

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]



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BBS IN THE FIELD—THE CREST OF BANKSTOWN

by Col Gibson

Bankstown Bushland Society has been undertaking bush regeneration work at The Crest of Bankstown since 1991, both as volunteers, as well as with the support of the Environmental Trust.

This work has concentrated on the elimination of invasive weeds (Bridal Creeper, Asparagus, Ehrharta, etc.) from that part of the reserve dominated by Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) with a unique rainforest ecotonal understory.

For the current grant it was decided to target the habitat of the Regionally Significant plant, *Typhonium brownii*, which is rare in western Sydney, the nearest known locations being at Menangle, Nepean River and Windsor. This species occurs at The Crest in a small population in a periodically moist swale at the head of a small gully draining to the south-west, in remnant Turpentine brushforest habitat. This swale has been worked, in

part, during the course of the previous grant, but the scale of the undertaking in the broader scope of Turpentine forest habitat restoration did not permit a more comprehensive effort in the Typhonium swale.

The natural vegetation in the Typhonium habitat consists of rainforest ecotonal species under Turpentine with emergent Eucalypts, particularly *Eucalyptus moluccana* and *E. amplifolia*. The chief shrub components include *Clerodendrum tomentosum*, *Melicope micrococca*, *Rhodamnia trinervia*, *Notelaea longifolia* and *Pittosporum revolutum*. Native vines such as *Pandorea pandorana*, *Clematis*

glycinoides, *Tylophora barbata* and *Cayratia clematidea* are also conspicuous elements of this association.

Previous efforts had eliminated an over-dominant sub-canopy of *Pittosporum undulatum*, along with major infestations of Moth Vine. The Society's recent work with the current Environmental Trust grant has enabled us to target dense infestations of Bridal Veil Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) and Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta erecta*), as well as sporadic pockets of *Asparagus densiflorus*, Small-leaved Privet, *Ochna serrulata* and recolonizing Moth Vine seedlings. Another weed species found to be surprisingly prevalent in the target area is *Passiflora suberosa*, which has only been observed in more recent years in Bankstown, so far seen only at The Crest's Turpentine brushforest, and also at the nearby Bellevue Reserve.

Inside this issue...

- ◆ About The Bush 'More Orchids'
- ◆ Another tree gone down
- ◆ Thoughts of a Westie
- ◆ Presidents report

... Plus 2008 Activities Program and Bush Regeneration Dates

(Continued on page 4)

ABOUT THE BUSH ANOTHER SEASON ORCHID HUNTING

By Colin Gibson

Following on from our observations last year, Darryl McKay and I have been scouring the bush around Bankstown to see what might turn up, orchid-wise. Of the many orchids seen this year one of the most interesting was Darryl's finding of *Pterostylis grandiflora* at the Webster Street orchid hot-spot, the appearance of the flower in June was seen by us with Robert Miller. Darryl and Robert had made the only other observation of this species in Bankstown on the Cattle Duffers track back in 1999. As the name implies, it has

Darryl again hit the jack-pot at Webster Street when he found a second species of *Chiloglottis*, one that as yet we have not been able to put a name to.



Chiloglottis sp.

vanished completely, leaving not even a shrivelled leaf above ground to show where it had been. If we are to find out what the species is, we will need to persist with our observations at this location for who knows how long.

Other orchids very infrequently seen in our area, but caught sight of this year include *Acianthus caudatus* (Substation, Picnic Point), *Acianthus exertus* (Webster Street and Mickey's Point), *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (Substation, Picnic Point) and *Caleana major* (Yeramba Lagoon) but a real highlight was finding the rare *Pterostylis* (or *Oligochaetochilus*, if you prefer) *saxicola* at, of all places, East Hills Park. We have seen this



Pterostylis grandiflora

a large flower for a greenhood and is one of the most attractive species in the genus.

Darryl also was on the spot to find a plant of *Pterostylis pedunculata*, taking the known number of greenhoods from Webster Street to nine specimens, remarkable for an area no bigger than the average house block.

A third species of *Chiloglottis* was found at Yeramba Lagoon when I was in the company of Robert Miller, Alan Fairley and Margaret Bradhurst. Robert spotted it first, and, unlike the small populations of the two species at Webster Street, there



Pterostylis saxicola

rare orchid in a few locations around Picnic Point in previous years. It is a species endemic to the Georges River catchment, described in 1997.

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: sternaalbifrons@unwired.com.au

(Continued on page 3)

A few months ago, while spot-spraying in East Hills Park, I found two rosettes of what was



Acianthus caudatus

clearly a second species of greenhood for the park (the other being *P. concinna*). One of these rosettes had the beginnings of a flower stem at a time when all the concinnas were finishing. I thereafter looked after this

rosette, watering it several times, and sure enough, on the 19th October, a single flower had popped open and the identification was confirmed. Darryl and I had about a week before seen flowering one of the known populations around Yeramba Lagoon. *P. saxicola* is a ROTAP listed plant, the second



Lyperanthus suaveolens

such for East Hills Park, the other being *Persoonia nutans*.

This spring began brilliantly, but the dry weather since seems to



Caleana major
Flying Duck Orchid

have hurried a lot of orchids back underground. Hopefully a little (or a lot of) rain is not too far away. There are lots of areas we have hardly looked at, so we'll be keeping our eyes on the ground, to be sure.

Cumberland
Flora And Fauna
Interpretive Services

B.R.N.
Q6421611

Biological Survey &
Analysis

13 Park Road
Bulli NSW 2516
Tel (02) 4284 6768

Advance notice

Slide presentation by Colin Gibson

RARE PLANTS OF BANKSTOWN

Wednesday 7.30pm 19th March 2007
Padstow Progress Hall, Ryan Road, Padstow

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(Continued from page 1)

A total of 175.5 person hours has so far been spent at The Crest in the Typhonium habitat by the paid bush regeneration team with the current grant till the end of 2006. Additionally, 117 hours have been contributed by the Society's volunteers in this same period since the completion of the previous grant. We have also lobbied Council for much needed fencing to protect this area; our efforts in this regard having been rewarded with construction of a 2 metre cyclone wire fence in May this year. The protective fence has had an immediate effect in restricting access to illegal rubbish dumpers.

Several thorough sweeps through the area for *Ehrharta erecta* had been completed before the onset of the hot dry summer conditions of 2006/2007. Subsequent mid-summer rainfall resulted in a resurgence of *Ehrharta* in the subject area, with further sweeps ensuing. All mature *Passiflora suberosa* plants have been eradicated, only occasional young plants are now encountered. *Asparagus densiflorus* has also been completely eradicated along with the last significant stand of Small-leaved Privet and *Oplismenus serrulata*. All mature Moth V have been removed, along seedling resurgence in spe areas.

Approximately 90% of the ta area has been released from most serious weed affecting site – Bridal Veil Creeper significant contribution here made by BCC contractors E Repair, removing consider amounts of rhizome in western part of the brushfores

More recently our own bush regen team in the form of myself, Jo Fenner, Shaun Knudsen and Laura Chappell, has swept through the entire site for *Ehrharta erecta*, whilst Pat Bell has been working independently at the western end. The team also opened a new front with a solid effort on *Asparagus densiflorus*, Bridal Veil Creeper and Privet on the Sandstone Spur (southern side of the Brushforest Gully) where these weeds were massed under two large *Exocarpos* trees. The Sandstone Spur (so named because of a very thin outcropping of rubble-like sandstone at the shale surface) contains a population of the rare *Pimelea spicata*, as well as two locally rare greenhood orchids, namely *Pterostylis pedunculata* and *P. mutica*. Follow-up work is intended here in the not too distant future.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2006-2007**

By Pat Bell

Phew! We've made it another year.

It has been an exhausting and frustrating one for the few of us involved in keeping the Society together. Too few hands and too

To support our Grants we are obliged under their conditions to contribute some volunteer hours. We have managed to keep this volunteer effort going on the 2nd Monday and the 3rd Sunday of each month. I would like to extend the Society's special thanks to Jean and Harry Brian who always make a big effort to come along and contribute enormously. Jean and Harry, you are fantastic.

Colin keeps on discovering new plants/new sightings for Bankstown. This is after wandering around the bushland of Bankstown for decades. It makes one wonder about the accuracy/efficacy of environmental reports prepared by outside consultants who might only visit a particular site for a day or even a few days.

One of the latest of Colin's discoveries is an undescribed *Hibbertia* on Bankstown Airport Precinct. The species has been nominated for listing under the Federal EPBC Act. We are hoping that the Airport people will do the right thing and ensure the long-term survival of the *Hibbertia* itself and its habitat in situ.

We lobbied for a fence at The Crest with the help of MLA Tony Stewart. It has now been installed and the Turpentine forest is more protected from the dumping which was happening regularly. The area however, is still accessible to those who wish to walk around and look at this special piece of bushland. Thanks for your help, Tony.

Thanks for the hard work that Colin, Darryl and John have performed during the year and also thanks to John Fowler who has been helping us balance our books since soon after Irene passed away.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year—if you have time over the holidays, go and look at some of the great bushland areas of Bankstown.




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ANOTHER GOOD TREE GONE DOWN

By Col Gibson

***Eucalyptus beyeriana* (formerly known as *Eucalyptus beyeri*)**

This species occurs in a number of areas throughout NSW, including the Central Coast, South Coast and Central and North Western Slopes. In the Sydney area this species is uncommon and has been listed as regionally rare. If not adequately protected it is likely that this species will move into the VI (vulnerable species) classification.

There are limited records on Council land with only 6 Council owned reserves/parks containing this species. The majority of the occurrences of this species are on privately owned land in the Revesby, Panania and Picnic Point areas. Therefore, it is of particular importance that any remaining specimens of this species are protected.

Conservation at the regional level has been identified as important to the long term survival of native species. Many species may not meet the criteria for formal listing as rare or endangered at national and state levels; however, these taxa may be in danger of extinction from regional areas. The protection of regional populations is fundamental to biodiversity conservation, particularly for the maintenance of genetic diversity and ecosystem stability.

The foregoing was sent to us by South Ward Councillor Dick McLaughlin. Dick, an environmental sympathiser of long standing, was the only Bankstown City Councillor to

oppose the destruction of a fine example of an ironbark in Austin Boulevard, Picnic Point. This tree was in the way of where the property owners wanted to build a swimming pool. Although the pool could have been situated to accommodate the tree, they wanted the tree out nonetheless, so yet another land-mark indigenous tree was lost to Bankstown. Bankstown Council has no policy to protect indigenous trees from being re-developed into extinction.

Eucalyptus beyeriana is commonly misidentified in our area for the similar-looking (but even rarer locally) *Eucalyptus crebra*. The best stands of *Eucalyptus beyeriana* can be seen at Panania Public School (Lawler Street) and at East Hills Girls High. These stands are very important, but do not occur in bushland settings—natural shrub and ground-cover layers are absent. In fact we have not yet found any specimen in a Council bushland reserve.

However, the potential to include *Eucalyptus beyeriana* in a bushland reserve (albeit one still classified as Operational Land—another issue in itself) occurs at Smith Park, adjacent to the carpark off Lehn Road at East Hills. The bushland management Plan for Reserves at East Hills states clearly the intention to re-locate the existing fenceline, which defines the Smith Park bushland remnant's eastern boundary, several metres further to the east. If this shift were extended to the railway boundary fence, then at least one mature *Eucalyptus beyeriana* in

currently-mown parkland could be incorporated within a (potential) bushland conservation reserve.

It is to be regretted that Council, on the basis of a single complaint from one resident, has shied away from implementing extended no-mow zones at Smith Park and at East Hills Park. We wrote at the end of July to the General Manager, expressing our views, but to date have not received a reply. We can only hope that the measures in the Plan will eventually be implemented.

Our thanks and appreciation go to South ward Councillor Dick McLaughlin for the recognition he has shown for the value of our fast-disappearing indigenous trees.

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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Darryl McKay 9708 5283

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THOUGHTS of a WESTIE

Working with indigenous communities

by David West

There are many opportunities to work with indigenous communities, throughout Australia. I have applied for a position as a volunteer and have been accepted. The thing that I wanted to do would involve passing on horticultural skills to a small group of young aboriginal people, so I asked to work in remote areas.

I also believe anyone could apply, there are many situations where technical skills aren't necessary. Be prepared to submit a full curriculum vitae, plus referees to vouch for your good character and you will also have to sign up for a police check, because everyone who works with young people/children, anywhere, must first be given a police clearance to be allowed to do so these days.

From what I have seen happening in Warren on a recent visit, it appears that the scheme involves at least in part, giving these youngsters an opportunity to gain job/work experience.

By the way, if you are able to access the "web", check out "ICV" web site for a broader understanding of what it is about.

Your details are widely circulated and the community picks out the candidate you would like for the job. I have been offered two separate jobs, both I had to turn down because of a clash with medical appointments here in Sydney.

Both offers were in Western Australia, the first was in Meekathara and the next was 20 minutes out of Kalgoorlie. Both wanted various gardens, floral and vegetable, and landscaping, installed, one wanted an orchard. Of course, the other side of the coin is, they can only get people for a set amount of time, in my case it would have involved 3 months at Meekathara and 3 weeks at Kalgoorlie. I don't mean I determined the length of my visit in all situations, it would also depend on who is providing the funding, however I do know that a previous volunteer had spent 3 months at Meekathara, which I was to continue work on.

So you set the period you can be available for. It came as quite a surprise that I would receive some payments as a volunteer, I expected to be covered for at least some of my travel expenses and this is the case, air fare is covered, but if I drive I only get the equivalent to the cheapest air fare. I discovered after I was signed up that.

engagement allowance is paid. One off payments are made as follows :

- Remote \$200
- Rural \$150
- Urban \$100

There is also a "subsistence allowance" paid for each week on the job, to cover basic food and incidentals. The amount varies with the remoteness of the situation, as you can imagine costs vary considerably between remote, rural and urban work sites, so the payments are roughly- \$175 remote --\$158 rural---\$140 urban. I believe these payments are tax free, but check for your own financial situation.

Also you do have to attend a Cultural Workshop before you go on a project. Currently the workshops are held in Canberra. At this time you are prepared for your project and given some information on indigenous culture. At this time, you and some of your referees will be interviewed as part of the usual screening process of volunteers as well as getting to know you in a simple interview. Travel, accommodation and most food expenses are covered for you to attend the Canberra workshop.




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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: 7.00 pm
Tea and biscuits provided. All welcome.
Further inquiries please ring : 9785 2374

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY BUSH REGENERATION PROGRAM February to July 2008

NB: All activities commence at 9.30am.
Telephone contacts: Pat 9785 2374, Colin 9788 6232

MONTH:

2nd MONDAY3rd SUNDAY

FEB	10th: The Crest: Turpentine Forest. Meet in the athletics carpark via Mclean St, Bass Hill.	17th: Padstow Park: Ironbark Forest. Meet at Padstow Park, Banks Street, Padstow.
MARCH	10th: Lansdowne Reserve: Cumberland Plain Woodland. Meet in carpark on Lansdowne Parade, off Hume Highway, Lansdowne	16th: Norfolk Reserve: Tylophora woollsii habitat. Meet on Norfolk Road at Chullora.
APRIL	14th: Lambeth Park: The Steps. Meet in carpark at Lambeth Park off Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point.	20th: Yeramba Lagoon: Sandstone Woodland. Meet at the end of Kennedy Street, Picnic Point.
MAY	12th: Smith Park: Transition Forest. Meet in tennis courts carpark, Lehn Road, East Hills	18th: The Crest: Turpentine Brushforest. Meet in the Athletics Complex carpark via McLean Street, Bass Hill.
JUNE	9th: Norfolk Reserve: Tylophora woollsii habitat. Meet on Norfolk Road at Chullora.	15th: Lambeth Park: The Steps. Meet in carpark at Lambeth Park off Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point.
JULY	14th: Padstow Park: Ironbark Forest. Meet at Padstow Park, Banks Street, Padstow.	20th: Lansdowne Reserve: Cumberland Plain Woodland. Meet in carpark on Lansdowne Parade, off Hume Highway, Lansdowne.



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**

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