

## Bushcare unveiled in St Albans

**W**hat a great day we all had at St Albans to unveil the new Bushcare sign in St Albans Park. The new sign highlights and informs the community and visitors to the Park the great work that the St Albans Village Weed Wackers are doing along the Macdonald River within the park.

Prior to the unveiling we got stuck into a bit of bushregen, with most people picking a sunny spot to work, as it was just a little brisk. We targeted those regulars of Arundo donax, Turkey Rhubarb and Trad.

Councillor Jill Reardon arrived to show her keen and interested support on behalf of the Mayor Kim Ford and unveiled the Bushcare sign to a jovial and proud cheer from the Weed Wackers. A BBQ followed and we all enjoyed each other's company over a great feed.

This Bushcare sign is similar to those installed at Charles Kemp Reserve, Navua



Councillor Jill Reardon with the St Albans Village Weed Wackers

Reserve, Sunnyvale Bushies and Singeltons Reserve in Kurrajong. The sign was a great collaboration between Hawkesbury Bushcare and the Weed Wackers.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped create such a great sign and who turn up every month to show their support of the group and the valley. The St Albans Village Weed Wackers meet on the third Sunday of every month (9am-12noon) if you are keen to help restore the Macdonald River and wack a few weeds in the process come along and join them.

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## It's HEEN Time

So far if you have not heard of HEEN around the traps; it is the Hawkesbury Environmental Educators' Network. HEEN was formed in 2012 as a result from the ALIVE schools project in 2011. Those who would benefit from HEEN are those who have an interest in sustainable /environmental education.

Most of those who attend the HEEN meetings are various school teachers in and around the Hawkesbury of both primary and secondary (private & public) schools who have an interest in the fields, as well as universities, environmental education centres and local and state government areas that are involved in environmental and sustainability learning.

In late 2014 a HEEN meeting was held to discuss if the ongoing HEEN group would still be viable, as grant funding for the ALIVE project had come to an end. It was voted, or a group consensus was decided to continue with HEEN into 2015. As a result, a HEEN committee was formed. Those on the committee are – Steven Body, Joanne Cafiero, Martin Gauci, Steve Lans, Branimir Lazendic and Zhan Patterson.

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## Editorial

Hello everyone. I recently attended the funeral of Olympia Pearson and it was there I had the honour to say a few words and represent the sentiment of all the volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and Hawkesbury Bushcare. This can be seen on page two; I would like to thank the Pearson family for letting us publish this.

This edition once again has a bit of everything. The Green Army teams have come to an end, but stay tuned for more teams. For more information, go to the Hawkesbury Environment Network site – at <http://www.hen.org.au/>.

There is talk that 'Weed All About It' may get sent electronically. If you like receiving a hard copy of this newsletter, please provide me with some feedback.

Thank you to everyone who sent so many great articles for this edition, unfortunately we couldn't include every article – there was just not enough room, but never fear, your great articles will more than likely make the next edition, so stay tuned! Happy Days!

Marty Gauci  
Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG Facilitator



If you are interested in being involved in any of the Hawkesbury Bushcare sites, have any enquiries 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.

# Thanks for the Veges

By Kay Rowe

In 2014, at the Bushcare Landcare awards I was awarded the Environmental Volunteer of the Year because of the work I am involved with at Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia Bushcare Group and Lunchtime Landcare that I coordinate at Kurrajong East Public School.

As well as receiving the perpetual trophy I was given a gift voucher to receive fresh Hawkesbury produce delivered to my door from Hawkesbury Harvest Hampers.

To have fresh local produce delivered upon request must be the best prize I have ever received. I have received produce such as: local eggs, rainbow chard, mushrooms, organic pumpkin from Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre, spring onions, persimmons, lemons from Tomah Farm, sweet potato and organic Jerusalem artichokes from Remony Farm, rhubarb, pears and apples from Pine Crest orchards, and other great veggies from Riverview Produce.



My work with both these groups continues this year with work at Woodbury Reserve Glossodia involving the removal of Mother of Millions which are flourishing along with the Trad – don't they love the rain!!!

For my day job I am the School Admin Manager of Kurrajong East Public School where I perform administration and financial duties for the successful organisation of the school. During my lunch break every Wednesday I have a group of enthusiastic students who are keen on learning all there is to know about Landcare.

Last year the group and I successfully organised a community planting day at our school where we have been transforming our gardens with all native plants. This project is ongoing this year and we have installed birdbaths in our bird garden, drinking trays and logs for lizard habitat and have planted many new natives.

During the winter months we headed back into the bush in our school playground where we have a beautiful patch of Cumberland Plain Woodland that we try and keep weed free. The students and I have learnt to identify many weeds which we have found and try to control.

I would like to thank Hawkesbury City Council, Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Hawkesbury Harvest for this wonderful award and thank them for their continued support of Bushcare and Landcare in the Hawkesbury Area.

## WeedWise App and Noxious Weed Control Book

For those who have not seen it, NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has developed a new smartphone app called "NSW WeedWise". It incorporates the NSW DPI Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook and provides information such as the impact, spread and distribution of weeds, their classification and control methods.

You can download it for free from Google Playstore or iTunes. <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/nsw-weedwise/id966457643?mt=8>



For those of you, who would like a hard copy of the NSW DPI Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook, contact Marty Gauci (contact details front page).

For those of you who have used the NSW WeedWise app, NSW DPI are keen for your feedback before they build NSW WeedWise 2.0. To complete this online survey, go to - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHXJ3DX>, survey closes 16th October 2015.

## In Memory of Olympia

I first met Olympia at a community event in 2008, where I was promoting the Community Nursery; but Olympia seemed a little weary of me and didn't really seem that interested at all in what I had to say about the nursery. A few months later, I was at a similar event and met Olympia again. It was at this encounter she seemed slightly more interested in the nursery and decided to come along to see what all the fuss was about.

Maybe she came along to the nursery because her kids went to the high school across the road and it helped her keep an eye on them.

Or maybe it was an avenue where she could bring Gabby along to pass down some plant knowledge from mother to daughter. Or a just a perfect outlet for a true love of growing plants.

As time passed Olympia grew a true sense of ownership, passion and love for the nursery. As with people, she loved all plants and saw value in everything green.

Olympia was the Community Nursery's leading hand, the 2IC, and in the words of John Jose, she was as it were "MRS NURSERY".

She treasured every little seedling and would have a look of distress if any plant was considered not fit to be potted up and had to be, dare I say discarded. We dare not cross her, for she did not tolerate incompetence. She wanted the best for all the plants grown.

She was the master of the non-verbal facial expression.

A warm loving person, which was displayed by the affection and devotion to her family.

Always ready to pass on her green thumb skills and her tricks of the trade, Olympia was always happy, friendly, patient and helpful. By the end of 2008 Olympia was leading the way at the nursery and was awarded the "Hawkesbury Community Nursery – Green Thumb of the Year Award at the annual Bushcare Landcare Awards" – she was as proud as punch.

Sweet, gentle, wise, caring and thoughtful; behind the scenes she was always thinking of others. Always having a few persuasions, suggestions and nominations for her fellow nursery friends to be recognised for their accomplishments within and further afield.

We all loved her floral hat; it was warm and welcoming, it gave her character and made her an individual.

Later, Olympia took to growing veges at the nursery and so too passed on her knowledge and skills with what could be grown and eaten – nothing would be wasted.

Olympia was one of the stalwarts, originals that helped make the nursery what it is today. A vibrant hub of greenery, talk, propagation, laughs, cups of tea, debates, conversation, work and fun.

The world has lost an amazing woman; we will miss you Olympia, but your spirit lives on at the nursery.



## National Tree Day at the Nursery

Another winner for the residents of the Hawkesbury, with over 1000 plants given to community members over two days as part of the National Tree Day event on Saturday 8 and Monday 10 August. This was the 3rd year that the plant giveaway has occurred at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and once again has proven to be very popular amongst local residents.

It was great to see residents from all over the Hawkesbury take advantage of this event. From Vineyard to Bilpin and Yarramundi to Webbs Creek,

over 30 suburbs were represented in the giveaway. More than 500 people attended the event and I don't think they were disappointed from what was on offer. This consisted of 30 different plant species ranging from trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. Some of these plants were – Trees – various gum trees, paperbarks, Kurrajongs and Native Frangipanis. Shrubs – Wattles, Banksias, Tea trees and Mint bushes. Groundcovers – Hibbertias, Native violets and Paper Daisies. For a full list of what is currently in

stock at the community nursery, go to - <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment2/bushcare/community-nursery>

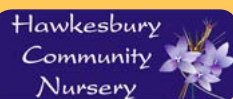
This event would not have been possible and would not have been a success without the great help that the



Charles, Wendy & Marty with the plant tokens at the plant giveaway.

there. The volunteers were also in strong attendance at the plant giveaway days and were there to provide both professional and valuable help and advice. The Hawkesbury Bushcare program is extremely lucky to have such a fantastic productive group.

Thank you very much Community Nursery Volunteers your green thumbs are grand!!



volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery do. From seed collection, seed sorting and labelling, seed germination and then to growing the plants; but it does not stop

## A friendly visit



Earlier this year we had both staff and community nursery volunteers from Willoughby and Hornsby Council visit the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. With a bus load of people in attendance, this was a great way to share information with other community nurseries.



The volunteers and staff from these nurseries got a lot out of the visit as too have the Hawkesbury Community Nursery Volunteers and staff, as they had visited Hornsby Community Nursery previously.

It's always nice to have friendly visitors and we look forward to the next visit from other neighbouring community nursery volunteers to share our ideas, information and to inspire each other.

## Green Army in Kurrajong

by The GA team in Kurrajong

The Green Army is a hands on program for young Australians to be trained in bush regeneration. Our team of 8 works at McMahon Park, Remony Farm and Yellomundee Regional Park. We spend most of our time removing Lantana, Privet, Erharta, African Lovegrass and Paddy's Lucerne.



The Ehrharta Warriors at McMahon Park, Kurrajong!

At McMahon Park, we have learnt a wide range of both weed and native plant species. We have also learnt the importance of removing invasive species, which we do by hand pulling, cutting and painting, or crowning. A highlight has definitely been the wild plant rescue of the Coachwoods with Trish. It's always nice and rewarding to do something just a little bit different.

From this work, we have gained first-hand experience and new knowledge about the Australian bush and we are enjoying being able to work as a team to make a difference.

## FREE Bird Tours for Bird Week

Celebrate National Bird Week 2015 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! 19-25 October 2015 is National Bird Week and thousands of people from across the country are heading out into their backyards, local parks and favourite open spaces to take part in the second annual Aussie Backyard Bird Count!



The best bird hide in the Hawkesbury

Not only will you get to know your feathered neighbours, but you'll be contributing to a vital pool of information from across the nation that will help us see how Australian birds are faring.

For more information and to get involved in the count, go to – <http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week> and <http://www.aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

To support National Bird Week and help you brush up on your bird identification

skills, Hawkesbury Bushcare will be holding 2 bird watching tours in October with resident Cumberland Bird Observers' Club member and keen ornithologist Keith Brandwood.

These events are – **Tuesday 13 October 2015 – 7.30am Pitt Town – Inhabitants of our precious wetlands**

We should see plenty of Herons, Egrets, Ibis, Swampheens, Coots, Dusky Moorhens, five or six species of duck and migratory birds from Russia/Siberia providing conditions are suitable.

**Saturday 17 October 2015 – 5.45am Ebenezer - Hear and see the operatic dawn chorus**

Birds to be seen include; Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous, Golden Whistler, Mistletoe Bird, Crested Shrike-tit, Scarlet Honeyeater, Eastern Yellow Robin and White-throated Gerygone, are just a few of the 50 plus species we should see.

What to bring – binoculars, closed footwear, some water and a light snack. Places are limited, so book early. For further information or to book your spot, please contact. Council's Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560 4525 or email [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).



# Bushcare in Hobartville

Earlier this year, a group of community proud residents joined forces at Clean Up Australia Day in Hobartville. There, they put their energy into Laurence Street Reserve (near Hobartville shops) and collected over 30kg of rubbish consisting of cans, bottles and general rubbish. These residents are keen to continue this great work and would like to take the next step to see if there are any other residents who would like to join them and take ownership of Laurence Street Reserve.

Within this reserve there are a number of old remnant native trees that serve as great habitat with their hollows for local bird life and other fauna. There are also a significant amount of revegetated areas along the various drainage lines. Future works that the group would like to undertake include -

- Continual rubbish removal, to beautify the reserve
- Remove weeds and plant a wider variety of native plants that will aesthetically improve the reserve and add to the plant diversity; which will hopefully



The multi-storey high rise accommodation for fauna

bring in different native bird species to the site. There are similar groups throughout the Hawkesbury that undertake this work. If you are interested in taking ownership of your local reserve in

Hobartville, please contact Martin Gauci, Community Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248 or [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) to express your interest.

## Heen Time continued from page 1

This committee has now established its "Mission and Aims", to see these, go to -

<http://brewongleec.com/teacher-learning/hawkesbury-environmental-educators-network-heen/>



For 2015, HEEN meetings have been held in May and August at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery and Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre, respectively, with a great following of interest (see pic above). For the minutes of both of these meetings, see the above link.

## The next meeting will be held at

Thursday 29 October, 2015

Host: Kurrajong Public School

Time: 3.30pm-5.15pm

1111 Grose Vale, Kurrajong

[Joanne.Cafiero@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Joanne.Cafiero@det.nsw.edu.au)

If HEEN is too far for you to travel; have a look at the below link, it may help you find an Environmental Educators' Network in your area - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/connect/envnetwork.htm>

## The Macweeds Blog

By David  
Rawlinson

One way we can all help each other in the battle against weeds is to pass on what we have learnt. Letting others know what methods you have

used, what worked and what didn't is a great way to give the next person a head start.

**"The goal is never to just kill a weed but to repair a damaged environment."**

For a good example, take a look at the MacWeeds blog <http://macweeds.blogspot.com.au/> Macweeds follows Vera Zaccari and David Rawlinson's ongoing efforts to control Arundo Donax on their Macdonald River property. The different eradication techniques trialed and lessons learned are well documented and a very useful resources section provides more information on weed control and bush regeneration.



## Grow to the challenge

By Pamela Rutledge

The Green Army team deployed to the Hawkesbury region, sponsored by the Hawkesbury Environmental Network, is on a search and destroy mission for noxious weeds in the area, focusing mainly on Cat's Claw Creeper. Currently, we are managing 6 sites over a 6 month period and hope to significantly decrease the weed problem and encourage biodiversity to the area. Our sites include Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and Western Sydney Dry Rainforests that are classed as Endangered Ecological Communities.

In addition, we have been undergoing learning activities to aid in our field work. This includes bush regeneration skills such as plant identification, planting and weed control, as well as first aid and cultural awareness.

Our team consists of young adults aged between 20-23 years from different backgrounds including university graduates, retail, construction and wildlife handling, led by the legendary Michael Galvin who has a strong conservation background. We jointly believe that this opportunity will enable us with the skills for future employment in environmental fields.

Our team is united in our goals to restore the native beauty of the Hawkesbury region and believe that our work will attract wildlife back to the area and increase the biodiversity that has been lost over time. Our efforts will have a lasting impact enabling the bushland to regenerate and future generations to appreciate the Hawkesbury's natural heritage.



The participant's names are Elise Hardiman, Pamela Rutledge, Lachlan Manning, Joel Hurdle, Rebecca Sutton and Adriana



# Bede Polding Eco Group @ George St Rv

by Jennifer Goedde

A plain, run down bush trail to the naked eye but to the keen, environmentally aware eyes of my fellow volunteers a gold mine of endangered species and natural potential. This little slice of beauty is one of the last remaining patches of Cumberland Plain Woodland remaining in our area, much of it having been cleared to make way for infrastructure or destroyed by livestock. Once a month a group of students from Bede Polding College lead by environmental hero, Steve Lans take the journey to George Street (on foot of course), where we meet with our supervisors Marty, Karen, Marrisa and Julie. Armed with trowels, gloves, long pants and appropriate sun protection we take up arms.

This Shale Gravel Transition Forest, or as I like to call it, the peaceful battle ground, is home to more than 89 inadequately conserved native flora species threatened by almost as many weeds. Erharta, African Lovegrass and the dreaded Mother of Millions are among those we are attempting to remove from the site. This shaky ecosystem is home to native fauna, mostly birds including the Australian Magpie and the Eastern Rosella. The fauna as well are locked in an epic battle of survival against introduced species such as the fierce house cat (don't don't!). But that's not all, our site is also threatened by flooding, the nearby oval is of course protected by drains however any excess water is carried direct to an over-flow pit unhelpfully located at the north western

corner of our reserve. If we wish to save this area we must act quickly!

Lead by Marty we volunteers are set to fight for glory and tip the scales of good and evil. Our monthly visits consist of briefing, safety, all out warfare, jokes, puns, laughter, deposition of our deceased foe in the compost heap and a sad walk back to school. The passion of our fellow volunteers is inspiring and uplifting, and what can beat the satisfying feeling of chucking a weed over your shoulder content in your victory (after of course making sure that there are no exposed seeds). As the compost heap grows so do our hearts, our happiness and our thirst for victory.



Photo - Steve Lans

Bush regeneration isn't something you can accomplish overnight. It takes inordinate amounts of time and dedication to free an ecosystem from its leafy green oppressors. Even then a sight must be monitored to deal with any regrowth while what's left of Cumberland Plain Woodland stabilizes itself. The gardening glove has been thrown down, do you accept the challenge?

George St Reserve Bushcare Group meets every 4th Sunday of the month from 9am to 12noon, all welcome. Contact Martin Gaudi PH: 4560 4525 or email [martin.gaudi@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gaudi@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) if you are interested in joining the fight.

## CUMBERLAND LAND CONSERVANCY by Wayne Olling



A new initiative has arisen and it comes at a critical time for protection of flora and fauna habitat.

Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc aims to obtain land and put it under conservation management in perpetuity to ensure land of habitat value and/or connectivity does not end up being developed by default.

Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc will work on the same pattern as other community land conservancies or trusts which have operated successfully in Tasmania and Great Britain.

As such, corporate and private benefactors, government and various grants schemes will provide the bulk of income for acquiring land, inserting a Voluntary Conservation Agreement on the title deed and managing the land for conservation in perpetuity.

Tax deductible gift recipient status will necessitate Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc having at least 50 financial members. The membership fee is \$10pa.

Joining the conservancy can be a minimum you can do to protect flora and fauna habitat on the

Cumberland Plain. If you want to do more that is open to you. Within the conservancy each member has as much rights as others under the constitution.

Go to [www.cumberlandlc.org.au](http://www.cumberlandlc.org.au) to find out more and to join. It will sure help!

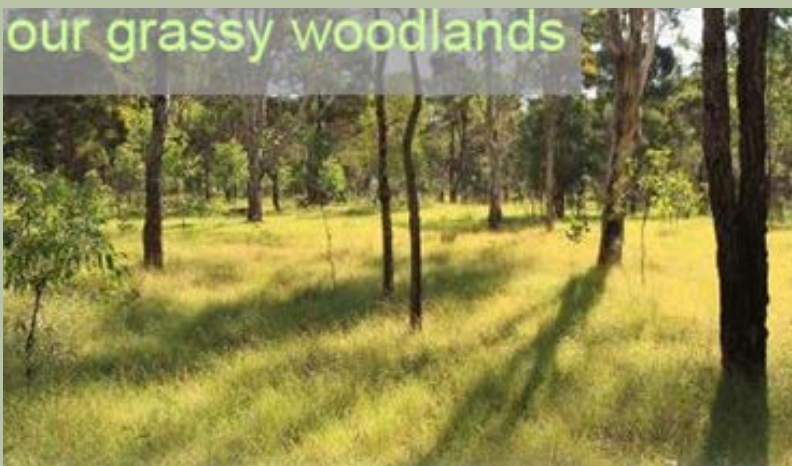


Photo - Peter Ridgeway

# Creating Hollows for Habitat by Jenny Schabel GS LLS



SydneyOlympicPark

Greater Sydney Local Land Services held a one-day "Hollows for Habitat" forum recently at the Newington Armory, aimed at training managers of bushland in retaining and restoring woody habitat features for native wildlife.

The forum attracted significant interest, with 200 representatives from government agencies, local councils, Bushcare groups, universities, arborist and bush regenerator businesses, as well as wildlife carers and students, from across the Greater Sydney region. New innovations were showcased including modified nest boxes and chainsaw pruning to create hollows within trees. The presenters were very generous in sharing their knowledge and experiences.

There were 10 talks from a range of presenters on the day including Dr Tanya Leary from National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Dr Ross Goldingay from Southern Cross University, who both emphasised the need for good monitoring programs. Other topics discussed on the day included:

- Designing, monitoring and maintaining nest boxes,
- Pruning trees to create habitat,
- Adding coarse woody debris for habitat, and
- Case studies on Red-Rumped Parrots, Pygmy Possums and Microbats.

The sunny afternoon provided perfect weather to enjoy a chainsaw habitat pruning demonstration and a tour of the nest boxes installed in the Newington Reserve.

Feedback from the delegates who attended included:

*"Loved hearing from arborists who had a highly holistic perspective of trees hollows ecosystems and landscapes".*

*"Loved the case studies, loved the chainsaw demonstration, loved the research and experimentation going on with artificial nestboxes, loved it all really!"*

If you would like to see the presentation and poster display content from the day a pdf is available at: [www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/publications](http://www.greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/publications)

This event was coordinated by Greater Sydney Local Land Services in partnership with Sydney Olympic Park Authority with funding from the Australian Government.

You may also be interested in this Forum write up by Steven Body of Brewongle Environmental Education Centre:  
<http://brewongleec.com/2015/05/25/mansions-for-the-arboreal-and-airborne-nest-boxes-and-augmenting-tree-hollows/>



Glenda Clark from Sydney Wildlife and other delegates enjoy a nest box walk through Newington Reserve, led by fauna ecologist Narawan Williams and Sydney Olympic Park Authority ecologist Tina Hsu.

# The Teresa James Workshops

## Native Grasslands Workshop, By Irene Melaisis

In the Grasslands Workshop we got to wander through (exploring) Western Sydney Grasslands. At our assessments of one site we found 30 different species of plants and learnt that 90% of plant species diversity of Cumberland Plain Woodland is in the ground layer. Grasslands can contain plants such as grasses, lilies, herbs, rushes and mosses just to name a few. Western Sydney derived grasslands can be highly modified and the canopy may even be missing. We learnt that small reserves with many species are botanically significant and that grasslands can also be important corridor's for fauna. When I drive past a patch of bushland in Western Sydney, I now see it in a whole new light.

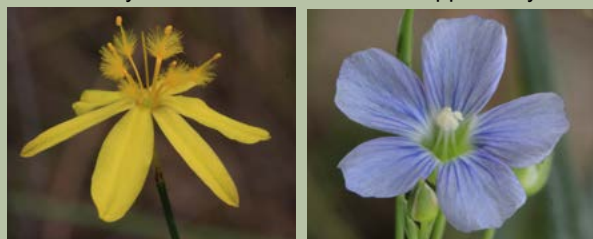


Photo - Irene Melaisis

## Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) Workshop, By Peter Lockhart

This workshop focused on the many threatened ecological communities that occur on the Cumberland Plain. On the day we observed Moist Shale Hills, Western Sydney Dry Rainforest, Cumberland Plain Woodland, a Shale Gravel Transition Forest, River Flat Forest and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest. With each new site, we identified plant species, discussed the soil profile and also took into account things like aspect. What I found interesting were all the little subtleties between the various vegetation communities and how they blend into each other; it's not always easy to distinguish between them. Within these various communities were numerous rare or threatened plants such as *Sicyos australis*, *Epacris purpurascens* and *Pultenaea parviflora*. We were able to gain an understanding of the complexities and nuances that occur within and between these communities. The key thing is to look out for indicator species; a handy tool to help you do this is a book by Mark Tozer see - <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/nature/cumbPlainMappingInterpguidelines.pdf> and [http://rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/58924/Cun8Toz001.pdf](http://rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/58924/Cun8Toz001.pdf)

These workshops have been very informative and enjoyable to attend. A big thankyou to Vanessa Keyzer at Greater Sydney Local Land Service and Marty Gauci at Hawkesbury Council for this worthwhile opportunity.



*Tricoryne elatior* and *Linum marginale*. Photos - Peter Lockhart





# Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group [HIMAG]

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

## HIMAG VOLUNTEER AREA COORDINATORS (VAC) AND TRAP AVAILABILITY

**Leif Rosengaard:** Hobartville VAC & free trap hire.

4578 2189 [leifemail@aol.com](mailto:leifemail@aol.com)

**Leigh Williams:** Sackville VAC 0437 498 589

[leigh.williams@pacific.net.au](mailto:leigh.williams@pacific.net.au)

**Peter Ryan:** Pitt Town VAC & free trap hire. 0431 430 800

**Justin Arndt:** Glossodia & surrounds VAC

0421 647 339 [himagglossodia@gmail.com](mailto:himagglossodia@gmail.com)

**Brad Clay:** Wilberforce / East Kurrajong VAC bh: 4560 4532

ah: 4576 3393 [bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

**Jenny Fraser:** Kurrajong & surrounds VAC

0409 817 548 [himagkurrajong@gmail.com](mailto:himagkurrajong@gmail.com)

**Men's Shed:** Trap Construction & sales,  
23 Bosworth Street, Richmond, contact: Les  
0408 442 955, Mondays & Wednesdays.

**The John Morony Correctional Complex.** Trap construction & sales, corner of The Northern Road and Richmond Road,  
Berkshire Park Contact: Allan Lister 4582 2219

[allan.lister@dcs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allan.lister@dcs.nsw.gov.au) (Best to call in morning periods)

For more Detailed **HIMAG** info. Go to - <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment2/pest-animals/indian-myna-control-program-himag> or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker. Or contact for general enquiries contact Martin Gauci Council's Community Bushcare Officer and HIMAG facilitator, (02) 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248, [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## AVOID BREEDING SHY BIRDS

This little article was in the last issue of the newsletter, but this cannot be stressed enough.

**IMPORTANT TRAPPING TIP** – Avoid breeding "shy birds". Euthanize birds at night, when other Indian Mynas are asleep/roosting. Therefore, they will be unable to see or hear this occurring and will not learn to avoid the Pee Gee Trap. If Indian Mynas hear what is called a "distress call" from other Indian Mynas, they become more wary of things that are nearby. If they see a Myna being captured by a human inside a trap, then they also become more wary of that spot, which means that we could end up with Myna populations that avoid traps. For all the science, go to <http://andreasgriffin.weebly.com/>. To hear the various Indian Myna Calls go to <http://andreasgriffin.weebly.com/myna-callsphotos.html>

## TRAPPING ISSUES?

Having issues getting Indian Mynas to go into your trap?

Why not try some of these tips and see if you have greater success getting them into the trap?

- Please be patient. Don't move the trap around too much. It may take weeks to get the birds used to the trap before you begin active baiting. If successful, most people generally trap 1 – 10 birds a month.
- You will mostly catch the birds early morning or late evening. Bait the trap at night (when they are not looking) so you have more chance of catching them first thing the following morning.
- Use only small pieces of bait. This will encourage the birds to peck along and into the trap. If larger pieces of bait are used they are more likely to pick up the bait and fly away with it.
- Place the trap where there are minimal people or animal traffic but still in an open area (eg behind shed or carport). Under

trees can be good as they often perch on trees where they have good access and views.

- It is very important that you are not seen too often in the vicinity of the trap or seen staring at the trap.

If you are still having issues after trying these suggestions then let us know so that we can try and assist you further with getting the birds into the trap.

*Courtesy of Indian Myna Action Program Issue 5, Wollongong Council.*

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/volunteerprograms/Pages/IndianMyna.aspx>

## TIME TO REMOVE NESTING MATERIAL AND BLOCK UP ENTRY POINTS

Have Indian Myna Birds (or Starlings) been nesting in your roof?

It's a great time to ensure potential entry holes into your roof and eaves are blocked and roof tiles secure to prevent potential entry points during the next nesting season, which is in October. It's also a great time to have the nesting material that has been left behind removed as Indian Mynas will often return to the same nesting site as the previous season and will continue to build upon nests formerly created. It is also a great time to put up nesting boxes that can also be used as a trapping chamber in preparation for the next nesting season which can be purchased from the Men's Shed.

*Courtesy of Indian Myna Action Program Issue 5, Wollongong Council.*

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/sustainability/volunteerprograms/Pages/IndianMyna.aspx>



Photo: Debbie Claridge /Chris Tidemann  
from [http://fennersschool-associated.anu.edu.au/myna/problem\\_files/nest-contents\\_large.jpg](http://fennersschool-associated.anu.edu.au/myna/problem_files/nest-contents_large.jpg)

<http://www.yimag.org.au/indian-myna-identification.html>

continued over...



## KEEP ON TRAPPING

Keep up the great trapping everyone, tell and encourage your friends to trap, why not even share your trap around to make it twice as effective.

## HELP US PROMOTE HIMAG and SPREAD THE WORD and ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO TRAP

The next time you're at a social gathering, or haven't seen a friend for some time; and they ask you "how's it going? What's new?" Don't reply with, 'err, not much'.

Make your reply "HIMAG mate!" And so the conversation continues... or "HIMAG, is the best thing since the 90's roller blade craze!" Share your stories with your friends and neighbours to encourage further trapping in and around the Hawkesbury.

## YOUR INDIAN MYNA PICS & STORY

Send in your Indian Myna pics of hatchlings, nesting, the negative impacts they have on your homes and our environment. We would be happy to publish your pics in future editions to highlight the negative impacts they have. Or why not send in your great trapping story; your story can inspire the future Indian Myna trappers of the Hawkesbury. We would love to hear from you.

Send to –

- Email - [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)
- Phone - 45604525 or
- Post - Hawkesbury City Council, attention Martin Gauci  
HIMAG, 366 George Street Windsor, NSW, 2756.

## SOME ADVICE FROM PETER RYAN AT PITT TOWN

Let the games begin! As it is starting to warm up, insects are starting to breed and plants are growing - this has triggered the response in Indian Mynas. They are hot to trot; breed and build their nests, lay their eggs and raise their chicks. But all of this is hard work and works take plenty of energy that requires food and lots of it. That's why you'll see Indian Mynas out and about in their numbers working overtime. In a nut shell it is breeding season for Indian Mynas.

So people this is the time to trap. Realistically it has been a pretty mild winter, with very few frosts. Therefore Indian Mynas will be out in force to copulate and populate. Now is the time to clean and wash your trap and hone your trapping skills. Now don't be afraid to try some different foods if they are not taking your standard dry cat or puppy food, experiment with different foods; figs or grapes are great. Put a small mirror in the trap; this can help to entice them into the trap, but make sure the mirror is lined up with the entry point, so they can see their reflection.

If you like trapping, but don't like the euthenising part, find someone who is keen to help. Don't let the birds out smart you, you out smart them. Keep on trapping people!

**Weed All About It** - Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program, Volume 15, Issue 2 Spring 2015.  
This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

# Hawkesbury Bushcare - Scheduled Meeting Times

### Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

Mill Road (Singletons Rv), Kurrajong  
1st Friday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights  
Various work days

### McMahon Park Bushcare

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

### Matheson Park Bushcare

Matheson Park, Kurrajong  
3rd Friday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong  
Various work days

### George Street Reserve Bushcare

George Street Reserve, Bligh Park  
4th Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Navua Community Group

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

### Redbank Creek Bushcare, North Richmond

Susella Reserve & Peel Park, North Richmond  
2nd Wednesday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

Spinks Road, (40 Acres), Glossodia  
2nd Saturday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

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

### Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare

Aboriginal Memorial Reserve, Lower Portland  
1st Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Sunnyvale Bushies

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

### St Albans Village Weed Wackers

St Albans Park, St Albans  
3rd Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

### Nursery Volunteer Group

Hawkesbury Community Nursery,  
10 Mulgrave Rd. Mulgrave. Ph 4560 4561  
Wednesdays (9am-1pm) or by appointment  
[Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Learn about the great Aussie bush and come along to help fix it. Want more details? Contact Community Bushcare Officer, email [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) or phone 4560 4525 and 0413 195 248.



## Weed All About It NEWSLETTER

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The General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council  
PO Box 146, Windsor 2756



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