

# THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN<sup>©</sup>



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*The Editorial Committee, PO Box 210 Panania NSW 2213 | Telephone: 9785 2374*

## CARYSFIELD PARK PROTECTION

by Jean Brian

**I have read Bankstown City Council's Biodiversity Strategy and believe the management and protection of the Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest at Carysfield is of great importance to Council and to the community in and beyond our area. This remnant bushland has undoubted biodiversity and heritage value.**

Bankstown City Council has carried out some projects with contracted bush regeneration teams, with council bush regeneration teams and with the Bushcare volunteer groups. However, at the same time, other projects are putting the work in jeopardy, notably re-visiting the plan to relocate the SES from Greenacre to Carysfield, on an area that is part of Carysfield Reserve and is a buffer to the endangered bushland. This would put an unacceptable pressure on the reserve.

The siting of the BMX track there years ago was a mistake. It

is good to see the new skate park being well used, but it is putting pressure on the area. The large velodrome over-flow car park, which is now left open for the use of skate boarders results in people dumping rubbish in the bush as well as food and drink cartons and bottles. Vandals have recently done much damage to the shrubs and trees as well

On the western side, Bankstown Council is still considering the re-development of the caravan park site for high-rise residential buildings. This is adjoining Carysfield Reserve. It will cause considerable shading of the

reserve and will result in further pressures on the bushland.

Carysfield needs to be enhanced, not degraded. Council must do more to protect Carysfield Park.

### **Editorial comment:**

Recent letters in The Torch have set out to demonise the local residents' Action Group for being "one-sided, narrow and self-centred" for their opposition to the SES relocation. (See especially letter from "Name supplied and withheld" Torch 31-8-2005).

This is very unfair, as I believe they should be applauded for trying to protect one of the best parks we have in the area. It is worth pointing out that it is not the residents' fault that there is proportionally more parkland in West ward than there is in East ward, nor is it fair or justifiable to rob from Peter to pay Paul in order to even the imbalance.

### **Inside this issue...**

- ◆ About The Bush.....guest Contributor
- ◆ Local Residents Support Ibis
- ◆ Thoughts of a Westie.....Carbon Trading
- ◆ Rezoning Bushland Reserves in Bankstown

..... Plus 2005 Activities Program and Bush Regeneration Dates

**ABOUT THE BUSH***Guest contribution from Don Jones of Calliope in Queensland.*

I rely on the collection of rain water for water supply to house. Roof water is conveyed via the eaves gutters, down pipes and storm water drains to the tank. All of the above provides a watery habitat for green frogs, often large ones, and in some numbers until the arrival of one large Python.

You would have to wonder about these frogs, who have a habit of conversing with their neighbours with sundry raucous croaks. The consequence of this noisy chorus is to muster every snake within 500M. With summer on the way, snakes are about – the local rule is to walk slowly through the long grass – they are supposed to get out of the way!

One of the household chores is to check the screen filtering the water before it enters the tank, making sure that all leaves etc. are removed from the screen. Several months ago, while checking the screen, I noticed about 0.3M of a reptile's tail protruding out of the 0.1M pipe discharging into the tank

Closer inspection was called for, so I climbed up onto the top of the tank (a 10,000 gallon ferro cement structure with a conical shaped top). Just as I suspected a Carpet snake, so taking a firm grip and heaving, nothing happened. Not one to avoid a challenge, it was war. You'll remember my previous mention of the conical roof over the tank, well the slope helped, being better able to lean back against the slope and heave and heave again, maintaining pressure on the offending tail for several

minutes until the subject snake decided to let go. As I heaved, more and more of the offender appeared, finally revealing a Python approximately 3.0M long. The snake was eased over the side of the tank, seemingly undisturbed.

About a month later, the snake and I met again, the brute was back in the pipe. From time to time I remove the last section of pipe discharging into the tank (about 5.0M long) with the purpose of letting the stagnant water, leaves, frogs, etc. discharge to waste. On this occasion, on removing the pipe I noticed it was much heavier than usual. You've guessed it – Charlie the python again!

What to do? I lugged the pipe and Charlie to some level ground, upended the pipe and bumped the lot on the ground. Several bumps later a loop appeared, but no tail. Charlie was not budging. However, being a resourceful male I was able to thread a stick through the protruding loop and somehow Charlie was extracted and unperturbed, slithered away.

Recently, Charlie and I have renewed our acquaintance. This time it was in the kitchen. More precisely, the front half of Charlie was laid around the top of the chest freezer, with the remainder disappearing down the back of the freezer with no sign of that convenient tail.

Damn, I don't need this, leave the pest alone and maybe he'll walk out! Not likely. Then, following due thought and further consideration, I concluded the

best place for Charlie was outside. So it was on again. Moving the freezer away from the wall to take a closer look, Charlie that smart chap had poked a loop into an open apace on the back of the freezer, but as luck would have it, there was no tail. Being a creature of habit, it was the heave method that I selected, to no avail. Charlie that smart reptile had poked a loop into the works of the freezer and was not about to give in. Well, this calls for a modified approach. Squatting down and facing the wall, the freezer on my left and the tail in my right hand I was able to use my left knee as a fulcrum then pushing with my knee and heaving with my hand, Charlie capitulated. Once I had him moving, tail first that is, not a direction favoured by Charlie, continuing with the eviction over the tiles and concrete slab to the nearest tree. Last seen, that pesky reptile was gaining elevation.

Not to be outdone by a mere Python, the local Curlew mob was keen to get some of the action. Their method is to congregate under my bedroom window between 2 and 3.00AM and let their raucous call rip! Daylight is announced by the much amused Kookas, and as the sun comes up over the hill, as a small reward, our friendly Magpies warble away.

PS – Have noticed a growing number of young rabbits about the place (have not seen any mature rabbits). Perhaps Charlie may change his diet from frogs to rabbits and thereby stay away from the house. What bliss!

## LOCAL RESIDENTS SUPPORT IBIS PROTECTION AT LAKE GILLAWARNA

### *Letter to the Editor*

**I have submitted to National Parks a petition from a substantial number of residents and interested people who want the ibis at Lake Gillawarna left undisturbed.**

It is unacceptable to encourage native birds into an area and then proceed to slaughter them or destroy their eggs and nests until there are just enough left for ornamental purposes.

The ibis have been using lake Gillawarna together with an increasing number of other native birds for more than thirty years, since the lake was constructed by the then Bankstown Council in the early 1970's.

The word "gillawarna" is claimed to be an aboriginal word meaning "nesting ground of the birds".

The reason for the dramatic increase in numbers of ibis arriving for the 2003 breeding season was plainly obvious and requires little investigation. While Bankstown councillors were calling for a massive slaughter of three thousand ibis, other people were expressing alarm at the disappearance of all the ibis from the Macquarie marshes and Narran lake areas of New South Wales which had dried up due to prolonged drought. It is well known that ibis travel vast distances.

The claim that Bankstown councillors were reacting to public demands for Council to destroy the ibis colony are inaccurate. The views expressed by councillors about the ibis are

simply the views of those councillors and not the views of the community.

Mayor Helen Westwood was quoted in the local paper, "Council cannot sit by and wait for the ibis to go away of their own will".

Two residents wrote twice each to the local paper expressing a wish to destroy the ibis colony. The petition contains two hundred and twenty three names of people who wish the ibis colony be left undisturbed. This petition was taken door to door by me and was limited by the time I was able to spare. It does not include the entire area but is a substantial sample of residents and interested parties.

It has also been claimed that the ibis have chased the ducks and other birds away from the lake. This is quite untrue as ibis are complementary to the other birds. Many ducks did disappear from the lake in 2003 but this was due to the removal of all plant growth in the lake by council using herbicide in a weed control program.

Many purple swamphens have also disappeared, in fact there are only a small number left around the lake, but again this is not the fault of the ibis. The swamphens have been attracted to the new wetland area created by council on the opposite side of Henry Lawson Drive and have been killed by vehicles as they walk across the road. Purple swamphens are reluctant flyers.

Thank you for your support with the ibis petition, which has been forwarded to NPWS.

Bankstown Council's behaviour over the ibis matches their record on trees, which they habitually build structures beneath and around and then destroy because they endanger the structures.

Local politicians sometimes support good ideas but it is well to reflect that their reasons for doing so are political. Their understanding of the natural world being limited to their knowledge that expressing an interest is fashionable.

Good luck to the people of the Bushland Society who are doing such good work in our remaining bushland

Alan Cronin (30<sup>th</sup> June '05)




**ATTENTION**

If anyone has interesting sightings of birds, frogs, reptiles or mammals in the Bankstown district or needs identification assistance, I would be happy to hear from you.

**Please call Darryl on  
9708-5283**

**e-mail: [dmckay@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dmckay@optusnet.com.au)**




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**FLOOD RESERVE  
BUSHLAND CONDEMNED**  
*by Irene Jones*

We are greatly concerned that on the advice of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Bankstown Council has recently approved the removal of Cumberland Plain Woodland by Boral in order to construct a light industrial complex at 2 Mavis Street, Revesby.

This particular vegetation is part of a stand of Cumberland Plain Woodland that is recorded in the NPWS publication "Native Vegetation Maps of the Cumberland Plain, Western Sydney" which extends across the Boral site and into Flood Reserve which is the property of Bankstown Council and is designated for re-zoning to Zone 7: Environmental Protection.

We find it very difficult to understand the advice from NPWS that the vegetation on the Boral site is insignificant and not worth keeping. As far as we know, Boral was not encouraged to preserve the bushland or to undertake a Conservation Agreement with NPWS.

When NPWS contradicts its own Determination for the conservation of Cumberland Plain Woodland in urban areas, it is very difficult to argue for retention of the bushland.

Bankstown Council has in place a biodiversity strategy designed to increase biodiversity values in Bankstown. Businesses along the Milperra Road corridor are being encouraged to retain and enhance habitat values of the landscape in this highly industrial area.

The bushland to be removed comprises approximately one-third of the whole of the remnant so its loss will be significant in reducing the biodiversity values of the remainder. Council has requested Boral to provide a landscape plan for the site so there is still time to persuade them to retain the bushland.

We have urged the Minister for the Environment, Mr Bob Debus, to review the advice given by NPWS to Bankstown Council regarding this development application.

**REMOVAL OF REMNANT  
TREES IN PUBLIC AREAS**  
*by Pat Bell*

Bankstown council has recently removed a large number of trees from Georges River reserves and public amenities throughout Bankstown without prior consultation or notification. We note other bodies such as the Domain Trust and Sydney City Council are going through the same process and eliminating trees on the suspicion that they might fall and cause injury or damage to property.

No thought is given to the biodiversity values of the trees, nor is any effort made to provide alternative habitat for the dispossessed birds and animals that have lost their homes in these old trees. Replacement trees will take at least 100 years to develop natural hollows. About one dozen nesting hollows were lost when nine mature native trees were cut down in East Hills recently.

These bodies seem to have been overcome by concerns about

public liability, when these trees were not previously considered to be dangerous. Perhaps these trees should be valued in monetary terms as natural resources/assets in order to encourage other strategies, such as keeping people away from trees if they are dangerous, and not constructing shelters, paths, pools and other amenities under trees, rather than removing the trees completely.

**Picture:** Mature Rough-barked Apple at East Hills Park, de-limbed to eliminate risk to picnic shelter built next to it last year.



<b>BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE</b>	
President	Pat Bell 9785 2374
Vice President	Darryl McKay 9708 5283
Secretary	Colin Gibson 9788 6232
Membership Secretary	Pat Bell 9785 2374
Treasurer & Public Officer	Irene Jones 9771 3864
Editor	Darryl McKay
Editorial Committee	Colin Gibson Pat Bell Irene Jones
Committee Members	David West Terrill Nordstrom Brendan Grimson



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## PRESIDENTS' REPORT 2004-2005

Like all our previous years, our small group of active people have had an interesting, challenging and eventful year. It continually amazes me that such a small group of volunteers can have such a vital impact on so many issues, from state and local planning concerns to pollution and vegetation rehabilitation, tree plantings, reptile habitat construction and management of a thrilling wetlands to name a few.

Along with our own local issues, both myself and Irene Jones have sat on the Botany Bay & Catchment alliance committee and had crucial input into issues like the Port Botany expansion Commission of Inquiry, the Orica toxic plume at Botany and the proposed Enfield Inter-modal Logistics Centre.

Member group No Port Enfield Community Action Group has been actively opposing the proposal on health, pollution (noise, air, lighting) and traffic impacts on the region, plus the destruction of the habitat of the Green and Golden Bell Frog on and around the site. The group has held several community meetings in partnership with Strathfield Council and had a protest stand at the recent Strathfield Fair which highlighted the likely impacts to thousands of local residents.

The long awaited signing of a partnership with Sydney water for the management of Freshwater Creek Wetlands is getting closer and is only a matter of fine tuning the details and getting together for this historic event. Our working bees have seen progress with the ongoing work on the entrance frog pond, painting of our sea container office and recently the building of reptile habitat to enhance the

biodiversity of the wild life found throughout the wetlands.

Celia from Streamwatch recently spent the day with us, updating us on new processes for testing water quality and finding and identifying the bugs in our wetland. Thanks to Streamwatch, Celia also stocked our kit free of charge after crucial parts were stolen earlier this year. Darryl McKay has volunteered his services to become our official water testing officer and is now in possession of the kit and will keep a close eye on what is happening up-stream of the wetlands.

SWEC has also entered an agreement with TAFE at Bankstown that will see students from environmental classes being given access to the wetlands for studies into soil, water and air quality. Their findings will not only benefit the students with their studies, they will supply us with on-going health reports on the wetlands.

As we head towards the partnership with Sydney Water and the plans to build our education centre, it is becoming a very exciting experiment to see how a government agency, TAFE students and an active environmental group can make a difference to the environment.

It's all looking fine for the future and I wish to thank all of the committee members for their enthusiasm and drive to make this group of activists, one that I am proud to be a part of. For our members, I ask you to become more involved as the benefits are very rewarding, friendships are forever and the outcomes are outstanding.

**Gary Blaschke**

**AIR POLLUTION IN BANKSTOWN**

A recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald referred to a study prepared by the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics, "Working Paper 63: Health Impacts of Transport Emissions in Australia – Economic Costs". This study looks at the economic costs of the health effects of motor vehicle pollution in Australia. The study indicates that, despite improvements in the level of emissions such as sulphur dioxide, lead and carbon monoxide, particulate matter of less than 10 microns and nitrogen oxides are still of concern as they are generally associated with respiratory conditions.

The study states, "Health effects range from subtle or mild effects, through to asthma and premature mortality. While elderly people are most at risk, the very young are also at risk." (Executive Summary: P xii)

"Studies indicate that the life expectancy lost due to premature mortality can range from a few months to 10 years."

The report estimates that in 2000, motor vehicle pollution accounted for between 900 and 4,500 morbidity cases – cardio-vascular disease, respiratory disease and bronchitis – and for between 900 and 2000 early deaths." (Executive Summary P xiii)

"The economic cost of this premature mortality was between \$1.1 billion and \$2.6 billion. In addition, the estimated economic cost of morbidity was between \$0.4 billion and \$1.2 billion. The combined economic cost of motor vehicle related mortality and morbidity was between \$1.6 billion and \$3.8 billion.

In deriving these health cost estimates, the value of a statistical life has been assumed at \$1.3 million. The morbidity estimates are based on equivalent years of healthy life lost due to disability. They are informed by Australian estimates of the quality of life impact of bronchitis, respiratory illness and cardio-vascular conditions. The assumed value per healthy year of life is \$50,000."

Details provided (Appendix 4) of emissions

from motor vehicle pollution put Sydney as the most heavily polluted city in Australia and of all Sydney's suburbs, the worst affected by a long way are Blacktown and Bankstown.

Unfortunately, the level of motor vehicle pollution suffered by Bankstown is the direct result of being surrounded and criss-crossed by heavily trafficked arterial roads, such as the M5, the Hume Highway, Canterbury/Milperra Road, Woodville Road/Henry Lawson Drive, Roberts Road and the Rookwood Road-Stacey Street-Fairford-Davies Road corridor.

Plans, revealed by the SMH in December 2004, to construct a truck tunnel to supplement the M5 (which has reached capacity) and plans to up-grade the Enfield marshalling yards to provide a road/rail interchange must be rejected, in light of the already high levels of road transport generated pollution in Bankstown. These proposals can only exacerbate the existing health impacts by feeding even more vehicles into the are

*Irene Jones*

**MEETINGS:**  
Regular monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at Padstow Progress Hall (Annex) in Ryan Road, Padstow at 7.00pm.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- President:** *Gary Blaschke*
- Vice President:** *Darryl McKay*
- Secretary & Public Officer:** *Irene Jones*
- Treasurer & Editor:** *Darryl McKay*
- Committee members:** *Brendan Grimson*  
*Raema Walker, David West, Bob Fenton,*

**CONTACTING SWEC:**  
Because we do not yet have an office or shop-front, our Secretary's home address and phone number is used on our correspondence, until we are able to settle into a 'home'. If you wish to write or phone, the details are:

**Ms Irene Jones**  
**South West Enviro Centre**  
**39 Alma Road,**  
**PADSTOW NSW 2211**  
**Phone/Fax: 9771 3864**



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

I borrowed the South West Enviro Centre's copy of the quarterly publication, Australian Landcare magazine, which we receive as a Landcare group. Very inspiring things are happening – I commend it to you.

We must put in stories of our successes, urban stories are in the minority, why because we are modest? Come on - farmers are getting most of the glory! Despite the difficulty of actually getting some grant money because there is not enough to go around and the amounts of money available as grants are often not what is really necessary, good things are happening.

We are not alone. There are similar environmental problems and worse, throughout this nation. This June 2005 issue has several articles on weeds and their disastrous cost to farming enterprises and nature conservation.

I quote a small segment from the editorial comments: "What irks many landholders and land care group members who take their pest responsibility seriously is the lack of action by some land management agencies. Across the board action is probably the number one issue behind achieving pest control success, because if our public land managers set the right example, all private landowners have no excuse but to follow."

The problem of weeds is a major headache at the Freshwater Creek wetlands, which thankfully are being aggressively dealt with by Sydney Water Corp, now having assumed control of this facility and acting in co-operation with SWEC to improve this environment.

The on-going problem is that we are surrounded by other properties that are not dealing with weeds at all! Privately owned and government controlled lands, Railway and Potts Hill Reservoir lands are heavily infested with weeds. Montpellier broom, African olive, Pampas grass and Boneseed are perhaps the most noticeable, but only the tip of the iceberg, there are many others.

All weeds are aggressive migrants and colonisers which take over and often out-compete the native vegetation.

Despite the \$40 million 'Defeating the Weed Menace' program recently announced by the Australian government, the weed problem is gigantic and will need more realistic funding

commitments before we are likely to make positive inroads into solving this galloping problem.

The money is to be spent over a 4 year program, some of which will be available as grants for weed eradication. Much of it will be spent on education, quarantine control, weed awareness, research and training programs. I assume the bureaucratic processes involved will also be funded from the program money.

We must not forget the Australian government's restriction on Natural Heritage project assistance for weed management due to the State government's responsibility for land management and the lack of cost benefit projects.

Cost benefit projects????? The failure to address and conquer weeds is costing our nation billions in lost agricultural earnings alone, through lost production, contamination of products, land degradation and weed eradication expenses. Where is the leadership, responsibility and fine example to come from, unless the Federal government first does their job?

Meanwhile the problem is at last being looked at slightly more seriously.

Despite the limited resources of most NGO's (non government organizations) we have to pick up knowledge as best we can. Fortunately SWEC is blessed with members and affiliations able to provide various threads of informed opinion. The problem is we are trying to keep up, but without the information resource so easily available to industry and government groups.

In common with many others throughout the community, I cannot afford to spend more of my own time in defence of our environment. As an example, this article is being typed on a 486 computer – I am not connected to the internet. It is frustrating to have to rely on scraps of information when it would be so much more effective if access to costly seminars and/or the latest up to date information on environmental matters was made available to us.

Community engagement in the ongoing development of Australia is a must, essential if we are to get the best results for our money. Give us the tools, take us on board, give us an oar to row with, I'm sick of using a bailing bucket!

*David West*

## NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BANKSTOWN AIRPORT

Kim Ellis, CEO of Bankstown Airport Ltd. has stated that the proposed noise management plan for the airport will be developed in consultation with the community and aviation industry. The Plan “will look at and explore strategies to reduce noise from aviation activities”, he said.

“It is an opportunity for us to address some of the community’s concerns about the impact of the airport on the Bankstown region. Bankstown Airport is an important generator of wealth and jobs for Western Sydney and with that comes an impact on the surrounding community. The Noise Management Plan will give us a chance to manage that impact by putting in place procedures to reduce aircraft noise,” he added.

The plan will be developed over the next 2 years and consultation will include key stakeholders and the Bankstown Airport Community Consultative Forum

(BACCF), which meets approximately every 3 - 4 months.

Some of the community representatives on this committee are Mayor Helen Westwood (Bankstown), Councillor Ian Stromborg (Revesby Workers Club), Mayor Nick Lalik (Fairfield), Glen Cushion (Bankstown Sports Club) and Irene Jones, representing South West Enviro Centre. The next meeting of BACCF is scheduled for November 2005. You are encouraged to contact any committee member regarding any concerns you may have about airport impacts on the community.

There will be the opportunity for public comment when, as the plan develops, it is advertised through the local media and the Bankstown Airport Flyer.

Anyone with questions about the Noise Management Plan or the Engine Ground Running Guidelines should contact the Bankstown Airport Environment Manager, Bryan Beudecker. Ph: 8709 9411.

*Irene Jones*

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## LATE NEWS

### PORT BOTANY EXPANSION

There has been very little coverage in the media about the decision by the state government to approve the proposal by Sydney Ports Corporation to expand Port Botany by approximately 60 hectares.

This is despite the recommendation by the Department of Planning to construct a somewhat smaller expansion and ignores the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry to expand the port by 35 hectares only.

The decision was based on a recommendation by a committee that was chaired by Laurie Brereton, a previous minister for roads. There is no option to appeal the decision.

This appalling outcome, for all Sydney residents, makes us wonder why a Commission of Inquiry was held at all. The government obviously has only regard for commerce (consumption is good for the state) and none for the health and welfare of Sydney’s residents and the likely environmental impacts of the expansion.

The estimated cost of the expansion is \$500 million. It will cost much more than that to build the required infrastructure, such as a road tunnel under Marrickville, the duplication of the M5 East and the amplification of freight rail facilities across Sydney, in order to make the bigger port function effectively.

The state government is supposed to be broke, so all these grandiose plans will probably be constructed by the private sector. I wonder how future generations will view this strategy?

### TURN-BACK AT REVESBY

It was announced this week that \$78 million will be spent on constructing a turn-back at Revesby that will allow trains on the East Hills line to flow freely, giving a better service to Campbelltown.

Although Revesby will get a new platform with stairs and eventually 4 lifts, it seems unlikely that Revesby will get more services or more fast trains. The only commitment is to make the trains more reliable and have them running on time. Noise impacts from the extra trains has not been mentioned.

No provision is being made for easy access from buses to trains, nor will crossing the line be a simple exercise for pedestrians, especially if a lift breaks down, leaving only stairs or the walk under The River Road bridge to get to the shops from the south side.

The proposed lift and walkway structure will be overpowering in size and ugly in appearance, not in keeping with the village character of Revesby.

The Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation will be placing an Environmental Impact Statement on public exhibition in November, allowing about a month for the community to comment. Don’t get too carried away with end of year school events or preparations for Christmas – make sure you send in your comments.

*Irene Jones*

## THOUGHTS of a WESTIE

### Carbon Trading

by David West

**Bush Telegraph magazine, published by Forests NSW, Winter 2005 issue, contains a number of stories about the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme. The following contains information extracts from an article by Howard Spencer, Public Affairs & Media, Coffs Harbour and from the editorial comments of Chief Executive Peter Duncan.**

Recognition of the role of forests in reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was given a substantial boost with the signing of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. While Australia has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol, the NSW scheme incorporates many of its principles.

The Kyoto Protocol allows countries to include the removal of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere by afforestation and reforestation activities in meeting their commitments under the Protocol. The sale of greenhouse gas abatement certificates – representing the carbon stored in 10,000 hectares of Forest NSW young hardwood plantations – is a significant milestone for the organization and underscores the growing significance of forests for combating global warming. The sale is the first of its kind in the world and is the culmination of almost eight years work for Forest NSW researchers, carbon accounting analysts, foresters and management in a variety of carbon related spheres.

In February this year, Forests

NSW was fully accredited as an abatement certificate provider under the NSW Greenhouse Abatement Scheme. They have since registered 166,005 certificates, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon sequestered. (My explanation, *sequester/sequestrate*: to seclude, isolate, set apart, divert temporarily into other hands: Oxford dictionary.) The first batch of Forests NSW certificates has been purchased by Energy Australia to help offset the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere as a result of electricity use in NSW

It's a major step in efforts to address climate change. The sale also confirms that there is a market for tradeable carbon certificates from forests and this should also provide real incentives for large scale corporate investment in new plantations. Each planting brings with it a suite of environmental and social benefits to the people of the state.

The inclusion of a return (a dollar value) for carbon sequestration may mean that investment in plantations that were previously less attractive financially, such as those grown for saw logs over longer rotations or on lower productivity sites, will become much more attractive. Gaining a financial return from carbon will also contribute to covering the costs of planting new forests purely for environmental reasons. Not only will this benefit the environment through soil protection, reduction in salinity and enhancement of biodiversity,

but it will also help ensure a viable future for a sustainable timber industry in NSW.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003, electricity retailers will have 4 years to progressively reduce their emissions by 5% from per capita levels of 1998 – 1990.

Well there is lot more I could have added from the magazine but public relations aside, the benefits are both real and a financially accountable venture, however there are questions here about the way forward as this program progresses.

If you haven't been into a tree plantation which may only contain one, two or three species of Eucalypt and literally nothing else but short cropped grass, let me tell you, it is a very sobering sight. When large areas of useless land are reforested, yes there are the obvious benefits mentioned, but even then, biodiversity is not enriched, in fact it is put further out of kilter. A balance can be created by sufficient islands of habitat (including understorey) and linking corridors being provided for the entire suite of nature from that area to be re-instated. Only then would such a process be a truly sustainable practice.

**If you agree, or have something to add, please feel free to tell Forests NSW and our State government about it, why don't you? More info. At [www.greenhousegas.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greenhousegas.nsw.gov.au) and [www.forest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au) or [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)**

## RE-ZONING BUSHLAND RESERVES IN BANKSTOWN

by Irene Jones

Bankstown Bushland Society is very concerned that the proposed re-zoning of bushland reserves in Bankstown has long been delayed.

Bushland Plans of Management for all these significant reserves have been completed by Bankstown City Council and all recommend that they be re-zoned to Zone 7: Environmental Protection.

Unfortunately, we are aware that, since completion of the plans, at least two bushland reserves have been put under pressure for alternative zoning by Council's land managers, in particular Smith Park in East Hills (for resale) and more recently Carysfield Reserve in Bass Hill (development for SES headquarters).

We have urged Council to act decisively and place these reserves under the full protection available to Council, that is, re-zoning to Zone 7, as previously recommended, and remove all possibility of re-sale

or development of these sensitive bushland areas. In fact, State legislation requires Council to protect these endangered bushland remnants.

While the current situation continues, a great deal of Council time is being expended on finding alternative uses for these reserves and any certainty for the community as to the future of these reserves is undermined.

We encourage members to contact Council to express support for the re-zoning and proper protection of bushland reserves.

## LOST AND FOUND

by Colin Gibson

A number of new species for the area have been recorded in recent times. One of the most interesting is *Cryptandra spinescens*, a low shrub with small leaves and rather prickly stems, densely covered in attractive small, white flowers in spring time. This species was first recorded in Bankstown in 1988, by myself and Robert Miller, at a small remnant on an industrial site on the corner of Shaddock and Marple Avenues, near Leightonfield Railway Station. Sadly this rare remnant of Mugga Ironbark and Parramatta Redgum was cleared when turned into a car park in the late 1990's.

When the Bushland Society's bush regeneration team began operating at the top end of Lansdowne Reserve, we were delighted to discover a small colony of about twenty plants of

*C..spinescens* at the east end of the project site. The bushland here is in good condition, and has benefited much from the activities of the team in removing invasive threats, particularly Bridal Creeper and Paddy's Lucerne. The population at Lansdowne is probably the most easterly occurrence of this species in the Sydney area.



## ROADING WILDERNESS TO CONTROL PESTS

by Alex Colley

In a series of speeches in the Legislative Council the Hon. Jon Jenkins has thrown new light on the iniquity of environmentalists. We are not just ordinary Communists but are "polluted by the far left, Communist, Trotskyist invaders".

His answer to pest control in wilderness is access roads so that people get into wilderness areas to "set traps, lay poison, shoot, infect spray and apply other control mechanisms". Since vehicles are essential for access, only those pests near the roads would be killed.

That the people equipped with the recommended controls would succeed in limiting their activities to pest control is an unrealistic assumption and they would succeed in eliminating only a

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## BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

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  
Tea and biscuits provided. All welcome.  
Further inquiries please ring : 9785 2374 or 9771 3864

Bush regeneration is an interesting and rewarding way to connect with our local flora and fauna and to learn the basics of practical bushland restoration.  
Interested nature loving persons are most welcome to spend a morning, or an hour or two, with us in any of our programmed regeneration sites.

### BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY BUSH REGENERATION PROGRAM

October to March 2005-2006

**NB: All activities commence at 9.30am.**

MONTH:	1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY:	3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY (except Dec)
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>: The Crest</b> turpentine thicket. Volunteer support of grant. Meet in car park near athletics track via McLean Street, Bass Hill.	<b>16<sup>th</sup>: Lansdowne Reserve</b> , southern end. Targets are Bidens and asparagus. Meet at Hazel Street entrance.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup>: Milperra Wetland.</b> Volunteer support for grant. Meet off Henry Lawson Drive, south of Milperra Road intersection.	<b>20<sup>th</sup>: Salt Pan Creek</b> boardwalk, Padstow. Work will be in Weenamana wetland. Meet at Alma Road entrance.
<b>DECEMBER</b>		<b>4<sup>th</sup>: Lambeth Park.</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday) Continuation of work at "The Steps". Meet in car park off Henry Lawson Drive.
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup>: The Crest</b> turpentine thicket. Volunteer support of grant. Meet in car park near athletics track via McLean Street, Bass Hill.	<b>19<sup>th</sup>: Lansdowne Reserve</b> , northern end. Off Lansdowne Parade. Follow-up of earlier grant work.
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup>: Lambeth Park.</b> Follow-up work at "The Steps" in support of grant. Meet in car park off Henry Lawson Drive Picnic Point.	<b>19<sup>th</sup>: Milperra Wetland.</b> Work continues under Cabbage Gums. Meet off Henry Lawson Drive, south of Milperra Road intersection.

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small number of pests.

The only practical means of preserving the native fauna is to preserve the remaining large natural areas – i.e. wilderness. In my experience the pests are found mainly near the cleared or lightly timbered areas. I have seldom seen them in timbered

wilderness areas. Perhaps they have seen me first. The trappers, poisoners and sprayers would find it even more difficult to locate the pests because they would be warned by the noise of car engines.

*(from Colong Bulletin No. 208, January 2005)*

*Cumberland  
Flora And Fauna  
Interpretive Services*

**B.R.N.  
Q6421611**

**Biological Survey &  
Analysis**

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Bulli NSW 2516**

**Tel (02) 4284 6768**

**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.

✂

Yes, I wish to join the  
***Bankstown Bushland Society Inc:***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fees**  
 Family - \$20  
 Ordinary - \$15  
 Concession - \$10  
 "student/unwaged/pensioner"

Attached please find my payment of:  
 (\$ .00) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (amount in words)

Send this coupon with payment to:  
**The Secretary,**  
**Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.**  
**PO Box 210**  
**Panania NSW 2213**



**Bankstown Bushland Society Inc.**  
**PO Box 210**  
**Panania NSW 2213**