

## National Tree Day – a first for Hawkesbury Community Nursery

**H**awkesbury Bushcare undertook something a little bit different for National Tree Day this year, by giving away over 700 native plants to encourage residents to plant a native tree. This was the first National Tree Day event ever held at the Community Nursery with the aim to improve the natural biodiversity of people's gardens and properties in the Hawkesbury.

Over 200 people came from far and wide with residents from Bilpin to Oakville and Yarramundi to St Albans collecting their free native plants. Over 28 different plant species were on offer of all different shapes and sizes including trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

Council's Land Management Officer was excited by the local response.

"It's fantastic to see Hawkesbury locals turn up in their droves to the nursery and get something of true green thumb value," Michael Pattison said.

Hawkesbury City Council Mayor, Councillor Kim Ford showed his support of such an important Council facility. "A big thanks goes to the Community Nursery volunteers and Council staff who worked really hard putting this plant giveaway together and who had grown these great plants over the past 12 months; I hope there will be plenty more



*Community Nursery Volunteers and Council staff all working together to make a great day at the native plant giveaway as part of National Tree Day.*

events like this down the track," Councillor Ford said.

"The public not only had some great native plants on offer but received some extremely friendly and useful advice on how, when, where and why to plant these oxygen makers. It's great to see such positive attitudes towards native plants in our local region. What a real asset this place is!"

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is part of the Hawkesbury Bushcare program and welcomes all volunteers new and old who are keen to help their local area. For more information

on how you can get involved with the Community Nursery, contact the Community Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on (02) 4560 4525, or email [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)



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**Entries close:** Friday, 7 December 2013

**Award presentation and exhibition:** Sunday 2 February 2014 (This date may be subject to change)

**For more information contact:**

Liz Hajenko  
WetlandCare Australia Photography Prize Coordinator  
T: 1800 816 147

**Email:** [entries@wetlandcare.com.au](mailto:entries@wetlandcare.com.au)  
Or go to <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php/our-work/current-projects/photography-prize-now-open/>



## Wetland Photo Competition Now Open!

It's time to get out your cameras and start snapping your favorite wetlands and their inhabitants! Our annual Photography Prize is open for entries, and there are some fantastic prizes on offer. We're looking forward to your wonderful wetland photographs and celebrating World Wetlands Day with you. PS World Wetland Day Sunday 2 February 2014.

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

# Grant Update

from Land Management Officer - Michael Pattison



Australian Government  
Department of Sustainability, Environment  
Water, Population and Communities



## Biodiversity Fund

### Hawkesbury River Restoration

Year two of the project is now complete with over 5500 hours of bush regeneration activity and over 2000 trees planted across several low resilience sites. Works have been undertaken on over 60 hectares of Council reserves to enhance biodiversity values.

Future works will focus on follow up weed control and further planting where necessary.

Local Government  
Association of NSW



Shires Association  
of NSW

## Roadside Vegetation Implementation Project

Baseline mapping of populations of *Acacia pubescens* is now complete for the Pitt Town Scheyville area and conservation works are now underway on a number of roadside sites. We were fortunate to have completed monitoring before a hazard reduction burn on Scheyville National Park and will now be able to monitor recruitment of *A. pubescens* post fire which will be an interesting additional component to the project.

The development of the training module is now underway and should be completed by the end of the year.

If you have information on threatened species, populations or communities located within road reserves feel free to contact The Land Management Officer, Michael Pattison on 4560 4531 or email [mpattison@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mpattison@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).



Hawkesbury-Nepean  
Catchment Management Authority

## Riverine Ecosystems Grant

A project at the Old Cemetery site on Settlers Road and the Macdonald River in St Albans. to control the *Buddleia*

infestation is now complete. The *Buddleia* infestation was treated at a primary level, with the site responding well to bush regeneration. The area will now be put on a maintenance program.

## Successful Applications

Estuary Management Program Council has been awarded funding from the NSW Estuary Management Program to remediate bank erosion at Governor Phillip Park. Areas around the boat ramp and along the Hawkesbury River have suffered from erosion and large sections of the bank have slumped into the river.

The project will aim to improve bank stability through hard and soft engineering techniques and include re-vegetating with native sedges and rushes.



Hawkesbury-Nepean  
Catchment Management Authority

## Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Council has been awarded funding the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority to improve riverbank stabilisation through terrestrial and in-stream revegetation works.

The project includes the propagation of local native aquatic plants at the Hawkesbury Community Nursery. Focus sites will be those with active erosion issues such as Governor Phillip Park, Holmes Drive Reserve and Charles Kemp reserve to name a few.

## Applications Pending

Crown Lands Weed Control Council has applied to the Department of Lands for funding to implement further weed control on Crown reserves managed by Council. We have requested funding for eight reserves to target High Priority weeds such as Senegal Tea, African Olive, Honey Locust, Madeira Vine and *Ludwigia*.



## Environmental Trust

An application is under development for this year's Environmental Trust Fund to focus on the control of *Arundo donax* (Giant reed) that is having a negative impact in the riparian zones of the lower reaches of the Hawkesbury, Colo and Macdonald rivers.

*Arundo donax* is a tall perennial grass growing to eight metres high in large cane-like clumps. It has showy, silky seed heads (up to 60 centimetres long) and usually grows along river banks, wetlands, roadsides and wastelands. It is a serious environmental weed in a number of countries and has the potential to invade large areas of the Lower Hawkesbury riparian zones, impacting on biodiversity and native habitat.



Before



After

*Arundo donax*, on the Macdonald River. It can be removed with a bit of hard work!

Photo - Vera Zaccari

## Editorial

When you think those Bushcare newsletters can't get any better; well think again. This edition has got it all. A huge thanks again for those who contributed, edited, laid out, folded, suggested and corrected. We have some great articles on events, topics of discussion, awards, updates, tree stuff and more. Check

it out, enjoy the read and keep those groovy articles coming in, they're all winners.

Happy Days.

Marty Gauci  
Community Bushcare Officer  
& HIMAG Facilitator





# The 2013 16th Annual Bushcare Landcare Awards

Get ready it's coming! We've had a Jazz band, Rock Band, Corroboree and camp fire, trivia quiz, bake off, breakfast, BBQ, brunch, dinner, Paddle Steamer, Native Animal Show and wood fired pizza. Well could there possibly be anything else? We searched high and low and delved and dug within our inner sanctum of ideas and events for the Bushcare Landcare Awards.

**When:** Friday, 6 December. 6pm - 9pm

**Where:** Windsor Bowling Club, George Street, Windsor. Free dinner and bare foot bowls

**Hosted and Sponsored:** By Hawkesbury City Council and The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

**Bookings:** RSVP is essential to arrange your free drink coupons and meal voucher, so please book early for catering needs and please specify any dietary requirements. Call Marty Gauci on 4560 4525 or 0413 195248 or email [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

As you know at the awards we thank those people and groups for putting the hard yards in over the years to help restore and preserve the natural areas in and around the Hawkesbury. We welcome all nominations, suggestions, ideas and thoughts for this, so please make Martin Gauci and Vanessa Keyzer 4725 3041 [vanessa.keyzer@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vanessa.keyzer@cma.nsw.gov.au) aware of who you think should be recognised. We would love to hear from you.



## BUSHCARE ABOUT

Hawkesbury Bushcare has been on the promotion wagon at a number of events. These have included the Earthcare Autumn Harvest, Retirees Expo, NAIDOC Week in Richmond Park, Pioneer Village Open Day, Richmond TAFE Open Day, and the presentation to the Macdonald Valley Association at St Albans. We have had a number of people express interest in our programs, so hopefully those that signed up and who have received this newsletter for the first time will come along to a Bushcare site close to their place – there's no time like the present! It would be fantastic to see some new faces at some of those great Bushcare sites as well at the "Bare Foot Bowls" in December in a few weeks time (see above).



*The Macdonald Valley Association Educational Community Workshop*

will not become a weed problem like many exotic plants, give food and shelter to the native animals and just look great.

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery is able to supply you with a wide range of locally native trees, shrubs, grasses, climbers and groundcovers, all grown by local volunteers and the staff will be able to advise you on the best plant choice for your area. We now have a list of current available stock that is updated monthly on Council's website at - <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/community-nursery>

A great shrub / small tree that is currently in flower is the Native hibiscus – *Hibiscus heterophyllus*. This attractive shrub grows to about 3-6m and has beautiful showy flowers with edible fruit, a must for any garden.

Come along on a Wednesday (9am-1pm) and get some help to pick the right plants for your situation. You can find us at 10 Mulgrave Rd, Mulgrave, next to the Companion Animal Shelter. Ph 4560 4651.



## Match your Soil

by Jutta Hamilton

Spring has arrived, and now is a good time to do some planting. Locally native plants are often the best choice for successful plantings. If these plants have been grown from locally collected seed, they are genetically best adapted to the sometimes challenging conditions nature has to offer.

In the local Hawkesbury area there are a variety of different soil types, climatic and geological conditions. There are dry and sandy soils, rich alluvial soils, clay soils, flood plains, rocky outcrops, areas with heavy frost in winter and temperate and sheltered rainforest gullies.

It does not matter where you live, because there are always plants that have adapted to these specific conditions. Using a locally native plant that is the right match for the soil and climatic condition has the advantage that these plants will establish well, enhance the character of the local area,



# 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

**Geoff Wynn:** Windsor / Bligh Park VAC & free trap hire.

0439 070 162 [himagwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:himagwindsor@gmail.com)

**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)

**Troy Hogarth:** Bowen Mountain VAC 0417 300 076

[troy.hogarth@gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:troy.hogarth@gamecouncil.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: Greg

0409 443 884, 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)

**Martin Gauci:** HCC, Community Bushcare Officer & HIMAG facilitator; general enquiries

4560 4525 [mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mgauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## Trap Building & trapping tactics Worskhop

**When Sunday 10 November 2013 (8am -12noon)**

**RSVP & more details - Martin Gauci as per above**

## 2013 Indian Myna Conference

In June this year I was lucky enough to attend the 2013 Indian Myna Conference, "Towards Best Practice Indian Myna Control and be involved in the plenary discussion, highlighting what HIMAG does and encouraging other community groups and areas who do not have a control program to implement one. There were a number guest speakers at the conference all of which were highly useful to help improve trapping with HIMAG and create awareness with trapping and why we should be trapping.

I will now highlight what I thought were the important messages for HIMAG in improving its trapping program and how it can benefit the Hawkesbury area. Of which the following was taken from the various sites <http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/> & The following summations were by Ian Fraser, Canberra-based ecologist and naturalist, and Winner of the Natural History Medallion.

Check out "Ian Frasers Talk" at the following link, it's a real winner.

*"it matters a lot if people can be helped to better understand the importance of protecting our 'Australianess' and feel they can actually do something about it."*

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/2013%20Indian%20Myna%20Conference%20Wrap%20up%20Summary.pdf>

## Andrea Griffin (University of Newcastle)

"Myna Intelligence, Adaptability and Risk Aversion learning"

Andrea Griffin introduced us to mynas as a flexible and adaptable species capable of rapid expansion and of learning from other mynas' experiences, positive and negative. It is a bird that scores highly with regard to problem-solving ability related to food sources, though individuals vary significantly in this capacity. Birds from urban areas score higher than birds from suburban environments. She is currently investigating whether birds that are good problem solvers are also more exploratory by nature, and whether rural birds score worse than urban populations.

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/2013%20Indian%20Myna%20Conference%20Wrap%20up%20Summary.pdf>

Therefore from the above analogy an important trapping tip can be noted.

**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/indian-myna-calls.html>

## Marie Diquelou (University of Newcastle – PhD candidate)

At least 87,000 mynas have already been removed from NSW and the ACT by trapping. She is currently investigating whether myna populations can become trap-aware; for example, she is measuring whether under higher intensity trapping regimes, birds form smaller groups, stay closer together and stay out of sight more. Stay tuned to this space! <http://andreasgriffin.weebly.com/students.html>

## Kate Grarock (Australian National University – PhD candidate)

"Myna impacts on Native Birds / Does trapping help?"

Kate Grarock proposed that knowledge of the invasion sequence may help develop management strategies. Her Canberra research has indicated a long-term negative impact of mynas on hollow nesting native species and on small ones. She also emphasised a need to look at myna impacts in the context of overall habitat changes. She suggested that a figure of 25 mynas per square kilometre might be an appropriate target in an already colonised area. Trapping of mynas indicated a positive impact on breeding opportunities for some native birds although more research was needed on this.

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/2013%20Indian%20Myna%20Conference%20Wrap%20up%20Summary.pdf>

This study indicated that intense localized culling appears to be effective. The common myna appears to be somewhat sedentary and slow at spreading to new areas (Grarock et al. 2013b), potentially enhancing cull effectiveness in the medium term. Due to the species broad distribution across Australia and other continents, perhaps management actions should be undertaken in localized areas where the species is deemed to have the greatest impact. Common Myna had a negative impact on the

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## [HIMAG] continued

continents, perhaps management actions should be undertaken in localized areas where the species is deemed to have the greatest impact. Common Myna had a negative impact on the long-term abundance of some cavity-nesting bird species and some small bird species. For all the science, go to <http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/GRAROCKslim.pdf>

### Susan Saavedra

**Susan Saavedra (Canary Islands, Spain: ecologist / pest animal manager)**

"Indian Myna Elimination – it can be done!"

Susan Saavedra shared her experiences of myna species control on nine islands around the world, giving a fascinating and detailed account of how a program can be successfully built from scratch in a range of societies and island situations. She stressed the importance of:

- delegating, involving local staff and local media in order to raise community awareness;
- animal welfare issues in trap and holding cage design;
- a suite of complementary control methods.

She reinforced Andrea's message that mynas learn from others' experiences, especially regarding traps. Her message was that people should avoid approaching traps during daylight hours so mynas do not associate people and traps, and thereby become trap shy.



*Martin Gauci with the legend of Global Indian Myna Control Susana Saavedra 2013 IM Conference Canberra*

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/2013%20Indian%20Myna%20Conference%20Wrap%20up%20Summary.pdf>

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/documents/Susana%20Saavedraslim.pdf>

If I had to highlight particular points they would be -

**Dr Andrea Griffin** - avoid breeding shy birds

**Susana Saavedra** - avoid approaching traps during daylight hours so mynas do not associate people and traps

**Kate Grarock** - Common Myna have a negative impact on the long-term abundance of some cavity-nesting bird species and some small bird species

**Peter West** - Myna Scan mapping is an important tool

**Daryl H King** – Refugial nests need to be identified

For more detailed HIMAG info. Go to - [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environmental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag) or Google "Hawkesbury Myna" it may be quicker.

## CONTROLLING THE CLAW IN KURRAJONG-GROSE VALE

A steering committee was formed comprising representatives from Hawkesbury Rainforest Network [HRN], Hawkesbury Environment Network [HEN], and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority [HNCMA]. We have mapped and recorded data about the infestation covering approximately a quarter of known sites which extend all across Kurrajong, down various roads to Grose Vale and even down to Single Ridge Rd and the Slopes area. Some of the worst sites are on main roads eg Bells Line of Rd at the intersection with Comleroy Rd and the entrance to Kurrajong Village. We are hoping for collaboration also with Council via a Roads Environment Committee structure, to control the "Claw" where it is growing on Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and Council easements as well as within the powerline easements. Council has recently adopted a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) and the next step in that is a Roadside Vegetation Implementation Plan (RVIP).

Meanwhile a series of meetings with Hawkesbury River County Council (the noxious weeds authority) and with National Parks and Wildlife have linked the project with their weed control programs. In particular, we are concerned at the possibility of Cats Claw Creeper (CCC) getting into Wollemi National Park via the creek systems. A couple of sites which have that potential have already been identified. Future training days for landholders have been earmarked. Jacob Philpott, who is well regarded as an

accomplished educator and experienced bush regeneration operator, has been selected to co-ordinate the overall weed training and control program with Kate Young as events co-ordinator.



Locals have received the first notice via distribution of hundreds of brightly coloured flyers in the target area. The next step is a letter to all landholders where we have identified the weed actively growing, as an invitation to attend the workshop.

Training happened quite fortuitously at a highly visible site in Kurrajong back in early August. Danny Lett assisted Andrew with an hour of training to clear the main vines at the base of the tree shown in the photos.

Three weeks later, all the trees in his front garden had been thoroughly treated and the vines were completely dead. Follow-up work on any re-emerging vines from underground tubers will be needed for quite a while yet.

For more information on the CC project go to <http://www.hen.org.au/latest-news>

**For future Cat's Claw Training Days; contact - Kate Young 0427 488869 or Robin Woods 0414 672014 [robin@hen.org.au](mailto:robin@hen.org.au)**

# Me & Chain of Ponds, by John Jose

My association with Chain of Ponds Reserve began when I used to take my nephews fishing for bass in Currency Creek which is the major creek in the reserve. I recall there was a tree trunk which had fallen into the creek and it provided us access to the water, for the banks were otherwise too steep.

I came on other occasions with a bird spotting group and the like however I was always disturbed by both the general littering and dumping of household rubbish and industrial waste. In conjunction with "Clean Up Australia" I organised two successive clean ups of the reserve. On the first occasion we had to get a complete car and fridge lifted from the creek. There were also industrial loads of glass and carpet dumped over the banks of the creek. Car parts and assorted rubbish were strewn over the hillside.

Sadly after each yearly "Clean Up" the dumpers would return with their evil offerings. It was about this time it was decided to transfer our Glossodia bush care group to Chain of Ponds. This was a welcome move for me, I would be in constant monthly contact with the reserve. Still large amounts of rubbish were being dumped near the creek and I was constantly whinging (its a natural talent us pommies are endowed with) to Council that vehicle access needed to be restricted, which eventually came to pass in four stages and now we have a heavy duty gate and cars are required to park outside. We still get an occasional visit from a dumper that calls by just for ol' times sake, so to speak!

Littering is an on going minor problem and at one time I posted a handwritten sign on the picnic table "Please take all rubbish with you, your mother does not service this area" and it seemed to have a positive effect, MOTHER is a powerful word, we all have or have had one who has told us to clean up.

The bush regeneration started in earnest with as many as 12 "volliers" on a work day, monies flowed from grants and "The

Good Bush People" were contracted to work on the inner parts of the reserve. Although it was a new site for us we were soon to be greeted by the familiar weeds that we had grown to hate. Here we had a "mower man" which was a new force to reckon with and it proved difficult to get an understanding of which areas were to be mowed and which were to be regenerated. Things came to a head when many of our regen euc seedlings were mowed down and then physical bollard barriers were installed.

At the time it was usual practice to mow up to the base of the trees however this caused damage to any exposed roots so it was decided to restrict mowing to a metre from all trees. This formed little islands which were then weeded and returned to

native, I planted shrubs on the perimeter viz Ozothamnus, Bursaria and Indigofera in green bags which gave the appearance of flags and made them look official.

Thus far this no-go zone has not been breached, it gives the trees a far more natural setting and we are even getting climbers up the trunks. There was one mishap, someone did a Number 2 behind one of the trees and left a mess with paper etc, nature called you may well say, well nature has also responded, on the off side of all trees there now appears a healthy crop of

NATIVE STINGING NETTLES.

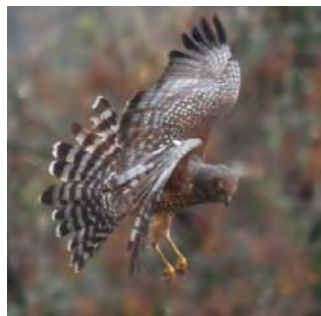
Prior to the gate, cars were parked in the reserve, which left an area bare of ground covers and following subsequent rains masses of euc seedlings appeared or recruitment as they say in the trade. These were all dug up for they were in the ill fated mow area and raised at the nursery to tube stock stage and later replanted in the safe area behind the bollards, some are now over 2 metres in height. We had also reclaimed some land from the mower man near the gate. I saw this gate area as the shop window to the reserve and that it should reflect what lies within. Whereas it had been mowed to death, I set about collecting seed for the lost species, mostly ground covers and understorey which were absent as a result of years of mowing, these were raised at home and again

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The proud bush regenerators - Hugh Patterson, Lesley Hayes, Liz Chellingworth & John Jose

## What is a Harrier? By Mark Fuller



Top pic: The Spotted Harrier 'dropping in' using its long legs to grab birds such as quail, reptiles and mammals that live in the long grass, at Richmond Lowlands; Photo Mark Fuller.

Australia has 24 species of raptor (birds of prey), 21 of which have been recorded in the county of Cumberland. The open country and wetlands of the Hawkesbury region are one of the best places to see raptors and most have been recorded here. Raptors are divided into groups including eagles, kites, hawks, falcons and harriers, along with 'one-offs' such as the Eastern Osprey, now seen regularly along the Hawkesbury. They are often hard for beginners to identify, but with practice most can be recognised using 'GISS' (General Impression, Size & Shape). Harriers often hunt low over vegetation, quartering with long, trailing legs.

Papuan Harrier, *Circus spilonotus*, is a very rare vagrant to northern Australia.

As its name implies, the Swamp Harrier is often seen flying low over reed beds or other wetlands and will 'drop in' on unsuspecting animals in the thick vegetation, they will take anything from fully grown waterfowls to small mammals. Pitt Town Lagoon is a reliable spot to see these birds, look for a reddish-brown bird with a white rump.

The Spotted Harrier is to my mind one of the most beautiful raptors, with a spotted chestnut breast and grey upperparts, black primaries (wing-tips) and a barred tail. This species is often seen flying low over grassy paddocks at Richmond Lowlands, hunting small animals including quail. I see many raptors around 10am, when early birds starting relaxing and reptiles are active. The perfect time to hitch a ride on a thermal and find a meal!



Right: A Swamp Harrier at Pitt Town Lagoon; Photo Mark Fuller.

Australia's two harrier species are the Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*, and the Spotted Harrier, *Circus assimilis*. The



# 'River Reach'

by Suzanne Stuart



Hawkesbury City Council and the Office of Environment and Heritage are working together with our consultant WBM BMT on a project to prepare a Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Upper Hawkesbury River between Yarrumundi and Wisemans Ferry. The preparation of the Plan is taking place in three stages. The first stage was the preparation of a report that looked at all of the available information about the River. The second stage, which is currently been finalised, was the first round of consultation. This involved community discussions at the local shopping centre, opportunities for the community to make submissions on the project, a community workshop and a risk management workshop with government agencies. There is also a project website at <http://upperhawkesburyczmp.bmtwbm.com.au/>

A summary of the outcomes of the community consultation will soon be available for comment on Council's website [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au).

This information will then be incorporated into the Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Plan will then be put on public exhibition early next year and we would welcome any comments and feedback.

To provide your comments, feedback or information on the plan contact:

**Michelle Fletcher**

Senior Coastal Scientist, BMT WBM

Ph: 02 4940 8882

Email: [Michelle.Fletcher@bmtwbm.com.au](mailto:Michelle.Fletcher@bmtwbm.com.au)

## THE HAWKESBURY IS YOUR BACKYARD

and no one should have to put up with this....



OR



OR EVEN THIS



Illegal dumping creates an unsightly appearance of the neighbourhood, affects property values and quality of life and increases problems with safety. Illegal dumping also has both major environmental and financial costs.

However if illegal dumping is reported quickly, you can help decrease the likelihood of further dumping being added to the same location. It's also proven that people are more likely to treat neighbourhoods that look nice with respect.

Seen some dumping in your travels or on the way to work? You can reporting it online - <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste-and-recycling/illegal-dumping/abandoned-trolleys2/dob-in-a-dumper> along with reporting uncovered loads and littering.

### 3 easy steps to Report a Dumper:

1. Online report form
2. Phone Councils Regulatory Officers 02 4560 4555 if you witnessed the dumping and have the details
3. Phone Council 02 4560 4444 if you only have the dumped rubbish location

By doing so you're assisting Council to control illegal dumping and also helping keep the Hawkesbury beautiful... so thank you in advance!

## Me & Chain of Ponds by John Jose

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planted at the reserve. To date there have been 618 plantings and whilst there are few blooms, it is as Peter Cundle would say "it is looking blooming good".

Our regular 2nd Saturday in the month work days are a fun time, some of us are there most months whilst others come occasionally and I think we all tend to think of it as our own special place but we are willing to share it with you, so come along and join us sometime.

## "Hawkesbury continues its winning streak"

by Vanessa Keyzer

After winning the Regional Landcare Award for Innovative Young Landcare Leader, Zhan Patterson has gone on to win the NSW State Landcare award as well, recently held in Newcastle. Zhan ran the highly successful Alive! project on behalf of Hawkesbury Environment Network which successfully engaged 13 schools / youth groups in local environmental activity. Zhan is a passionate and highly motivated young woman and the prize is well deserved. Zhan will be nominated to the National Landcare Awards held in 2014. Bring it on!



Winner Zhan Patterson & Mike Peoples Westpac Agribusiness representative who sponsored the award

## Koala Counts, Koala Apps & Koala Trees

The Great Koala Count is a Citizen Science initiative. This means you have an opportunity to contribute to Koala conservation. If you are in an area with Koalas from 7-17 November you can assist in the Great Koala Count by sending sightings in. For more information go



to [www.koalacount.org.au](http://www.koalacount.org.au) and get a free GPS smartphone app. While we're on the topic of Koalas, you will not only find a Koala in Gum tree, but also in Casuarinas, Kurrajongs and trees with thicker foliage, it's these trees the provide ideal shelter and help cool Koalas down on those hot days. For more information, have a read of Dr Matthew Crowther the University of Sydney's findings. For more information, go to <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-10-03/koala-habitat-wildlife-protection-australian-marsupials/4995130>

## Kayaking on the Hawkesbury-Nepean

Would you like paddle in a kayak along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River between Penrith and Windsor? Would you like to control the Black Willows previously mapped and enjoy the native fauna like the Sea Eagle we regularly see and learn about the river health? Group sizes are limited to eight. No prior experience in willow control or kayaking is required by new volunteers. Participants need to be fit and willing and able to climb around logs on slippery banks in and out of the water to treat the willows. Dates include Sunday, 10 and 26 November.



For more information or register for an activity contact: Jeff Cottrell 0418 210 347

Email: [willowwarriors@optusnet.com.au](mailto:willowwarriors@optusnet.com.au)

Facebook: Willow Warriors or

Web: <http://www.willowwarriors.org.au>

## Hawkesbury Bushcare

### Scheduled Meeting Times

**Weed All About It** - Newsletter for the Hawkesbury Bushcare Program  
Volume 14 Issue 3 Spring 2013

This newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

#### Mill Road Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Matheson Park Bushcare

Matheson Park, Kurrajong  
1st Saturday of the Month (1pm-4pm)

#### Navua Community Group

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

#### Chain of Ponds Reserve Bushcare

Stannix Park Road, Chain of Ponds Reserve, Ebenezer  
2nd Saturday of the Month (9am-12.30pm)

#### Woodbury Reserve Bushcare

Spinks Road, (40 Acres), Glossodia  
2nd Saturday of the Month (1.30pm-4.30pm)

#### McMahon Park Bushcare

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

#### Sunnyvale Bushies

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

#### Bellbird Hill Reserve Bushcare

Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights  
Various work days

#### Charles Kemp Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Merroo Crown Reserve Bushcare

855 Comleroy Road, Kurrajong  
Various work days

#### Cumberland Reach Memorial Reserve Bushcare

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

#### Redbank Creek Bushcare, North Richmond

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

#### Don Street Reserve Bushcare

Don Street, Kurrajong Heights  
Various work days

#### Community Nursery Day

Hawkesbury Community  
Nursery, Mulgrave  
Every Wednesday (9am-1pm) and  
by appointment on 4560 4651

If you are interested in being involved in any of the Hawkesbury Bushcare sites, or have any enquiries, please contact Community

Bushcare Officer, Martin Gauci on 4560 4525, or email: [martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.gauci@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
We would love to hear from you.



# Hawkesbury City Council

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



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