

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]



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Contributions to this publication are welcome. Please send any articles, advertisements, membership inquiries or donations to:-

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MANUKA RESERVE: OPEN SPACE GIVE-AWAY

by Colin Gibson

At a recent meeting, Council resolved to permit the relocation of the new SES headquarters to Manuka Reserve. This sets a damaging precedent for other open space parks in Bankstown.

An aspect of this campaign that has seemed ill to me is the way the local residents action group was demonised as selfish and uncaring for daring to stand in the way of the wants of the SES. Some of the councillors and others made some very barbed comments of this kind, one commentator from Picnic Point castigated the residents, saying he would be honoured to have the SES headquarters in his back yard. Perhaps that's where they should be putting it and I'm all for it.

In my contacts with the Johnstone Road residents I found them very reasonable and level-headed people. They stood up for a very special part of their neighbourhood and really exposed the whole deceitful

exercise: there was no thorough inquiry into suitable locations for it always had the smell of a done deal about it. This I think explains why the residents were attacked the way they were.

The SES in their correspondence with us has all along denied any involvement in the decision making process. In the Express their media spokesman was quoted as saying, "Our attitude all along has been that this is an issue for the Council and that they will make the decision on a site". But they are certainly not dispassionate about getting hold of Manuka, as proven when thirty

of them, sweltering in their orange and black suits, presented at a Council meeting, and were jubilant when Council decided to proceed with advertising the Manuka plan. It was then when Bankstown SES Senior Deputy Controller Graham Tomkinson said he believed Manuka was the best option of the 40 available sites.

I can speculate as to another reason why some of the councillors have gone so much on the front foot over this. Years ago, when the great whiz-kid restructurer left his 'mark' on Bankstown, sacking 163 of the parks and gardens staff, Council faced a superannuation payout package it could not afford. It was then the fire sale began and utility properties like the Thomas Street and Roberts Road depots were flogged off. Either of these would have been excellent for the SES. Demonising the Manuka residents distracts from the fallout from the restructuring,

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ABOUT THE BUSH

The Dereliction of Deverall

by Colin Gibson

Late last year I had a good look around Deverall Park Bush, adjacent the back of the Trotting Track at Condell Park. Deverall is one of the Society's old favourites, it is where in 1988 we stopped the trucks of fill and rubble destroying the last remaining fragment of native bushland on the Bankstown Aerodrome precinct. Since 1988 I've made many inspections of Deverall Park, compiling a species list that now stands in excess of 180, which is quite remarkable given the small area and the amount of disturbance it has suffered. I have recorded three ROTAP - listed species here: *Acacia pubescens*, *Epacris purpurascens* and *Callistoein linearifolius*, and I can think off-hand of no other bushland remnant on the clay soils of Bankstown where this number exist, apart from The Crest.

Poor old Deverall is in an appalling state. There are a few pockets of relatively undisturbed vegetation, but weeds are pouring in from all sides, particularly the nasty bridal-veil creeper, with privet making a resurgence in the main drainage canal. I'm afraid that through long-running neglect, every weed in the book has made a home for itself at Deverall.

What is happening to Deverall? Not much it seems at the moment. In the early 90's we worked

a small grant there, but in recent years our commitments have led us to many other places, yet we have been unable to continue with any meaningful rehabilitative work at Deverall.

We are only a small group of community volunteers. What about the government agencies who have direct responsibility for the site – Bankstown Council and Bankstown Airport Limited? It's a long time, if ever since Deverall has seen anything constructive from them. However I'm pleased to note that airport staff participated in the recent Clean-up-Australia Day at Deverall.

The future of the bushland is complicated by the need for the construction of a floodwater detention basin somewhere on

the airport site. In recent years, BAL has been more concerned with commercial development on its land, and potential sites for a detention basin, such as the present Bunning's site, are no longer available. Similarly, Council handed over part of Ashford Reserve to the Sydney Model Aeroplane Club, eliminating another potential site for a detention basin. The alienation of such sites now puts extra pressure for floodwater mitigation measures on environmentally significant places like Milperra Creek (or Drain as it is often referred to), Milperra Wetland and of course, Deverall Park. It now appears that within the Airport precinct the only (or perhaps I should say, the cheapest) option for a detention basin is the bushland itself. Given the focus on utility

and commercial gain by our government agencies, we should have seen this coming long ago.

Last July Council knocked back \$400,000 worth of funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Program for the Deverall Park detention basin, which BAL and the Department of Planning are keen to proceed with. Council officers have expressed concerns over the impact of the project on the bushland, and resent having been

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The article below appeared in the Torch 21-09-1988. This demonstrates the concern and commitment that BBS has for Deverall bushland.

BULLDOZERS 'KILL' NATIVE BUSHLAND

"THE TORCH" 21-9-88

Bulldozers are threatening one of Bankstown's few remaining bushland plants on clay soil, according to a professional bush regenerator from Picnic Point.

The regenerator, Mr. Colin Gibson, of Apex Avenue, is employed by the National Trust.

Mr. Gibson said there was an "immediate threat" to one of Bankstown's bushland remnants.

"The bushland in danger is on the site of the Department of Aviation land near Bankstown Raceway," he said.

"Council's trucks are dumping fill from roadwork excavations in Edge Street, Condell Park, to build a freeway for a pop club," he said.

Mr. Gibson said the destruction of the bushland site could contravene the Bushland Protection Act (Section 19).

"In immediate past it is a plant collected only once before, in 1915, and now commonly seen," he said.

"It is an attractive member of the bush family.

"Many plants have been lost because of bulldozers razing through the site and

Mr. Gibson said there had been 75 native plant species recorded on the dumping site.

"It would be a great loss to the people of Bankstown as our remaining heritage fern remnants on clay soil are precious few and it could of bush regeneration work.

"Unless something is done to stop dumping the area we will lose an important part of our bushland," he said.

Mr. Gibson said it would be a "disgrace" to lose the bushland.

Colin Gibson inspects the rare *Bankstown Stone* on the Department of Aviation land near Bankstown Raceway which he claims is under threat of becoming extinct.

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backed into a corner by BAL which has systematically filled or developed every other potential site for a detention basin. Council is currently undertaking a flood study for the Milperra drainage system.

However, Council also knows that to enter into an agreement with BAL over the Deverall Park detention basin, it would on behalf of ratepayers be required to take on financial and operational responsibility for the future of the bushland (which it has effectively had for many years and done precious little about). So Council will be left with this burden, unless it can squeeze a better deal by way of the licensing agreement with BAL. That is in fact the current state of play.

BAL and Bankstown Council both say they have the best interests of the bushland at heart, but in reality the biggest priority for both is to angle for the most profitable or least expensive deal that can be made out of the detention basin. The fact that yet more of the bushland will be destroyed in the process, and that the long term interest of the detention basin will put the bushland under a cloud, is inconsequential.

On present estimates, the cost of the detention basin will be \$1.5 million if built at Deverall. This will include the cost of erecting a perimeter earthen wall around the bushland, destroying we don't know how much vegetation in the process. We do not want to see any bushland destroyed at Deverall, but action is needed sooner rather than later to save it.

Rare plant found at East Hills Park

by Colin Gibson

The ROTAP (Rare or Threatened Australian Plant) listed *Persoonia nutans* has been found recently at East Hills Park, site of our Environmental Trust Shale –Transition Forest grant. Only one plant has been found, but it might represent hope for the future of this species in Bankstown. The only other occurrence of this plant in Bankstown is at Taubman's factory site in Birmingham Road, Villawood, where there are presently no guarantees for its continued survival.

When East Hills Park was mown regularly by Council maintenance crews, this species would not have been present, so it is likely to have sprouted from seed long held in the soil, to become a shrub only after the mowing regime had ceased. We have seen many such species come back at East Hills Park in recent times. Others include *Cryptandra propinqua* and *Luzula sp. aff. flaccida*. Several new orchids have also recently been observed for the site including *Glossodia major* and *Diuris sulphurea*, the latter only the second colony confirmed in Bankstown, the other is at Lansdowne.

There are still sizeable mown areas at East Hills Park, mostly higher up the slope, that have more potential to regenerate as natural bushland. Given the species complexity, every square metre protected from mowing has the potential to reveal previously unrecorded species for the site, even some that may not have been observed in

Bankstown before. What we are seeing in East Hills Park is urban biodiversity in action.

Privet Declared Noxious In Bankstown

At a meeting in November 2005, privet was finally declared noxious in Bankstown. Cr Grant Lee should get credit for driving this resolution. Bankstown has been a privet haven for many years, it is estimated that in excess of 60% of individual residential blocks in the area have privet growing on them. Add to this the bushland areas suffering from privet infestation, some of which such as Morgan's creek, parts of Yeramba Lagoon and Milperra Wetlands are chronically degraded.

We as volunteers have been removing privet in Bankstown for years. As well as the declaration we anticipate action from Council. Council's initial intention is to develop a local control plan detailing how it will strategically manage privet in the area.

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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for which Council is fully responsible.

Thereafter, Council looked to selling a number of properties, including some small parkland and to this day it is why an element in the Council machine is still pinning its hopes on selling off the Smith Park bushland block, despite its unquestioned biodiversity values, among other sites that await re-zoning.

With the loss of the utilities, a group such as the SES is in a stronger position to say what it wants and to get it. The line from the mayor, that people in West ward have too much open space compared to the less fortunate people in the East ward is a contrivance, for if this is the case it is not the fault of the people who live in Johnstone Road. The same could also be said of any other potential site located outside East ward. The Manuka-Carysfield-Crest open space corridor will soon have a light industrial facility planted smack in one corner. We can only wonder what site is next in line.

Editor's note: Following the public hearing regarding the re-zoning of Manuka Reserve, Council will now invite comments from the public on the findings of the public hearing chairman. We urge members of BBS to have your say!

New Grant For Bankstown

Work is now well under way at Norfolk Reserve, with the aid of a \$1 4,545.45 Natural Heritage

Grant through the Federal Government to help enhance the habitat of the rare *Tylophora woollsii*. Michael McMahon's team will be concentrating on restoring the western (Woolworths) perimeter, removing Paddy's, Couch, etc., and eradication of Ehrharta at the front of the reserve.

To begin every session, Michael will water the *Tylophora* vines in the hope that if we keep water up to them they will flower and produce fruit from which we can collect seed and try to re-establish more of the species here and possibly elsewhere as at The Crest. In recent years the drought conditions have always resulted in the withering of the plants during high and late summer, the very time when in optimum conditions the plants would be preparing to flower.

This grant will be in support of the Bushland Society volunteers and those who participate in the local Bushcare group.

BEST WISHES TO:

- **Terrill Nordstrom**, who has recently undergone surgery – Get well soon!
- **Nerida Hrazdil**, who recently retired from her bush regeneration job – Happy retirement!

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"LIFE"

by N BAINSBIDGE

On a recent trip to Nambucca
I sat eight hours in the train
And saw the scenery unfold
As I came home again
.....

It gave me time to contemplate –
Trees hanging on to boulders
And small trees and tall trees
In valleys between the shoulders.
.....

As far as Taree coming back
Was a picture made by trees
And then it suddenly struck me
The good earth was made by these.
.....

So many millions of years have
passed
Since plants came from the seas
They've struggled to live and flourish
We should be on our knees.
.....

They've lived, passed on, and so made
the soil
On which they grew again
And made the food that fed all life,
And diversified its plain.
.....

From Taree down to Sydney
The scene became scorched plain
The trees were gone and the few
that were left
Sheltered cattle from sun and
rain.
.....

What have we done – just two
hundred years!
We've wrecked the plan of life
Give land back to the trees, let
them live
This would eliminate our strife!
.....

NPWS Display: A 19th century
cedar getter Dan Withers in
Dorrigo said,

"What use is this land – It's only
the trees we're after."



Issue No. 19 April 2006

Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre – Independent Hearing

No Port Enfield community action group (NOPE), which is one of our member groups, was well represented at this hearing, held over three days at Strathfield Town Hall from 20th to 23rd March 2006.

Jenny Maddocks, Gary Blaschke and Renata Bali between them made mincemeat of the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposal that was presented by Sydney Ports Authority (SPA). NOPE was able to clearly demonstrate the lack of credibility of much of the report, which was extremely deficient in detail and, as in the EIS studies previously done for the Port Botany proposal, full of unjustifiable assumptions. The report contains only limited commitments as to the eventual operation of the facility and totally fails to recognise the likely cumulative environmental impacts of the development.

Studies of noise impacts on residential areas considered only noise from trains – truck noise was not studied. The report concludes that noise impacts will be negligible.

Traffic congestion impacts were lightly treated although admissions were made that local intersections would need amplification. No mention is made of impacts on existing congestion in the Roberts Road/Centenary Drive corridor, or the cumulative impacts from extra trucks transporting containers by road from Port Botany via the M5, which will be amplified to handle the Port traffic, despite a limited increase in containers being moved by rail. Sydney Ports claims that taking extra containers by train will reduce congestion, but 60% of the expected increase in containers moving through Port Botany (from

approximately 1million to 3 million by 2012) will be transported by road.

Sydney Ports describes a small increase in air pollution caused directly by this development as 'insignificant'. However, existing levels of air pollution across the Strathfield/Homebush/Bankstown precinct are already sufficiently high to produce higher levels of related health problems than any other suburbs in Sydney, and as we know, Sydney has the highest levels of air pollution in Australia.

Other presentations to the hearing were made by Strathfield Council which spoke strongly against the development; Marrickville Council was concerned mainly about noise impacts along the railway line through Marrickville and lack of public consultation, but also criticised the decision to expand Port Botany; and Bankstown Council supported the project in principle but raised concerns about environmental impacts on residential areas, especially traffic congestion, dust and light spill at night.

It was disappointing to hear Bankstown Council support the proposal in principle. NOPE and Strathfield Council pushed for the development of bigger inter-modal terminals in the outer suburbs, close to the M7, where many new and old industries and import/export businesses are being set up because good road and rail access is provided which doesn't impact on residential areas.

While 70% of the trucks using the Enfield facility will obtain access via Roberts Road, congestion on Roberts Road is likely to

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encourage trucks to detour through local roads. A good proportion of these trucks will be carrying unpacked goods (not containers) that cannot be prevented from using local roads.

Lynda Newnam from Botany Bay and Catchment Alliance, of which SWEC is a member group, presented a sound case against the location of the terminal at Enfield. Quite a number of local residents spoke (about 15) against the proposal and described local impacts that already exist and strongly opposed the proposed expansion. The only speakers in full support of the proposal were the NSW Roads and Transport Association (truck owners & drivers) and Weston Cereal Industries (local flour millers).

The Independent Panel which heard the presentations comprised three consultants with expertise in environmental issues and was selected by the Minister for Planning – one previously employed by the RTA and one by the department of Planning. The question was raised by a resident as to the genuine independence of these ex-public servants, but no answer has been received to date! The Chairperson was from Victoria.

Local members of parliament, Tony Stewart, Virginia Judge and Barbara Perry have spoken against this development, but all supported the amendments to the planning legislation that allows this project to be determined by the Minister for Planning, no matter what its impacts on Sydney, the community and the environment might be.

We await the outcome with bated breath, but we don't expect any surprises.

Irene Jones

REPORT FROM REVESBY

It was interesting, yet not surprising that at a recent Community Planning Workshop organised by Bankstown Council two very important topics were raised:

- **Traffic/Safety** around Revesby Village
- **Leisure/Recreation** facilities for the community.

The Community Action Group instigated the 40 Km speed zone around the Revesby shopping precinct but through lack of prominent signage, motorists are unaware of the necessity for slowing down. Pedestrian safety is imperative; therefore this group will keep pursuing this issue which should be hastily addressed by Council.

The continual removal of our mature trees from around recreation/leisure facilities are impacting on our children's lifestyle. This obsession of allowing more duplex and unit developments, with minimal open space, will no doubt have ramifications for future generations. Bankstown Council should recognise that parks and open communal space is very important and indeed necessary. Lack of shade does not allow our young families to enjoy our playgrounds during the warmer months therefore restricting activity and undermining their value. We are now seeing more and more of our kids hanging around shopping centres.

Bankstown Council **must** have an effective maintenance program for our trees, ensuring their long term condition rather than the alternative now pursued. We are constantly asking the question where are all the funds from Section 94 contributions being spent?

Last but not least, a big thank you to all those volunteers who actively participated in our Clean Up day. The Community Action Group has been cleaning the Revesby shopping centre (North and South) for a number of years and the amount of rubbish collected is always surprising. A **special thank you** to our dedicated members who give so much of their time and energy for the betterment of the community.

(Mrs) Mary Mullins
COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

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,**



THE ROOT OF ALL LIFE

In the words of the Canadian Author and scientist David Suzuki, trees literally hold the world together. They produce oxygen and store carbon, they catch water and slow stormwater run-off, their roots prevent soil erosion and their leaves absorb heat.

Their role in the oxygen-carbon cycle has become increasingly important at a time when rising greenhouse gas pollution from land clearing and burning fossil fuels is dangerously changing weather patterns, but less well known is the role of trees in reducing air pollution by intercepting airborne particles.

Pollution, such as particulate pollution from cars, can be absorbed by the surface of a leaf, but after rain some of it will be washed down into the soil, which acts as a filter. Trees are also responsible for reducing temperatures and, in turn, slowing the rates at which many air pollutants are formed. All parts of a tree – from its soil, roots, stems and bark – function as sinks for air pollution.

Trees can also help slow stormwater run-off. Rainfall running over streets and car parks washes pollution into waterways, affecting the quality and quantity of the water. Where there are urban forests, the trees act as giant sponges, significantly slowing stormwater run-off and reducing risk of floods that are so typical of Sydney’s sudden downpours.

But that’s not all. Trees can play a significant role in reducing demand for energy by providing shade for buildings and windows in summer, directly reducing the need for energy-guzzling air conditioners. Direct shading of air-conditioning units also increases their efficiency by up to 10 per cent, according to research by the City of Boulder Water Conservation Office in the US.

Trees also cool air through evapo-transpiration. The ambient air temperature difference between an unshaded, treeless car park and a vegetated area can be as much as 5.5 degrees, Boulder

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.

City officials say.

Wendy Frew
(SMH Feb. 2006)

Post Script: Has anybody noticed the new rooftop car park at Centro Bankstown being constructed? A glaring concrete desert is replacing a pleasant shady area, provided 30 years ago when trees were given a role to play in large developments.

Irene Jones

WORKING BEE AT FRESHWATER CREEK WETLANDS

On Sunday April 2nd, SWEC committee members turned out for the first working bee of the year on a beautiful sunny but cool morning. Gary had slashed some weeds around the wetland a few days earlier and Darryl did some more before the rest of us arrived at 9 am. We then jumped in and tackled the weeds and blown rubbish around the frog pond near the front gate. We removed lots of Paspalum, Rhodes Grass, Plantain and other weeds around the banks of the pond.

The planted species in and around the pond are doing well, especially some of the reeds which are gradually multiplying and spreading across the pond. After the last rain event, the resident Spotted Grass Frogs began laying eggs and as we collected up the weeds, a couple of tiny ‘teenage’ frogs appeared, a soft peach colour with green splotchy spots. A Peron’s Tree Frog was also caught and released after close inspection.

Future working bees are scheduled for Sunday 2nd July and 1st October. Any members and friends who haven’t visited the wetland recently to see how it has progressed is welcome to join us for a morning’s work and a tour of the wetland. We can even provide a cup of tea or coffee! See you there!

CONTACTING SWEC:
South West Enviro Centre
PO BOX 610
PADSTOW NSW 2211
Phone/Fax: 9771 3864





Volunteer dates at Freshwater Creek wetlands for 2006 for your diary:

Sunday, 2nd July and 1st October.

Turn up any time after 9.00 am and wear strong shoes, long pants, a hat & sunscreen. All welcome!

OBJECTS of ASSOCIATION

- 1. To encourage and facilitate community action to protect the natural qualities of our ENVIRONMENT, to prevent its degradation and to provide a focal point for individuals and groups who are concerned about the ENVIRONMENT.*
- 2. To increase community awareness of ENVIRONMENTAL issues by producing newsletters, distributing leaflets and conducting seminars and workshops.*
- 3. To assist and support community groups and individuals to communicate their ENVIRONMENTAL concerns to government agencies and industry.*
- 4. To establish and operate a not-for-profit shop front ENVIRONMENT CENTRE in the South-West of Sydney which will be run by and for community members.*
- 5. To undertake any such activities which assist in reaching the above objectives.*



**ONE EARTH,
ONE ENVIRONMENT,
ONE CHANCE !**

THOUGHTS of a WESTIE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by David West

The truly staggering amount of plant and animal species that are to be found right here in Sydney is amazing. There are some 19 recognised plant communities/forests, which have evolved to take advantage of the different geological landscape features found in the Sydney basin, between the mountains and the sea.

Rainforest, other forest communities have evolved to survive in a particular locale, riverine, estuarine, shale soil (clay), basalt soil, sandstone and sand (and sand dunes), alluvium, silt, swamp, wetland, etc., the Sydney basin has it all, but much of it is disappearing faster than a bullet!

There has been mention of a large site in Sydney to preserve Cumberland Plain Forest (clay soil area) but that only partly protects some of the few 19 recognised forest communities. Many birds and animals need to migrate – food, water and breeding sites often require travel and seasonal movement, one of the main advantages gained by installation of “Corridors of Green” is that it provides food and shelter during migration.

Some bushland has been fragmented into small remnants dotted about the suburbs. We are supposed to have “Corridors of Green” (native forest) installed throughout the Sydney region, which should provide a link between the existing forest remnants, but little is happening, indeed some remnant bushland has been practically ignored despite community submissions

that they be included in these linkages. Funding and support for prompt effective action is too little to allow real progress to date.

Higher human population means that we often need more effective conservation measures, fencing off small bushland remnants has become essential in some cases to prevent vandals damaging the bushland and killing off some already rare species.

I see a need for appreciation and education among the wider community of what we have and what we are about to lose. Perhaps not all, but most worry only about who won the cricket or football or the need to conserve water and might be convinced to look towards improvement in our natural environment, the landscape and scenery, that place we live and work in, the place where our children play.

Our local bushland, parkland, rivers, foreshores, open space, restful natural scenery, Australian birds, animals and insects are all important for social health, well being and for taking pride in our unique Australian identity. Trees, forests not only absorb carbon and produce oxygen, they reduce dust/air pollution as well. Forested areas attract more rainfall, filter and slow the speed of water run-off, as well as lowering the water table and reducing the problem of salinity in the ground water.

Retaining biodiversity (i.e. the widest possible range of species) and maintaining genetic variance

by retaining the widest range separation of a particular species habitat locations to prevent in-breeding and loss of survival protection. These plants and animals which may become very important to our future survival should be protected, at least as a precaution.

Climate change, global warming is an imminent threat leading to extinction as cool zones are shrinking while dry areas are expanding and weather patterns are becoming more violent and sporadic. Plants and animals either adapt, relocate or disappear. Recent announcements clarify the certainty of escalating changes – 9% loss per year of ice cover in the Arctic (40% loss to date), noticeable deleterious effect on seal and polar bear populations. Loss of 5,000 square kilometres of ice cover in the Antarctic in recent years, noticeable effect on penguin access to feeding areas impeded by large masses of iceberg as giant slabs drift apart. In NSW, some parts are predicted to have 15% less than the present average rainfall.

Money must be found and made available to add land to Sydney's bushland remnants (plus corridors of green) so they are made large enough to form a sustainable population of the original native flora and fauna and increase open space and parkland for recreation and enjoyment of restful scenery. Tourism could flourish in the suburbs, not just around Sydney Harbour and the Blue Mountains.

BIRD BANDING AT BURRENDONG

by Irene Jones

Our vice president Darryl McKay visits Burrendong Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, near Wellington in the state's Central West, four times a year for a weekend of bird-banding.

The arboretum was established back in 1964 by an enthusiastic naturalist who took over an old farming property of 167 hectares, which contains an important remnant of endangered White Box Woodland. Over the years, with assistance from local volunteers, many different species of Australian flora have been planted here. Many flowering shrubs and trees from Western Australia have also been successfully established within the arboretum.

A highlight of the reserve is a wonderful fern gully, full of rainforest plants, that is sheltered by a huge brush-covered canopy of steel cables.

Darryl says the best time to visit is in the spring when many plants are in flower. With so many different species, of course there is a great diversity of bird-life. You can walk and/or drive around the arboretum and guided tours are also available several times a year.

Last month, Pat Bell and I took the opportunity to join Darryl on his latest weekend visit and watched the bird-banding operation. Darryl has a Class A certificate in bird-banding, achieved through many excursions to bird-banding sites, learning the required skills over time with the guidance of other experienced bird-banders.

Mist nets are set up in the evening and opened up in the morning after the bird-bander has set up his specialised equipment. Then he disengages the birds that are caught, weighs and measures them and records the measurements taken before they are released. The results are sent to Canberra and kept on a central data base for all Australian birds that is made available to researchers.

We were lucky enough to stay in a comfortable (and cheap) cottage in the nearby State Recreation Park where we were entertained by a pair of Grey Butcher Birds sitting on the clothesline keeping a look-out for insects to eat. A few Eastern Grey Kangaroos came out in the evening to pick at a small patch of green lawn.

Over the weekend, Darryl caught 85 birds, comprising 68 species, some of which had been previously banded. Delightful little Red-browed Finches were amongst the most common and Honeyeaters of different kinds were in abundance. Pat and I had never seen some of the species before, so we were thrilled to see Sacred Kingfishers, a Superb Fairy-wren, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Babblers, Scrubwrens and many others up close and personal.

Over the two days, Darryl also recorded 69 bird species which he actually sighted or heard their calls, as well as the kangaroos, a Lace Monitor and a Long-necked Turtle.

Darryl's next trip to the

Arboretum is on 3rd and 4th June 2006. Visitors are welcome. If you'd like to go along, get in touch with Darryl to book in.



Immature Fan-tailed Cuckoo



Brown Honeyeater

*Cumberland
Flora And Fauna
Interpretive Services*

**B.R.N.
Q6421611**

**Biological Survey &
Analysis**

**13 Park Road
Bulli NSW 2516**

Tel (02) 4284 6768

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
May to September 2006**

NB: All activities commence at 9.30am.

MONTH:	1st MONDAY:	3rd SUNDAY (except Dec)
MAY	1st: Lansdowne Reserve , Northern end off Lansdowne Road. Follow-up of grant	21st: Carysfield Park . Meet in car park off Johnstone Road, Bass Hill
JUNE	5th: Milperra Wetland . Follow-up of recent grant. Meet at corner of Henry Lawson Drive and Milperra Road	18th: The Crest . Turpentine brushforest. Meet in car-park near athletics track via McLean Street, Bass Hill
JULY	3rd: East Hills Park . Meet in Cook Crescent, East Hills.	16th: Lambeth Park . Follow up work at "the Steps". Meet in car park off Henry Lawson Drive.
AUGUST	7th: The Crest . Meet in car park off Mclean Street near athletics ground.	20th: Yeramba Lagoon . Meet at end of Kennedy Street, Picnic Point.
SEPTEMBER	4th: Salt Pan Creek . Meet at Alma Road entrance to boardwalk.	17th: Milperra Wetland . Meet of Henry Lawson drive, south of Milperra Road intersection.



Eastern Water Skink. Milperra Wetlands



Brush-tailed Possum sleeping in Habitat Box. Milperra Wetlands



Southern Boobook at The Crest Reserve

All photos by Darryl McKay

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

