



HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Weed All About It

www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Volume 16, Issue 2 Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Spring 2016

Hawkesbury Community Nursery 2016

Jutta and the volunteers at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery have done it again! The plant giveaway is proving to be a family favourite with residents having familiar stories of how last year's planting and the year before are all going, from both the Hawkesbury Show and the National Tree Day event at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

This consisted of over 1500 plants 13 different tree species, 16 different shrub species and seven different groundcover species. The Community Nursery strives to provide residents with the correct information in plant selection; with situation, soil, height, foliage, flower, erosion control, sun, shade, frost, etc. The nursery currently has over 130 different species in stock; a full list of these plants can be found at <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment/bushcare/community-nursery>.

We tried something a bit different this year with the National Tree



Information stalls at the National Tree Day event



Providing the correct information about each plant to residents

Day event at the Community Nursery, by inviting other environmental community agencies to this event. This proved to be a real winner for residents. These agencies included Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group, Hawkesbury Bushcare,

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Hawkesbury Landcare, HCC waste education, Toyota and the Hawkesbury River County Council, with all agencies providing a wealth of knowledge, experience and information.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is open on Wednesdays (9 am-1pm) or by appointment for native plant

sales. You can find us at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave, next to the Companion Animal Shelter.

Phone Jutta on 45604651 or Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Editorial

The last edition of Weed All About It for 2016 & what a cracker! I hope this edition has something for everyone. If not, I welcome all articles for next year's editions.

Landcare is making a strong move into Sydney and the Hawkesbury and not to forget the end of year Bushcare Landcare Awards is always a winner. I'd like to thank young Tom Covell for writing such a great article on conservation with Ian McEwan, who passed away earlier this year; Ian was a real character.

We are still keen to run some training on bush regen in 2017, so if you are interested please let me know. Thanks once

again to those who contributed to this edition and apologies to those who wrote articles that did not make this edition; I have locked them into 2017. On a final note, I'd like to thank you all for supporting Hawkesbury Bushcare, the Community Nursery and Indian Myna Control. We appreciate your superb efforts and commitment in helping and improving the natural biodiversity of the Hawkesbury area. So have a safe festive season, enjoy the read and stay tuned for the 2017 edition.

Happy Days People!

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

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



A New Generation of Landcare

The term 'Landcare' is familiar yet difficult to pin down. The movement's origins stretch back to land management groups formed by farmers in the 1940s and came to prominence in the late 1980s after a program was introduced by the Victorian government encouraging the unusual marriage between conservationists and farmers to tackle local environmental degradation issues. This approach to land management gained momentum during the 1990s and those years were declared the 'Decade of Landcare' by the Australian Soil Conservation Ministers.

Due to its history, landcare is frequently associated with agriculture and rural areas whereas restoring remnants within cities has been the domain of the Bushcare movement. The recent increase in growth of major cities in Australia and consequent proliferation 'Care', 'Friends of', and other community groups has necessitated a Sydney-wide environmental network to provide regional support.

In 2014 the Greater Sydney Landcare Network Inc. (GSLN) was formed to fill this role ushering in a new era of landcare, broadening its meaning and securing the movement's place within urban communities. GSLN has close ties with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) and newly formed Hawkesbury Landcare Network (HLN), who address landcare issues specific to their localities. All three networks secured funding to employ skilled Local

Landcare Coordinators for 3 years in March 2015, each of whom are currently developing projects related to their areas of expertise.

Landcare networks are always pleased to hear from enthusiastic new members. So please be in touch with GSLN or HLN using the contact info below. Read on to learn how to become involved with one of Sydney's exciting new landcare projects!

Young Inspirational Landcare

GSLN plans to undertake a Young Inspirational Landcare project to address the underrepresentation of 18 to 35 years olds in Landcare beginning March 2017 and are seeking potential mentors experienced in NRM for young people and/ or young adults who would like to become involved.

Please contact Elisha Duxbury, 4724 2147, elisha.duxbury@greatersydneylandcare.org.

Cumberland Plain Landcare Program

GSLN are seeking expressions of interest from groups and individuals, particularly private landholders and volunteers skilled in bush regeneration or other NRM techniques, who would like to get involved in a Cumberland Plain Landcare Program offering on-ground conservation support on private land.

Please contact Xuela Sledge, 4724 2146, xuela.sledge@greatersydneylandcare.org.

Greater Sydney Landcare Network
Elisha Duxbury (Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays), 4724 2147, elisha.duxbury@greatersydneylandcare.org.

Xuela Sledge (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays), 4724 2146
xuela.sledge@greatersydneylandcare.org.

<https://greatersydneylandcare.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterSydneyLandcare/>
<https://twitter.com/GreatSydLand>.

Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG)

The PRCG has launched a Riverkeeper Network www.ourlivingriver.com.au/riverkeeper to connect and work with individuals, businesses and organisations that care about the health of the Parramatta River and are keen to be involved in its restoration. Jacinta Green, Parramatta River Riverkeeper, 0423 821 173, riverkeeper@ourlivingriver.com.au.

Hawkesbury Landcare Network

Sonia Lee, 0478 905 200, landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au.



Hawkesbury Bushcare Landcare Awards 2016

The 19th Annual Bushcare Landcare Awards will be held at Yellomundee Regional Park, Springwood Road, Yarramundi. This will be a great way to get together & celebrate the achievements of Bushcare and Landcare groups in the Hawkesbury caring for the land.

- Bushcare Landcare Awards,
- Shaws Creek "Aboriginal Place" celebration,
- Cultural Talk with Uncle Chris,
- Optional campover Saturday night,
- Free dinner & dessert (BYO alcohol) &
- Shaws Creek Cultural Walk Bush Tracker map.

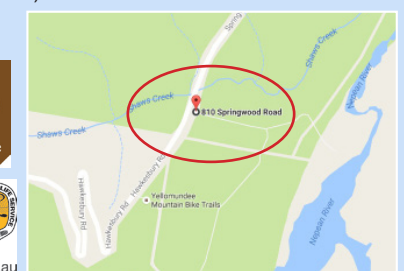
If you feel you would like to nominate anyone for their great efforts over the years for their contribution to Bushcare and Landcare, we welcome all nominations, feedback and suggestions. **SO GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN SOON!**

WHEN: Saturday 3rd December 5pm-8pm, with an option to camp over Saturday night.

CONTACT: Martin Gauci (02) 4560 4525 M 0413 195 248, & **RSVP** mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au & RSVP by Tuesday 22 November, 2016. Please specify any dietary requirements.

BYO: Chair, plate & cup to help with catering.

WHERE: Google maps – <https://www.google.com.au/maps/dir/-33.6610026,150.6584476/@-33.6636113,150.6577945,16z/data=!4m7!4m6!1m3!2m2!1d150.6584472!2d-33.6609922!1m0!3e2>
(coming from Agnes Banks, cross Shaws Creek 1st driveway on the left)



WEED REVIEW BY HRCC WHO IS HRCC?



HRCC (Hawkesbury River County Council) is a single purpose authority to control and remove declared noxious weeds for Hills Shire, Blacktown, Penrith and Hawkesbury City Councils.

The noxious weeds list can be found on our HRCC website, at www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au.

If you have any questions regarding noxious weeds please contact us at:

PHONE: 02 4587 0230

EMAIL: council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au

AFRICAN OLIVE

Botanical name: *Olea europaea subspecies cuspidate*

Declared: Class 4 Noxious Weed

What does it look like?

- A small evergreen tree or tall spreading shrub 2 to 15 metres high with smooth grey bark.
- African Olive has dark green, glossy, elongated oval shaped leaves, 5 to 10 cm long with a hook tip.
- The leaves can also have small tooth-like features on the margins towards the tip.
- White tubular flowers, with five petals, 0.6 to 0.8 cm in diameter and borne around late spring at the junction of the stem and leaves in small clusters.
- Its succulent green berries (olives) ripen to red then black from late autumn to winter.

How does it affect the environment?

African Olive produces fruit and flowers prolifically. This ensures that the dispersal is carried out over large distances, with the assistance of feeding birds and other animals. African Olive plants will grow in dense colonies, infesting and overpowering native bushland. The wilting branches of the plant shade native plants from sunlight and the plants themselves vigorously compete with native plants for water and nutrients in the surrounding area. The seeds also have the ability to germinate under heavy shade.



Where does it grow?

African Olive has become a major environmental weed, particularly on clay soils in Western Sydney and various other soils near the coast (Kurrajong & Scheyville areas). It grows in most circumstances, full sun or heavy shade, moist or dry conditions and thrives in moist shady sites on riverbanks.



Weed All About It - Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program Volume 16 Issue 2 Spring 2016 This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

HEEN Time and farewell Zhan

Hawkesbury Environmental Educators Network (HEEN) seems to be going from strength to strength with the various meetings and educator involvement; no thanks to everyone who helps organise and turns up to the various meetings plus not to mention Zhan Patterson. Which brings us to Zhan; Zhan was the brains child and initial founder of the ALIVE program (2011) which morphed into HEEN a few years later. Zhan has now left the Hawkesbury and HEEN; and would like to thank everyone.



"My vision of supporting teachers, youth workers and young people to create a sustainable world through local action came to fruition through the Alive! Project, of which HEEN was an important element. I have been incredibly blessed and privileged to have done this work and to have shared it with you. It has been the most fulfilling and meaningful work I have undertaken and I have cherished the opportunity to contribute to a more sustainable community and help protect and conserve the local Hawkesbury environment in my small way." **Zhan Patterson**

And from some of those on the HEEN committee in reply. "Without Zhan, there wouldn't be HEEN. She is definitely an inspiration in all things sustainability but also has the warmest, nurturing personality with students." **Joanne Cafiero**

"I still quote the Alive! project as being the most successful youth Environment initiative I have been involved with and that was due to your diligence, passion and drive to see it succeed. HEEN will miss you, but the fact that HEEN is continuing on without you shows sustainability at its best!" **Steve Body**

You have been an inspiration to me with your infectious passion and enthusiasm for sustainability. I still remember meeting you the first time and together excitedly discussing sustainability initiatives! The Alive project is hands down one of the best student leadership projects I have done. Thank you for all your support and advice, I have very much appreciated it..." **Branimir Lazendic**

"Thanks so much for the great contributions, creations and effort you have done for HEEN, Alive, environmental education and the Hawkesbury." **Martin Gauci**

Back to the HEEN meeting, this year we have had great turn outs to Grose View Public School & Colo High, with both schools showcasing their sustainable methods desires and ethos. Both meetings were extremely well attended and are a great avenue for teachers to network within their industry.

NEXT MEETING –

Where: Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre Gate A, Sydney International Regatta Centre 153-233 Old Castlereagh Rd, Penrith Lakes

When: Wednesday 30th Nov 2016

Time: 3.30pm - 5pm

RSVP: Amie Marks

email: penritlake-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

& Ken said “Let there be Irrigation”

And there was irrigation. A big thanks to Ken Wharfe at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery who implemented the automated irrigation to the raised garden beds. Some of us at the nursery like to think of Ken as a “Bob the Builder” with his efficient skills of implementing the irrigation and such a quality job too. Ken has been a real green thumb with all the veges he has grown and this irrigation will make things a whole lot easier.

These raised garden beds with irrigation will not only benefit the Hawkesbury Community Nursery volunteers, but also the Mad Mob Aboriginal Cultural & Art Group and the Hawkesbury Community Health Aboriginal Seniors Group who also contributed to the installation cost.



Statement of Attainment Introduction to Conservation & Land Management

Hawkesbury Bushcare and TAFE NSW Western Sydney Institute (WSI) Richmond College are seeking Expressions of Interest from people interested in future training in bush regeneration. This TAFE course is for volunteers and others looking to enter the bush regeneration industry. The fortnightly training will require attendance to eight classes, will enhance existing bush regeneration knowledge and empower those who undertake bush regeneration by further improving their skills and knowledge.

The course will be beneficial for people involved with Bushcare, Landcare, Scouts, landscapers, environmental educators of natural areas and similar. Training will take place once a full class of registrations is received.

This course is free to Smart and Skilled eligible students who are 15 years old and over. They must be no longer at school, live or work in NSW, be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or humanitarian visa holder, New Zealand citizens are also eligible.

To register or for further information, contact - Martin Gauci (02) 4560 4525 or 0413 195 248 or email mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

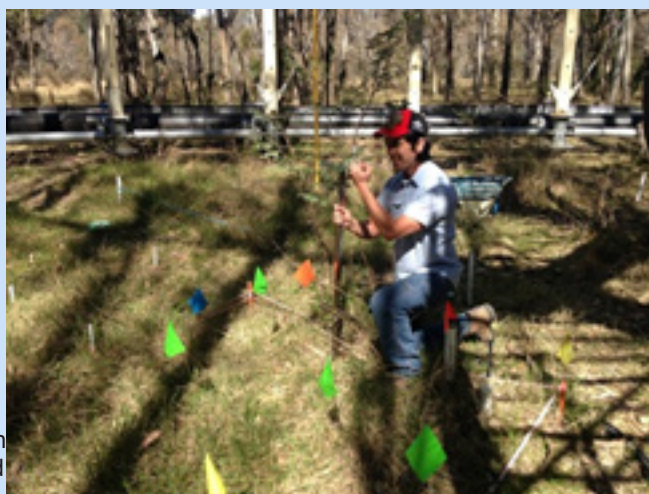


Microbes on the Plain By Giles Ross

Every week, over 100km² of land is consumed by rapid urban expansion by cities around the world. Such intensive land use has resulted in once thriving ecosystems, such as the Hawkesbury region's iconic Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW), being reduced to mere fragments of their original expanse. Restoration projects organised by Hawkesbury City Council amongst others have been initiated to reverse this trend with some success. However, such projects rely solely on aboveground measures of restoration success, with limited focus on belowground effects. This is problematic as soil biodiversity is essential for ecosystem functioning, including nutrient cycling and decomposition. Without restoring belowground biodiversity these ecosystems may not be resistant and resilient to any challenges they might face.

So to uncover the true effects beneath the soil surface, my research project hopes to determine whether restoration improves belowground biodiversity and ecosystem process rates in CPW. Soil microbial and mite diversity, and nutrient availability and decomposition rates were compared across 12 sites classified as having undergone long-term passive restoration, short-term active restoration or being degraded. I have focused on oribatid mites as bioindicators (using both morphological and novel DNA sequencing techniques) given their ubiquity and high diversity

in terrestrial environments and their known role in ecosystem processes. I am expecting to find that the restored sites will have higher belowground diversity, alongside greater ecosystem process rates given restoration of aboveground diversity. Early data suggests greater decomposition rates in the restored sites which is really promising and exciting! This study will show how restoration affects soil diversity in CPW as well as improving eco-monitoring methods of all terrestrial ecosystem types.



Principal Investigator (me) taking sample soil cores at the HIE's EucFACE facility.

Whilst this project is still ongoing there are already many thanks to be made: Dr. U.N.Nielsen, Prof. J. Cook, Hawkesbury City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Western Sydney Parklands Trust & Water NSW.

I'll be presenting my results at the Ecological Society of Australia conference in Fremantle this November, so keep an eye out for these findings.

Giles Ross - Bio : BSc(Hons.) Applied Biology, Imperial College, London. MScTech Environmental Science, UNSW. MPhil, HIE, Western Sydney Uni.

Me & Ian McEwan by Thomas Covell

"Where the Bloody Hell Are Ya?"

He was gruff! Ian, my old mate, my mentor, neighbour and mostly my partner in crime!

I've known Ian McEwan from as long as I can remember, he's been a big part of my growing up, but I dare not say maturing, he strived to ensure that not too much maturing was done and the right amount of strife was upheld. He first introduced me as a 13-year-old to Bushcare at Matheson Park, but my story with Ian really goes back into him nurturing my love of the natural world. It would often begin with me dropping over for a "have-a-chat" and pleasant cuppa from Mrs Mac, the gorgeous Helen McEwan and then Ian would raise some preposterous injustice occurring in the Hawkesbury. He would mention how down beside the tennis court he'd found a turtle nest dug up by foxes. In the next moments we'd be planning an attack. It would usually see us trooping off with a fox whistle in the lips and shotgun under the arm. His attack on the feral onslaught included Indian mynas, rabbits and of course the dreaded LANTANA. He taught me so much around the unpleasant necessities of conservation, like removing feral pest humanely. It's sadly in my opinion something many in the environmental conservation field have chosen to shy away from, where it's something that is more necessary than ever. In my view many environmental warriors only wanting to work with the

cute and cuddly, where the truly valuable conservation is managing the weeds like we all do in this community and making the hard pragmatic calls sadly for the ferals.

Ian and I use to go ferreting regularly, I'd wake with the sparrows, and Ian well he was awake well before any sparrow farted. First thunder would rumble from under the ground and then the bunnies would explode out of their warrens as

gas problem, the imminent flood that's one day going to hit the Hawkesbury and remove half of Windsor Downs; as no one remembers what a real major flood is (not the turmoil when the water is 3meters below the bridge) or the next big fire.

You might be reading this and thinking Ian didn't have a love for the cute and cuddly animals, but I can tell you he certainly did! It was a choice in his



Ian McEwan, Elizabeth Chellingworth, Pat O'Toole, Kirsten Parmenter, Thomas Covell (me), Toni May & Andrew Jack at Matheson Park

the ferret was hot in pursuit! We both loved the anticipation, but what I loved the most and I'm sure Ian did too was the stories he told as I listened. Later in my academic career I'd go to the Macs house for a warm cuppa, beer or red, but the best draw card was the stories he and Helen would tell me. Often our conversations would head towards solving the worlds rising greenhouse

mind of the fox verse the bandicoot, the tawny frogmouth or the nest of baby turtles! He gave me a valuable understanding of ecology. I remember him having great concern for an orphaned Feathertail Glider I found and outrage when I told him how I found a discarded yabby trap in Wheeny Creek off Cedar Ridge Road with a drowned Platypus. He understood holistic conservation.

I am now an Environmental Scientist actively working in promoting sustainable land use and the conservation of our unique fauna and flora in Western Sydney. I always had the passion for

the natural world, Ian helped to foster it. Without his input I don't think I'd have the holistic perspective I do today. I loved the gruff gentleman across the road. I have so many stories to tell about what the pair of us would get up to, he past a baton in a relay to preserve the environment which I will always carry in my soul.

Local Landcare Coordinator

Hello, I'm Sonia Lee, the new Local Landcare Coordinator and I am based in the Hawkesbury River County Council office in South Windsor. I have a background in sustainable agriculture, landholder training, soil health and community engagement.

The Hawkesbury Landcare Network (HLN) is a newly formed network that aims to grow and empower community action in caring for the land in the region. The network will help to build connections between landholders in a way that encourages shared learning and enjoyment.

Currently the HLN is conducting a survey of interests within the region. Depending on demand, the network is looking at providing activities such as: soil health and pasture management training, farm-gate tours, adventure conservation kayaking, and rainforest and wetlands education. If there is enough interest, HLN will also create Landcare groups centred around these activities.

To start the survey, please click here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GWFXVD>. Many thanks for your participation!

For more information please contact Hawkesbury Landcare Network's Local Landcare Coordinator (me), Sonia Lee, 0478 905 200, landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au.



That's me – Sonia Lee



Hawkesbury
Landcare
Network

Snow-in-Summer

by Jutta Hamilton

The Paperbark is a very showy tree that grows to eight metres with spectacular creamy white flowers smothering the tree in summer. On close inspection, the flower spikes are covered in beautiful feathery and fluffy stamens.

The papery bark of the tree and its soft narrow leaves look very attractive all year around.

In its natural habitat in marshy forests, on sheltered creek banks and in gullies it can form dense thickets. The tree attracts a wide variety of insects and birds. *Melaleuca linariifolia* is cultivated as an ornamental tree in parks and in gardens and it is popular as a nature strip tree. It is also used as a screen or windbreak. It tolerates both dry and boggy conditions and is frost hardy.



Melaleuca linariifolia

There are some mature trees growing in the Ham Common Bicentenary Park opposite the RAAF Base and we also have a tree growing in the garden of the Hawkesbury Community Nursery.

The Community Nursery has *Melaleuca linariifolia* tubestock for sale. The plants were grown by the Nursery and Bushcare Volunteers from seed that was collected at St Albans.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is open on Wednesdays (9 am-1pm). We have a large variety of locally native plants for sale. You can find us at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave, next to the Companion Animal Shelter, phone 45604651 or email Jutta.HAMILTON@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

From http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melaleuca_linariifolia.

Volunteer Profile



Name: Ian Butler

Group: McMahon Park Bushcare Group

Group Location: McMahon Park, Kurrajong

Position in Group: Volunteer (answerable to Trish!)

Occupation: Retiree and fisherman

Reason for Volunteering: To be close to my wife and riveting fellow volunteers.

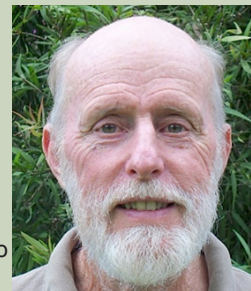
Best Achievement: My family.

Favourite Native Species: Gumtrees! As in Eucalypts, Angophoras and Corymbias.

Most Hated Weed: Lantana

6 people you would like to invite to dinner:

Tim Low, Leonie Kramer, Bob Brown, Kerry O'Brien, Desmond Tutu, Annabelle Crabb.



Thank you Danny and Vickii

To Danny and Vickii Lett, a huge thank you for your contribution to the natural environment of the Hawkesbury area. Danny and Vickii had been strongly involved in Bushcare, Landcare and WIRES to name a few in the Hawkesbury for more than I can remember.

Bushcare; the start-up of the Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare Group (with up to 100 native plants identified and regenerated). Involvement with the Yellomundee Aboriginal Bushcare Group and the Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place Advisory Board. WIRES; involvement for both birds of prey and our iconic marsupials. Local Tafe; involvement in native fauna studies. Hawkesbury City Council Sustainability Advisory Committee, in creating public awareness for Koalas. The National Parks and Wildlife Service tent at the Hawkesbury Show was always a winner with kids. Original involvement with the Hawkesbury Environment Network. Plus I'm sure there are others that I have not mentioned.

Danny and Vickii were both awarded the volunteer of the year award at the Bushcare Landcare Awards; Danny (2013) and Vickii (2011), for their amazing contributions to natural resource management. These two quiet achievers have given and given, just like so many in this industry, but just gave a lot more, with no sense of reward. They have left a big hole and are now missed big time; for their love, passion, humour, generosity and knowledge.

Danny and Vickii have now moved to northern NSW and I would like to thank them for their massive contributions over the years and hope they are settling in nicely; you deserve it.



The Dynamic Duo Danny & Vickii Lett

Our Common Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) aka Bulldozers of the Bush

by Vickii Lett

The wombat encountered in our area is known as the Common Wombat. The Common Wombat is the most widely distributed of our wombat species. Occurring from southern Queensland, down the eastern highlands of New South Wales, through southern Victoria to South Australia as well as Tasmania and on two Bass Strait Islands. The ranges of all three of our wombat species have contracted since the arrival of Europeans to Australia.

These unique animals are the largest burrowing herbivores in the world, weighing up to 39kg average 26kg. Highly territorial, they are mostly solitary except when mating or when the females have young. Their diet consists of coarse grasses, roots, sedges, rushes and other native plants as well as some introduced grasses. They are nocturnal and avoid the heat by staying in their burrows during the day, venturing out after dark in the warmer months but can be seen during the day in the cooler months of the year.

The last part of its Latin name means bear-like. For those of us fortunate or unfortunate (depending on your perspective) enough to share our habitat with these creatures the description not only describes their appearance in many cases it gives us some insight into their personality. As many property owners are aware wombats can be very annoying and persistent, burrowing into the middle of paddocks or under houses or sheds, pushing up netting fences to name a few.

Sturdy, strong and determined, wombats seem to have a view that they are almost indestructible. One of the most obvious signs of wombat activity is burrowing and the presence of cube shaped droppings. Related to koalas they share characteristics like a backward facing pouch and a small tail.

But don't let their block like appearance fool you, they learn readily and among marsupials they have relatively large

brains and may be amongst the most intelligent of this group of mammals.

Many of our native animals face a whole new set of

challenges. Wombats are most affected by habitat loss, dogs, foxes and cars being the most obvious. Like all animals (even us human animals) stress can affect our immune system which leaves the animal in question vulnerable to disease.

One of the most obvious disease issues for wombats is sarcoptic mange. The *Sarcoptes scabiei*, or the itch mite, which burrows into the wombats skin to lay its eggs. This can cause intense itching and skin irritation. A severely affected wombat will have

thickened skin, weight loss and their eyes can become crusted over. Animals in this condition may be found grazing at any time of the day and in the later stages is almost unaware of its surroundings. Research is being conducted around Australia to find a treatment for mange. There is no treatment currently recognised in NSW, but WIRES carers have had success in treating affected wombats.

For further information or assistance with wombats and other wildlife please call Hawkesbury Wires on 1300 094 737 and to get all technological in rescuing Australia's unique fauna, why not get the new Rescue App – <http://www.wires.org.au/rescue/rescue-app>. For more information on WIRES and the great work they do; go to <http://www.wires.org.au/>.

Help map & record Wombats in your local area and become a Wombat warrior.

WomSAT is a new resource for communities to record sightings of wombats across the country. Australia's unique wombats are in crisis - Their numbers are declining and your help is needed to protect them by recording where you see wombats and their burrows in your local area.

<http://www.womsat.org.au/womsat/default.aspx>



Two juvenile Common Wombats

Kurrajong-a-Buzz. Proudly Promoting Pollinator Week

Plants need pollinators to transfer pollen to the female reproductive parts of flowers. This is called pollination, which leads to fertilisation. Good fertilisation helps plants develop seeds and fruit, which countless animals in the world (including humans) need. Pollinators drive biodiversity, and over 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators provide these important ecosystem services in the natural landscapes as well as within agricultural/horticultural and urban environments.

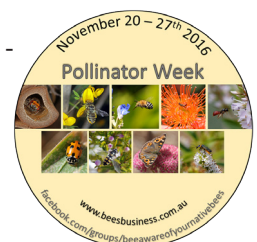
Kurrajong village will be a buzz of activity, including amateur honey producers and farming representatives linking pollinators with food production. To create a pollinator paradise, the Kurrajong Community Forum will be selling a range of flowering plants. Hawkesbury Council Community Nursery will display native plants and give advice on creating a healthy environment for attracting beneficial mammals, birds and insects, plus there will be a Kids Zone with plenty to entertain the children.

Details -

Kurrajong Village, Sunday 20th November 2016, 10am – 2pm.

This free family event is being organised by Kurrajong Community Forum. For the latest updates follow Kurrajong-a-Buzz on Facebook or contact Elizabeth Docking radocking@bigpond.com or 45731116 or Lyn Ward lynward486@yahoo.com.au or 4572 2959.

For more information on this event, see - <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/events/calendar-of-events/community/kurrajong-a-buzz.-proudly-promoting-pollinator-week-&http://beesbusiness.com.au/pollweek-main.html>





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

Leigh Williams: Sackville VAC 0437 498 589

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

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

ah: 4576 3393 bclay@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Jenny Fraser: Kurrajong & surrounds VAC

0409 817 548 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 (Best to call in morning periods)

For more Detailed HIMAG info. Go to –

<http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/natural-environment/pest-animals/indian-myna-control-program-himag> or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker. Or contact Martin Gauci: HCC, Community

Bushcare Officer & HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries 4560 4525 or

0413 195 248, 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 & 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>

TRAPS OUT AGAIN FOR SPRING

Spring is here and so too the breeding season. It's now time to get out your trap, give it a wash down and load it up with some small dry dog food. Get trapping people and if there are successful trappers out there, teach your friends the tricks you have mastered.

CALL FOR LIVE INDIAN MYNAS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Dr Gabriel Machovsky-Capuska and Simon Zantis from the University of Sydney are running a nutritional ecology study on Indian myna birds at the Charles Perkins Centre. The research project aims to better understand what makes the mynas so successful as an invasive species, by specifically looking at learning processes behind feeding behaviour. As part of the project we are using mynas in captivity and are reaching out for people who are able to help trap mynas.

A suitable trapping environment would be a privately owned area free from dogs and cats to ensure trapping success and welfare of the mynas. We would need to have access to the traps for monitoring regarding the respective Animal Ethics protocol. If you are interested in helping this study by providing live Indian Mynas, please contact Simon Zantis on 0422118712 or simon.zantis@sydney.edu.au for further details.

Simon Zantis | Masters Candidate
Faculty of Veterinary Science, THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

YOUR INDIAN MYNA PICS & STORY

Send in your Indian Myna pics of hatchlings, nesting, your big catch and 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 - mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
- Phone - 45604525 or
- Post - Hawkesbury City Council, attention Martin Gauci HIMAG, 366 George Street Windsor, NSW, 2756.

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

Navua Community Group

Navua Reserve, Grose Wold
Various work days

North Richmond Bridge Bushcare, Richmond

Old Kurrajong Road at Richmond Bridge, Richmond
1st Sunday of the Month (9am-12noon)

Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

Swallow Reach Place, Ebenezer
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)

George Street Reserve Bushcare

George Street Reserve, Bligh Park
4th 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

If you are interested in being involved in any of the Hawkesbury Bushcare sites, or have any enquiries, please contact the Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560 4525, or email: martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au. We would love to hear from you.

