

## FROG HOTEL

Earlier this year as part of the Hawkesbury Bushcare Nocturnal Safari series, we had a Frog Hotel workshop at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Hosted by Tom Covell from 'Hooked on Nature', this was extremely popular and a real family favourite.

The Frog Hotels were not that difficult to create and with a few up-cycled items like an old cooking pot and the essential of some pipes or bamboo of various lengths and diameters to act as the artificial hollow and a few other items.

*"Hollow logs take hundreds of years to form and are valuable habitat for many of Australian animals. Frog hotels basically mimic the hollow log habitat that a frog needs as a nice tight space where the frog can nestle down in and feel safe and secure, it can stay humid, and feel very comfortable; and they will then choose to live in your garden in your newly created frog hotel. It's important we have wildlife around our homes, as frogs are wonderful allies that do a beautiful job in snavelling up all sorts of insects like mosquitoes, spiders and cockroaches."* Tom Covell



Frog Hotel Workshop at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery

If you would like to make a humble abode for a Perron's Tree frog, Bleating Tree Frog and more, and need some guidance from Tom Covell at Hooked on Nature, have a look at this video lesson, [youtu.be/rP9T6UbAlg0](https://youtu.be/rP9T6UbAlg0) in how to make your own Frog Hotel.

## EDITORIAL

Hello everyone during these rather trying times. I would like to think that this edition has a bit of something for everyone with some great contributions from an array of sorts. I am ever so grateful and proud of what contributions are in this newsletter. And really, it wouldn't be a 'Weed All About It' if it didn't have that devotion from our diverse donors. If you feel there is anything missing or would like to hear about, I welcome your ideas, feedback and future contributions.

Enjoy the read and happy days!

**Marty Gauci | 4560 4525 | Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG Facilitator | [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)**

# 11 STORIES

by Oonagh Sherrard

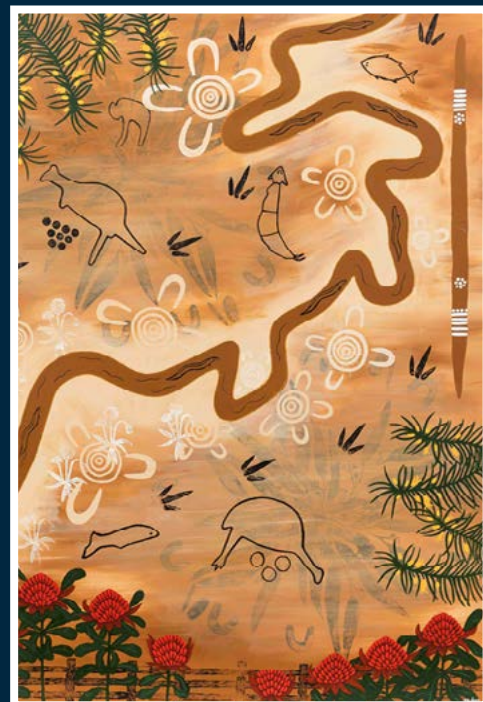
**'11 Stories from the river Dyarubbin'** is a series of 11 audio walks sharing environmental, historic, cultural and personal stories of the river at the places where they happened, streamable to your mobile phone at 11 public locations along the river between Yarramundi and Sackville.

Underscored by original music, the audio walks feature stories told by over 100 academics, locals and children: of the history of Dyarubbin's first people, settlement and frontier violence, floods and farming, geology, ecology, bush regeneration and sustainability, including bush regenerators Fred Wood, Jeff Cottrell, Michael Kemp, Mark Anderson and Marty Gauci and WSU scientists Ian Wright, Jason Reynolds and River-keeper Michelle Ryan.

The first audio walk in Balga Ngurrang/ Windsor has been released with ten more to follow over the coming months. You can listen on location or from your favourite listening spot:

[www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum/historical-walks/11-stories-from-the-river](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum/historical-walks/11-stories-from-the-river)

This walk starts on Thompson Square, then heads along the river through Howe and Deerubbin Parks, featuring Historian Grace Karskens, Geologist Tom Hubble, Geomorphologist Kirstie Fryirs, Dharug custodians Erin Wilkins and Jasmine Seymour, Kate Mackaness, Ted Books, WSU's Sue Cusbert and is narrated by Dharug educator Rhiannon Wright.



*Marri Badu Muru (big water path) by Leanne Mulgo Watson © 2022*



*The Hawkesbury River, near the confluence of the Colo River  
Photo – Oonagh Sherrard*



# HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY HUBS

## Come in:

- For Health and Wellbeing Support and Activities including exercise, art and craft and children's groups
- To reconnect with your friends, neighbours and community
- For support to access Financial and Practical Assistance from a range of disaster recovery and other services
- To access community computers, internet and printing support
- To get help with planning for emergencies
- To talk about and access support with ideas for community projects or activities
- To volunteer or find out more about volunteering opportunities

## WEEKLY hubs are at:

### Bilpin Hall

2596 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin on Tuesdays  
9:30am to 2:30pm

### Wilberforce School of Arts

531 Wilberforce Road, Wilberforce on Wednesdays  
9:30am to 2:30pm

### Colo Heights Hall

2996 Putty Road, Colo Heights on Thursdays  
9:30am to 2:30pm

### St Albans School of Arts Hall

Upper MacDonald Road, St Albans on Fridays  
9:30am to 2:30pm



For more information and the program calendar visit the Community Hubs page at

**[yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hch](http://yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/hch)** or call **4560 4444** and ask for the Community Hubs team.

Community Hubs is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/ State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

## Disasters? READY TO GO!

by Melissa Shortenbeker

Disasters can happen when you least expect them, especially in the Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Blue Mountains which are some of the most natural disaster-prone areas in Australia. You can be prepared by having all your important family documents ready to go.

The “**Ready to Go**” project can help by providing assistance with scanning those documents onto free USBs for all residents of the Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains and Lithgow. Our project team members are on the ground ready to help you now!

They will provide you with USBs, scan your documents for you, and even password protect your USB for extra security and protection! Our team will be attending the Hawkesbury Hubs at Bilpin, Colo Heights, Wilberforce and St Albans. We can also arrange appointments through our website: **[readytogo.org.au](http://readytogo.org.au)** or contact **[melissa@blighpark.org.au](mailto:melissa@blighpark.org.au)** and **0458723 141**



*“This is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.”*

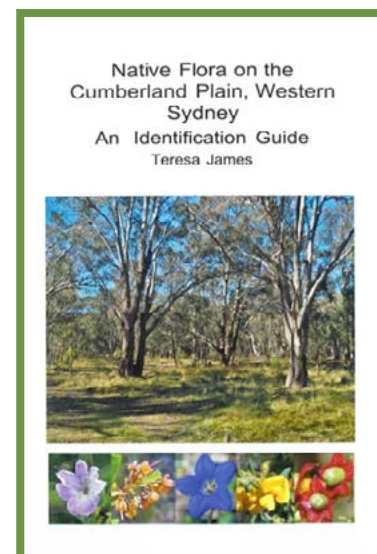
*“Although funding for this product has been provided by both the Australian and NSW Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either government.”*

# TERESA JAMES LIVES ON

Were you one of the lucky people to have attended a Teresa James Cumberland Plain workshop? Sadly, Teresa has passed away; but her amazing legacy of Cumberland Plain appreciation has lived on in one of the most valuable resources that Teresa produced. Hawkesbury Bushcare volunteers are lucky to have obtained a number of copies of 'Native flora on the Cumberland Plain, Western Sydney, An Identification Guide 2016' book; which has been made available to those Hawkesbury Bushcare volunteers undertaking bushland regeneration on the Cumberland Plain.

*'Teresa dedicated this book to the biota of Western Sydney and to its wonderful custodians past and present in the hope it will encourage many to reflect, take a closer look at and be inspired by the uniqueness and beauty of the Western Sydney flora.'*

With over 500 plants listed, this book has a key and guide to help discover the Cumberland Plain; who knows you may have the pleasure to encounter a Chocolate Lily.



## HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY NURSERY AT THE HAWKESBURY SHOW

by Daniel Chen – Year 8 AgSTEM student

At the 135th Hawkesbury Show, Year 7 and Year 8 AgSTEM students from the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education participated in a junior journalist program as part of their show experience. Year 7 students in small groups interviewed representatives from the Ag industry and participated in a series of workshops. Year 8 students focused on what makes a thriving community, with a focus on the interconnection of people, place, industry and the land in the peri-urban area of Sydney.

As part of this study I interviewed Martin Gauci from Hawkesbury City Council for the Geography assessment element of this study, focusing on interconnections. Marty is the Community Bushcare Officer for Hawkesbury City Council and works closely with the Hawkesbury Community Nursery, along with other environmental projects.

Marty and the volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery play an important role in ensuring the Hawkesbury is a thriving community. They share their knowledge of local plants and their suitability in various environments across the Hawkesbury. Their passion also results in plant propagation which will ensure the longevity of many plant types and give people a greater understanding of their local community and its interaction with the local environment. Our school has many plants that we have purchased from the nursery as part of our study into plants from the Hawkesbury and we are excited that we will be able to plant these in our new school grounds next year.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is located at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave (next to the Animal Shelter). Open Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm or by appointment, and on the 1st Saturday of the month 9am to midday (excluding December and January). For more information contact us on **02 4560 4651** or [nursery@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nursery@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



Adam, Marty and Daniel at the Hawkesbury Show



# OUR NEW VOLUNTEER

by Karen Barron

I have enjoyed meeting and working with Elissa and her mother Leanne at George Street Bushcare. While Leanne is extremely interested and supportive in what we are trying to achieve at Bushcare; looking at the site through the eyes of Elissa (who is in year 6) has made me realise that the natural world is an exciting and beautiful place that we often take for granted as we grow older.

Elissa is naturally curious about everything she sees and is constantly asking for information about insects; flowers; galls, what causes these marks on trees and naturally the conversation comes back round to ecology and how all things in nature rely on each other and their environment in order to survive and flourish.

With a natural fear of spiders and all things 'creepy', Elissa is slowly coming to grips with the fact that all of these creatures belong on the site and has even faced her fears by bravely having a close-up look at a Leaf-curling Spider with its legs dangling out the end ready to catch its next meal (see photo) but an Orb Weaving Spider was too much to bear and we had to break for morning tea.

Elissa is so fascinated by the tiny flowers and their extraordinary beauty that she finds on site and asks me to identify them all for her. Elissa is the perfect candidate for the Theresa James Cumberland Plain identification book (see page 4) so she can work out how to ID some of nature's wonders for herself. We welcome more people like Elissa of all ages to join George Street Bushcare.

George Street Bushcare meet in Bligh park on the 4th Sunday of month from 9am-12noon. For more information contact Community Bushcare Officer Marty Gauci **4560 4525** or [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) about George Street Bushcare.

Photos – Karen Barron



*Dillwynia tenuifolia*



*Hypoxis*



*Murdannia graminea*



*Pratia purpurascens*



Can you see the spider skin on the Commelina flower?



The ever so curious Elissa



The elusive Leaf-curling Spider



Leaf Beetle



Orb Weaving Spider



# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FUNDING FOR LANDHOLDERS IN GREATER SYDNEY

You can apply for funding to help you care for natural assets on your property. We also provide technical advice and on-ground support from specialist project officers.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) has programs for landholders in our region to improve and protect:

- Productive lands
- Degraded and eroded land
- Native bushland and grasslands
- Nutrient management
- River and creekbank vegetation
- Wetlands

Projects with high conservation and sustainable land management outcomes will be given priority. Landholders will be expected to contribute to the project and maintain the improvements.

Grants can be used to:

- Fence paddocks to improve pasture and grazing management
- Provide alternate stock watering points
- Implement weed control and pest management
- Set up drought lots or sacrifice paddocks
- Repair minor sheet erosion
- Improve pasture health
- Carry out minor earthworks to protect stock and improve water quality.

GSLLS provides agricultural advice, plant and pest control, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management services. To apply for funding contact GSLLS on **02 4724 2100** or [gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gs.service@lls.nsw.gov.au) and for more information [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

## Managing erosion before and after floods

GSLLS has designed a guide to help landholders with post-flood damage to their riverbeds and also provides some guidance on protection against future flooding events. For more information and to download a copy of the guide, see

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/1305769/Managing-Erosion-factsheet-WEB.pdf](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1305769/Managing-Erosion-factsheet-WEB.pdf)



*Erosion control and bank stabilisation using coir logs*

# REPLANTING FOR RIVER RECOVERY

by Dr Simon Mould, River Scientist

The Hawkesbury River has experienced four floods in as many years and while floods are important for maintaining river health, they also cause erosion.

Now is a good time to talk about helping our rivers to recover from erosion by making sure we have the right mix of plants to make an environment that's good for rivers, people and animals.

## How plants protect rivers

Plants hold soil in place with their roots and slow down floodwaters. The faster the water is flowing, the more erosion it can cause.

While some erosion is a normal part of natural river behaviour, bare riverbanks and floodplains are more vulnerable to large-scale, damaging erosion and loss of useful land.

Rivers have an incredible ability to recover naturally from erosion by regrowing vegetation from the seedbank stored in soils. But they also need help to speed up recovery, manage invasive weeds and protect new plants while they're young.

## Which plants and where?

Your local community or council nursery can advise you on the best species for your area, but the important thing is that there is a healthy mix of native vegetation with different heights, shapes and structures.

Groundcovers are vital for protecting the soil surface, but they need help from shrubs and trees that can provide resistance to fast flows and make the water less erosive in the first place.

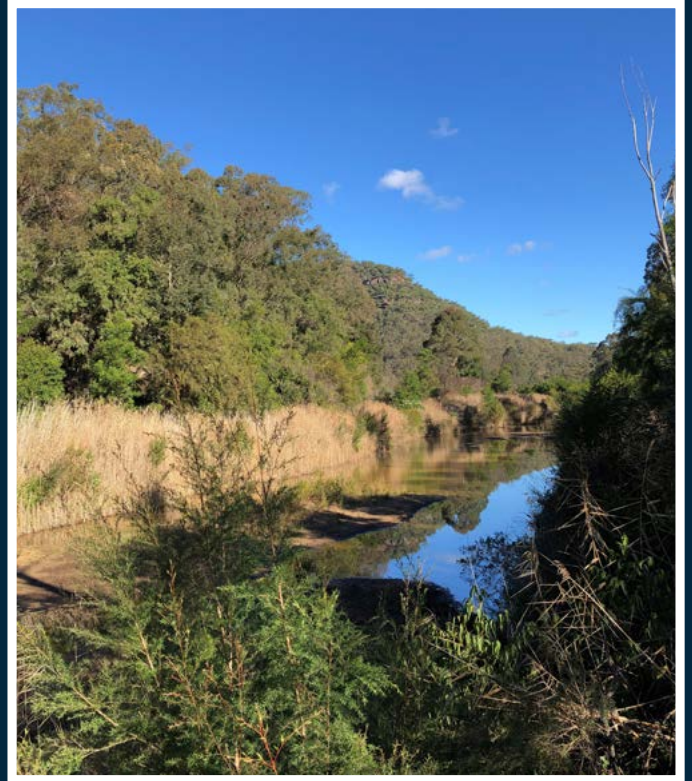
Dense shrubs create roughness to slow down floodwaters and some species will bend over in a flood rather than breaking.

Some people think that trees cause erosion, but this only happens when they're not supported by a dense understorey. The more layers of vegetation (different heights), the greater the resistance to fast flows. We also need trees and shrubs to shade rivers and provide habitat for our fauna.

## Look beyond the banks

A wide strip of diverse vegetation will offer the best protection, with aquatic plants at the water's edge transitioning to shrubs and trees on the floodplain. We call this the riparian buffer zone. A narrow buffer will be quickly overwhelmed in a large flood, but wider buffers that include a portion of the floodplain as well as the riverbanks will withstand much more.

Replanting for river recovery is all about helping nature along and making it more resilient to floods. But the benefits flow to the people along the river, who get cool water, shady places to sit, fish and plenty of birdsong in return.



*A riverbank with diverse plant species*



# CARING FOR COUNTRY

by Brad Moore

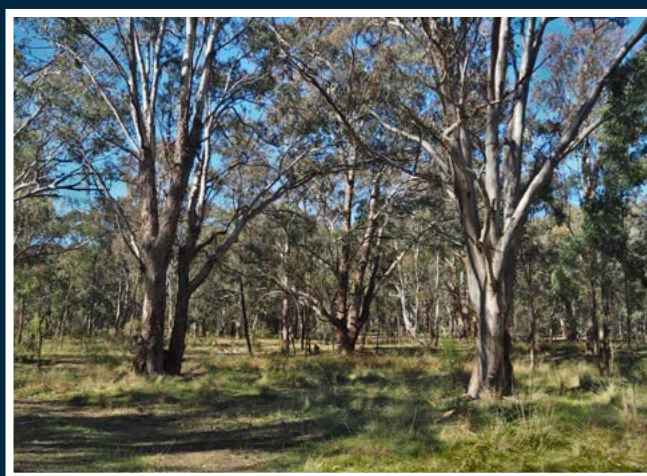
For First Nations people, Country takes in everything within the physical, cultural and spiritual landscape. It includes landforms, waters, air, trees, rocks, plants, animals, foods, medicines, minerals, the sky and sea as well as sacred places. It includes cultural practice, kinship, knowledge, ceremony, songs, stories and art, as well as spiritual beings, and people: past, present and future.

Caring for Country is embodied in First Nations culture and beliefs, ensuring Country and the physical and spiritual features as well as the beings within it remain healthy and balanced through sustainable approaches, for generations to come. The features and beings within Country, be it land, water, fire, animals, plants, places, natural features and even seasons are respected and cared for with a deep dignity and abiding respect, following enduring traditions and practices. Through this intricate understanding First Nations people view this responsibility through an interconnected web of kinship, physically and spiritually binding people and Country.

This is an important perspective to reflect on through the work undertaken by Bushcare in the local area, as the work undertaken by such groups is significant in rehabilitating and restoring the natural environment, redressing the impacts of many generations of colonisation, aiming to bring back the health and balance to Country. The wellbeing and sustainable management of land and water on Country is critical to the continuing holistic relationship held by First Nations people with Country, extending back to their time of creation within this continent.

Opportunities to work together to heal Country, can also support healing First Nations Communities, an important consideration for local Bushcare and Landcare groups, recognising the continuing role that First Nations peoples hold in Caring for Country.

As many First Nations people believe:  
**'Healthy Country, Healthy People.'**



*Through Caring for Country, First Nations peoples shaped and maintained healthy, balanced, abundant and diverse landscapes, such as this part of Ngurra (Country)*

*Photo – Peter Ridgeway; location – Cobbitty*

## THROUGH OLD EYES

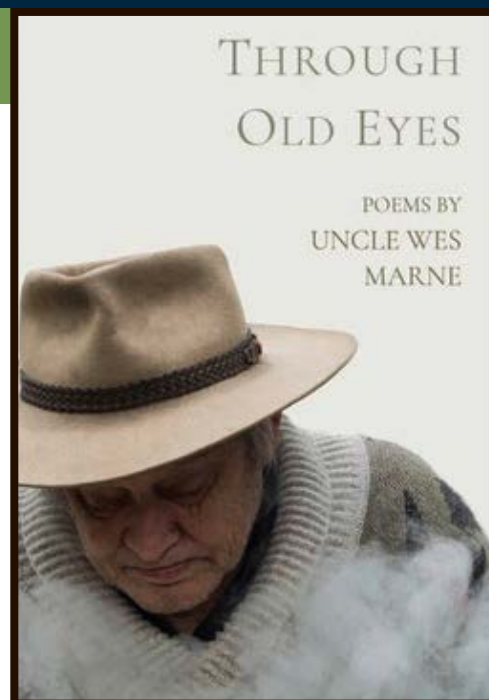
To celebrate his 100th birthday, long time Western Sydney Community Elder and Storyteller, Uncle Wes Marne has released a book of 50 poems. The things that his father, grandfather and other Bigambul Elders taught him as a child have culminated in the book *Through Old Eyes*, *Poems by Uncle Wes Marne*.

You may have been lucky enough to have met Uncle Wes at a 'Welcome to Country', or as a school kid in the 1970s listening to Uncle Wes tell his stories in a Sydney school. A real gentleman, with a lens into the past, and a lesson for our future.

**[fb.watch/e7InIM1-Ds](#)**

and

**[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/away/poetry-from-uncle-wes-marne/13911964](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/away/poetry-from-uncle-wes-marne/13911964)**





# THE MAGIC OF MATHESON

by Kirsten Parmenter

Growing up in East Kurrajong I drove past Matheson Park a lot and I've always loved the tall Forest Red Gums *Eucalyptus tertercornis* and spectacular Cabbage Gums *Eucalyptus amplifolia*. When the Bushcare group first worked in the park in 2004, I was keen to be there. Alongside learning of the many plants on site, local historian Les Dollin came along and spoke to us about the European history of the park. It was so inspiring to think of so many footprints across this park!

There are grand trees throughout the park and under the lantana and privet is a beautiful herbaceous layer which brings orchids and a healthy sub storey, all waiting to be released from the shady weeds! Many people care for this park, from bush regenerators to WIRES Hawkesbury volunteers and now you could too!

Matheson Park Bushcare meet in Kurrajong on the 3rd Friday of the month from 9am-midday. For more information contact Community Bushcare Officer Marty Gauci **4560 4525** or [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) about Matheson Park Bushcare.



*Jessica and Blake cherishing one of the magical gums of Matheson Park. Photo - Kirsten Parmenter*

## MONTY UPDATE

If you had the pleasure of reading the last issue of Weed All About It [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/199571/Bushcare-Newsletter-Volume-22-Issue-1-Summer-2022-web.pdf](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/199571/Bushcare-Newsletter-Volume-22-Issue-1-Summer-2022-web.pdf) page 4, you heard about Monty Colo? The koala from Colo. As a Hawkesbury Bushcare representative, I was lucky enough to have been invited to the opening of the new Koala facility in Richmond. It was there where I witnessed Monty being released into his new caring facility; ever so nervous, scared, and curious all in one. Slowly, Monty began to calm down as he became familiar with his surroundings, knowing he was in the caring hands of WIRES Hawkesbury koala carer Morgan Philpott. Needless to say Morgan had some freshly cut Eucalypt leaves that he loved; *Eucalyptus punctata*, mmmm, Monty's favourite!

*"Sadly, Monty didn't make it. He'd been doing really well and had beaten Chlamydia before suddenly losing a lot of weight. The vet found a large hole in his gum right up in the back of his jaw. Sadly it was found too late and Monty died several days later from septicaemia. I was pretty devastated to lose him like that, so close to release."*  
Morgan Philpott



*Monty and his midday siesta*  
Photo - Morgan Philpott

To be able to give Morgan and his fellow Koala carers an understanding and appreciation of what they are up against, Simon Reeves, the former Channel 7 journalist put together a 20 minute documentary "KOALAS – The hard truths" [youtu.be/Gb\\_fhyHJCPs](https://youtu.be/Gb_fhyHJCPs)

# HAWKESBURY RESIDENTS KEENEST ABOUT KOALA CONSERVATION

By Kat Boehringer and Dr Kellie Leigh

Koalas are loved the world over, but Hawkesbury residents are some of the most invested in protecting these now endangered species.

New research from Science for Wildlife found that Hawkesbury residents are more likely to be aware of local koalas and take measures to protect them, compared to people living in Sydney and other areas. They also felt they could personally help conserve koalas and other wildlife and were likely to take steps to do so such as slowing down in areas where they knew wildlife might be crossing the road, planting habitat trees, and reporting koala sightings.

Executive Director of Science for Wildlife Dr Kellie Leigh said it was encouraging to see that locals were so invested in protecting the unique populations of koalas in their backyard, and there were simple steps they could take to help their furry friends to thrive.

*"If you live in or around the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, you are living with a special population of koalas. Koalas in the Hawkesbury region are nationally significant for conservation of the species, and the World Heritage Area has the potential to be a refuge for koalas under climate change" Dr Leigh said.*

*"However, these unique populations are at risk. In 2019 the Black Summer Bushfires burnt approximately 80 percent of the 1 million hectares of World Heritage Area, heavily impacting our koala populations. "Koalas are living in the national parks but also on private properties in nearby areas, and you can help to conserve them. Mapping of koala sightings has revealed that there are some specific koala risk hotspots in the Hawkesbury, especially around Kurrajong Hills, Bell's Line of Road and Mountain Lagoon. When you are in these areas, please keep an eye out for koalas."*

To help understand these Koalas, we have produced a Koala booklet [www.scienceforwildlife.org/koalabooklets](http://www.scienceforwildlife.org/koalabooklets) on what makes them so special, where they are located, some information on their behaviour, as well the different species of Eucalypt they enjoy. Or you can pick up your hard copy from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery (see page 4).

If you are lucky enough to spot a koala, join our efforts to map koalas in the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains [www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project](http://www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project)



**Wally the koala** Photo – Supplied by Science for Wildlife

## SIMPLE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT OUR LOCAL KOALA POPULATIONS



### Slow Down

Koalas don't think twice about crossing a road. Slow down when you're in Koala habitat.

### Watch Fido

Even the friendliest dog can attack a Koala. Keep your dog under control & locked up at night.



### Take Note

If you see a Koala note the location & as much detail as possible. Take a pic & report it at [ScienceForWildlife.org](http://ScienceForWildlife.org)

### Call for Help

Report injured Koalas to WIRES or your local Wildlife Rescue Organisation.



### Plant a Tree

Plant Koala habitat trees! Contact your local Landcare, Bushcare or Science for Wildlife for more info.

### Have a Chat

Chat with friends & family about what you can do to support our local Koalas.



### Give Back

Volunteer with us [ScienceForWildlife.org](http://ScienceForWildlife.org) or your local Bushcare Group



# WEED BIOSECURITY

by Natalie James

Since July 2017 the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 has been replaced with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (The Act). Under the Act, all landowners, land managers, or anyone who 'deals' with priority weeds has a 'General Biosecurity Duty' to prevent, eliminate or minimise the Biosecurity Risk of Priority Weeds. The Act is implemented and enforced by the Local Control Authority (LCA), which in our region is the Hawkesbury River County Council. Our county also covers Blacktown LGA, Penrith LGA, and The Hills Shire LGA allowing us to operate at a landscape approach.

A Priority Weed is a weed that has the highest priority for management due to the impact on the environment, community, and economy and can encompass a region or across the state. Landowners are responsible for controlling Priority Weeds on their land. Our county Priority Weed List can be found on our website:

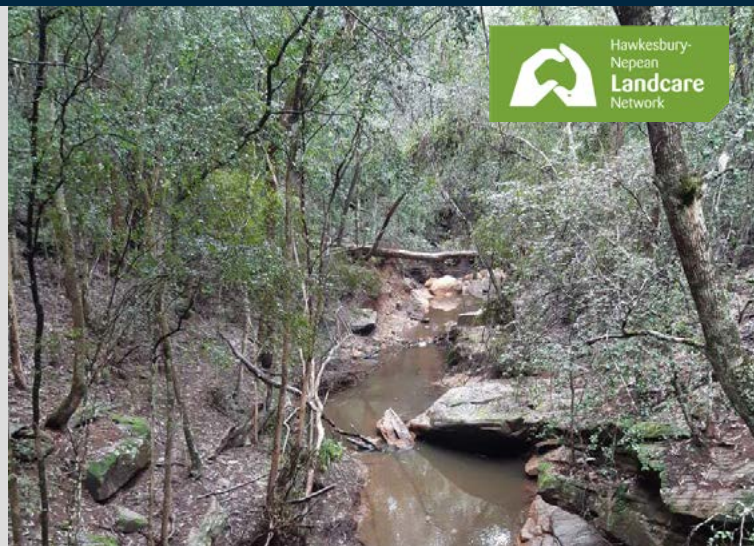
[hrcc.nsw.gov.au/weed-information/priority-weeds-list](http://hrcc.nsw.gov.au/weed-information/priority-weeds-list)

Our staff are more than happy to provide control advice via email or phone at [council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au) or **02 4574 9600**. Further weed information can be found at NSW Weed Wise: [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au)



Tiger pear *Opuntia aurantiaca* that was treated at Mulgrave.  
Photo – Natalie James

## ROBERTS CREEK LANDCARE IS BACK!



Roberts Creek, starting at the junction of Comleroy and East Kurrajong Road, and joining the Hawkesbury River at Lower Portland

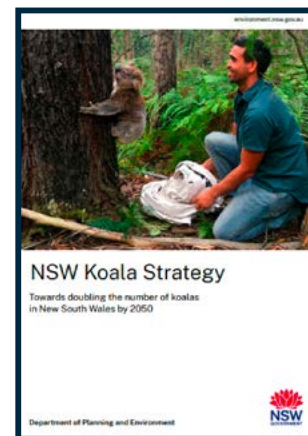
What do Powerful Owls, Koalas and You, have in common?! You all ♥ Roberts Creek! The Roberts Creek Landcare group are starting again and inviting the community and landholders to join and be part of efforts to – **Protect and Promote the values of Roberts Creek.**

The values we focus on are the historical, environmental, and social but we also want to hear from you, the residents, what you value about the catchment. Want to find out more or join our next event? Email [landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au) or call **0410 616 130**. We look forward to hearing from you!

## NSW KOALA STRATEGY

A new five-year strategy supports a range of conservation actions to provide more habitat for the koala, support local community action, improve koala safety and health, and build our knowledge to improve koala conservation. Greater Sydney will benefit with millions of dollars to be invested in this region. For more information, see

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/programs-legislation-and-framework/nsw-koala-strategy)



# THE DELICATE ART OF NATIVE PROPAGATION

by Aria-Joshes Keeshan

Since volunteering at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and Bushcare I have gained a strong appreciation for all Australian native plants. Although my deep research on the Australian ecosystem has taken a bit of a backseat while I plan my wedding, I have used a bush theme wedding to still keep a focus on Australian native plants in a creative sense.

During this hectic time, I've been slowly learning about native plant propagation as well as gaining experience at the nursery and I find that native propagation is a lot more delicate and challenging than regular plants. I find that the different aspect to propagating native plants is more interesting and fun because some plants require their own individual methods and techniques. After several weeks I was able to propagate one of my medicine trees from a cutting in water and I got pretty excited when it grew a root. The second most fascinating native plant propagation technique I have been learning is growing Lilly Pillies from seed. So, I learnt that you have to sow the seed fresh, but slightly fermented. We achieved this by leaving the seeds in a closed bag or bucket for two weeks before sowing.

On Gardening Australia, they explained that some native plants need special substances to grow such as ash for plants that normally need to germinate from sites where there have been recent fires. Recreating these unique growing conditions make native propagation a unique talent and rare art form that I would like to learn more and more about as environmental restoration becomes more and more essential to our wellbeing.



*Lilly Pilly seedlings I tubed up during one of my nursery volunteer days.  
Photo - Aria-Joshes Keeshan*

## HAWKESBURY LIVING SUSTAINABLY WORKSHOPS

### Hawkesbury Living Sustainably Workshop Series

Are you looking to build your knowledge and skills in living more sustainably? Council offers free face-to-face and online workshops for all residents living in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area to learn about a variety of sustainability topics.

Upcoming workshops can be found on Living Sustainably section of the Council website:  
[www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/living-sustainably/sustainability-workshops](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/living-sustainably/sustainability-workshops)



### Hawkesbury's Urban Forest Strategy

Council has successfully secured \$50,000 of grant funding under the Greener Neighbourhoods Grant Program.

The funding will be used to develop an Urban Forest Strategy, which will provide strategic direction on current and future green infrastructure within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, strengthening our work in creating cooler and greener neighbourhoods.

You can find more details about the projects funded under the Greener Neighbourhoods Grant Program using the interactive map below:

[dpe.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/great-public-spaces#/sidebar/tab/greener\\_neighbourhoods](http://dpe.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/great-public-spaces#/sidebar/tab/greener_neighbourhoods)



*This Project is part of the Greener Neighbourhoods Grant Program that is proudly funded by the NSW Government.*

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!