



Photos: Charles Dove

LET'S GET BLACK BACK IN BLACK!

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery has been growing specific plant species for bushfire affected areas as part of the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife's (FNPW) Bushfire Recovery Nurseries program. Supported by global reforestation charity, One Tree Planted, and French beauty brand, L'Occitane.

One of these plants is the Black She-oak, *Allocasuarina littoralis*. So why is this plant so important? *Allocasuarina* is almost the exclusive food source in the Hawkesbury for the Glossy Black-cockatoo. However due to on-going threats such as native vegetation clearing, bushland fragmentation and the 2019/2020 fires, the Glossy Black-cockatoo is listed as 'Vulnerable' on Schedule 2 of the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

The good news is that the Hawkesbury Community Nursery have been growing this distinct small tree to feed and help support the this cockatoo. As the *Allocasuarina* grows as either a male or female tree, it's always recommended to plant a few of these trees 5-10 in a group about 3-4 metres apart to encourage fruiting and to support a future food source for this native native bird. The other good news is these plants are currently free under the above listed grant.

If you know a site that could benefit from some of these trees, FNPW has a grant open for revegetation projects:

fnpw.org.au/grant/bushfire-restoration-grants or contact the Hawkesbury Community Nursery nursery@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or **4560 4651**; located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave (next to the Animal Shelter). Open Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm or by appointment, and on the first Saturday of the month 9am to midday (excluding December and January) hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/community/nursery

Can you help the recovery of the Glossy Black-cockatoo population?

For more information on the Glossy Black-Cockatoo visit

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/parrots/glossy-black-cockatoo



Allocasuarina seedlings at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, a future food source for the Glossy Black-cockatoo.



Glossy Black-Cockatoo may be confused with the Red-tailed Black-cockatoo. Doing what it does best; feeding on an *Allocasuarina*. Photo: Charles Dove

EDITORIAL

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the great supporters of the Hawkesbury Community, with Bushcare, the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, HIMAG participants, WIRES Hawkesbury, Nocturnal Nature Safari participants, Landcare, Koala Fest, Kurrajong-a-Buzz, National Tree Day, the Hawkesbury Show, Mad Mob, Hawkesbury Men's Shed at Bosworth Street Richmond, those helping in the conservation of the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains Koalas passively and proactively, and everyone else in some way who is supporting, appreciating, valuing and looking after our natural environment.

Hope you enjoy this edition, with fingers and toes crossed that 2022 will be a year with some form of normality.

Happy days!

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

WE MISSED YOU!!!!

Welcome back to all of our Hawkesbury Bushcare and Hawkesbury Community Nursery volunteers. It is sooooooo good to have you all back!

The Bushcare and Nursery volunteers have all been strongly missed for most of 2021 and it really showed with only that attention to detail and caring ways that all the Bushcare and Nursery Volunteers have. Not to under value what our bushland regeneration contractors from Ecotune and Blue Tongue Ecosystems have been doing during the COVID period. We managed to squeeze in Bushcare and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery for the month of November and we are looking forward to start the volunteering year again in February 2022.

If you would like to join Hawkesbury Bushcare and Hawkesbury Community Nursery for 2022 contact Marty Gauci **4560 4525** or mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au, we always have room for one more.



Wendy, Marty, Rosemary and John so happy to be back at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

WASTE SERVICES SURVEY



The waste services that Council provides to the community are essential services and it is an important issue for our community members. We are seeking your feedback to assist with Council's decision-making in relation to new waste services contracts and the development of a long-term Waste Strategy.

With Council's current waste services contracts expiring in 2023 and Council's landfill reaching capacity within the next four years, it is vital for Council to determine the type of waste services that should be provided to the community into the future. Council wants to provide waste services that meet our community's needs and expectations, while ensuring the waste services are reliable, affordable and sustainable. **Survey will close on the 28 February.**

We are doing a survey on Council's waste services – **we want to hear from you.** Head to the survey link below or scan the QR code.



yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/wss

COMING SOON | HAWKESBURY BUSHCARE NOCTURNAL NATURE SAFARIS

Grab your torch and see the Hawkesbury come alive at night. You never know what you might spot and hear! It could be the indescribable screeches from Yellow-bellied gliders, the whispers-quiet Feather-tailed Glider or any other number of insects.

Come and join Naturalist and Ecologist Tom Covell from "Hooked On Nature" as he takes you for a walk on the wild side, and shares with you his knowledge on how to find and discover the treasures you might find in your backyard, local reserves or Creek.

Brought to you by Hawkesbury City Council - Hawkesbury Bushcare. This event is only available to residents of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area & volunteers of Hawkesbury Bushcare and Hawkesbury Community Nursery and their family members. Events have been set aside for February and March 2022.



Green Tree Frog, a possible encounter on a Nocturnal Nature Safari. Photo - Eli Stead

To allow for fair participation and involvement to residents of the Hawkesbury, participants are only permitted and register to attend one free Hawkesbury Bushcare Nocturnal Nature Safari per season.

So keep your eyes and ears peeled for these events as it is advertised via the Hawkesbury Bushcare network and Hawkesbury City Council Facebook page at [**hawkesburycitycouncil**](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)



Nocturnal Nature Safari in action

NEW KOALA FACILITY IN THE HAWKESBURY

Monty Colo, a laidback koala who was in a sad state when he was rescued in Upper Colo by Colo resident Alice Voight, is now living at the new WIRES koala rehabilitation centre in Richmond. The facility has been built by the wildlife rescue group WIRES on the grounds of Western Sydney's University Hawkesbury Campus.

Funded through the kindness of generous donations following the devastating 2019–2020 bushfires, the new rehabilitation centre will ensure that koalas like Monty can get the urgent care they need.

Monty was diagnosed with chlamydia. Besides eye disease, chlamydia is a disease that can cause bladder infections and infertility. A new vaccine is now being trialled in Queensland. The new facility means that sick and injured koalas can get specialised treatment in the Hawkesbury area. While it is great news for any koalas in the Hawkesbury and Greater Western Sydney that they won't need to be transported great distances from their natural habitat, koalas from anywhere can also be cared for at this new Hawkesbury facility.



Monty Colo, a koala with chlamydia rescued from Upper Colo, at the new WIRES koala rehabilitation centre as carer Morgan Philpott and Community Bushcare Officer Marty Gauci look on.

WIRES CEO Leanne Taylor said “the new facility will allow wildlife rescuers to respond quickly whenever disaster strikes. The population of koalas in the Hawkesbury and the greater Blue Mountains area is significant, and now we have the capacity to house a number of koalas when we face future disasters”. Hawkesbury City Council’s Community Bushcare Officer Martin Gauci went along to see Monty on his first day and to also check on how the native plants from Council’s Hawkesbury Community Nursery were growing at the new facility. 11 White Flowering Bottlebrush and 11 Lemon-scented Tea-trees were planted adjacent to the koala rehabilitation facility to help screen and shade the enclosures to help keep koalas cool during their recovery.

Council’s Bushcare volunteers and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery have had a long association with assisting WIRES volunteers by restoring native habitat through bush regeneration. Some Bushcare volunteers are also WIRES volunteers, while the Community Nursery also provides the much-needed native shrubs for the homes of WIRES volunteers who look after koalas too. The Community Nursery will continue to stay in touch with the WIRES volunteers at the koala facility to provide valued advice on which native plants and trees are best for soil tolerance, screening, longevity and as a food source.

There are actions we can all take, individually and as a community, to reduce some of the major threats to koalas and keep them safe:

- Support & join your local Bushcare or Landcare Group to care for Koala habitat
- See Science for Wildlife at scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project
- For NSW wildlife rescues call WIRES anytime on 1300 094 737 or fill in the “Report a Rescue form” wires.org.au/rescue/report-a-rescue
- Report koala sightings www.koala.nsw.gov.au/2019/08/26/new-koala-app-launched-i-spy-koala or scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project or via Facebook at [koalaspotters](https://www.facebook.com/koalaspotters)

Contact Council’s Hawkesbury Bushcare and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery via email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au or **4560 4444** for advice on native plants, koala feed trees and habitat needs.

MY KINSHIP WITH EUCALYPTUS

by Aria-Joshes Waterford

I've had a keen interest in *Eucalyptus* ever since I exhibited my installation work *They Paved Paradise and Put Up a Parking Lot* at NOX Sculpture Walk at Randwick Environmental Park in 2021. The work had a eucalyptus scent component which I made at home by cooking the leaves in hot water over the stove for three hours.

When I dropped in to the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, I saw an opportunity to start my research about *Eucalyptus* more seriously. So I started out my volunteering at the George Street Bushcare Group where I learnt that different eucalyptus species need different type soils to survive. The reserve at George Street in Bligh Park has clay type soil which the *Eucalyptus moluccana* and *Eucalyptus fibrosa* love. It's also home to many other native species such as *Kidney Weed* which looks a lot like *Gotu Kola* and lily pads. When it grows well it carpets the ground with lovely kidney shaped leaves.



Cooking the *Eucalyptus* leaves for three hours

I also learnt sad news that the iconic eucalyptus species *Eucalyptus saligna*, most well known for being in *Eucalyptus* essential oils and cleaning products is endangered in the Hawkesbury. *Eucalyptus* is a staple in the Australian ecosystem and different species need to do well in several locations to keep the ecosystem in complete balance. I hope that my creative practise and my volunteering with Hawkesbury Bushcare and Community Nursery helps create and inspire real environmental care and restoration, especially for our beloved Eucalypts.

FIRE RECOVERY WORKSHOPS

As part of their project, *Regenerating Our Bushland after Fire, Hawkesbury*, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network (HNLN) is running workshops to build skills and knowledge for residents in Upper Hawkesbury. Events so far have include a Science for Wildlife talk about Koala Recovery after the Bushfires, a planting day in Colo to restore wildlife refuge, Bush regeneration and an Installing a Fence Workshop in St Albans.

Events in 2022 will include Biodiversity in Bilpin Day (February), Regeneration in Colo, Wombat Mange workshop (March) and Learning Weeds vs Natives. More information on the Regenerating Our Bushland after Fire, Hawkesbury project is [HERE](#)

This is kindly funded by Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities funding.

To join the email list for these events please contact landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au or stay up to date on Facebook at [hawkesburynepeanlandcare](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburynepeanlandcare). All topics were chosen after consultation with the community. If there is a workshop or topic that you or your community would be interested (bushfire affected or not), please contact Katherine, the Local Landcare Coordinator to discuss organising one: landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au | 0410616139



Planting day in Colo to restore wildlife refuge



Hawkesbury-
Nepean
Landcare
Network

SPRING IN THE HAWKESBURY

by Chris Cheetham

This spring has been an excellent season for our local native plant life and has seen extensive displays of flowers all around the district.

But why? Especially after the recent drought. This year has been one of mild weather with plenty of water and sunshine, everything plants need to grow. But even better is that this is the second such year in a row of good conditions which has allowed plants to establish and produce even more flowers!

The fires of 2019-2020 have also played a role, encouraging many species such as flannel flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*) to germinate en masse and the smoke has probably had a much further reaching impact too!

Most of our main plant groups are putting on spectacular displays, particularly our proteaceous (Waratah, Grevillea, Conospermum, Banksias, Hakeas) and myrtaceous (Eucalypts, Bloodwoods, Angophora) flora as well as all the orchids, Acacias, pea flowers and many others we are all familiar with.

This boom will no doubt be a great benefit to our native pollinators and other animals and replenish the soil seed banks so that we may see these displays for years to come.

Just a very brief selection of what could be seen over the past few months can be seen in these photos.

FIND THE FLOWERS!

How well do you know your plants? Match the number on the plant images to the name in the box below. **Can you guess them all?**

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Philotheca hispidula</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gompholobium minus</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Actinotus helianthi</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Podolobium ilicifolium</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Grevillea juniperina</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Clematis glycinoides</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prostanthera ovalifolia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Grevillea speciosa</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Conospermum longifolium</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Prostanthera rhombea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Micromyrtus ciliata</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Epacris microphylla</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Telopea speciosissima</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mirbelia rubiifolia</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Glossodia major</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Thelymitra ixioides</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Patersonia sericea</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gompholobium latifolium</i> |



The first 20 correct answers provided to the Hawkesbury Community Nursery Officer at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery will receive 5 free native plants. Offer available, 1 per household.



Bring your answers to the Hawkesbury Community Nursery at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave to collect your free native plants.

FROM COVID WALKS GROWS A POLLINATOR PATHWAY

by Elizabeth Docking

During lockdown, walks around the Kurrajong area with my husband Andrew became routine. A regular walk route was through Kurrajong Memorial Park. I struggle to walk past weeds and litter, so would carry a bag for collecting offenders. After founding Kurrajong a Buzz, Proudly Promoting Australian Pollinator Week, the opportunity to create a pollinator pathway on the Park embankment was all too enticing. After all, I was keen to make Kurrajong the "Pollinator Village"!

After attending litter conferences, I became all too aware of the destruction of plastic in the environment. Here sparked an opportunity – from discarded bottles and cans I could fund my planting through Return and Earn! We started clearing weeds and privet in the park, initially taking large bags of weeds home. We are now at the stage of few weeds and a weekly walk around keeps them in check.

By November 2020, I purchased my first plants from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and also propagate. Thanks to the insightful planting by a now elderly park neighbour, there are mature native trees to form an invaluable canopy. What the embankment needed was native understorey – ground covers, flowering shrubs and grasses. With great summer rainfall the plantings thrived. There were plant losses due to adventurous park users, but the majority were flowering within the year. It was disappointing to lose a bird bath as the birds were enjoying fresh water on hot days. I'm hoping there would be opportunities for someone new to try to fund a sandstone bird bath that is a bit more heavy duty.

I got excited when colour became a feature of the embankment with a profusion of flowering *Prostranthera*, *Grevillea*, *Brachyscome*, *Scavola*, *Indigofera*, *Hibbertia* and the Winter Apple. I feel proud when I see park users admire the plantings and I'm not bothered by the occasional child wondering over to pick a flower. When I saw my visionary "pollinator pathway" become, well, a pollinator pathway I was so pleased – hover flies, butterflies, native bees and birds. Soon the prickly shrubs will become home to the smaller birds.

The Park was nominated for a Keep Australia Beautiful award; a shared nomination with other Kurrajong Community Carers. Unfortunately, we missed out on an award; but I am still so very proud of what Kurrajong Village and Kurrajong can achieve with a little bit of community effort. Sadly, I will soon be leaving the Hawkesbury and this special park. This gives others the opportunity to take over the park gardens, with the support and guidance of Hawkesbury Bushcare and the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Marty will love to hear from anyone keen to take over!

4560 4525 | mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



A proud and strongly missed Elizabeth Docking at Memorial Park

PITT TOWN BUSHCARE

by Peter Ryan

The residents of Pitt Town have a small but environmentally valuable area at the end of Johnston Street. It is an old road reserve and a stormwater detention pond that is a haven for our native wildlife like birds and frogs; years ago, it was referred to as Tea Tree Lane.

Residents are keen to protect the native plants and remove non-native species. This will be a great opportunity for younger generations to be involved in a Bushcare project, give them the opportunity to take ownership of the area and be a great area for them to develop their interest and skills in the local environment. We should nurture these young people, as not all of them have the desire to be involved in organised team sports.



Getting them involved at a young age is a good starting point for them when it comes to being involved in our environment.

If you are interested in lending a hand in helping and restoring this area into a more healthier environment, contact Community Bushcare Officer Marty Gauci **4560 4525** mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au to express your interest in the new Tea Tree Lane Bushcare Group; times and dates to be decided. Bushcare groups meet once a month for three hours (excluding December and January).

STEP UP TO CLEAN UP – CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2022

Clean Up Australia Day will be held this year on Sunday, 6 March 2022 and it will be great to see the Hawkesbury community supporting it again. Hawkesbury residents have shown they are committed to a litter free community, with over 35,000kg of litter removed in the previous Clean Up Australia Day events over the last five years. To get involved, you need to register at www.cleanup.org.au – registrations are now open.



HAWKESBURY ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (HEN)

Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) and Hawkesbury City Council Bushcare organisers are calling for volunteers to help establish a new Bushcare group at Pughs Lagoon Richmond.

Background

HEN received a Federal Government grant in 2020/2021 entitled Valuing Our Wetlands to improve Pughs Lagoon at Smiths Park Richmond, deliver positive environmental outcomes for the local community and raise the profile of wetlands in the Hawkesbury. This involved educating locals about how to care for the environment by providing them with new skills and knowledge. Participants in the project took away improved knowledge about monitoring, managing and preserving the natural environment, weeds and native species as well as increased social, ecological and historical knowledge of their local area.



Federal Macquarie MP Susan Templeman, HEN members and Bushcare workers at Pughs Lagoon

Pughs Lagoon is a freshwater wetland and Smiths Park contains remnants of Sydney Coastal River-flat Forest scheduled as an endangered ecological community. The degradation of the riparian vegetation surrounding the southern portion of the Lagoon meant that weeds like Camphor Laurel, Wild Tobacco Tree and Chinese Tallow had to be removed. Grasses such as *Lomandra* and *Dianella* filled in the spaces. *Juncus usitatus* (Common Rush) was planted on the water's edge. Shrubs and small trees such as *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Melaleuca linariifolia*, *Eucalyptus amplifolia* and *Trema tomentosa* were planted to stabilise the lagoon edges.

The project combined on-ground work, installation of four interpretive signs and many social media and local newspaper reports. HEN's work centred around the most degraded section of Pughs Lagoon that suffered from many invasive species and a high amount of sedimentation from run-off.

Now HEN needs volunteers to continue the weeding and maintenance work at Pughs Lagoon for three hours on a monthly basis .

Please contact Community Bushcare Officer Marty Gauci | **4560 4525** mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au to express your interest in the new Pughs Lagoon Bushcare Group - times and dates to be decided.

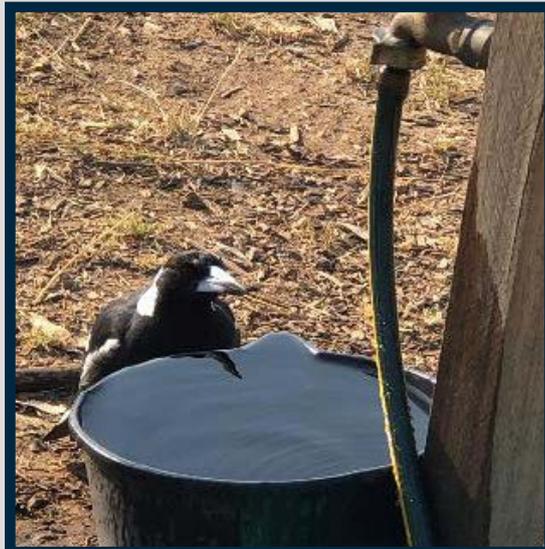
INTEGRATION OF MAGPIES INTO THE KITCHEN GARDEN

PENRITH SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

by Cassandra Jeremijczyk | SLSO

The Magpie is often known as a dangerous bird during the species breeding season of Spring. During January of 2020 we were able to build trust with the magpies in the Kitchen Garden area of Penrith South Public School. This later resulted in a difference to their behaviour during Spring of 2020. The magpies had reduced their swooping immensely although being deemed a protective species.

To achieve the result of no swooping during the Spring season we have to go back to January of 2020. On one of the hottest days that year at 48.9°C we noticed a magpie in the Kitchen Garden resting with its beak wide open. We proceeded to fill up a bucket of water for the bird and moved it further into the garden. This allowed for the bird to have space away from any person who was outside at the time. Due to the weather, surely enough the magpie drank from the bucket. From this day forward, the magpie making an appearance in the Kitchen Garden became a regular occurrence.



Magpie drinking from the bucket of water provided in the Kitchen Garden



Top left: Two parent magpies visiting the garden.

Bottom: Their baby which they felt safe enough to let it explore.

Top right: A magpie visiting the garden after breeding season has ended.

Working in the garden meant coming across other visitors such as cabbage moth larvae and an overabundance of curl grubs. We waited until break time when the garden was empty of people and placed a few curl grubs near the water container for the magpie. At first, the magpie would come back roughly at the same time every day for a drink of water and to consume the grubs we had left for them. With this knowledge we proceeded to leave the grubs for the magpie at different times of the day throughout the week. This was to ensure the magpie did not rely on us for its only source of food.

The magpie had developed a level of trust to enter the Kitchen Garden because it was a safe place to retrieve water and food when required. Around the nesting season of June, the magpie started to collect items to build their nest with. They did so even with the disturbance of having people enter the area they were scavenging from. When the common 'swooping season' started, it was by our surprise that the magpies were not swooping as per previous years. This was because they had become so comfortable with the area and people around it.

The magpies started bringing their babies down for water and to look around the Kitchen Garden. They utilised the multiple watering stations we had set up originally for bees, other birds and any wildlife that needed it. It is evident that over the beginning months before Spring, our actions of offering water and food as well as giving the birds space when required allowed them to build a trusting bond with the area they resided in. When breeding season occurred and we continued the same actions that allowed this trust to evolve, the magpies felt safe, and it permitted for an uncommon interaction between bird and human. To this day, the magpies still visit the Penrith South Public School's Kitchen Garden.

DYARUBBIN, THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

by Erin Wilkins

Windsor has a long colonial history dating back to 1794, known as Greenhills, it was one of the first settled townships in Australia. However, it has an even longer connection to the local Aboriginal custodians of Sydney, the Darug people, a continuous connection of more than 60,000 years. The Darug people called Windsor Bulyayorang, meaning 'hill camp'.

Professor Grace Karskens with the help of four local Darug women Leanne Watson, Erin Wilkins, Jasmine Seymour and Rhiannon Wright have spent the past few years walking and researching the Hawkesbury to be able to give back the traditional names of locations along the Hawkesbury River, Dyarubbin.

To learn more on this Dyarubbin project, visit the State Library for the current exhibition, view the website arcg.is/004i19 and visiting the Hawkesbury Regional Gallery in Windsor for another upcoming exhibition; "Dyarubbin, The Hawkesbury River", from 11 February to 10 April, 2022.

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery/exhibitions/future



LIVING SUSTAINABLY WORKSHOP

Love Food Hate Waste – Meal Planning Workshop

How planning your meals will improve your family's health and save the environment.

Date: 12 noon Monday 04 April 2022.

Location: Deerubbin Centre, Tebbutt Room,
300 George Street Windsor

Register: hawklivingsustainably.eventbrite.com

Contact: council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



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