

## PLATYPUS EDNA RESULTS

by Matilda Julian

We have recently received the lab results from the community's eDNA testing for Platypus – and now we want to share the good news!

- Last year a group of Kurrajong and Bilpin locals set out to confirm where Platypus are living in the wider Kurrajong area, particularly post fires and floods.
- With the help of Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) and Dr Michelle Ryan University of Western Sydney (UWS), they organised a citizen science event in March this year whereby community members living alongside a creek could take home an eDNA test, take a sample, and return it for testing.
- Dr Michelle Ryan from UWS provided 12 eDNA tests for sites between North Richmond all the way up to Berambing. She and her team are currently studying Platypus (including checking their health and tracking them) in the greater Hawkesbury area.
- Results were recently returned and of the 12 tests, 7 came back positive! This firmly establishes the presence of Platypus at those 7 sites.
- The 7 (positive test sites) sites include Bilpin (Upper Tootie Creek), Kurrajong Hills (Blue Gum Creek and Little Island Creek), and Kurrajong (several sites along Little Wheeny Creek).
- NB. Negative tests do not prove that Platypus are not present, it simply means that Platypus were not there at that site within approximately the last 24 hours.

### About Environmental (e)DNA:

- Aquatic animals release DNA into the water when they excrete faeces or urine or skin. Platypus are considered a good source of such DNA because they habitually urinate, defecate, and groom its fur while swimming, rummaging and floating. Their feet and bills are also covered in bare skin that rub up against rocks and branches and logs while foraging for food. Water samples can be taken to filter and amplify any tiny particles of DNA at a chosen site and are then sent to a lab to be tested for a known DNA type (in this case Platypus!).

### Knowing that Platypus live alongside us – how can we protect them?:

- Only use 'open-topped' yabby traps in dams and creeks – and yes – Platypus visit dams!
- Put a cage around your foot valve entry in your pump – Platypus are known to swim up them and get stuck as (interesting fact!) Platypus are not able to reverse.
- Keep litter away from waterways. Items most dangerous to Platypus are fishing line, cable ties, plastic bracelets, rubber bands, elastic hair ties, twine, 6-pack holders, pump and any plastic ring between 10 and 24cm.
- Fence off livestock from creek banks. The best habitat for Platypus has overhanging trees and branches, and solid banks for them to make burrows.

- Join your local Bushcare group! [rb.gy/iobfn3](http://rb.gy/iobfn3)
- If you spot a Platypus – report it to the Australian Platypus Conservancy: [platypus.asn.au](http://platypus.asn.au)

### Future Platypus event:

**March 2024 (date tbc) – Water bug day.** Invertebrates are the primary source of food for Platypus. Participants can learn to test for the 'bug' health of their waterway and suitability as Platypus habitat.

### More info about Platypus:

[platypus.asn.au](http://platypus.asn.au)

### Contacts:

Dr Michelle Ryan (UWS):

[m.ryan@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:m.ryan@westernsydney.edu.au)

Pat Smith (Platypus Working Group):

[kentolee@tpg.com.au](mailto:kentolee@tpg.com.au)



Dr Michelle Ryan taking an eDNA test sample



Peter Taseski, National  
Parks & Wildlife Service



For countless generations, First Nations communities of the region understood, maintained and practiced the use of fire within their everyday life from cooking and campfires to the use of fire to manage, protect and enhance different types of Country (natural systems/eco-systems). For First Nations peoples, fire also held significant ceremonial and spiritual importance, intimately connecting everyday life and the sacred.

Cultural Burning is a term used to describe the practice developed and maintained by First Nations peoples over millennia in the use of Traditional Fire Knowledge to manage the health of Country, which in turn ensured the health of people. Cultural burning is an adaptive process used for various purposes, such as ceremony, the protection of important cultural and natural features, the management and regeneration of food, medicines and material resources, enhancement of plant health, animal habitat protection and, overarchingly, the healing and balance of Country. This practice looks after the land, waters, plants and animals within Country, providing a highly productive source of food and abundant wildlife. This fulfilled the needs of First Nations communities while sustaining resources for future generations.

This deep-time knowledge, including the areas in Country where cultural fire was a continual part of the landscape, was disrupted and systematically ceased as a result of colonisation in this region. With the absence of Traditional Fire Knowledge and Cultural Burning, the nature of Country has changed, being further altered by increased wildfires and altered fire regimes.

However, there is growing awareness and desire from First Nations people as well as land and water managers, and the broader community, to understand, reclaim and reintroduce the role of fire in managing Country. Fundamentally this is reviving the holistic cultural relationship, knowledge and practice interwoven between people and fire. The reclamation is both an ecological and cultural journey, holding longer term consideration to carefully achieve. Within the Greater Sydney region, several agencies are supporting First Nations communities in this process. Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GSLLS) has taken an active role in assisting the revival of Traditional Fire Knowledge and Cultural Burning with an increasing number of Cultural Burning projects supported in recent years. To find out more please contact GSLLS around Caring for Country with Fire.

For a further local story about cultural fire on Country, please check out this article: [rb.gy/lozl06](http://rb.gy/lozl06)

To the left are photos from a burn at the end of winter in the Hawkesbury area, Scheyville National Park.

## EDITORIAL

Hello Bushcarers, Indian Myna trappers and general readers. This is a BIG BUMPER edition of Weed All About It! As opposed to a bumper edition.

This edition is a combo of what has been happening in and around Bushcare, as well as a year in review for 2023. I am extremely proud of the Hawkesbury Community and what they continually achieve. A Community that keeps on giving, that has a heart of gold and generosity that is sincere in all its worth.

Our volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery are like clockwork; at the nursery every Wednesday growing a myriad of native plants for their community. Our brilliant Bushcarers are creating a Hawkesbury that is rich in its plant biodiversity by controlling weeds, regenerating bushland, and creating a home for our diverse wildlife. A wildlife that comprises of 8 different possum species (I will never tire of that fact) and more. And HIMAGers, you are creating biodiversity with every Indian Myna eradicated.

Thank you caring contributors and thank you to those who made this edition what it is; from the printers, authors, proofreaders, designers and editors; enjoy the read.

Happy days, Marty Gauci

**Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG Facilitator | [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) | (02) 4560 4525**



# MUSEUM AND GALLERY WIN IMAGInE AWARDS

Two significant local cultural projects have won 2023 IMAGInE Awards from Museums & Galleries of NSW.

Against strong competition from museums and galleries across the NSW, Hawkesbury Regional Gallery won the Exhibition Projects Award for Dyarubbin and the Hawkesbury Regional Museum won the Engagement Programs Award for 'Bangadyi Nawi Making a Canoe'.

The Dyarubbin exhibition encouraged a deeper understanding of the Dharug people and their connection with Dyarubbin (the Hawkesbury River) while generating a sense of shared ownership of the past.

Bangadyi Nawi provided a transformative experience for local Aboriginal high school students who created a traditional canoe during an inter-generational camp, led by Elder Uncle Dean Kelly and with Uncle David Payne and Dharug Educator Erin Wilkins.

The awards recognised the significant engagement between the Gallery and the Museum with the Dharug community and Brewongle Environmental Education Centre (for Bangadyi Nawi Making a Canoe).

Visit the Bangadyi Nawi display at the Museum, 8 Baker Street, Windsor. Free entry!

[www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum) | [museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:museum@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) | (02) 4560 4655



*Making Bangadyi Nawi during the Canoe Camp*

# IT'S TOPS TO RECYCLE YOUR POTS



Council has partnered with Garden City Plastics to give local green thumbs the chance to take their old broken or used plant pots and have them recycled into brand new plastic plant pots. True circularity. Plastic pots which have the Plastic Code Number 5 (PP5) can be dropped off but ensure no soil is in the pot. For more information on nursery pot and tray recycling, see [www.gardencityplastics.com/sustainability](http://www.gardencityplastics.com/sustainability) | [www.pp5.com.au](http://www.pp5.com.au)

Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility | 1 The Driftway, South Windsor | Mon-Fri 8am-4pm last entry at 3:45pm  
Closed on all public holidays. (02) 4560 4444 [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Myrtle rust is infecting our Australian native trees and we're calling on the community to become Gum Tree Guardians to monitor the spread of the disease.

Myrtle rust is a fungal disease which impacts Australian native plants in the family Myrtaceae. Myrtaceae is a large family of shrubs, trees including our iconic eucalypts, paper barks, lilly pillies, tea trees and many more! Since its arrival in 2010, it has been detected in all Australian states and territories aside from South Australia. By monitoring the spread of the disease, scientists can gain valuable information about the different hosts it is infecting, and new areas it has spread to. This data enhances our understanding about the behaviour of the disease and monitor for any new strains of the pathogen entering Australia.

To monitor the spread of the disease, we are calling on the public to add their myrtle rust observations to the iNaturalist platform. iNaturalist is an online community of citizen scientists, naturalists and scientists which aims to collect observations of the earth's biodiversity. You can add new observations, or any historic images you may have. Every observation

contributes to our knowledge of the disease. Be on the lookout for bright yellow spores infecting the leaves, stems, fruits, or flowers of Myrtaceous species.

If you do see it:

- Look but don't touch. The spores can spread easily if touched so it's best to avoid touching the plants if you can.
- Take a close up photo of the infection and a photo of the plant.
- Upload your photo to iNaturalist and, if you know it, include the name of the plant in the comments

For more information head to the iNaturalist project website to find out how you can contribute [www.inaturalist.org.au/projects/gum-tree-guardians](http://www.inaturalist.org.au/projects/gum-tree-guardians) or contact Alyssa Martino at [alyssa.martino@sydney.edu.au](mailto:alyssa.martino@sydney.edu.au)



*Myrtle rust: Melaleuca quinquenervia*

## VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS THANK YOU 2023

Thank you to all the Volunteers that were able to join us for the Council Volunteer Christmas Party on Tuesday, 28 November at Richmond Club. It was a great lunch, with many Bushcare and Nursery volunteers coming along. This event was a way for Council to say thank you for all the energy, effort and time that you put into Volunteering in Bushcare and the Community Nursery. The Volunteers from the Gallery, Museum, Library, Bushcare and Nursery came along to take part in the relaxing event with lots of food and laughter (added to by the Christmas joke competition).

We will be taking part in the National Volunteer week celebrations, on the week 20-26th May 2024, so we look forward to hosting another event then.

If you weren't at the lunch, there is a Christmas gift that you can pick up from the Nursery (for active Bushcare and Nursery volunteers). To arrange to pick up your Christmas gift; contact Marty on - (02) 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248

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



*A proud John from McMahon Park Bushcare with his Christmas gift*

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 (02) 4560 4525, or email: [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) We would love to hear from you.



We began at the St Albans School of Arts Hall with an overview of the area's geology and its influence on the tree species in the Macdonald Valley which abuts Yengo National Park and the Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

25 people came along to listen to the informative talks and see the presentations regarding the plant communities of the area and how to distinguish the common canopy and mid-storey species.

After the mandatory morning tea, 18 of us carpoled to Shepherds Gully track and ambled upwards through the dappled shade with many stops for plant/tree ID's given by our knowledgeable leaders, Jacob Philpott and Peter Mobbs. At the top, about 2.30pm, we stopped for a welcome sit down and lunch before returning via Devines Hill.

A plethora of Spring flowering shrubs and trees made the walk both interesting and most enjoyable. We also had the opportunity to see some Indigenous grinding grooves and reflect on the landscape prior to white settlement. Another brief detour provided glimpses of colonial history along the convict built Old Western Road towards the end of our walk.

Such a great day!

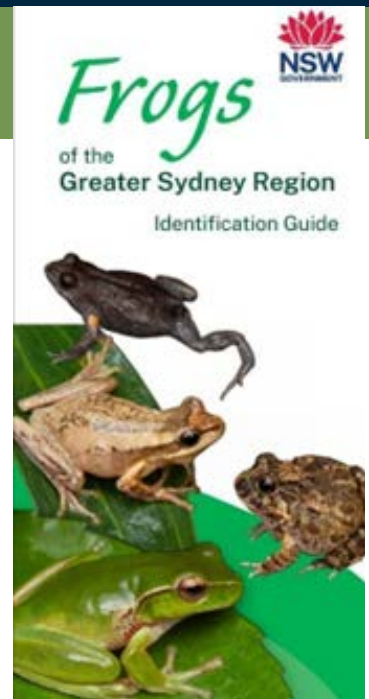
This event was part of A Sense of Place program presented by the St Albans School of Arts with monies from the Federal Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants.



## FROGS OF THE GREATER SYDNEY REGION IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Can you spot the differences between a frog and a cane toad? Let us help you know your friends from your foes!

Greater Sydney is home to 40 native frog species, including 9 endangered ones. To help protect frogs, download the booklet from [rb.gy/2okeuc](http://rb.gy/2okeuc) or call (02) 4724 2100 to get your hard copy.





# HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE



*Our vege growing green thumb team of Rosemary & Ken*



*Chris' cuttings*



*The happy, fun & productive Corporate Volunteers from Russell Investments*



*Jutta our Nursery Officer with plant of the month for October*

What a year it has been for the Hawkesbury Community Nursery (HCN). Over the past 12 months, we have grown over 50,000 plants. This has not been possible without our super awesome Nursery Volunteer Group; from growing veges, propagation of cuttings, collating seeds into databases, seed sowing and the ever so essential plant propagation.

The HCN propagates a large variety of plants for an array of different customers, including the general public, Hawkesbury & Penrith City Council, our Bushcare Groups, bush regeneration contractors, Landcare, local schools, Richmond TAFE, landscapers, developers, Greening Australia, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Greater Sydney Landcare and Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW).

As a supporter of local community events the HCN has helped create habitat and a greener community by donating plants. Some of these events have included:

- Hawkesbury Show
- NAIDOC event at Richmond Park
- School Leadership and Awareness Program
- Australia Day Citizenship Ceremonies
- Hawkesbury Fest
- Bushfire Recovery Program with FNPW, and
- Local school plant donation (all schools in the Hawkesbury LGA get 4 free plants a year from the HCN)

If your local community would like free plants from the HCN, a good avenue to fund this is via financial assistance through - [rb.gy/043v92](https://rb.gy/043v92) (see page 12)

In association with FNPW, the Corporate Volunteer program is an extremely fun and exciting opportunity to teach groups about nature and is a great help in our propagation needs; see [bit.ly/fnpwbr](https://bit.ly/fnpwbr) and [rb.gy/pfwg8d](https://rb.gy/pfwg8d)

It's groups like these that have helped the HCN achieve such incredible propagation outcomes.

Our vege growing green thumb team of Rosemary and Ken have produced a bounty harvest. It's amazing how much produce can be grown from just a few raised garden beds.

Cuttings from Chis has introduced an exciting plant diversity to the HCN. Some of which have included various species from the Banksia, Prostanthera, Hakea and the Grevillea genus; that would make any plant collector green with envy.

Have you seen our 'Plant of the Month' (POM) on the HCC facebook page? The HCN has been extremely lucky with the brilliant support with these posts from the HCC facebook team. My two favourite nursery posts for 2023 have to be May - [shorturl.at/eIY23](https://shorturl.at/eIY23) and October [shorturl.at/ceixX](https://shorturl.at/ceixX)

Keep an eye out for our POM for 2024; give it a like, share or comment and spread the word of the HCN.

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

# THE MAGIC OF MILL ROAD

Singletons Reserve in Kurrajong comprises of an abundance of wildlife. The Mill Road Bushcare Group were extremely fortunate to see their Bushcare site come alive in full its full glory a few weeks ago.

Firstly, they saw this beauty in the bush regeneration area. It was probably 1.7 metres long; the biggest Lace Monitor we can recall seeing in 20 years around here. It spent an hour or so in the area, there was lots of bird activity. You can imagine all those birds getting anxious for their eggs.

And secondly, for the icing on the cake; Melissa our Bushcare supervisor noticed some fresh scratch marks in a *Eucalyptus punctata*. Melissa looked up and look and low behold, you guessed it; a drop bear?; no a koala! Melissa said: "It was in one of the biggest trees in the reserve and nearly all the way up. The only way we could take a pic of it was through the binoculars!"

You can report all your Koala sightings and calls to Science for Wildlife at:

[www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project](http://www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project)

This is a great way to contribute to conservation of our iconic Aussie species. If you would like to join the Mill Road Bushcare Group, they meet on the 1st Friday of month from 9am to midday.

Or register your interest with Hawkesbury Bushcare at: [shorturl.at/mtzJZ](http://shorturl.at/mtzJZ)

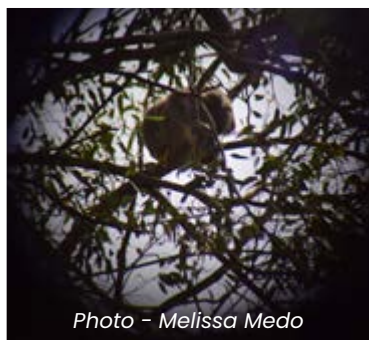


Photo - Melissa Medo

*The Koala looking through the binoculars.*



Photo - Eric Finley

*The Biggest Lace Monitor seen at Mill Road.*



Photo - Melissa Medo

*Eucalyptus punctata koala claw scratch marks*



Photo - Melissa Medo

*Mill Rd Bushcare Group looking up in excitement*

# HAWKESBURY FEST 2023

What a busy, brilliant and beautiful day we had at Hawkesbury Fest!

The Bushcare & Nursery stall was nonstop. This was thanks to the "Sustainability Stroll" kids passports that were activated between the combined effort of Bushcare, the Regional Gallery, Library and Museum, The Resource Recovery Team, the Environmental Sustainability Team, and The Community Nursery.

All stalls found themselves being engaged with the community the whole day where they hope they helped inform and educate their visitors. We look forward to seeing you at the next Hawkesbury Fest.



*Wendy as happy as ever giving out plants at Hawkesbury Fest*





Bird Tours with Eric The Bird Man has been an exciting addition to Hawkesbury Bushcare. We have had three bird tours and they did not disappoint.

Charles Kemp Reserve was a really amazing walk with several challenging species seen including the beautiful Rainbow Bee-eater, a female Painted Button-quail in the Western Sydney Dry Rainforest, and a flyover Black Bittern, a very shy type of Heron which hasn't been seen in the Hawkesbury for years.

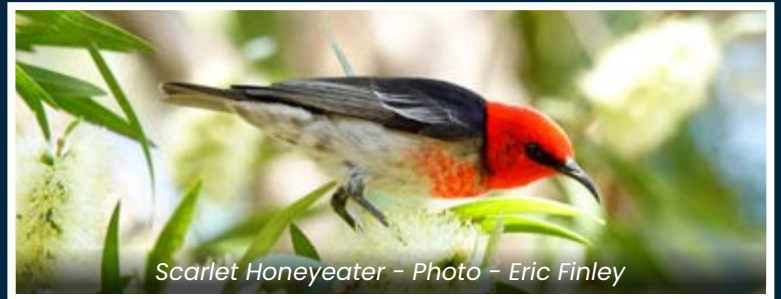
Matheson Park, always known for its koala habitat; served up a treat with the picturesque Sacred Kingfisher darting in and out of its burrow in the termite mound high up in the Eucalyptus teretercornis, complimented by the stunning Satin Bowerbird busily adjusting its bower on the forest floor; that was amazing!

For a full list of the birds seen and heard, see:

**Charles Kemp Reserve**  
[ebird.org/checklist/S153225538](http://ebird.org/checklist/S153225538)

**Matheson Park**  
[ebird.org/checklist/S152639680](http://ebird.org/checklist/S152639680)

**McMahon Park**  
[ebird.org/checklist/S150905155](http://ebird.org/checklist/S150905155)



Scarlet Honeyeater - Photo - Eric Finley

*The stunning Scarlet Honeyeater*

Merlin is the bird app ([merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org)) that Eric uses for calls. Download the free app then you need to download the Australia pack so all of the Australian bird species populate the app.

These bird tours were part of the Aussie Bird Count ([aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://aussiebirdcount.org.au)), something you can do in your backyard; look out for it in October '24. How many birds did you spot at home?

If you would like to join any of these Bushcare Groups, they meet on various days that include:

**Charles Kemp Reserve**  
4th Saturday of the month 9am-12noon

**Matheson Park**  
3rd Friday of the month 9am-12noon

**McMahon Park**  
4th Thursday of the month 9am-12noon

Additionally, register your interest with Hawkesbury Bushcare at: [shorturl.at/mtzJZ](http://shorturl.at/mtzJZ)



Photo - Melissa Medo

*Eric describing essential habitat for the triad of birds at Matheson Park*



Photo - Melissa Medo

*Matheson Park bird tour participants*



Photo - Melissa Medo

*Getting that perfect pic at Charles Kemp Reserve*



## GONE FISHIN'

by James Gordge and Dr Chris Turbill

Our environment needs bats! Fruit bats disperse pollen and seeds, spreading genes and restoring rainforests, and smaller, insect-eating bats help control insect populations including agricultural pest species and mosquitoes.

As a final year research project at Western Sydney University, Dr Chris Turbill and I decided to investigate how one species of insect-eating bat uses infrastructure such as bridges and culverts as daytime roosts within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

Why bridges? We were looking for Australia's only fishing bat – the Large-footed *Myotis Myotis macropus*, a specialist that forages only over water bodies. The species is listed as threatened in NSW.

We discovered that this species occurs widely across the Hawkesbury catchment, with bats found roosting under several bridges. Bats showed a preference for girder-type bridges, which provide crevices and lift holes that make suitable homes for these unique fishing bats.

This information is important for local councils when considering the renovation, demolition, or development of such infrastructure in the Hawkesbury region. Next time you're on the river at dusk, keep an eye out for a little fishing bat skimming across the water surface!



## FROGBIT RESPONSE IN OAKVILLE IN NOVEMBER 2022

by Natalie James, HRCC Weed Control Coordinator

Frogbit response in Oakville in November 2022 by Natalie James HRCC Weed Control Coordinator

A clever local resident identified a weed called Frogbit *Limnobium laevigatum* in a dam by checking the doing internet research and had reached out to contact Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC) for control advice. This then prompted further inspections in the area and sighting more dams were found to have Frogbit. Due to the size of the large infestation across multiple properties, HRCC needed assistance and more boots on the ground to rapidly map out the incursion. area.

A joint weed surveillance operation was undertaken in the Oakville area last November to identify private properties that were infested with Frogbit. Across three days, people from multiple agencies and councils came together to help inspect over 600 properties for the presence of Frogbit. Over 37 new locations of Frogbit were found during the operation, and HRCC is currently working with landholders to eradicate this weed from the area.

If you suspect you have seen Frogbit, please contact HRCC at [weeds@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weeds@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)

Further weed information can be found at NSW Weed Wise: [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Frogbit](http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Frogbit)



# GROOT AT MATHESON

Matheson Park Bushcare Group were visited by Koala royalty the other week. Doctor Kellie Leigh from Science for Wildlife came to visit to explain the importance of koala conservation, tree habitat, koala populations throughout the Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury area, Koala scats, and introduce 'Groot', her eager and willing Koala Scat Detection Dog.

It was unanimous that Groot stole the show. Groot has been trained to detect koala scats (poo) and can locate koala scats in a 400 square metre area in under 60 seconds! The Matheson Park Bushcare Group were lucky enough to get an actual demonstration of this super sniffing K9 in action; not once, but twice! We were pretty excited about this, so we all guessed times to see how long it would take Groot to find the scat. Congratulations to Jade (17 seconds) and Sophie (46 seconds) for getting the closest detection times for the 1st and 2nd round respectively. Your prize is 'bragging rights'. To see more of Groot, go to:

[www.facebook.com/ScienceForWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/ScienceForWildlife)

With a surge in koala sightings of this awesome Aussie icon, and for an insight into koala habitat, conservation challenges; you can understand a bit more with this koala booklet produced by Science for Wildlife:

[www.scienceforwildlife.org/koalabooklets](http://www.scienceforwildlife.org/koalabooklets)

You can report all your Koala sightings and calls to Science for Wildlife:

[www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project](http://www.scienceforwildlife.org/how-to-help/join-our-koala-project)



Photo - Jodie

*A beautiful koala in a majestic Eucalyptus tereticornis*

This is a great way to contribute to conservation of our iconic Aussie species.

If you would like to join the Matheson Park Bushcare Group, they meet on the 3rd Friday of month from 9am to midday.

Or register your interest with Hawkesbury Bushcare at: [shorturl.at/mtzJZ](http://shorturl.at/mtzJZ)



*Times on hand*



*Groot, Dr Kellie Leigh and the Matheson Park Bushcare Group*



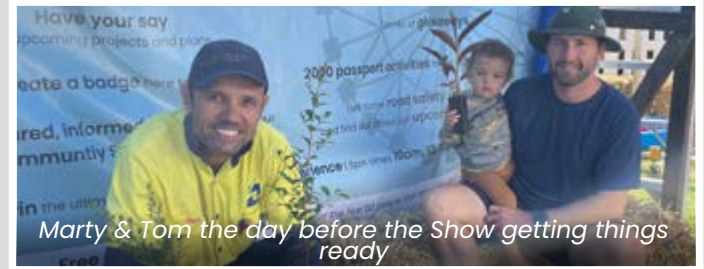
# HAWKESBURY SHOW 2023

Congratulations to all HCC staff & volunteers who were involved with the Hawkesbury Show in 2023. We were pretty chuffed to be awarded 'First Prize for Best Public Service Exhibit and Champion Trade Exhibit'. There is a lot of behind the scenes preparation involved with the Hawkesbury Show HCC tent.

We did not let the intermittent rain affect our preparation and involvement with our displays and helping visitors to our tent. We made sure we were activated and motivated! We had an array of displays from areas including roads and parks, badge making, cupcakes, guessing competition, Draft Operational Plan, Savour the Flavour, road safety, Bilpin's Apple Pie Trail, Regional Gallery, Museum and Library and the children's passport in partnership with multiple emergency services. The highlight for any green thumb and nature enthusiast had to be Tom from Hooked on Nature. He interacted with visitors with his native frog, cockroaches, huntsman spider, yabbies and his myriad of aquatic insects and invertebrates display. This complimented the 900 native plant giveaway from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery to encourage people at the Hawkesbury Show to create their own parcel of habitat, as well as cooling and greening their home.

More than 11,000 people came to see the displays at the Hawkesbury City Council tent, we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

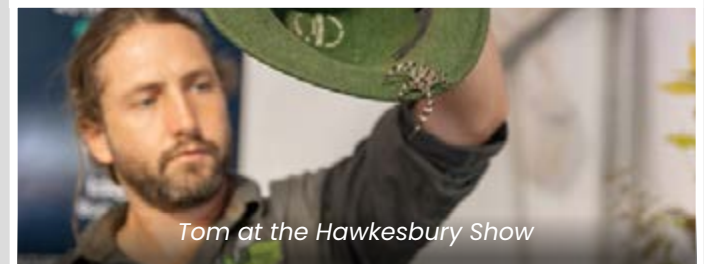
Did we see you at the Hawkesbury Show? You might even see your photo on the Hawkesbury Events Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/hawkesburyevents](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburyevents)



Marty & Tom the day before the Show getting things ready



Hawkesbury Community Nursery happy & proud of the Hawkesbury Show Award



Tom at the Hawkesbury Show



## HI FROM HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN LANDCARE

Hi, I'm Monique Bailey, and I am the new Local Landcare Coordinator for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network (HNLN). I have a background in bush regeneration and conducting conservation agreements, as well as coordinating educational nature activities for young children. Some of the study I have completed is a Cert 3 diploma in Conservation and Land Management at Ryde TAFE. My interests are identifying native flora and drawing native flora and fauna.

So far I have been lucky to attend a tree planting in Bilpin. The farmer Ned who hosted the day provided amazing food and conducted an informative discussion about how to sustainably manage your land using systems such as a chain of ponds to help irrigate the farm; see: [greatersydneylandcare.org/trees-for-bilpin-sustainable-farm](https://greatersydneylandcare.org/trees-for-bilpin-sustainable-farm)

Other events are platypus tree planting events along various creeks.

If events like this are of interest to you, please feel free to contact me.

0410 616 139 | (02) 4574 9601 | [landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.facebook.com/hawkesburynepeanlandcare](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburynepeanlandcare)  
[www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au](https://www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au)



L- Jess Styan, Hills Shire Environment Education Officer R - Monique Bailey, HN Local Landcare Coordinator at a platypus awareness presentation.

# FUNDING AVAILABLE COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

by Kimberly Allan

The Community Sponsorship Program enables Council to work in partnership with our community to build a vibrant, connected, and liveable Hawkesbury.

There are three categories:

## **Resilient Hawkesbury:**

Council may provide funding to community programs that help to build a connected, healthy, inclusive and resilient Hawkesbury. Maximum funding of \$3,000.

## **Participation:**

Financial assistance may be provided to support the participation of residents who have been selected to represent the Hawkesbury in State, National, or International sporting competitions and cultural events. The level of contribution is \$150 for individuals and \$750 for a team of five or more.

## **Access to Facilities:**

Not for Profit Community Groups located in the Hawkesbury or providing services to the Hawkesbury, can apply for financial assistance for a subsidy of 50% of the cost of hiring a Council or Community Facility up to a maximum contribution of \$750.

The next round opens 1 March 2024 and closes 31 March 2024.

For more details, see [rb.gy/043v92](https://rb.gy/043v92) or email [kimberly.allan@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kimberly.allan@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



## PREPARED, INFORMED AND READY



Are you ready to go in an emergency?

There are Get Ready videos to help you with your pets, plants, insurance, etc., and to help you prepare for an emergency on Councils Prepared, Informed and Ready page at:

[www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/prepared-informed-and-ready](https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-residents/prepared-informed-and-ready)  
[bushfireresilience.org.au/resource-hub](https://bushfireresilience.org.au/resource-hub)

These links are a great information source on heatwaves, flood, bushfires, and storms; know your risk.

Get your free Grab and Go Bag [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/prepared](https://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/prepared)

Or visit weekly Community Hubs between 9:30am and 1pm at:

- Wilberforce School of Arts Hall, 531 Wilberforce Road - Wednesdays
- Colo Heights Hall, 2996 Putty Rd, Colo Heights - Thursdays
- St Albans School of Arts Hall, 7 Upper Macdonald Road, St Albans - Fridays

Come into one of the hubs and enjoy exercise classes, art and craft classes or learn how to improve your IT skills. Community Hubs are closed during the school holidays.



# BE HEAT SMART – TIPS FOR KEEPING COOL OVER SUMMER



The Hawkesbury Community Nursery was lucky enough to partner up with Council's Community Planning & Partnerships Team to provide some tips to assist residents to keep cool over Summer.

We have produced a short video on how planting trees and creating shade will help to cool our houses and gardens, so you don't lose your cool, over Summer.

You can also share this video with friends or family members, to help them to create shade and cooler spaces, and keep their cool over Summer!

Plants provide many other benefits, along with providing shade and through evapotranspiration, they also:

- Absorb carbon dioxide,
- Filter and clean the air,
- Reduce and filter noise,
- Provide us with building materials and food,
- Maintains healthy soil quality and prevents soil erosion,
- Food and habitat for animals,
- Provides us with the clothes we wear,
- Aesthetically improves our living spaces, both indoors and outdoors,
- Improves our mental health and wellbeing,
- Provide the essential ingredients in the everyday medicines we use.
- But my favorite, and the most crucial benefit of plants is that they provide us with
- Oxygen and the fresh clean air that we need to breathe and survive!

The link to the video is below.

[fb.watch/o9p8lzjU7P/?mibextid=Nif5oz](https://fb.watch/o9p8lzjU7P/?mibextid=Nif5oz)

Come and see us at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery (see page 6) to get your plants, and create your space to keep your cool, for the future Summers to come.



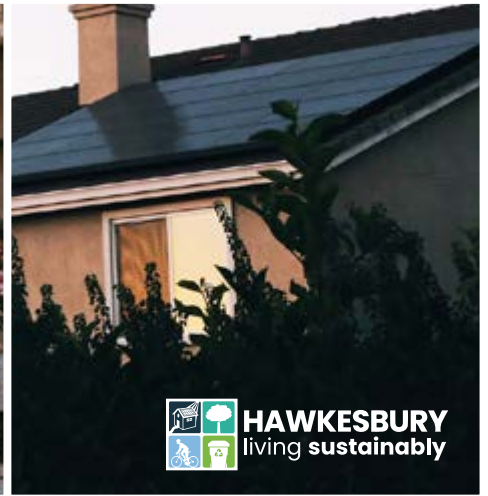
# SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

Are you looking to build your knowledge and skills in living more sustainably?

Hawkesbury City 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. To see upcoming workshops, please visit [shorturl.at/fjyB3](https://shorturl.at/fjyB3)

Some past and future workshops include: Check and Tune bike service, Solar and Energy Efficiency, Composting, Solar Power and Batteries, Reusable Nappies, Waterwise gardens, Plastic-Free Living, Wormfarming, Food Waste Avoidance and more!

For further enquiries regarding the Living Sustainably workshops, please contact Council on **(02) 4560 4444** or email [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) and ask to speak to Council's Sustainability Officer.



HAWKESBURY BUSHCARE

## GET ON BOARD!



2024 is just around the corner; and what a great way to start it, by joining your local Bushcare Group.

- Think global act local.
- Meet new people.
- People who volunteer feel better about themselves.
- Get healthy in the process.

For more information in how to get started with Hawkesbury Bushcare, contact Martin Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council, Community Bushcare Officer.

(02) 4560 4525 | 0413 195 248 | [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Register your interest with Hawkesbury Bushcare at: [shorturl.at/mtzJZ](https://shorturl.at/mtzJZ)



# HAWKESBURY COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

If you place Hazardous waste items like batteries, gas bottles and motor oil in your yellow lid recycling bin, it can pose a serious safety and fire risk to staff working at the Materials Recovery Facility. Now you can drop off certain hazardous waste items free of charge at the Hawkesbury Community Recycling Centre (CRC), located at the Hawkesbury City Waste Management Facility at 1 The Driftway, South Windsor. CRCs are NSW Environmental Protection Authority funded permanent drop-off centres for common household problem waste that cannot be disposed of through your kerbside collection services or your red, yellow or green lidded bin. You can drop off your:

- gas bottles
- fire extinguishers
- paint
- fluro globes and tubes
- car and household batteries
- motor and other oils
- smoke detectors
- Computers
- Televisions
- Textiles
- Cardboard and Paper
- and through Revolve Recycling, you can drop off your unwanted bikes.

The Hawkesbury CRC is open every day (except public holidays) from 8am to 4pm, with the last entry at 3:45pm. For more information visit Council's website under 'Waste Management Facility' and look for the Hawkesbury Community Recycling Centre or call Hawkesbury Council on 4560 4444 and ask to speak to Council's Sustainability Officer. Only household quantities of materials will be accepted and must be transported in containers no larger than 20L. Up to 100L of paint and oil is accepted, with each container to be no larger than 20L.

For the full list of what the Hawkesbury CRC accepts, see [shorturl.at/yA048](https://shorturl.at/yA048)



## NOCTURNAL NATURE SAFARIS 2024, COMING SOON

The ever so popular Hawkesbury Bushcare Nocturnal Safaris, with Naturalist and Ecologist Tom Covell from Hooked On Nature, [www.hookedonnature.com.au](http://www.hookedonnature.com.au) are always on everyone's radar. Three events have been set aside from February to April.

The Nocturnal Safari never seems to disappoint, Tom is totally engaging, extremely knowledgeable and has an eagle for everything nature. Frogs, microbats, owls, koalas, sugar gliders, nightjars, or any other number of insects may be some of the amazing wildlife we could encounter.

"Our kids all had a blast and learnt a lot. Cheers to the Hawkesbury and our beautiful nature. Much appreciated. Claire"

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 [www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hawkesburycitycouncil)



*Insect sweep nets in use*



*Green Tree Frog found on a log*

# HAWKESBURY INDIAN MYNA ACTION GROUP (HIMAG) UPDATE



HIMAG is a coordinated community project to improve the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury area through community education and humane control of Indian Myna Birds.

The Hawkesbury Men's Shed have been making Indian Myna traps (Pee Gee Trap) for more than 10 years and have now got their construction down to an art form. The dynamic group they have taken their environmental endeavours to the next level.

With a bit of advice and a few suggestions from wildlife ecologist Peter Ridgeway from the Greater Sydney Local Services, the Men's Shed are now making some amazing nest boxes. The nestboxes are targeting those fauna species that make the Hawkesbury just that bit more special. Including species such as Microbats, Feathertail & Squirrel Gliders, Pygmy Possum, Red-rumped Parrot and Pardalotes. The book the Men's Shed is using is the 'Build your own Wildlife Nest Box. A guide for Western Sydney' [shorturl.at/ktBFM](https://shorturl.at/ktBFM)

## Hawkesbury Men's Shed

23 Bosworth Street, Richmond,  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday 8am-1pm  
0411 776 879 | [hawkesburymensshed16@gmail.com](mailto:hawkesburymensshed16@gmail.com)

For Indian Myna trapping techniques and advice, contact:  
Martin Gauci, Hawkesbury City Council, Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator.  
(02) 4560 4525 | 0413 195 248 | [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



Peter with the Hawkesbury Men's Shed, various nest boxes and an Indian Myna trap, giving his stamp of approval.

Weed All About It – Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program Volume 23 Issue 1 Summer 2023.  
This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.