieved so much at a young age. There's no need to say your age, but let's just say you are an early 1990s vintage. I'm pretty sure when I was your age, I was either playing footy, riding my bike or trying to earn some coin. So, question: where to from here (no pressure)?

A11. *I ensure I give myself time to do other recreational activities, work hard in my professional capacity and also party, as a young person does! Keeping a balance is key I think. We all need each other for support and encouragement through other important social events. From here, I will continue to work with the community, local and state government, to build capacity and support change in the culture around healthy, natural environments and what it means for all aspects of life. I look forward to working on events and campaigns with really positive goals, to inspire and change us all. I'll also continue to develop my professional career, taking every opportunity to develop my skills to better my impact. I will leave it there; the rest will be unravelled soon...*

Thanks Richie for doing the 11 Hard Hitting questions with Hawkesbury Bushcare.

## References –

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## Our Iconic Hawkesbury Dragon by Michael Greentree

Almost any Hawkesbury waterway of any consequence will have a resident population of the Eastern Water Dragon *Physignathus lesueurii*. They are generally shy and quick to seek sanctuary in their aquatic environment. They are high divers; leaping up to 30 metres from trees or cliffs into water when threatened.

Males sport a bright red to rusty red chest during warmer months and can achieve a length of 30" (800mm). They also display 'head bobbing' and 'arm waving', which is a territorial trait.

Females are smaller and more demure. Mating begins in spring. Gestation lasts approximately 6-8 weeks, followed by 6 to 18 eggs laid in a burrow. The burrow is dug by the female in a soft-sandy soil that is always above the flood line (1792-4; Governor Grose and others would have done well to observe this). Incubation lasts approximately 2 months.

Hatchlings burrow independently out of the nest. As juveniles they are reluctant to enter water as they

are vulnerable to large fish. Juveniles require native groundcover such as sedges, reeds and rushes (Lomandra and Pin Rush) for sanctuary.

Habitat loss, as for most native animals is the greatest threat to them, with feral animals the second greatest. <https://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/fact-sheets/eastern-water-dragon> can provide more helpful information.

Brumation (hibernation-like) occurs from June to August. This is achieved in a burrow which the dragon then closes behind it. Metabolism is slowed until a suitable increase in temperature is achieved around spring. At this time

they emerge, then put on weight via an omnivorous diet; then mating can occur.

Fossils of the genus have been found in Miocene deposits at Riversleigh, Queensland. These are approximately 20 million years old! The last 200 years have been the most difficult for them.



Eastern Water Dragon. Photo Patricia O'Toole.

# Autumn with my Favourite Grasses & Groundcovers

By Jutta Hamilton

Without the Volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, it has gone a bit quiet, but the plants are looking great. The native garden at the HCN has survived the hot summer exceptionally well and looks better than ever. The resident Fairy Wrens, Red Firetails and Double-barred Finches have raised multiple generations of offspring inside the Bursaria hedge and the bird bath has been well used. The groundcovers and native grasses in the garden are doing a great job in covering the ground, stopping the weeds, being a constant food source for the little birds, giving habitat to lizards and looking very attractive.

***Scaevola albida*** Pale Fan Flower has not stopped flowering for months and is now covering just about a square meter with mauve flowers.

***Eremophila debilis*** Winter Apple is trailing close to the ground and is covered in pink flowers and edible fruit at the same time.

***Einardia hastata* and *E. polygonoides*** Saltbush are covered in their bright red berries at the moment. These spreading perennials have covered large areas of the garden and add a real nice soft and green look to it.

***Hardenbergia violacea*** Native Sarsaparilla has found itself a nice spot in a sunny aspect of the garden and we expect an outstanding purple flower display in spring.

***Austrostipa ramosissima*** Stout Bamboo Grass, has almost done too well. The 2 metre tall grass with its soft weeping flower heads looks stunning all through the garden and is very popular with the finches, both for nest building, food source, habitat and courtship.



*Scaevola albida* Pale Fan Flower is helping suppress weed growth and provides that tinge of serenity.

***Microlaena stipoides*** Weeping Meadow Grass is growing in a shady patch between taller shrubs, it is also in full flower heads.

Other native grasses and sedges, like Kangaroo Grass, Barbed Wire Grass, Knobby Club-rush and Pin Rush with their interesting inflorescences and nice textures add a lot to the garden.

For further information, please contact Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer; Mon, Wed & Thurs (02) 4560 4651, [Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au). Located at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave (across the road from Windsor High School).

Although the nursery is currently a closed site due to COVID-19, the nursery is still open for business via contactless orders, payments and pickups. Give me a call so I can help you with your important plant selection.

## National Tree Day and Hawkesbury Fest 2019

by Wendy Lawson

Governor Phillip Park in Windsor was again the venue for what has become an annual plant give-away to celebrate National Tree Day, in conjunction with Local Government Week.

Last year's extravaganza drew big crowds for the fun activities and opening of the new play equipment - hard to top! Fortunately, great weather, the last weekend of the school holidays and Facebook made sure that just as many (or maybe more) turned out to enjoy another great day. As well as locals from the Hawkesbury, there were lots of "neighbours" from Kellyville, Rouse Hill, The Ponds, and Penrith. Others came from further afield including Lane Cove and Botany!

The line-up for the Nursery's stall did not stretch across the park this year, because Marty and Jutta had devised a clever zig-zag entrance maze that kept the hordes in check, and people were very patient as they waited.

The selection of plants available was concentrated on shrubs and trees, rather than ground covers and smaller plants. Our knowledgeable "assistants" worked non-stop to help customers find the right plant. By the end of the day, the tables were almost bare and there were lots of happy people carrying home their free plants.

Hopefully, many of them will also take up the offer to visit the



A lot of happy customers.

nursery to see the wide range of wonderful local plants available there.

Although the nursery is currently a closed site due to COVID-19, the nursery is still open for business via contactless orders, payments and pickups. Contact Jutta for more information.

For further information, please contact Jutta Hamilton, Community Nursery Officer; Mon, Wed & Thurs (02) 4560 4651, [Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au). Located at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave (across the road from Windsor High School).



# Cumberland Reach Landcare

by Richie Benson



The first planting in 2017



Most of us

On Sunday 19th May 2019, Cumberland Reach Landcare came together to do a second follow up planting on a beautiful privately-owned riverbank at Cumberland Reach on the Hawkesbury. We had a total of 17 volunteers who admired the growth and shade produced by our first planting back in April of 2017.

Cumberland Reach Landcare Group planted more trees, shrubs and grasses which belong to the plant community of Sydney River Flat Eucalypt Forest which is an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC).

This project was so important as it was the first time in 200 years that a good balance of all layers in the plant community were put back into the ground.

Riverbank planting is key to river health but also provides habitat for flora and fauna. As the plants succeed, we will see a reduction in erosion and watch a weedy groundcover of African Lovegrass and Couch transition to native Microleena. We have also had birds breeding onsite in our new trees!

This project was made possible through funding from Greater Sydney Local Land Services and the dedication of staff; Angie Fricker and Linda Hanlon. Thanks to Lola for taking this project to your land and thanks to Xuella from the Hawkesbury Landcare Network.

It has been a huge win for the environment and the community.

## Boundary Fencing Fires Grant

A \$209 million stimulus package announced in April 2020 by the Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, provides significant financial support to rural landholders faced with the task of replacing boundary fences adjacent to public lands. The unprecedented bushfire events in NSW between August, 2019 and February, 2020 resulted in estimated boundary fencing losses of over 88,000 km in NSW. Almost 50% of this fencing was adjoining public lands.

The NSW Government is committed to assisting rural landholders in replacing fire-damaged boundary fencing. Eligible private land managers in disaster declared local government areas can now receive a one-off government grant of \$5,000 (excl. GST) per kilometre to help towards the purchase of fencing materials. Landholders who have already repaired or replaced their boundary fencing since August 2019 are also eligible for retrospective funding.

For more information (see link below); to apply for this grant complete the form (see link below) or call the fencing team hotline on 1300 778 080.

<https://www.lsls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/supporting-our-neighbours-public-land-boundary-fencing-program>

## Hawkesbury Landcare with Katherine Clare

Hawkesbury Landcare Network (HLN) is sharing fun activities, resources and ways that you can get involved in citizen science while at home. Over the coming weeks HLN will be introducing some of the groups in the network and reflecting on past projects on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburylandcare/> so stay tuned and stay up to date by following them on Facebook!

The Local Landcare Coordinator is busy planning online events and resources for you during isolation. What would you like to see? You can email your ideas to [landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au). Ideas for on ground events post-isolation are also welcome.

Support for fire affected properties is ongoing. For information and advice on how to minimise the spread of weeds and take advantage of the opportunity fire poses for weed management, we have made a 'Responding to Fire on Your Property' information pamphlet. Please email me for a copy.

Katherine Clare,  
Local Landcare Coordinator,  
Hawkesbury Landcare Network  
0410616139  
[landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)



# Get Your Hands Dirty

by Elisha Duxbury

Are you a young person that loves getting outside? Want to get outside and care for local bushland? **Get Your Hands Dirty** is coming your way!

This year Greater Sydney Landcare Network and Hawkesbury Bushcare are bringing you a jam-packed series of events where you can get on the ground and make a difference to your local environment.

So, if you've always been keen to make a difference but weren't sure where to start, or just want to have a chill day in the bush and meet some like-minded peeps, now's your chance to get involved.

This could look like planting vegetation around the edge of wetlands and then spending time monitoring the turtles that call them home. Or you might end up camping out on the banks of the Hawkesbury River and removing weeds that threaten native ecosystems. Keen to get involved? We will be starting up once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and we are able to safely run events.



For updates sign up to our emailing list <https://greaterlandcare.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=0c339f39ec30b6f2436241e02&id=9b3d832e95>

Or follow us online:

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/GreaterSydneyLandcare/>

Instagram: [greatersydneylandcarenetwork](https://www.instagram.com/greatersydneylandcarenetwork)

Web: <https://greaterlandcare.org/>

For more information contact Local Landcare Coordinator Elisha at [Elisha.duxbury@greaterlandcare.org](mailto:Elisha.duxbury@greaterlandcare.org) or call 4724 2147.

## Pughs Lagoon Funding

by Jocelyn Howden and Christine Watson



The picturesque Pughs Lagoon. Photo Sharon Grech.

Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) is excited to announce that we received a Communities Environment Grant (Federal Government) this year for Wetland Restoration work at Pughs Lagoon Richmond.

While we progressed with some initial planning in February, we have had to put this work on hold until after social distancing restrictions are lifted. Once things return to normal, we will invite our members and friends to be involved in weed removal and planting suitable wetland species which we will source from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Melissa who many of you know from the Nursery will be helping with the on-ground works.

Our project also involves the production of some interpretive signage which seeks to tell the story of Pughs Lagoon from several different perspectives; environmental, cultural and historical. We are calling for participation from members and locals who can contribute to this endeavour.



Australian Government

Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science

Department of the  
Environment and Energy

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is responsible for administering this grant opportunity on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Energy.



# Hawkesbury Bushcare on Facebook

by Richie Benson

I would like to introduce you all to a new Facebook group I have created for our Bushcare community. The following is the description which I have set, for how the group is to be utilised.....

*Welcome to Hawkesbury Bushcare!*

*This group has been set up as a place for all Bush-carers in the Hawkesbury to share anything of interest. This is NOT a group held by Hawkesbury City Council, but instead by its strong Bushcare community. It is so important that we continue to network and share our experiences, helping each and every one of us stay more connected and inspired.*

*You might like to share weed control activities, plant identification, erosion control issues, seed collection and propagation, revegetation, past land use and current impacts (including those of natural disaster), fauna sighting, interesting flora, events, current or emerging threats and so much more!*

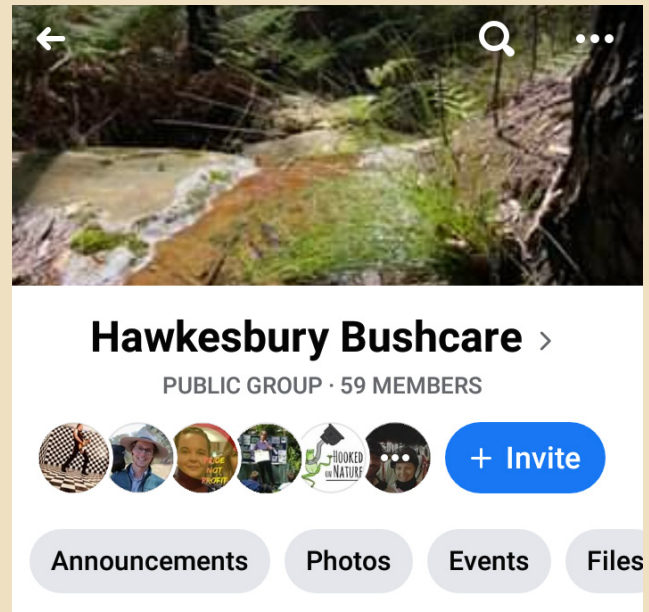
*Also, feel free to share Landcare activities LIKE the "Hawkesbury Landcare Network" Facebook page. Please be respectful and supportive of all and please refrain from posting excessive material from outside of the Hawkesbury.*

*The more you share, the better this group will be.*

*Happy Bush Caring!*

I would like to invite you all and your networks to join the group and post regular updates as to what you and your Bushcare team are achieving. This group needs to be as attractive as possible to locals who are not already volunteers to assist in recruiting. Promote your group and work efforts to promote Bushcare!

Here is the link, and I look forward to all your great posts! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3170281509683149/>  
Stay safe now.



## Kurrajong-a-Buzz

Kurrajong-a-Buzz again was another successful event. The Hawkesbury Community Nursery again was at this event and always marks it in its calendar as one of the events to be at for its yearly calendar to engage with the local community. Chris, Jutta and Marty were on hand to give advice on a wide variety of pollinating plants from trees, shrubs to groundcovers as well as advice on weed and Indian Myna control to habitat creations.

The Kurrajong community and surrounds have embraced their natural pollinators and appreciate the hard, important work they do. Our pollinators range from the tiniest insects, such as bees, ants, flies and moths to our mammals from gliders, bats and possums. Another way to embrace our pollinators is by getting involved in the 'Wild Pollinator Count'. All you need to do is watch a flowering plant for 10 minutes and record

their observations. You don't need to be an insect expert, the Wild Pollinator Count have created a tally sheet that grouped insects into broad categories: bees, beetles, butterflies or moths, flies, wasps or other. This is a great way for you to help, understand and contribute to our



Chris and Jutta ever ready with their valuable plant advice.

pollinators by joining in the pollinator count at [www.wildpollinatorcount.com](http://www.wildpollinatorcount.com).

2020 is a challenging year for community events. The Kurrajong Community Forum are planning to go ahead this year with the Kurrajong-a Buzz for November, but at the moment it is a 'watch this space'.

To keep up to date with this event follow the Kurrajong

Community Forum at <https://www.facebook.com/KurrajongCommunityForum/>

# Native Animal Water Stations

by Jocelyn Howden and Peter Ridgeway

With the recent drought followed by catastrophic fires it is very bleak times for our Australian wildlife. With many animals killed by fires, loss of habitat and food sources in the resulting 'moonscape'. With the erosion and siltation of creeks after fire, our native wildlife have been struggling to survive to get food and water.

Staff at the Greater Sydney Local Land Services have identified this as a major problem and have worked tirelessly to solve or alleviate these issues. One way to help our native fauna is to provide portable water stations.

The Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) have put their hand up to help construct and implement these water stations throughout the Hawkesbury during drastically dry times.

Due to all the recent rains these water stations will not be required right now.

However it is highly likely with the forecast of long-term weather patterns that they will be used extensively into the future; particularly during summer periods and droughts.

Many native fauna species have been confirmed using water stations after fires. These include koalas, spotted quolls, wallabies, bandicoots, kangaroos, possums and gliders, echidnas, lace monitors, and many birds including ducks, honeyeaters and kingfishers. Our Hawkesbury program is targeting all these animals and birds, rather than just endangered species, because all native fauna are part of the food chain and contribute to the balance of a functioning healthy ecosystem. For example the loss of our macropods (kangaroos, wallaroos and wallabies) removes the 'ecosystem service' they provide by grazing and browsing plants. This can result in dramatic changes to vegetation, an increase in fuel-loads and future fires and a reduction in nutrient turnover, with flow-on effects that can impact many other native species.

Research in Victoria has shown that having a healthy Lyrebird population reduces fire fuel loads by 25 per cent, a huge benefit provided by their practice of turning over leaf litter in their search for worms – just like we turn over our compost heap to help it decompose.

It is important to assist as broad a range of wildlife as possible, and for this reason two water station designs will be provided to assist both ground dwelling fauna and arboreal (tree dwelling) fauna.

**So how can you help?** Hawkesbury Environment Network are seeking volunteers who would be interested to host and maintain a portable water station on their property.

Requirements include:

- Water stations to be placed on properties within natural bushland areas,
- At least 500 metres away from an existing permanent water source (creek, river, dam),
- Need to be physically able to install the water station (help can be provided),
- Placed in a strategic location that has good connectivity to existing native vegetation corridors,
- Located in an area where domestic dogs and cats are unable to approach.

If you feel you are able to contribute to these portable native water stations please contact HEN via [info@hen.org.au](mailto:info@hen.org.au).



A mobile ground water station ready to do its job.



Swamp Wallaby on the Cumberland Plain having a nice cold one from a mobile ground water station.

**Weed All About It** - Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program Volume 20 Issue 1 Autumn 2020.  
This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.