



Weed All About It

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Summer 2011

Editorial

Hello Everyone, what an issue we have here. Some really great contributions of articles by those who have put pen to paper.

2011 is gearing up to be one of excitement and is action packed for the Hawkesbury Bushcare program, with most of the events already locked into the calendar. Some of these events are pretty huge, so if you are keen to help, don't be afraid to let me know.

Enjoy the read and send your articles and ideas into myself for the next issue; for which they are greatly appreciated.

Happy Days!

Marty Gauci
Community Bushcare Officer
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Bushcare Landcare Festivities at the Pioneer Village

The Bushcare Landcare Christmas Awards was a fantastic evening at the Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce. With rain looming before the event, a humid night was in tow.

Those gathered were entertained and educated by Koomurri. 103 people attended, made up of predominantly Bushcare and Landcare volunteers. It was very encouraging to be surrounded by so many greenthumbs.

The event was attended by Councillor Jill Reardon to demonstrate support on behalf of the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Bart Bassett. Councillors Paul Rassumssen and Leigh Williams were also present supporting the Bushcare and Landcare Volunteers who have been doing such brilliant work to restore the Hawkesbury's natural beauty.

Uncle Greg blew us all away with the first ever "Welcome to Country" for the Bushcare Landcare Party. It was a delight and a privilege to have Uncle Greg join us for the evening

Parks staff, Martin Gauci and Nicola Booth accompanied by their CMA colleagues Alex Muir and Bill Dixon also demonstrated appreciation to the volunteers dedication to restore the Hawkesbury Catchment. Cllr Jill Reardon, Alex Muir and Martin Gauci presented awards to acknowledge volunteers for their achievements. Winners on the night were:-

The Quiet Achievers Award - Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare Group

Encouragement Under Fire Award - Woodbury Reserve Bushcare Group

Rookies of the Year Award - Hawkesbury Young Landcare Group

Mr. Consistency for active services to Bushland Regeneration - Ian McEwan

Mrs. Consistency for active services to Bushland Regeneration - Jenny Chapple

The Green Thumb - Brenda, Garth and Boris Smith

10 Years Long-Service Award - Friends of the Colo Inc.

Environmental Group of the Year - The Willow Warriors

Environmental Volunteer of the Year - Peter Mobbs

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Above: Koomurri performing whilst everyone watched on at the Australiana Pioneer Village.

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

Caring for the old Sackville Mission Site,

By Ingrid Matthews

When two days were set aside for Bushcare at the old Sackville Mission site a fascinating time ensued.

The Local National Parks representative, an Indigenous woman, asked whether any Darug people were present to welcome us to the land. An Elder shared some of his family stories with the group. Another man spoke up 'if that was your mother, she was my grandmother's sister'. The new-found cousins swapped names of relatives and life histories.

After such a promising beginning, we set off to work hard for a couple of hours. On the menu for lunch was bush tucker, pesto made with Warrigal Greens. I was lucky enough to sit with two women from the Kamillaroi Nation, an area I had lived in for many years. At least four Nations were represented; Kamillaroi, Darug, Dharawal and Dhungutti



Above: Heads down thumbs up! Yeah, lets do it!



Above: Do you know the story of this tree?

People ...and that's just those that I knew!

<http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/> or

<http://mappery.com/Australia-Aboriginal-Tribes-Map>

The group discussed future Bushcare days at Sackville and agreed to commit ourselves to the site. And that amazing rock tree! As soon as I laid eyes on it I understood why so many stories are told about this extraordinary-looking tree. I can only imagine what it must have been like living on the abundant and beautiful Deerubbin (Hawkesbury-Nepean) River.

The Sackville Mission Bushcare Group will meet on the first weekend of every month, alternating between Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in helping restore this reserve:

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

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

2011 Yearly Plan of the Hawkesbury Bushcare Attack



A full year of Bushcare action has been planned for 2011. This includes training days, Bushcare work days, National Tree Day, Bushcare bus tours and more. See below for details.

- Seniors Week , 20 - 27 March 2011. The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is Open to the public on Wednesday, 23 March, from 9am with a free BBQ and tree planting.
- Bushcare Volunteer Training on OH&S induction (Saturday, 26 March, 9.30 -11.30am). HCC Chambers, 366 George street, Windsor, free, morning tea provided.
- To commemorate the 11th Anniversary of "World Environment Day" on Sunday, 5 June 2011; Hawkesbury Bushcare will be running a "Bushcare Basics" course (Saturday, 4 June, 9am-4pm). Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Mulgrave, free with a light lunch provided.
- "National Tree Day", Yarramundi Reserve (Sunday, 31 July, 10am-12pm). Free BBQ.
- "Hawkesbury Bushcare Bus Tour" (Sunday, 14 August,

8.30am-3pm). Visiting 3-4 Bushcare sites throughout the LGA. Starting at the Council Chambers. Limited to approximately 20 people. Contact Martin Gauci if you would like your site showcased on this tour; get in early! Free with a light lunch provided.

- "National Threatened Species Day" (NTSD) on 7 September each year. "The Hawkesbury Bushland Day" (Saturday, 3 September, 10am-3pm). More information closer to the date.
- "Biodiversity Month - Australia" September. Plant recognition training for natives and weeds. Class and field based. (Saturday, 24 September, 9am-4pm). Hawkesbury Community Nursery, Mulgrave, free with a light lunch provided.
- "Bushcare Landcare Awards Celebration", (Saturday, 3 December), from 3pm, at the Kurrajong Community Centre, McMahon Park, Kurrajong.

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

Email: mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Bushcare Landcare Festivities at the Pioneer Village, (continued from cover page)

The awards were followed by a great feed and to top the evening off an impressive Indigenous display of art and dance by Koomurri. Whilst they played the didgeridoo around an evening fire they explained the meaning of the performance to keen onlookers. Uncle Greg presented a traditional club that he made during this performance to Peter Mobbs, Volunteer of the Year.

Great feedback was received by all; "We all thought it was brilliant. It was all just right. Quick and breezy for the awards, a good feed and some great entertainment. Thanks from the Reynolds and the Harvey's from the Colo Valley Landcare Group. Thanks Guys."

The 2011 Bushcare Landcare Party date has already been set for Saturday, 3 December at the Kurrajong Community Hall at McMahon Park. The plan for the evening is to showcase the work that all Bushcare and Landcare Groups have been

doing over the years at your sites. What we ask of you is to supply 10 past and present pictures of your site to show how it has evolved and give a brief talk on what has been happening. The proposed "slide night" will be informative, encouraging, and educational and most of all entertaining. So if you are keen for the 2011 Bushcare Landcare Party to be another success, I look forward to your forthcoming pictures.

Finally keep an eye out for possible nominations of who you think should be awarded for 2011. All feedback, nominations and suggestions are welcome in making this event another success. Without you this day would not exist.

A huge thanks to those that came along to the 2010 Bushcare Landcare Party. To those that couldn't make , I hope to see you all at the 2011 Awards.

Thank you again to all the Volunteers for the work you have put into the bushland reserves throughout the Hawkesbury.



Above: The Green Thumbs - Garth and Brenda Smith; Boris was unable to attend; Bo voyage Alex!



Above: "The changing of the Guard" Environmental Volunteer of the Year for 2009 Liz Chellingsworth over to 2010 Peter Mobbs, with Councillor Jill Reardon.

Free Trees for local Schools



At a recent meeting of Council a decision was made to offer eligible schools in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, four native trees per year, from the Hawkesbury Community Nursery (HCN) to plant in their school yard.

"This is a very exciting step in the right direction for both the local schools, native flora and fauna and also for the Hawkesbury Community Nursery; everyone is a winner" said The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Bart Bassett. "I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Councillors and particular Councillor Paine who has been a strong supporter of the project and who has helped to raise its profile."

The HCN propagates native plants all year round and also

sells plants to the public. Available plants are ideal for the home garden, acreage and also for environmental revegetation. A native garden is also on site that shows the public what these native plants can look like once they get a little bigger, plus advice is always at hand. The HCN is located at 10 Mulgrave Road Mulgrave, every Wednesday (9am-12pm) or by appointment on 4560 4525.

Men Of the Trees (MOTTs) latest venture "The Schools Plantings Project", is specifically for schools to carry out plantings within their school grounds. MOTT will cover the cost of purchasing the plants, mulch and give assistance with species selection (all plants must be native species).

For further details on MOTT program:

Contact: Mark Anderson, President MOTT NSW (inc)

Phone : 4567 8002 **Email:** imbosb6.allawah@bigpond.com

Hawkesbury Bushcare Volunteer Profile



Name: Amy Barry.

Group: Matheson Park and Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare Group.

Group Location: Mill Road and Comleroy Road, Kurrajong.

Time with Group: About 2 1/2 years.

Position in Group: Bushland Regenerator.

Occupation: Year 7 Student.

Reason for Volunteering: I wanted to help the planet and our local wildlife (the morning teas are good too!)

Best Achievement: Pulling out large amounts of Lantana with my mum and Ian McCewan.

Favorite Native Species: Waratahs and Wattle Trees.

Most Hated Weed: Lantana – I hate the smell.

6 people you would like to invite to dinner: Lisbeth “Libby” Trickett, Ian Thorpe, John Williamson, Angus Young (AC/DC), Bindi Irwin and Julia Gillard, and if I was allowed to invite one more I would ask Marty Gaudi!

OH&S Training



Be safe, be seen, be aware and do the Bushcare OH&S Induction Training.

This is a compulsory training for those who have not attended one before for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program.

When: Saturday, 26 March, 9.30am -11.30am.

Where: HCC Chambers, 366 George Street, Windsor.

Why: Because your safety is important / paramount.

Morning tea provided.

Contact: RSVP to Martin Gaudi, Community Bushcare Officer, on 4560 4525, or email.



Fire in Your Bush part 2, By Peter Mobbs

“It is my belief that Australians will continue to be bedeviled by bushfire disasters until they have a coherent evolutionary perspective on the subject. The quest for this knowledge forms the core of my research. I am also deeply aware of the power of stories in translating academic knowledge into everyday understanding”. (David Bowman), Bushfire: a Darwinian perspective.

Whilst fire is a natural occurrence and a major component of our country’s environment, its effects will vary according to its particular fire regime. Differing vegetation types will benefit from fire regimes that best fit the composition of species found on any one site.

A fire regime is made up of **Intensity, Frequency and Season**; **Intensity** = Fuel load, **Frequency** = time between fire occurrences and **Season** = time of year. Factors greatly influencing variation in the fires we experience directly relate to combination of fuel load build up and climate i.e. rainfall patterns, humidity levels, wind. These critical factors combined will have a varied but direct response on individual plants, plant species population and community types and along with the fauna that inhabits our bushland sites.

Much of our local bushland is suffering from high fire frequency or extreme absence of fire, over what can be decades. This complexity needs to be examined very closely, as one sets out to determine the ecological responses how fire will effect the maintenance of the natural ecological processes.

Scientific studies to date for our region indicate for Sydney Sandstone communities (Ross Bradstock) that a fire regime varying between 10 – 16 years will be best to maintain community biodiversity and effectively support ecosystem function.

Likewise for the Cumberland Plain shale studies (Penny Watson) indicate a fire regime of 4 – 8 years is required to maintain biodiversity and effectively support ecosystem function.

This gives us a great starting point, sounds simple; however that’s rarely the case. It becomes more complex; i.e. where the communities above overlap forming a transition zone which occupies species from both community types. The land form around the Kurrajong region is a suitable example. Thus this will require a more detailed analysis and some fine tuning to the broad fire regime recommendations made above. In researching and observing your site many conflicting points will inevitably present themselves. We are yet to bring fauna (animals) into the equation. So here lay’s the challenge.

Next ...
know your plants!!





2011

Hawkesbury Bushcare Calendar



SITE LOCATIONS	GROUP	DAY	TIME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Kurrajong/Kurrajong Heights Areas															
Mill Road Reserve, Kurrajong	Mill Road Bushcare	1 st Saturday	9am - 12.30pm	*	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3
Don Street Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Don Street Bushcare	Various	Various												
Bellbird Hill Reserve, Kurrajong Heights	Bellbird Hill Bushcare	3 rd Saturday	9am - 12pm	*	*	*	16	*	*	16	*	*	15	*	*
McMahon Park, Kurrajong	McMahon Park Bushcare	Last Sunday	9am - 12pm	*	27	27	24	29	26	31	28	25	30	27	*
Matheson Park, Kurrajong	Matheson Park Bushcare	1 st Saturday	1.30pm - 4.30pm	*	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	1	5	3
855 Conlery Road, Kurrajong	Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare	4 th Saturday	9am - 12pm	*	*	26	*	*	25	*	*	24	*	*	*
North Richmond/Grose Vale Areas															
Navua Reserve, Grose Wold	Navua Community Group	1 st Sunday	9am - 12pm	*	6	6	3	1	5	3	7	4	2	6	*
Near the North Richmond Bridge	Nth. Richmond Community Group	Various	Various												
Glossodia/Ebenezer/Sackville Areas															
Chain of Ponds Reserve, Ebenezer	Chain of Ponds Bushcare	2 nd Saturday	9am - 12.30pm	8	12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10
Woodbury Reserve, Glossodia	Woodbury Reserve Bushcare	2 nd Saturday	1.30pm - 4.30pm	8	12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	8	12	10
Charles Kemp Recreational Reserve, Ebenezer	Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare	4 th Saturday	9am - 12pm	*	26	26	23	28	25	23	27	24	22	26	*
Sackville Mission - Cumberland Reach	Sackville Mission Bushcare (TBC)	Alternate 1 st Saturday & 1 st Sunday	9am - 12pm	*	*	5	3	7	5	2	7	3	2	5	*
Wisemans Ferry/Macdonald Valley Areas															
561 Settlers Road, Lower Macdonald	Sunnyvale Bushies Bushcare	3 rd Saturday	9am - 12pm	*	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	15	19	*
Hawkesbury Community Nursery															
Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. Next to the Animal Shelter & Sewage Treatment Plant.	Nursery Volunteer Group	Wednesday or by appointment	9am - 12pm												
Hawkesbury City Councils Internet Web Address															
Note * indicates optional workdays that can be negotiated with Bushcare Supervisors															

Any enquiries?

Contact Martin Gauci the Community Bushcare Officer
at Hawkesbury City Council (02) 4560 4525
martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

What to Bring?

Sun hat, sturdy shoes, long sleeve shirt, long pants,
sunscreen and drinking water.

What else to bring?

Enthusiasm, a sense of humour, a smiley face, joke and
a love of the environment, but not essential.

Myrtle Rust Alert



Photo. Dr Louise Morin, CSIRO

Above: On this *Agonis flexuosa* cv. 'Afterdark' plant, you can see a full-blown infection of bright yellow pustules of Myrtle rust.



Above: *Melaleuca* plant with fresh infection

In 2010, an outbreak of Myrtle Rust was identified on a horticultural property at Mangrove Mountain on the Central Coast. Myrtle Rust is an exotic plant disease affecting plants in the family MYRTACEAE caused by the exotic fungus *Uredo rangelii*. Since March 2010, it has spread to a large number of other horticultural sites in the surrounding area. In November 2010, it was positively identified for the first time on wild growing plants, specifically Brush Turpentine *Rhodamnia rubescens*. It has since been located in Wambina Nature Reserve, where as many as 4000 Brush Turpentine shrubs within the reserve have been infected.

Testing has now confirmed Myrtle Rust in the reserve. A regional Incident Management Team has been established to manage the outbreak and the reserve has been closed and all bush regeneration work has been halted until further notice.

What does Myrtle rust (*Uredo rangelii*) look like? The rust can start as small purple spots on leaves. The mature reproductive spores are bright yellow. Older infection is

duller yellow. Death of soft plant material may occur.

What plants can be infected with Myrtle rust?

This fungal disease causes infections on plants in the MYRTACEAE family. Affected plants include Willow Myrtle (*Agonis*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia*), Bottlebrush (*Callistemon*), Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia*), Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca*), Austromyrtus 'Aurora' and 'Blushing Beauty'. New growth of soft plant material is the most vulnerable to infection.

If you see any signs of Myrtle rust:

- * Contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881
- * Don't spread the spores by picking or moving suspect plants.
- * Take photos, not leaf samples, and send the pictures to: biosecurity@industry.nsw.gov.au
- * For more information and updates: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/info/myrtlerust

Wanted: Local Environmental Heroes

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) is currently calling for nominations for the 2011 Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Awards.

Vanessa Keyzer, Regional Landcare Facilitator with the HNCMA, said the Awards provide a great opportunity to recognise the great work Landcare individuals and groups in the region are doing. "It is estimated the army of Landcare volunteers carried out \$2.6 million of environmental work in the past year. Nominations for the awards need to be submitted by 31 March 2011. The HNCMA will help anyone in the community to prepare an application to nominate their favourite landcarer or landcare group", said Ms Keyzer.

The nine categories are:

- Individual Landcarer
- Young Landcare Leader
- Landcare Community Group
- Urban Landcare Leader
- Local Government Landcare Community Partnership

- Coastcare/Estuary Community Group
- Landcare Primary Producer
- Landcare Education
- Landcare Indigenous

Winners will be presented with their awards at the third Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Forum on 13 May 2011 at the Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Menangle, south of Sydney. They will also go on to represent the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment in the NSW Landcare Awards later in 2011.

For nomination forms go to:

www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/topics/5933.html or

Contact: HNCMA's Regional Landcare Facilitator on (02) 4725 3041 or

Email: vanessa.keyzer@cma.nsw.gov.au



Hawkesbury-Nepean
Catchment Management Authority



Biological Control of Lantana, by Robin Woods



Welcome on the scene *Teleonemia scrupulosa*, Lantana Lace Bug, which occurs naturally in Mexico, Central America and South America and was first released in Australia in 1936. Adults and nymphs suck the cell contents from the undersides of leaves, causing them to brown and wither. The bug causes the greatest damage from late summer to autumn, when plants can become defoliated.



patchy. I think the high rainfall last year has really helped maintain a larger population, which started to become evident in mid-January. (Previous years it was seen about April-May).

People should be encouraged to inform themselves by examining the affected plants and seeing that the bugs are stopping it from flowering and setting fruit. The bug is a weak flyer and so roadsides are where it is most active, because of turbulence caused by traffic and the road corridor. If

The good news is that it is really working well all along Bells Line of Road from Kurrajong to Kurmond; and along Grose Vale Rd from Kurrajong to Grose Vale. We released further material in 2008-9 in these areas on the roadsides (we meaning Mobbsy, myself and tafe students) and also down in Cattai National Park. It only works on the orange flowering lantana, not the pink variety. Previous years results had been very



people want to spread it, they take cuttings about 30cm, place them immediately into bags to stop loss of bugs, and place them onto new bushes.

Thanks LLB keep up the good work!



Grant Update from Land Management Officer, By Nicola Booth



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

Environmental Trust project total (\$24,000)

Chain of ponds, now enters it's third leg of stage 2. Works include construction of track head way and interpretive signage. Approximately 566 hours of bush regeneration has been completed in the previous milestone. Weeds targeted include Balloon Vine, African Love Grass, Wild Tobacco Tree and Trad. The zones that have been substantially worked are looking amazing and are nearing maintenance stage.



Hawkesbury-Nepean
Catchment Management Authority

HNCMA - \$10,000

River Restoration Grant is now being wound up. This funding has assisted Council to reinstate seed fridges, purchase of Greening Australia's Seedbank Database, seed collection, and to build The Community Nursery's proposed new Greenhouse., undertake bush regeneration at Chain of Ponds, Mill Road Rv., Yarramundi Rv. and Swallow Rock.

Sackville Mission Project; HNCMA - total of \$19,000

To undertake works to restore the bushland at the reserve. Works have been focused on the Council managed area, adjacent to the obelisk, Fig Tree and Rock ornament with a view to extend funds to Deerrubbin LALC to undertake bush regeneration on the remainder of the property.

HNCMA Wetland Project

Weed control and bush regeneration activities have been undertaken at Bushel's Lagoon (\$5,000) following up previous black willow control and Half Moon Farm (\$12,000) for lantana removal in the vicinity of the wetland perimeter



Land & Property
Management Authority

Crown Land Weed Control Grants

\$3,500 for Cattai Bridge Reserve Bush regeneration Project for the control of woody weeds and vines. \$2,500 towards Glossodia Park Bush Regeneration Project, for the control of woody weeds, African love grass and vines.



Australian Government

Hawkesbury Bushcare Project

Were successful in receiving \$18,181, for the purpose of engaging the local community, providing training opportunities and bush regeneration to Navua Reserve, Sunnyvale Bushies and 561 Settlers Rd Bushcare. Administered by HNCMA through Caring For Our Country

Infrastructure Grants - \$40,000;

The main driving force in allowing us to purchase and construct our proposed greenhouse, with a view to purchase and install benches, irrigation, fully automated system to control humidity and temp.

Continued to page 8 ...

Grant Update, (continued from page 7)



Australian Government

Jobs Fund - Yarramundi Restoration Project 2010-2011 total \$90,000

The project has entered its final stage. Over 1000 hours of work has been undertaken for stage 2. Fencing installed to prevent vehicular access is functional. Except for a recent break through. Plantings are surviving well and weed control is ever present. Though woody weeds and vines are being kept in check.

Charge your Glasses!

by Garth Smith

On behalf of all The Hawkesbury Bushcare and Landcare volunteers, participants and associates I would like to send a warm blessing and a heart felt congratulations to Robin Woods and John Wulff. John and Robin were recently married under the old oak tree in Bowen Mountain Park on Saturday, 8th January 2011.



We all wish you many years of happiness together.

Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group (HIMAG) Update

The Hawkesbury Indian Myna program in the past 12 months has had over 500 people express interest in controlling Indian Mynas. The program is up and running quite well with Pee Gee traps available through a few avenues. 1. Via a refundable deposit once returned. 2. Though the local Hawkesbury Men's Shed and the John Morony Correctional Complex for \$50. 3. Make your own with plans provided. Hawkesbury City Councils website is now up and running. <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag>

Please keep sending your capture data to your closest Volunteer Area Coordinator so we can gauge the effectiveness of HIMAG. Various trap builders and trap makers had a bit to report on.



John Morony Correctional Complex - traps

The Pee Gee traps are constructed by inmate labor within the engineering unit of Corrective Services Industries; with both constructed traps supplying a few neighbouring councils. They have also made the Pee Gee trap as a "flat pack" for other council trapping training days, which has proved to be quite successful. Traps are sold for \$50, if you're interested in a trap, contact Kenneth Trueman on 4582 2219 (best to call in the morning) or Kenneth.Trueman@dcs.nsw.gov.au

Hawkesbury Men's Shed, 23 Bosworth Street

Hawkesbury Men's Shed (HMS) is a not for profit organisation that was set up to provide an avenue for men of all ages to get together and do things of interest. It began three years ago, assisted greatly by a \$5,000 grant from the Richmond Club. The HMS philosophy is to not get involved in contracts or other work that would tie the HMS into projects that prevent the members from doing their own thing. Hawkesbury City Council approached the HMS to assist in a program designed to eradicate the Indian Myna bird from the Hawkesbury area.

With a seeding grant from Hawkesbury City Council, the HMS was able to buy some material to construct a Pee Gee trap, that has been very successful in trapping the Indian Myna

Bird. The HMS continues to build the traps by way of a \$50 donation for each trap to cover cost of materials.

So far over 140 Pee Gee traps have been built. HMS have received a lot of positive feedback on how efficient the trap is.

HMS is open to the community on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-2pm. If you are interested in obtaining a Pee Gee trap, please contact Greg at the HMS on 0409 443 884.

Geoff Wynn, Windsor Volunteer Area Coordinator and trap hire

Runs trap building workshops in the Hawkesbury area. He has also run a trap building workshop for Blacktown and Penrith Councils. He also gives useful tips on trapping.

Peter Ryan, Pitt Town Volunteer Area Coordinator

We have caught 318 birds since November 2010. We have had luck in catching the smarter birds by putting peanut butter on the dog food; you don't need a lot and it has been working well. Keeping the trap washed is also very important.

Bob Pickworth, HIMAG trapper

I hadn't set the trap for many weeks and noticed a few young Indian Mynas around. I left it for 2 days over the very hot period from February 1st-3rd and caught 31 immature birds on day one and 8 on day two. These were all non mature birds quite surprising. I think the key is not to set the trap too often or in the same place twice. Also the big catch was after the mulberries had dropped and during a hot weather period when there might have been a shortage of food and water. Interestingly there was no sign of older breeders in the trap at all; this may indicate they are getting cunning.

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



Above: Good. Noisy
Minor (Native)

The History of North Richmond Community Group,

by Phil Knobbs

I started work at the reserve in 1985. The weeds that I encountered consisted of:

Castor Oil Plant *Ricinus communis* (origin Asia to Africa)
 Small-leaf Privet *Ligustrum sinense* (origin Asia and Japan)
 Large-leaf Privet / Broad-leaf Privet *Ligustrum lucidum* (origin Asia and Japan)
 Balloon Vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* (origin Tropical Asia, Africa and America)
 Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia* (origin South America)
 TRAD / Wandering Jew *Tradescantia fluminensis* (origin South America)

When I started, the Balloon Vine was waist high and the Castor Oil Plants 200mm thick. A local neighbour, Gretchen Wheen, offered help in the use of a chainsaw and her employed local gardener to cut down the Castor Oil Plants. This was the only mechanical device used on site to clear the weeds. All other weeds were removed by hand; no spraying or poisons were used - I hand pulled everything.



Above: Phil Knobbs standing next to a Blue Gum he planted more than 10 years ago.

I worked 10 square metres at a time starting from the "no through road" of Old Kurrajong Road and slowly worked my way down to the river. To suppress any potential weed regrowth, I laid 6mm thick of newspaper and weighed this down with sand. Then I planted this area out with native plants. Once I could maintain this area, I started a new "10 square metre" patch and planted as I went. This was a real challenge for me to just try and beat it (the weeds). All weeds were left on site and the original pile of Castor Oil Plants that were out was 5 metres. The only remnant of this is a mound in the middle of the reserve that stands half a metre.

The weeds along Bells Line of Road were used as a screen, I was worried, this great work might be vandalised and the plantings pulled out; cars have been burnt out and dumped in the area during those early years. Basically I wanted "the bush" to gradually appear.

I collected seeds from plants from various reserves and grew the plants at home, which included: Redbank Creek, Hannah Park, Hawkesbury Park and The Grose River. What occurred on site naturally were a few *Lomandras*, *Eucalyptus saligna*, *Acacia parramattensis*, *Acacia binervia*

and *Casuarina cunninghamiana*.

The plantings included: *Eucalyptus saligna* (Blue Gum), *E. deaneii* (Mountain Blue Gum), *E. teretecornis* (Forest Red Gum), *E. amplifolia* (Cabbage Gum), Stringybark, Ironbark, *Ficus coronata* (Sandpaper Fig), *Glochidion ferdinandi* (Chesse Tree), *Angophora subvelutina* (Broad-leaved Apple), *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar), *Lomandra longifolia* (Matt Rush), *Melaleuca stypheliodes* (Prickly-leaved Paperbark), *Leptospermum polygalifolium* (Lemon-scented Tea-tree), *Austrostipa ramosissima* (Bamboo Grass), *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (She Oak), *Acacia parramattensis* (Parramatta Green Wattle), *A. binervia* Coast Myall), *Microleana stipoides* (Weeping Meadow Grass) and *Trema aspera* (Native Peach).

On the waters edge, the site originally had a steep bank, approximately 1.2 metres high. To combat this, I planted Casuarinas in the waters edge at the low tide point. Over time the steepness of the bank had been reduced.

I feel that when planting and revegetating a site that all layers (ground mid storey and canopy) should be planted at the same time to ensure effective weed suppression in the ground layer.

To present, I am very happy with the site as it just requires maintenance. Native plants are beginning to germinate naturally on the site, including: *Cayratia clematidea*, *Angophora subvelutina* and *Acacias*. Men of the Trees have planted natives on the other side of Bells Line of Road, which has complimented my work. A number of grants have helped me achieve my goal along the way, the majority of which were attained through HNCMA with the assistance of Hawkesbury City Council.

Of late a few native animals have been sited within the reserve, which include a Red-bellied Black Snake, Bandicoots and Blue Tongue Lizards.

Tony Manea has helped on site as well as The Australian Plant Society in 2003 assisted to lay jute mat with Andrew and Betty Bellingham, Muriel, Pam, son Tim. Ray Penzeck would also give me hand.

I get occasional vandals, they come and go, but I keep plodding along.

It's sad neighbouring properties can't do the same or similar as what I have done to this site. Imagine both sides of the river up and down stream were like this site? Wouldn't that make the river and the Hawkesbury a marvelous place.

Clean Up Australia Day

One Sunday, 6 March 2011, be part of the largest community event in Australia. We are encouraging communities, schools and businesses to organise a Clean Up Site and get friends and family to participate. Clean Up Australia Day is fun, easy and everyone can get involved.

To register: www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/
Phone: 8197 3400 or cleanup@cleanup.com.au



Hawkesbury City Council



if not claimed within 7 days please return to
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Weed All About It



Newsletter for the 'Hawkesbury Bushcare' Program

Hawkesbury City Council

Vol 12 Issue 1 Summer 2011

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 **LIVING IN THE
HAWKESBURY
& HAVING TROUBLE
GETTING AROUND
TO ACTIVITIES
OR EVENTS?**



**IF YOU ARE AGED BETWEEN 12 AND 18 YEARS OLD,
ARE A YOUNG PARENT OR YOUNG PERSON WITH
A DISABILITY AGED UP TO 25,
LIVE IN THE HAWKESBURY AND ARE HAVING TROUBLE
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mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.
We would love to
hear from you.