



# Weed All About It



VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

Newsletter for the 'People for Parks-Bushcare' Program

Winter 2009

## Editorial

Hi Everyone this issue is a real beauty! A massive thanks to all those people who wrote excellent articles and contributed to this issue; you'll see their names with each title. Having these articles makes the newsletter an even greater read. I look forward to you sending me more great articles and ideas for the next issue; keep them coming!

There's more enviro stuff in this issue, with grants, plantings and workshops, plus much, much more.

What do you think of the draft Bushcare logo? Keeping with the Hawkesbury, it is a Feathertail Glider *Acrobates pygmaeus* (as seen on the old 1 cent coin) feeding on an *Acacia matthewii*. We look forward to your comments & enjoy the read.



Draft Bushcare logo - open for comment

Happy Days!

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## Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare Day

By Danny Lett

Merroo Crown Reserve is a small reserve with approximately 2.5 hectares of natural bushland situated 8.5 kms along Comleroy Road, Kurrajong. Vegetation in the reserve reflects the site's situation, aspect and soil profiles and contains a mixture of both shale and sandstone species. The reserve is surrounded by private lands and has a roadside frontage of about 150 metres resulting in early stage weed invasion on the front edge of the site.

### Bushcare Day 1

The site's first Bushcare day was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April with 17 wonderful energetic volunteers turning up to lend a helping hand. The day started with Marty making us all feel welcome and going through the necessary registrations, induction, risk assessment and safety procedures. The main tasks to be tackled on the day included: defining established tracks and mow areas, and making a start on weed removal along the front edge of the site.

The group tackled these tasks with enthusiasm and it wasn't long before morning tea was ready, with what else, but billy tea and coffee, and home made biscuits and cake. Anecdotes were exchanged and recipes for biscuits compared and special thanks go to Brenda Smith and John Jose for their Anzac Biscuits (John mentioned his were cooked in a 1920 Metters "Suburban"

gas stove-or was it the biscuits were cooked in 1920 -just joking John)

After morning tea, all refreshed, the group finished off defining the remaining tracks, cleared away some barbed wire lying around and removed Whisky Grass, Love Grass and Giant Paspalum from along the front edge of the Reserve.

Many thanks to everyone who came along on the day.

The next Bushcare day for the Reserve will be with an 8am start on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 for a planned walk through the Reserve with twitcher Keith Brandwood (Cumberland Bird Observers). Keith has kindly volunteered to help the group make a start on a list of the bird species which frequent this bit of bush land. After the walk we will have morning tea and then carry on with our weeding and general maintenance.



Above L-R: John Jose, Brenda Smith, Vickii Lett, Les Dollin & Pat Gilbert enjoying some Anzac biscuits and a cuppa.

## Charles Kemp Reserve Saved, Again

By Rebecca Stones

The contentious Charles Kemp Reserve has been saved by locals once again. This time the threat was not rezoning, but noxious weeds. The ubiquitous Lantana and Cestrum are amongst a number of foreign plants contaminating the bushland reserve.

Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare Group, under the supervision of Council Contractor Melissa Medo, are working hard to return the Reserve to its original beauty.

The group is working to preserve the area's natural flora and fauna, which has a prime example of Western Sydney Dry Rainforest.

The Reserve is unique because it has five distinctive ecological communities, four of which are scheduled as endangered ecological communities in the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995 (taken from the Charles Kemp Reserve Plan of Management).

"Western Sydney Dry Rainforest is endangered and here it's intact. The significant size of the reserve gives it a resilience, which means a real chance of preservation for future generations," stated Melissa Medo (Bushcare Group Supervisor).

"This is a really enthusiastic group. They really have a passion for the site."

"More volunteers are always welcome."

Michael Kemp, Bushcare Group Convener and grandson of Charles Kemp, said he was amazed by community support for the project.

"Usually these groups only have a few members, but we've been getting around 14 volunteers."

"The reserve certainly isn't impossibly weed-infested. The area up top is still in top condition, so if we can get rid of the weeds down below, it will make a huge difference long term."

"My family is really grateful for their hard work."

The group meets at the Reserve on the fourth Saturday of the month for three hours, from 9am.

Council funding has been allocated to continue bushland regeneration of the site.



*Above: The men at Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve on the hunt for Lantana.*

## Indian Myna Conference



The World Conservation Union has included the Indian Myna in the list of the 100 most invading species in the world and they have been described as an extreme threat to Australia. Anecdotal information suggests they reduce biodiversity by competing with our native birds and mammals for nesting hollows, destroying their eggs and killing their chicks to commandeer nesting places.

Recently I attended the "Towards Best Practice Indian Myna Control" Southern NSW Regional Indian Myna Conference with Garry Baldry, HCC Regulatory Services Manager at Nowra. This conference was hosted by Shoalhaven Council and the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group (CIMAG).

The focus of the conference was to inform both local councils and community groups on what other groups and councils are actually doing to trap and control the Indian Myna.

From this conference the model that Shoalhaven Council had adopted, which is where council facilitates and coordinates a community focused trapping network across a Local Government Area (LGA), was the most appealing to myself and Garry. This model seems to be quite successful in the Shoalhaven area and is very much community driven once the wheels have been set in place, with both the traps constructed by a local "Men's Shed" and the trapping undertaken by residents.

At present myself and Garry have contacted a local "Men's Shed" that is interested in constructing the traps and so far we have over 40 people on a database who are interested to take on a community focused and driven trapping process.

If you are interested in helping the native animals of the Hawkesbury by controlling the Indian Myna:-

**Contact:** Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, Hawkesbury City Council on 4560 4525.

**Email:** [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## National Tree Day, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Yarramundi Reserve



National Tree Day is Australia's biggest community tree-planting event. Over 13 million native trees and shrubs have been planted by more than 2 million volunteers since

the first National Tree Day was held in 1996.

Since 2006, National Tree Day has been held at Yarramundi Reserve and each year it has been a successful event with a great turn out by the local community. This year should be no different, with the aim of planting approximately 500 native trees and shrubs to restore the natural vegetation throughout the reserve. So come along and enjoy the tree planting experience that so many Australians have already enjoyed.



*Above: Niquisha & Lachlan Tranter with Amy Barry using kid power to plant some trees at Yarramundi Reserve, National Tree Day 2008.*

**When:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, at the Yarramundi Reserve, Springwood Road, Yarramundi.

**Schedule:** 10am-12noon, with a Free BBQ to follow.

**What to bring:** Sun hat, sturdy shoes, long sleeve shirt, long pants, sunscreen, gloves and water. There will be a free BBQ for all participants.

**Contact:** Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer, Hawkesbury City Council on 4560 4525.

## NSW Government's \$35 million Community Building Partnership Grants

**The NSW Government's \$35 million Community Building Partnership will provide funding for local community projects across NSW.**

Community groups and local councils will be eligible to submit applications for funding that will help support local infrastructure and jobs.

The NSW Community Building Partnership will invest \$300,000 into building local community projects in every electoral district – with an additional \$100,000 to be invested in electoral districts with higher unemployment.

Under the partnership, the NSW Government will contribute to the cost of building important community projects and stimulating local economies.

### Criteria

Applicants should demonstrate how their project will deliver positive results for their community, through job creation and community, social, recreational or environmental outcomes.

Applications from local councils will require a commitment of matching funding by the council.



Projects must be ready to commence by late 2009 and be completed before the end of December 2010.

Applications for funding under the

partnership open on 22 June and close on 10 August 2009.

### Approval

Members of Parliament will:

- Invite applications from local councils and community groups within their electoral districts.
- Provide comments and recommendations on the suitability and priority of eligible proposals within their electoral districts for the Premier's consideration.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will make recommendations to the Premier based on the assessment criteria and information provided by Members of Parliament.

### More Information

For additional information please email enquiries to: [cbp\\_enquiries@communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbp_enquiries@communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au) or leave a recorded message on: 02 9228 4232.

### Application Form

Application forms can be downloaded from [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au/)

### Submitting your application

When you have completed your application, please email it to:

[cbp\\_applications@communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cbp_applications@communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au) or post it to:

Community Building Partnership Grant Applications  
GPO Box 5341,  
Sydney NSW 2001



## Good News From the Nursery By Brenda Smith

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the dismal heaps of rubble in front of the Community Nursery building were transformed into a native garden, surrounding newly installed sandstone boulders. Under Marty Gauci and Nicola Booth's supervision, with expert assistance from Hayden Denmeade of the "Good Bush People", a group of enthusiastic volunteers and the "Green Corp Team" planted a wide variety of native grasses, trees and shrubs all grown in the nursery. This garden will showcase our seedlings potential beauty. It is a very encouraging and satisfying improvement to our Wednesday workplace. Many thanks to all involved.



*Right L-R: Marty Gauci, Olympia Pearson and Brenda Smith proudly planting a Sandpaper Fig.*



## People for Parks Profile



**Name:** Katy Wilkins.

**Group:** McMahon Park Bushcare Group.

**Group Location:** McMahon Park, Kurrajong.

**Time with Group:** About 12 months.

**Position in Group:** Bushland Regenerator.

**Occupation:** University Student and Bushland Regenerator with the National Trust.

**Reason for Volunteering:** Enjoy doing it, feel it is a good cause & I feel it is important that the reserve is maintained.

**Best Achievement:** Getting into Macquarie University to study a Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity and Conservation.

**Favourite Native Species:** *Ficus coronata* - Sandpaper Fig

**Most Hated Weed:** Mother of Millions

**6 people you would like to invite to dinner:** David Attenborough, Jane Goodall, my mum and my best friends. (if Peter Mobbs came, I would let him invite Wayne Bennett). Go The Dragons!

## Eucalyptus Workshop

Eucalypts of the Sydney Coastal and Lower Blue Mountains region, 2 day identification workshop, will be held in August and presented by Van Klaphake.

Participants will receive an identification booklet and are encouraged to bring along specimens for identification.

**Hosted and Sponsored** by Hawkesbury City Council and The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

**Price** Registered HCC Bushcare/ Landcare Volunteers \$60.

Full-time employed and others \$170.

**When** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. 9.00am-4.00pm both days, lunch provided.

**Where** Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority Building, Mileham Street, South Windsor.

**Bookings** essential, limited seats of 30 people, RSVP by 4 August, so book early, call Marty Gauci 4560 4525

**Email:** [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## Congratulations Robin & Erin

Winners of the 2009 Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards were announced at a Landcare Forum held at Mt Annan, attended by over 100 people. Two awards were received by members of the Hawkesbury area. These included:

- **Individual Landcarer Award** – Robin Woods, Convenor of the Hawkesbury Rainforest Network.
- **Young Landcarer Award** – Erin Rowe, Greencorp Team Leader and member of the Hawkesbury Rainforest Network

Robin Woods was recognised as the individual catchment Landcarer of the Year for her tireless work to conserve the remaining pockets of Western Sydney Dry Rainforest, particularly in the Kurrajong area.

Each year landcare groups and the 2600-plus landcare volunteers in the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment contribute over \$3 million to environmental improvements in the catchment and the Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA works closely with over 120 Landcare groups.

For more information on landcare and the landcare awards go to [www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/getinvolved](http://www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/getinvolved) or contact your local HNCMA office and speak to your Community Support Officer – Windsor 4587 0050.

## Grasses Workshop Held Friday 29 & Saturday 30 May 2009

By Jim Ward

Van Klaphake explained during the workshop his method for identifying the grasses of the Sydney region. Each participant was issued with an (identification) key and most of the time was spent practicing identification of grasses with the key.

The key has been developed by Van over a number of years. Each time he holds a workshop he gets suggestions and criticisms of the key. Then he makes changes to answer the issues raised. The result is a much simplified method of identifying the grasses than is usual.

The key starts with a relatively simple division of grasses into two groups - those with a spreading inflorescence and those with a narrow one. (Of course there are some which are listed in both groups since the terms spreading and narrow are not precisely defined and in any case the inflorescence can vary from plant to plant and even on the same plant).

After eliminating a few kinds of grasses which are easily recognisable (e.g. Bamboo) the next division in each of the two groups is whether the spikelets have one, or more than one fertile floret or seed. The initial subdivision is then by the



*Above: Paul Reynolds from Colo Valley Landcare Group, has his eye on the grass.*

presence of awns or not.

The key then goes into finer details (often using information about glumes) in order to finally identify the grass.

Terms such as awn, floret, glume and spikelet are all explained in the key with diagrams and a glossary.

For the identification sessions Van brought along specimens from most of the genera of grasses one is likely to encounter. Many of these were weeds which bush regenerators need to recognise.

Other matters were also discussed - the collection of samples, the spread of weeds, and methods of eradication.

The last one included a rather novel suggestion about the use of mowing for dealing with certain grass weeds.

One of the principal problems found in using the key was actually seeing the material sufficiently clearly enough to determine what was in front of me. The workshop was really worthwhile and I would encourage anyone who is interested in grasses and recognition of weeds to attend one of these workshops.

## The Green Corps Effect By Emma Walsh and Bec Davidson

The Green Corps team began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2008 and consists of 10 team members all ranging from 17 to 20 years of age.

Since then they have participated in numerous activities. These have included maintaining a wildlife corridor at Mulgoa, planting a native garden and propagation activities at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and restoring an area of Cumberland Plain at the EarthCare Centre.

Working out at Mulgoa to help maintain the wildlife corridor was an important project within the Green Corps team. The reasons being to help sustain current wildlife habitat and for the survival of the animals by keeping them away from the road.

Once a week the team is involved in propagation

activities at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Here they work along side Marty Gauci to learn the different aspects of plant propagation. Some of the techniques they have learnt so far include division, potting on and nursery maintenance.

The team's major project for the course is their community venture. What they aim to achieve is an educational native garden.



*Above: The Green Corps Team as proud as punch after planting the native garden at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.*

To ensure the goals are reached, the team have been thoroughly researching different plants, bush tucker foods and other native garden layouts. So far they have been putting together a path using recycled timber, weeding the proposed garden area and attempting to gather donations of materials from various people and businesses. This community venture is being undertaken at the EarthCare Centre located in Richmond.

## Help Plant Trees in Central NSW.... pilot project planned to start

Hawkesbury City Council has been approached by Cabonne Council about establishing a **Hawkesbury – Building Bridges to Cabonne** program that would see ideally Hawkesbury Bushcare and other groups in conjunction with Cabonne Landcare groups participate in native tree planting activities in the Cabonne area to help local biodiversity, soil and water issues.

The ‘Building Bridges to...’ program was pioneered by North Sydney Council, who since 2000, has been sending North Sydney Bushcare representatives and locals to Boorowa once a year in Biodiversity Month (September) to help plant trees to:

- Re-establish habitat & windbreaks.
- Reduce salinity & erosion.
- Support the survival of the endangered Superb Parrot.

In the North Sydney case, about 20-30 people help out conserving the landscape of Boorowa over a weekend and at the same time enjoy the country experience, get great satisfaction and form new friendships. Grant funds from the NSW Environmental Trust has supported the program. North Sydney has now produced Guidelines for duplicating the ‘Building Bridge to...’ program for other councils that have city-country alliances.

Council is liaising with Cabonne and North Sydney Councils

about the pilot program and would be keen to here from Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteers and other groups that would like to get involved as a pilot or in an ongoing format.

The pilot **Hawkesbury- Building Bridges to Cabonne** program is being considered for a weekend in September 2009, which would see trees planted on Cabonne Council lands and private landholdings. It would extend over three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Cabonne Council and Hawkesbury Council are looking into:

- Accommodation options, including free camping in camping areas, billeting on farms to benefit from tree planting, farm stay;
- food options (including a free BBQ on the Saturday night); and
- transport options.

Council has a city-country alliance with Cabonne Council and thinks the ‘Building Bridges to...’ program would be a good way to develop the alliance, which seeks to establish community links and exchanges between Hawkesbury and Cabonne areas.

For more information on and to get involved in the proposed **Hawkesbury - Building Bridges to Cabonne** project, contact Council’s Marty Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560-4525 and Council’s Fiona Mann, Strategic Planner – Strategic Activities on 4560-4579.



Above: One of the sites of Cabonne, Hawkesbury Council city-country alliance.

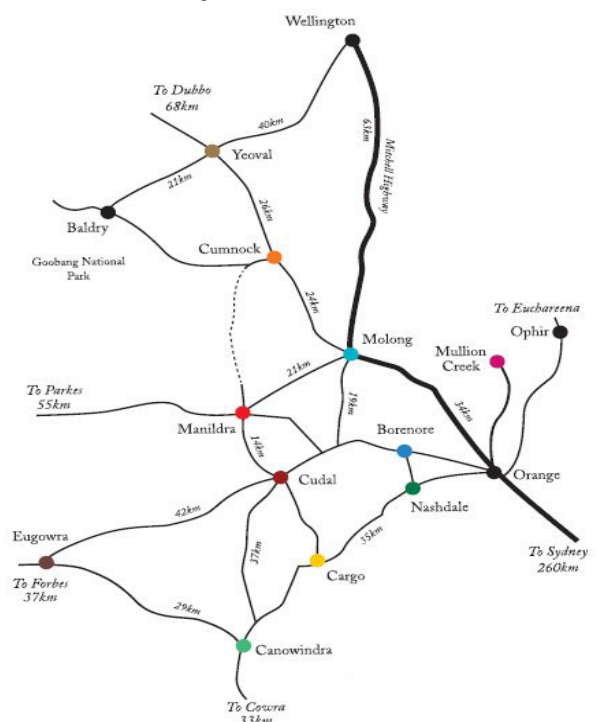
## Tourism - Cabonne Country

Cabonne Country extends from Eugowra (west) to Ophir (east), Canowindra (south) and Yeoval (north). In between are the quaint towns and villages of Molong, Cumnock, Cargo, Mullion Creek, Cudal, Manildra and Borenore. It’s just a 3.5 hour (290kms) drive from Sydney.

Cabonne Country is Australia’s Food Basket. The area produces a variety of food including dairy products, beef, lamb and venison. Cabonne is unique in having two distinct wine regions: the cool climate Orange Wine Region, high on the slopes of Mount Canobolas; and the Warm Cowra Wine Region, of which Canowindra is a part. Cellar door tasting and winery tours available with winemakers.

Cabonne Country offers a diverse range of attractions, some of the best food and wine in regional Australia, a rich history and heritage and a clean crisp environment where you can unwind. Attractions include: recreational activities such as bush walking and taking in the amazing view from the top of Mt Canobolas or panning for gold at the Ophir Reserve. Bike riding is becoming popular with rides along country lanes that make you feel part of the landscape.

Courtesy Cabonne Country website. Tourism website of Cabonne Council. >>><http://www.cabonnecountry.com/><<<





# Land Management Officer Nicola Booth's Grants Update

## Bellbird Hill Reserve - WoNs

Has been successful in obtaining another grant to target lantana as part of the WoNs program (Weeds of National Significance). This will compliment the works already undertaken by Blue Tongue Eco Systems. Regeneration of rainforest species is quite apparent. Such rainforest trees include *Acronichia oblongifolia*, *Pisonia umbellifera* Birdlime Tree, *Eupomatia laurina* Native Guava.

## George St Reserves, Yarramundi and Mill Rd Reserve - Dept of Lands

George Street Reserve has been plugging along with some really great regeneration apparent in the ground layer and have recently sustained more funding from the Department of Lands of \$6,300 to compliment our existing program. The challenges have been plentiful, including rubbish dumping, evidence of residents using access for trucks to access their backyards, and dumping of concrete! However, the uphill battle is proving to be successful. The diversity of the reserve is amazing for something that has been repeatedly degraded. I thoroughly recommend a meander for all those interested in their grassland flora. The diversity is phenomenal with one new threatened species being identified by Bushland Management Services: *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp. *viridiflora* (climber); which is listed as a threatened population in Western Sydney.

Yarramundi and Mill Road Reserve will also receive a cut of the \$18,500 grant from the Department of Lands to be spent on weed control in the Reserves.

At Yarramundi Reserve the bird hide has been installed and completed. The historical, bird and pedestal signs marking the key features of Yarramundi Reserve have also been installed.

## Chain Of Ponds - Environmental Trust & HNCMA RRP (River Restoration Project)

The Chain of Ponds Reserve Rehabilitation Project 2006-2008 has been successfully completed with thanks to the Environmental Trust's \$30,000 and the HNCMA's \$9,095. All proposed works have been finalised and some additional, unanticipated outcomes have added value to the project.

Good progress has been made in controlling those weeds that threaten the River Flat Forest. The weeds that have been targeted include: Moth Vine, Balloon Vine, Tradescantia, Bridal Creeper and African Love Grass. Less common weeds that have been treated include: Madeira Vine, Lantana, Ochna, Blackberry, Camphor Laurel, Rhodes Grass, Paspalum and Ehrhata. Woody weeds have been treated along the length of Currency Creek to the junction of the Chain of Ponds.

Two community events were held within the reserve with

the assistance of DECC. The spotlight tour encouraged the local community, particularly children, to discover the fauna that occur in the reserve and surrounding area. An information day was also held about the work that is going on at the reserve and included a demonstration on trapping Indian Mynas.

Other outcomes include prevention of dumping and reckless driving since the installation of barricades and a gate; and an increase in volunteers involved with the site.

A new round of funding has been granted for approximately \$30,000 over 3 years to continue the good works of the Good Bush People.

## Argyle Bailey Reserve (Swallow Rock Reserve) - Metropolitan Greenspace 2008

Construction works have started on the new walking track. The track stems from the picnic booth through almost to the lookout and aims to formalise access for all users, and to minimise erosion. This work is part of a grant from the Metropolitan Greenspace Program '08' of \$50,000. A large component of this grant will go towards continuing bush regeneration works once the track has been completed.

## South Creek Restoration Project - DECC Estuary Management Program & RTA

This project will commence again with yet another grant from the generous Estuary Management Program of approximately \$15,000. This will compliment the RTA grant for continuing restoration and maintenance works along South Creek. This will tackle the ever persisting problem of weedy vines and woody weeds to protect the successful plantings from being smothered.

## Upper Colo Reserve - HNCMA RRP

There has been a completion of two signs, one still yet to be installed. Bush Regeneration works have been undertaken to control Tree of Heaven, and other woody weeds and vines. This project will continue into the next financial year, following up the works already undertaken by Blue Tongue Eco Systems.



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust



# Hawkesbury City Council



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## Weed All About It

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Hawkesbury City Council

Vol 10 Issue 2 Winter 2009

This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper

### 2009 Bushcare Calendar

#### Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Matheson Park Bushcare

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

#### Navua Community Group

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

#### Chain of Ponds Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

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

#### McMahon Park Bushcare

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

#### Sunnyvale Bushies,

#### Lower Macdonald Valley

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

#### Bellbird Hill Reserve Bushcare

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights  
3rd Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights  
3rd Saturday of the Month (1pm-4pm)

#### Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong  
4th Saturday of the Month (9am-12pm)

#### North

#### Richmond Community Group

Various work days



#### Community Nursery Day Hawkesbury Community Nursery at McGraths Hill

Every 2nd Wednesday and  
by appointment on 4560 4525

Various sites TBA

#### Redbank Creek Bushcare, North Richmond.

For any enquiries please contact  
Community Bushcare Officer  
Martin Gauci, on 4560 4525

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