

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]



No. 36, 2002.

A publication of the Bankstown Bushland Society Incorporated
Reg. No. Y15576-12

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NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST ABANDONS GRASS ROOTS

by Colin Gibson

The Natural Heritage Trust has turned its back on grassroots community groups that are desperate to promote bush regeneration work in urban bushland. Neither the NHT nor the Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board (which directs small grants of NHT money) offer anything to fully committed groups such as ourselves which specialise in bush regeneration work in listed endangered ecological communities.

The NHT submission guidelines make almost no reference to 'bush regeneration' – it is referred to as 'weeding', which is not regarded as a valuable outcome of any project worthy of funding. All such work is expected to be done by unpaid labour and volunteers, yet the NPWS Recovery Plan Guidelines for most endangered ecological communities stipulate that restoration works in such areas need to be undertaken by qualified individuals, that is, by

qualified bush regenerators. Yet the NHT makes no money to pay for them. Bush regenerators are not relevant to the aims of the NHT.

Our recent application for funding to undertake regeneration work at Carysfield Park, endangered Ironbark Scrub Forest habitat, was rejected "due to the concern about the value that this work would provide in comparison to cost". Carysfield Park, one of the last and best remaining examples of this habitat, of which less than 1% survives, is being choked to death by invasive weeds and neglect.

The \$25,000 we know was required here would have given it hope for the future, which this habitat badly needs in view of the recent destruction of similar vegetation at Freshwater Creek, at Shaddock Avenue and nearby Louisa Reserve. It was deserving of every penny; funding would have been an inspiration to the local community, including the Lions Club, the Scout Association and the Society's local 'friends' group.

However, the downfall of the application is that we wanted to do bush regeneration. We were told that we would have got money for mulch, for seed collection and propagation and for tree planting, staking and watering, though again, providing we did all the labour as volunteers. In other words, you can get abundant funding for creating unnecessary buffer zones (which further add to the maintenance problems) around the margins of deteriorating

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endangered habitats, but not actually for getting in and doing on-the-ground work to save the viability of those habitats. If there is a bicycle track or boardwalk or some kind of memorial associated with the project, you have a better chance of funding, because these are readily identifiable outcomes. Similarly, large tree planting schemes are considered more sympathetically because 'X' amount of trees planted – the larger the number the better – looks good in print and can be readily boasted about as a valuable outcome, regardless of the high long-term failure rates of many tree-planting projects. Yet hands-on bush regeneration, the challenging and badly needed job of repairing damaged and dying habitats, is simply not deemed creditable enough to deserve funding.

In the early 90's, before many of the government agencies began filling their ranks with environment managers and project officers to their ranks, groups such as ours received consistent funding from both

state and federal government sources. Community groups were 'flavour of the month' so to speak. In those years our group was awarded over \$150,000 worth of funding for a range of projects on many sites for which we can no longer qualify for a single dollar.

I pressed a representative from Environment Australia on this recently. The reply was that there was a concern that providing too much direct funding to community groups was running the risk of setting up another 'tier' of management. So here we are, community groups representing the grassroots of society, seen as competition to the paid environmental managers in the bureaucracies. This is enough reason for them to shunt us out of the picture; it's easier to circulate the money around through the various government agencies, and to put money into high profile community landscaping projects, than it is to provide backing to the small but courageous community groups working on the bush regeneration frontline, where the funding justifiably belongs.

As stated, the Catchment Management money is no longer available to us either. When the original Cooks River Catchment Management Committee existed we were supplied on a yearly basis with a whopping great \$5,000 to spend as required on bush regeneration work in our part of the upper catchment. Small as it was, it was still very useful. We spent nearly every dollar of this on a small, professional bush regeneration team to bolster our volunteer efforts in the area. Most of the money we spent at Norfolk Reserve. I urge readers to go and have a look at Norfolk and then

wander down to Carysfield Park where nothing has been spent. Compare them and see for yourself what has been accomplished at Norfolk. We would do the same at Carysfield if we had the funding, all this was outlined in our Carysfield grant application, and yet this was deemed to be of little or no value in comparison to cost.

I remember when, not that long ago, the various catchment management committees in our area were amalgamated in one super catchment committee, the Southern Sydney Catchment Management Board. The Cooks River committee was disbanded and Bob Debus is on record as saying how much of a benefit this was going to be, and how much easier it would make the co-ordinating of funding for habitat and catchment restoration projects. The reality is that a bigger bureaucracy was created and the funding disappeared – correction, the money is still there, you just can't qualify to get any of it for genuine bush regeneration projects. The application forms get thicker every year and the likelihood of your community group or bushland friends group getting access to any of it diminishes accordingly, until we reach the point that we are virtually written out of the picture altogether and need not apply.

Another point put to me by a government officer was that repairing damaged bushland is largely the responsibility of local government. There is something in this, because Council really doesn't do enough; they employ a small team that restricts its activities to a few specific areas. They are unable or unprepared to tackle major primary weed

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BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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infestations, and lack 'a flying gang' or Red Team to target specific weed problems and nip them in the bud before they get out of hand; the insidious creep of privet is a good example of this.

But this statement is also completely unfair, as it is prejudiced against large councils such as Bankstown that are dotted with bushland remnants, both small and large. Bankstown has two or three hundred times the bushland estate of, for example, the Strathfield LGA. Strathfield has a couple of estuarine wetlands and one or two woodland remnants, the largest of which, at Coxs Creek (approx. 1.5 ha), has been lavished with funding over successive years, whereas numerous areas of comparable or greater ecological significance in Bankstown (eg. Carysfield, The Crest, Lansdowne, etc., etc.) receive little or no attention and no funding support.

I'm not long back from Victoria and it's the same down there. Friends groups, of which there are many in that state, are cut off from funding for important environmental work. Local governments and state agencies contribute less and less as time goes on, the community is held to ransom by the sale of Telstra, etc., and politicians push the line about how important it is for volunteer groups to get out there and do all the work. Volunteerism is the future, says Robert Hill – an ideological justification for starving

volunteer groups of funding, meanwhile throwing more and more hurdles in their way by compelling them to incorporate, denying them charitable registration, the GST, etc. etc. Now many of the friends groups are vowing not to waste their time on the futile exercise of filling out the funding applications. Perhaps this has been the Heritage Trust's aim all along.

As for our own volunteer effort, we are only a few individuals when it is all said and done, and our volunteer program is fully committed. Look at Bankstown's bushland: neglect is killing it. There are so many sites; we can only get to some of them once every few years. Council has a small bushland team but it needs to be expanded if it is to put into practice a concerted approach to protect and rehabilitate its rapidly deteriorating bushland estate. Funding for Carysfield to employ a quality team of professionals would have given us the opportunity to connect with other community groups in this area. Funding, even if only of modest proportion, plays an important part in providing incentive and inspiration to making things happen, it is an investment in community goodwill.

Bankstown is a large area dotted with small and some relatively large, clay-soil bushland remnants, and an extensive sandstone bushland margin. Council spends a small fortune on maintaining facilities for sporting groups at places such as The Crest, yet the natural bushland there has no one appointed to look after it. Why should it not be that every park maintenance team include at least one qualified bush regenerator to play an active role in the

management of bushland within the area of the team's responsibility? How else are we going to overcome the neglect? The same applies at Lansdowne where Bridal-veil Creeper and Asparagus Fern are rapidly beginning to overtake much of the otherwise undisturbed Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Having attained a certain critical mass, these and other weeds are expanding exponentially in our area and will choke our bushland to death. Drive down River Road at Revesby and look at the disaster of Morgan's Creek. Notice how this screaming 'red area' is in the process of migrating from the creek-line, across the road and into the Georges River National Park. NPWS has no action plan to deal with this and many other such situations in the Georges River corridor.

Most people might be oblivious to it but nature, however subtle, is still an enriching part of our lives. We need to appreciate the fact that we share our urban environment with remnants of the natural landscape, however small they might be. As individuals and community organisations dedicated to preserving these areas, I think we have a right to expect more support from our governments and their agents.

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*Cumberland
Flora And Fauna
Interpretive Services*

**B.R.N.
Q6421611**

**Biological Survey &
Analysis**

**13 Park Road
Bulli NSW 2516**

Tel (02) 4284 6768

Bush Regeneration Report for 2001

by Pat Bell

Even with a small group, we still manage to make a significant impact on the weeds and it's not all work- we have lunch and a social get-together in pleasant surrounds.

During the year we worked twice at Lambeth Reserve, East Hills Reserve, Padstow Park and Lansdowne. In addition, we worked at Smith Park, Ashford Reserve, Deverall Park and The Crest. Society members also participated in work at Deepwater Park, Cox's Creek and Yeramba Lagoon.

Some of the vegetation communities in these Reserves include Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest, Castlereagh Swamp Woodland, Sydney Sandstone Bushland, Ironbark Transition Forest, Cumberland Plain Woodland, and Turpentine Brush Forest. This gives you some idea of the diversity and importance of Bankstown's bushland reserves.

In 2001 the work hours for the BBS programmed sites amounted to approximately 170 hours. This does not include East Hills Reserve and Deepwater Park. These reserves get more time spent on them through the efforts of a couple of members who do extra weeding at irregular intervals. From March 2000 to the present, approximately 130 hours were committed to this Reserve.

Over the year we have targeted Small and Large Leaf Privet, Paddys Lucerne, Plantain, Erharta, Asparagus Fern (in most of the Reserves), and Mother of Millions (Padstow Park, East Hills and Lansdowne). There are infestations of Bridal Creeper at

Deverall Park, Lansdowne and The Crest, which we attempted to make in-roads into. (See Council's Bushland News Issue 4 Spring 2001 for more information about Bridal Creeper).

Friends of Yeramba Lagoon continued their work every two months and Friends of Cox's Creek on one Saturday every month.

The Society took part in Clean-up Australia Day at Norfolk Reserve, Yeramba Lagoon and Stacey Street bush (near Bankstown South Public School – the first ever clean-up at this site).

The Bushland Society, through the efforts of Maree Ledson and with the support of Bankstown Council, was successful in obtaining a \$5,000 grant for Bush Regeneration at Norfolk Reserve in 2000. Work was completed in August 2001 and during the project, members assisted with rubbish collection, weeding and planting. The professional regenerators we employed, Gerry, Mick and Kim, did an excellent job. Sadly, the Cook's River Catchment Management Committee has been disbanded and the new 'super catchment' committee will no longer make this money available to us for bush regeneration purposes.

The Bush Regeneration Course participants from Padstow TAFE with their teachers, Anna Larsson and Julie Banks, spent a day at Norfolk learning about the Cooks River Clay Plain Scrub Forest and getting stuck into some of the weeds. Much enthusiasm was shown. Thanks to Anna, Julie and their pupils.

It is fortunate that our bushland is so resilient as the only attention much of it gets is the one or two visits a year made by our members. Now that a number of Bushland Plans of Management have been developed, it is hoped that more funds will be allocated to the maintenance of bushland and more bush regenerators employed at additional reserves to the ones currently receiving attention.

As far as our own group is concerned, we are relying on a handful of members to keep the effort going. Bush regen is relaxing and rewarding, a way of stepping off the fast-track of life for a couple of hours and getting closer to the natural environment in our own urban area. Let's hope we can encourage a few more volunteers to our bush regen activities.'

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and produces thousands of viable seeds. Even if you live miles away from any bushland, birds can transport the seeds from long distances. It modifies its habitat and chokes out all other vegetation – native vegetation with its requirement for high levels of sun-light is particularly vulnerable. It also produces excessive quantities of pollen, as many hay-fever sufferers are well aware. In this regard it is a terrorist and should be killed on sight. If it is in your garden, we urge you to get rid of it. By doing so you will be making our environment a cleaner, healthier place.

The only good privet is a dead privet! Please join the War on Privet and help make Bankstown a Privet Free Zone!!

NO BICYCLE TRACK FOR THE CREST!

After fully investigating the options, Council has decided to re-route the proposed commuter bicycle track around The Crest Reserve, rather than along the top perimeter of the Turpentine brushforest. This is good news for The Crest, and precisely what we have been advocating for the past two years. After the disaster of the Criterium at Louisa Reserve, this is a win-win result: bicycle riders will have a track, and the bushland will not be intruded upon.

We still have concerns for a number of other bushland sites where intrusive bicycle roads are in the planning stage, at Lake Gillawarna, Shortland Brush, Kelso Beach Reserve and Deepwater Park.

The following is our submission to Council regarding its plan to construct a bicycle overpass directly into core Cumberland Plain Woodland habitat at Lake Gillawarna, Georges Hall:

12th December 2001

The General Manager
Bankstown City Council
PO Box 8
BANKSTOWN NSW 1885

Dear Sir

RE: D1607/2001: Construction of Pedestrian/Cyclists Bridge across Henry Lawson Drive at Mirrambeena Park.

Bankstown Bushland Society wishes to object to the construction of an overhead pedestrian/cyclists bridge at this location in Mirrambeena Reserve.

Although the major part of the shared pedestrian/cycle route within the reserve follows existing constructed pathways, the proposed approach to the bridge will bisect a locally significant area of undisturbed Cumberland Plain Woodland, an endangered ecological community.

The impact of this construction will reduce the viability of the woodland by dividing it into two smaller parts. This in turn will increase the amount of woodland exposed to edge effects and weed invasion.

The disturbance to the woodland from construction activities, no matter how well supervised, will also have a detrimental effect on its long term survival by creating an environment which will encourage weeds and increase maintenance requirements.

This woodland is currently protected by its relative isolation within the reserve. There are no foot-paths or 'desire lines' through the area and very little rubbish is left here.

Providing a constructed track to split the remnant will increase recreational impacts on the vulnerable woodland.

The area in question is proposed in the Draft Plan of Management to be designated a 'Natural area, bushland'. Installing the overpass here is highly contradictory and incompatible with the definition of 'Natural area, bushland', which implies the preservation of the 'naturalness' of such a designated area is of high priority.

The Society wishes to point out that the NSW Nature Conservation Council has recently adopted a policy "Bicycles in Bushland", which was developed by the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators. This policy supports 'recreational and other human uses of bushland which do not compromise ecological integrity, connectivity and sustainability' of remnant urban bushland. It also states that there should be 'no

new construction of bicycle paths through any endangered ecological community'. A copy of the policy is enclosed for your information.

With regard to the 8-Part-Test, the Society takes issue with the consultants' principle conclusion, that the proposed development "will have no effect on any TSC Act scheduled threatened plant species or their habitat". Although this may be true in the overall context, in the context that is most important, ie the Bankstown context, this is patently untrue. The site in question is one of the largest and least disturbed Cumberland Plain Woodland remnants in Bankstown; this by virtue of the accidental degree of isolation fortuitous to the site. Construction of a permanent bicycle road through the core of the site would put an end to this.

If all the remnants in Bankstown were to be destroyed, it could be contended that the survival of endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland in the total context would still be unaffected. This however, does not justify the unnecessary damage done to bushland in the local context.

The consultant's recommendation that Bush regeneration be done on the site should not be accepted as a proviso to justify the development, as Council is already obliged to properly maintain its bushland estate. The consultant outlines bush regeneration and sod transplantation as mitigation measures that will sanction the development.

These measures however, will not prevent the damage being done to the integrity of the site. It is noteworthy though, that, at the conclusion of the mitigation strategies, the consultant repeats his strong recommendation that consideration be given to "moving the bridge 40 metres to the south of the proposed alignment".

The Society proposes that the overhead bridge should be located further to the north along Henry Lawson Drive, at the top of the rise opposite the works depot building, or adjoining Amaroo Reserve.

If these alternatives are not feasible, then we strongly recommend that the advice of the ecological consultant (EcoHort) be taken and the overpass be situated 40 metres to the south of the current plan. Above all, it must be considered that the preservation of the integrity of the endangered habitat be of paramount importance. The plan, as it stands, will ruin this integrity.

Situating the western landing of the overpass 40 metres to the south of the present location (as per the consultant's recommendation) will only minimally compromise the site's integrity as it

- would not cut the site in two
- would destroy fewer trees and less endemic vegetation
- would affect only the margin of the site rather than its core area
- is slightly downslope of the core area, rather than in the centre, therefore ongoing impacts would tend to be deflected from the core area
- is already a more disturbed site, more weed affected, and many of the trees are common planted ornamentals (*Acacia bayleyana*, *Melaleuca armillaris*, *Leptospermum petersonii*, etc) rather than species indicative of the natural habitat.

We re-state that the track should not enter the bushland here as it is incompatible with the Natural Area, bushland designation and with the NSW Nature Conservation Council's policy. However, if there is no other viable alternative, the consultant's recommendation is the closest thing to a compromise that ought to be considered. Anything less will simply result in the vandalism of this bushland asset.

We request a site inspection with Council planners so that we can properly delineate the alternatives listed above.

Yours faithfully

Colin Gibson
Secretary

WESTWARD HO!

by Irene Jones

I have long wanted to see the renowned Mungo National Park in western NSW, so last September, three of us, Pat, Bunty and I, set off in my brand new car for a two week adventure to the outback.

We travelled in leisurely fashion, that is making frequent stops for refreshment and sight-seeing, via Wagga, Leeton and Hay. As we crossed the Hay Plain we were treated to dramatic displays of forked lightning which seemed to follow us as we moved in and out of patches of driving rain. Although we had little competition from other vehicles or road trains, we eventually decided to get off the road early.

We were intrigued to find that many of the towns we visited, both in NSW and South Australia, are making huge efforts to keep their public buildings in good order. Lots of grand ex-bank edifices have been converted to information centres, job centres, and other practical uses.

We travelled north from Balranald on the road to Ivanhoe, checked out the very old Homebush Hotel, before turning left onto the unsealed road from there to Mungo. Fortunately there hadn't been enough rain here to make driving difficult, but we had to take it slow and steady! We became aware of a marked change in vegetation here, lots of red dirt and salt-bush! Although it looked uninteresting from the car, when we took a stroll through this vegetation, away from the road, we found a remarkable variety of plants, some in flower, and plenty of evidence of native fauna in the

area. We saw quite a few wedge-tailed eagles scouting for food and we had to stop many times for fat shingle-backed lizards ambling across the road. If we got out and tried to hurry them up, they took up an alarming defensive stand and hissed at these foreign invaders.

Our arrival at Mungo was greeted by a flock of pink cockatoos (Major Mitchells) which were spread across the road eating seed, probably from paddy melons growing along the roadsides. We booked into the lodge, a comfortable cabin with a communal dining room, then made our way into the park and out to the viewing platform to see the 'lunette' which borders the eastern shore of the ancient dried out lake bed and to watch the rays of the setting sun highlight the weird shapes of this 'moonscape', sculpted by the constant westerly winds.

On the following day we inspected the display in the visitors' centre, which tells the story of Mungo and shows a number of archaeological artifacts that demonstrate facets of the life-style of the original aboriginal inhabitants who benefited from the rich bounty of the lake more than 35,000 years ago. The area supported hairy-nosed Wombats, Bettongs and the bones of Tasmanian Tiger, Tasmanian Devil and extinct giant kangaroos.

A circular drive around the back of the lunette gave us the opportunity to see a range of vegetation types such as Mallee scrub and Belah Woodland and we were lucky enough to see several wedge-tailed eagles'

nest, a Jacky winter actually sitting on its nest, a number of Mallee ring-neck Parrots and lots of smaller birds. Here the fine sand blown from the lunette collects in dunes which are slowly moving eastwards year-by-year. Most of the area now known as Mungo National Park comprised three grazing properties which ran sheep, even on the old lake bed, so the old Mungo homestead remains, as well as the woolshed, built from local cypress pine timber, and a few other structures. It's difficult to imagine how the early settlers managed to make a living out of such marginal land. (NPWS sells an excellent guidebook "Mungo National Park" by Allan Fox which goes into greater detail and is well worth the money.)

Another gravel road leads you out of Mungo and takes you south west to Buronga and across the Murray to Mildura. Here, having left the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, we stocked up with fresh fruit and vegies and continued along the Sturt Highway towards South Australia, only to be caught at the border and having to 'dispose' of all our fresh goodies – we ate what we could! Did you know that SA also has a fruit-fly exclusion zone?

We crossed the Murray again at Renmark and followed the river valley as far as Morgan where we crossed the Murray again, this time by car ferry. Here is a huge well-maintained wharf, built for loading the river steamers with produce for Port Adelaide, and numerous pubs and official buildings from the early days when Morgan was a bustling

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river port.

From here we headed for Port Augusta at the head of Spencer Gulf, but on the way stopped at the historic mining town of Burra (the Burra Charter, which forms the basis of heritage conservation policies, was developed here). Many of these old towns have plenty of interesting accommodation options for visitors such as farm cottages, miners cottages and B & B in ex-convents etc. Next stop was Clare, of Clare Valley wine fame, where we purchased a number of mementos, like local olive oil and a few bottles of reisling, from a winery.

Port Augusta has a wonderful display /information centre called 'Wadlata Outback Centre' which illustrates the history of the explorers such as Sturt who helped to open up the area and looks at local industry and transport. Not far away is a very interesting Arid Lands Botanical Gardens which has been developed on land which supports local vegetation.

At Quorn, just north of Port Augusta, we stayed two nights in a comfortable, well appointed cabin. This is where the Pitchi-Ritchie railway operates one Sunday a month (we missed it) and takes sight-seers to the Flinders Ranges. Here we were introduced to quandong jam and quandong pies at the Quandong Café. These are made from the fruit of the quandong tree, also known as native apricots, a new experience for us all. I remember eating quandong nuts as a child in the Forbes area - my brother and I gathered them from under the occasional tree we came across in the bush - they took some skill to open, but they

tasted great. They were also used then for games of Chinese Checkers.

At Flinders Ranges National Park, north of Quorn, we visited Wilpena Pound, a very old crater which was used for grazing until it became part of the National Park. A small bus took us some distance along a winding river-bank in a gorge to a spot where we could walk along a well-formed track to the old homestead. The grazers had huge problems moving supplies, sheep and wool in and out of this gorge as the road washed away completely every time there was a storm.

Just outside Quorn, we took ourselves on a self-guided walk through the local native garden which was most interesting - very dry, hard, stoney ground, but a huge range of small trees, shrubs and ground-covers and plenty of birds and lizards.

The journey home took us through Orroroo, where we saw the largest River Red-gum in SA and watched a hawk, high up in a nearby tree, devour a small bird stolen from a nesting hollow (probably a feral pigeon). Peterborough was featured on the ABC not long after our return. Known as a railway town, with beautiful model locomotives located at all entrances to the town, Peterborough has sadly lost its importance as a rail centre and many railway jobs, which kept the town going, have been lost.

None of us had been to Broken Hill before and we were very impressed with the obvious resilience of this mining town which has developed a very strong tourist industry by restoring its old buildings, setting

up museums and highlighting its mining history. We visited Silverton, where Mad Max and other movies were filmed and we also trekked out to the arid gardens and sculpture park not far from Broken Hill. Here we thought we had discovered a rare Gibber Bird, but it turned out to be a Richard's Pipit.

Nyngan was an interesting port of call for me because my aunt, who migrated to Australia from Scotland in the 1920's, spent some time here nursing at the cottage hospital, and in fact met her future husband here.

From Nyngan, we travelled on to Wellington, where we visited the nearby Arboretum, which is an area of enhanced bushland, a haven for local birds and animals. From there, we lunched at Bathurst and travelled back to Katoomba via Oberon and then on to Sydney. We covered about 4,000 Km in the two weeks and although tired, felt refreshed by the experience.

STOP PRESS
NEW NATIONAL PARKS
ACT tabled in parliament

From EDO NSW Bulletin—26th November

(robert.sinafea@nsw.edo.org.au)

The National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Bill 2001 (NPW Act) has been tabled before the NSW parliament in this sitting. This is a comprehensive amendment which, among other things, articulates the objectives of the NPW Act for the first time. It attempts to provide for more comprehensive and clearer management principles and arrangements across the whole range of activities governed by

GEORGES RIVER NATIONAL PARK FUNDING

Our local MP, Mr. Alan Ashton reports that \$1million of funding has been allocated for the National Park. The funding will permit improvements including:

- upgrading all sewerage infrastructure, extensive improvements to stormwater systems;
- redesign of the park entrance, main car-park and new information signs;
- repairs to boat moorings, pontoon and track upgrades; fire trail maintenance; and
- a five kilometre walking track from Lambeth Street Reserve to Morgan's Creek visitor area.

This is good news for the park and Alan must be congratulated on the successful representations made to the Minister for the Environment Mr. Bob Debus.

However, there will be no funding to help combat the atrocious weed situation at Yeramba Lagoon where Privet and Honeysuckle are spreading rapidly, choking the lagoon verge and surrounding bushland. The bushland margins of much of the Georges River

National Park in Bankstown, at Picnic Point, at Fitzpatrick Park-land elsewhere, are falling apart at the seams; only brave Friends of Yeramba Lagoon are out there trying to do anything about it. This is where the next million dollars ought to be spent!

Leave it to the Volunteers

Governments are showing an increasing tendency to divert work to volunteers without compensation; the promise to apportion revenue obtained from gambling proceeds to volunteer organisations has long been forgotten.

Many volunteers are quite prepared to accept the obligations which the work entails, but there is a limit. The final work often falls back on the dedicated few, who, if too much is asked, will drop out if they find the work too onerous or time consuming, or interfering too much with their domestic life.

Governments must expect to provide some administrative support to volunteer organisations if they are to continue to address public needs.

Reg Alder, writing on the International Year of the Volunteer in National Parks association of ACT Bulletin, Sept. 2001.

NORFOLK RESERVE to Get Protection

At last, Norfolk Reserve is to be properly fenced and sign-posted. The Plan of Management for Norfolk was ratified at the Council meeting on December 11th 2001. The draft we commented on has been amended as follows:

- * Add reference to recovery plans for CRCPSF, Acacia pubescens or subsequent research;
- * Area categorised Natural area, bushland extends to line of cable trench;
- * Reserve to be fully fenced and controlled access provided;
- * Restrict pedestrian access through installation of 2 metre high fence along northern and southern boundary of bushland;
- * Further consultation re content of signage;
- * Bushcare group to cover Norfolk, Roberts Road and Chullora to be set up by Council.

BUSH REGENERATION

**** Volunteers needed, no experience necessary, supervision provided. ****

Friends of Cox's Creek

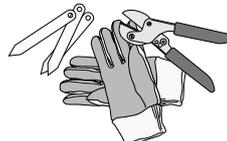
Contacts Jean Brian 9796 8318
 Jon Stiebel 9748 9983



16th Feb	21st Jul
16th Mar	18th Aug
21st Apr	15th Sep
19th May	20th Oct
16th Jun	17th Nov

Friends of Yeramba Lagoon

Contacts Nerida Hrazdil 97721103
 Darryl McKay 9708 5283
 Jill Molan 02 4283 2581



BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

**** Bankstown Bushland Society meetings are held at Padstow Progress Hall (annex), Ryan Road, Padstow. ****
3rd Wednesday of every month. In annex at the rear. Time: 7.30 pm
Supper provided. All welcome.

Further inquiries please ring : 9785 2374 or 9771 3864

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY BUSH REGENERATION ACTIVITIES PROGRAM January – June 2002

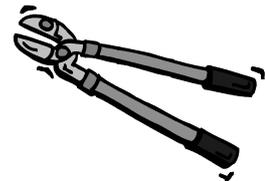
Are you interested in learning about practical bushland management? Bankstown Bushland Society conducts regular hands-on bush weeding days in much of our areas rare and fascinating bushland. We invite you to help, see for yourself and learn about our flora and habitats.

(Bring gloves and wear strong shoes.)

Sunday morning bush regeneration is a relaxing and satisfying way to connect with our fascinating flora and fauna, to learn the basics of practical bush regeneration and bushland management.

Curious or nature loving persons are most welcome to spend a morning, or an hour or two, with us in any of our programmed regeneration sites.

Sunday January 20th: East Hills Park, Cook Crescent, East Hills.
Regeneration of a Sandstone-Shale Transition Forest.
Meet in car park at end of Cook Crescent at 9.00am



Wednesday February 20th: General Business Meeting

Sunday February 24th: The Crest of Bankstown, Bass Hill.
Regeneration in the shady Turpentine brushforest.
Meet in Works depot car park (off McLean Street) at 9.00am.

Sunday March 3rd: (1st Sunday in March) Clean-Up Australia Day venues are:
Norfolk Reserve (Contact Maree Ledson) and
Stacey Street, behind Bankstown South Public School, off Holmdale Avenue
(contact Irene Jones 9771 3864).

Wednesday March 20th: General business Meeting.

Sunday March 24th: Padstow Park, Padstow.
Broad-leaved ironbark remnant, small but very diverse.
Meet in car park off Banks Street, Padstow at 9.00am.

Wednesday April 17th: General business Meeting.

Sunday April 21st: Lansdowne Reserve, north end.
Turpentine-Ironbark remnant.
Meet in car park in Lansdowne Parade Bass Hill, off Hume Highway at 9.00 am.

Wednesday May 15th: General Business Meeting.

Sunday May 19th: Airport Reserve, Milperra.
Melaleuca Scrub-forest remnant.
Meet off Milperra Road, adjacent airport, near corner of Henry Lawson Drive at 10.00am.

Wednesday June 19th: General Business Meeting.

Sunday June 23rd: Lambeth Park, Picnic Point, off Henry Lawson Drive.
Meet in Car park at 10.00am.

NB: All General Business Meetings are held at Padstow Park Progress Hall, in the annex, at 7.30pm

WHY NOT JOIN THE SOCIETY ?



The Bankstown Bushland Society is an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 1984.

We are Bankstown's only incorporated association dedicated to protecting our City's environment.

The Society's objects are:

- To protect the environment of Bankstown
- To assist other persons in the protection of the environment in Bankstown
- To foster better community awareness of environmental issues
- To lobby through Government, commercial and other persons for the maintenance of a high quality of life through the progressive improvement of the environment

If you are concerned about the local environment, then consider joining our Society. As a member, you receive one year's subscription to this newsletter, and can participate as a voting member in the direction and decisions of the Society.

<p>Yes, I wish to join the <i>Bankstown Bushland Society Inc:</i></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Suburb: _____ Postcode _____</p> <p>Telephone Number: _____</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Membership fees Family - \$15 Ordinary - \$10 Concession - \$5</p> </div>	<p>Attached please find my payment of:</p> <p>(\$.00) _____ (amount in words)</p> <p>I am <i>interested in</i> <i>(tick as required)</i></p> <p>I am <i>able to assist by</i> <i>(tick as required)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Walks program</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Speaker nights</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Donation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Activism</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Giving speeches</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Educational interest</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Editorial</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (pls specify):</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):</td> </tr> </table> <p>Send this coupon with payment to: The Secretary, Bankstown Bushland Society Inc. PO Box 210 Panania NSW 2213</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Walks program	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker nights	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation	<input type="checkbox"/> Activism	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving speeches	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (pls specify):	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
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	<p>Bankstown Bushland Society Inc. PO Box 210 Panania NSW 2213</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
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