

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]



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

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT REPORTS TRANSITION FOREST SITES 2005-2007

Prepared by C P Gibson

MONASH RESERVE

The Society first programmed this site for bush regeneration in June 2004. There are two habitat types represented at Monash, these being Eucalypt Woodland in the car park adjacent Henry Lawson Drive, and the nearby Quaternary river-flat fronting the estuarine Georges River. Much of the river-flat is clear open space and is regularly mown, with stands of Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) and mangrove lining the drainage channel separating the

river-flat from the car park woodland.

The car park woodland is located on slightly higher ground than the river-flat; as no sandstone or shale is present the vegetation here may in fact be a small remnant on sandy Tertiary alluvium. The main tree species in the car park woodland is *Eucalyptus racemosa*, with *E. resinifera*, *E. globoidea* and *Angophora bakeri* also present.

The vegetation in the car park is recovering from an episode of mechanical slashing which took place in June 2002; natural regeneration has been permitted since then. Early in 2006 Council blocked access to the short-cut track on the eastern side of the car park driveway, which has been beneficial for the pocket of remnant vegetation on the eastern side of the driveway. The Bushland Society contract bush regeneration team began

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The annual general meeting (AGM) of the Bankstown Bushland Society Inc will be held on Wednesday 19th November 2008. It will commence at 7.00 p.m. followed by an ordinary meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Padstow Progress Hall, (annex), Ryan Road, Padstow.

All positions on the Committee automatically become vacant at the AGM. Nominations are invited for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer, Editor, Editorial Committee, and also General Committee positions.

(Continued from page 1)

operating in the car park woodland at Monash Reserve on 04-05-2005.

The chief weed issues in the car park woodland at Monash Reserve were African Love Grass, Kikuyu, Paddy's Lucerne, Cobblers Pegs, Couch, Veldt Grass and Lamb's Tongue. One of the first operations was to reduce the swathes of African Love Grass with a brush cutter, with follow-up spraying Glyphosate Biactive 1:75 the re-shooting tussocks. Follow-up handweeding has eliminated African Love Grass from the site.

Apart from some spot spraying of flatweeds and Paspalum, all other weeds were dealt with by hand removal—Kikuyu, Lamb's Tongue, Couch, Veldt Grass, Fireweed, Moth Vine and others. Most of these weeds were interspersed among native ground covers, such as *Microlaena stipoides*, *Digitaria ramularis*, *Lomandra filiformis*, etc.

Most of the car park woodland is now largely free of weeds, although resources have not permitted treatment to extend further than the edge of the degraded area next to the property boundary on the western side. Part of this degraded area, adjoining the mangrove-lined channel, was targeted for African Love Grass

and Paddy's Lucerne, Moth Vine etc., the initial sweep on African Love Grass done by grubbing tussocks with short-handled mattocks. Follow-up spraying of this degraded corner is intended, and, as the area is apparently



Monash Reserve carpark woodland 07/06/2004

devoid of native ground covers, it is hoped that at some future stage, once weed propagules have been exhausted, transplanting of plugs of native grasses, particularly *Microlaena*



Monash Reserve carpark woodland following removal of African Love-grass, Couch and Kikuyu. Picture taken 13/05/2007

stipoides, will take place. This method is proving very successful at nearby Smith Park.

The car park driveway and the

margin of Henry Lawson Drive were regularly sprayed with Round Up at 1:100 concentration in order to bring a range of herbaceous weeds under control, particularly Paddy's Lucerne, *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*, Couch and *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*.

A small section of the adjacent Quaternary river-flat was also included in the schedule for Monash Reserve. This section, under a stand of Swamp Oak directly opposite the estuarine channel from the car park woodland, represents the

best remaining pocket of the original river-flat vegetation in the area. Although degraded by weeds such as African Love Grass, Veldt Grass, Wandering Jew and *Asparagus densiflorus*, extensive swathes of *Microlaena stipoides* occur here, as well as other native ground cover grasses and herbs.

Full rehabilitation of the river-flat site was not possible with the limited grant resource, so preference was allocated to the floristically diverse car park woodland. However, it was feasible to target

certain species for eradication, namely African Love Grass and *Asparagus densiflorus*.

LAMBETH PARK

Bankstown Bushland Society has been working in Lambeth Park since 1991. Most of this work has concentrated on bushland on the sandstone slopes behind the main picnicking areas. The more degraded up-river section was neglected until a Work-for the Dole team, in consultation with the Society, commenced working there in August 2003. In support of this work the Society transferred its attention to the area that has become known as "The Steps", due to the presence of an old landscaped pathway leading to the river from a terrace above, the stonework of which was revealed by the initial extraction of Privet overgrowth in 2003.

Much of The Steps site would be classified as typical sandstone woodland, particularly the slopes beneath the sandstone bench that terraces the back of Lambeth Park. This terrace, however, is right at the sandstone edge of the Shale-Sandstone Transition. The dominant tree species are *Eucalyptus punctata*, *E. piperita* and *Angophora bakeri*.

At the time the Work for the Dole team commenced, Small and Large-leaved Privet, Sweet Pittosporum, Honeysuckle and *Asparagus densiflorus*, as well as many herbaceous weeds, densely covered The Steps area. Much of it could be considered a red area, although there were a number of

pockets of better class native vegetation, with many species clinging to niches provided by rock outcrops as well as the bases of trees and along perimeter margins. The Work-for-the-Dole



Lambeth Park 'Steps' area 17/05/2006

team worked intermittently, removing a lot of Privet and Sweet Pittosporum, along with infestations of *Asparagus densiflorus*, which covered much of the rocky terrace and down



Lambeth Park 'Steps' area following removal of *Pittosporum undulatum*. Picture taken 13/05/2007

slope situation. A large, wild Plumbago thicket was also much reduced.

The Bushland Society first programmed The Steps in May

2004, and has worked, to October 2007, twelve programmed volunteer bush regeneration days. Part of the site in recent years, closest to Henry Lawson Drive, has also been used as a demonstration site by the Padstow TAFE bush regeneration classes. The Work-for-the-Dole team did not continue at the site beyond 2004. The Society's contract team commenced here on 09-06-2005.

This site, due to the presence of significant infestations of woody weeds and a host of herbaceous weeds, has presented a challenge to the Society's bush regenerators. As well as the weeds already mentioned there are a range of other causing problems, among them Balloon Vine, Veldt Grass, Fleabane, Couch, Purple Top, Freesia, Paddy's Lucerne, Cobblers Pegs, Paspalum, Kikuyu, Buffalo Grass, Onion Weed, Wandering Jew and Honeysuckle.

Principally, it was decided to progressively sweep along the terrace and slopes for herbaceous weeds, with attention to be paid in particular to *Asparagus densiflorus* infestations smothering rock ledges and the bushland margins along Henry Lawson Drive, often in association with over-topping Privet and Pittosporum.

A range of other herbaceous

(Continued from page 3)

weeds was similarly treated, with follow-up work preceding extension of primary work into untreated areas. This process was augmented with the repeat spraying Glyphosate Biactive 1: 75 or 1: 100 of especially prolific herbaceous weeds such as *Ehrharta erecta* and *E. longifolia*, Kikuyu and Buffalo Grass. Work on reducing the Plumbago thicket was continued and the Honeysuckle attacked in the bottom corner of the site.

In 2005 Council planted into the slope that had been cleared of Privet by the Work-for-the-Dole team, mainly *Lomandra* and *Dianella* species, but the plantings were soon to be overtaken by a rapid process of natural regeneration.

Privet and *Pittosporum* were progressively removed from the terrace and from the roadside strip along Henry Lawson Drive, though several large *Pittosporum* on the lower slope were left over the summer of 2005/6 as cover for native ground covers such as *Poa affinis*, *Commelina cyanea*, *Dianella caerulea* and *Entolasia stricta*, spontaneously resurgent following removal of the dense covering of *Asparagus densiflorus*.

Follow-up hand weeding proceeded accordingly through summer and autumn, until 3-8-2006 when chainsaw removal of all remaining large *Pittosporum* was carried out. Subsequent to this, follow-up work has continued at The Steps, along the slopes where natural regeneration is progressing very satisfactorily. The advancement of regeneration on the slopes has allowed the team to concert more effort on the terrace or top flat where there are many weeds to

target, including *Asparagus densiflorus*, *A. asparagoides*, Paddy's Lucerne, Kikuyu, Couch, Freesia, *Ehrharta erecta*, *E. longifolia*, Cat's Ears, *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*, Cobbler's Pegs, Fleabane, Lamb's Tongue, Pigeon Grass, Burr Medic, Purple Top and Honeysuckle.

Spot spraying with Roundup 1: 100 on the top flat, and in other target situations, has been augmented by several thorough hand sweeps during 2007, with regeneration progressing well. The process of natural regeneration is now well under way with *Microlaena stipoides* and *Oxalis sp.* proliferating; other species making appearance including eucalypt seedlings (prob. *E. punctata*), *Dichondra repens*, *Cyperus gracilis*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Notelaea longifolia* and *Glycine microphylla*.

Most recently, on 6-12-2007, taking advantage of recent ground-saturating rains, *Microlaena* plugs were transplanted into a prepared site at the edge of the sandstone rim, on ground that was once occupied by an old kiosk/dance hall. It is intended in the long term to continue this process over all similarly degraded situations around the rim of the top flat.

Effort is also being made to control weeds burgeoning from the derelict red area on the upstream side of the site, (a destroyed natural back swamp), particularly Small and Large-leaved Privet, Honeysuckle, Balloon Vine, Wandering Jew and *Asparagus densiflorus*, with the intention also of removing *Pittosporum* from the sandstone ledges abutting the back swamp. It is our intention to proceed to the

base of the sandstone ledge that overtops the degraded back swamp.

The remnant natural vegetation here is provided a measure of protection by the terraced nature of the sandstone rim; it is characterised by mesic-leaved species of the sandstone gully — warm temperate rainforest transitions, and includes *Clerodendrum tomentosum*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Notelaea longifolia*, *Myrsine variabilis*, *Trema tomentosa var. viridis*, *Pandorea pandorana* and *Eustrephus latifolius*. The locally rare *Santalum obtusifolium* has also been observed here.

The work at The Steps has engendered considerable interest in the local history of the area. The cut sandstone steps and landscaped areas revealed by bush regenerators have been dated to the early part of the 20th century, when the path was created to give access to the river from a kiosk or dancehall on the terrace above. This had once been a beautiful and popular part of the reserve, but had long since fallen into disuse, the building demolished and the path hidden in weedy overgrowth.

The Society's bush regeneration team, with the financial assistance of the Environmental Trust is re-converting The Steps into something of its former scenic appeal. Visitors are starting to return to this corner of the park, and the Society has received a number of compliments for the work from local residents, some of whom have lived in the area long enough to remember what the place was like in a more pristine state.

PADSTOW PARK

(Irene Jones Natural Bushland Reserve)

Bankstown Bushland Society commenced working at Padstow Park in June 2000. No earlier bush regeneration work had been undertaken at the site, other than restrictions on mowing put in place by Council in the mid 1990's, along with boundary fencing erected within the last few years. The bushland area is now well delineated by a one metre high cyclone wire fence along the eastern side adjoining Padstow Park oval, a taller cyclone wire fence along the southern perimeter adjoining a townhouse complex, and a colour bond fence separating the reserve from private property along the western perimeter. A Bushcare group has been working here most months since about early 2005.

The remnant vegetation here resembles to some extent that of Smith Park insofar as the dominant tree species is Broadleaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*). The soil is in parts fine sand, with an underlying clay substrate, the dominance of ironbark and the grassy understorey indicative of the shale end of the Shale-Sandstone Transition. From June 2000 to December 2007 the Society has undertaken fifteen programmed bush regeneration days at Padstow Park.

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Prior to commencement of work by the Society's contract team, the Society's volunteer effort had focused on the removal of Paddy's Lucerne, African Love Grass, *Ehrharta erecta* and Mother-of-Millions, from the core area. Much of the centre and western areas of the park retained a diversity of native species, particularly grasses and herbs including chenopods such as *Einadia hastata* and *E. trigonos*. These areas responded well to progressive hand weeding



Irene Jones
At Irene Jones Natural Bushland Reserve

supplemented by the spray application of Glyphosate Biactive 1: 100 in marginal locations dominated by Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta erecta*).

The contract team funded by the Environmental Trust opened its account here on 19-5-2005, and

began follow-up in the core area that had been previously swept of adult Paddy's Lucerne, African Love Grass, Lamb's Tongue, *Paspalum dilatatum* and Mother-of-Millions by the Society's volunteers. Persistent work in the core area has yielded excellent results, although spotting of resurgent herbaceous weed seedlings is continuing.

The eastern side of the reserve differs from the core area in being dominated by Kikuyu and a range of other weeds such as Veldt Grass, Pigeon Grass, Lamb's Tongue, Veldt Grass, Paddy's Lucerne, and Cobbler's Pegs. Far fewer natives are present among the weeds in this section. This is the area the Bushcarers have been concentrating on, particularly for the progressive eradication of Kikuyu, Paddy's Lucerne, Veldt Grass and *Paspalum*.

The Society's contract team has worked from the core area steadily towards this more degraded eastern side, with the recent pattern of sweeping through the core area spotting resurgent weed propagules, before directing effort to the removal of weeds in the degraded eastern area. Considerable progress is now being made in this direction, with both the contract team and the Bushcarers fully focused on the herbaceous weeds of the eastern side. Encouragingly, despite the cover of Kikuyu etc., this side of

(Continued on page 6)



Padstow Park 24/03/2002

the park is regenerating well, with native species such as *Glycine microphylla*, *Dichondra repens* and *Austrodanthonia tenuior* becoming increasingly apparent.

Work of this nature will be necessary for some time to come, but the overall results, particularly in the majority 2/3rds core area of the park, are very pleasing, with natural regeneration readily following hands-on weed removal over the target areas.

When the Society's Treasurer and Grants Administrator, Irene Jones passed away in June 2006, we immediately thought that her memory should be honoured by having one of the bushland reserves named after her. Shortly afterwards, we were approached by South Ward Councilor, Richard McLaughlin, who told us that he was keen to see Irene honoured with such a tribute. He asked us to nominate a site, to which we suggested the bushland at Padstow Park, given that Irene

was a long-time resident of Padstow and had been part of our volunteer effort here since day one. Irene had also participated in the Padstow Park Bushcare group since its inception, and had been instrumental in helping the Society apply successfully for Environmental Trust funding.

We have since been notified by Bankstown City Council that they intend to proceed with the designation of the bushland at Padstow Park as a memorial to Irene and the work she stood for.

The Society's committee is much in need of new blood to help keep things moving along. If anyone is able to serve a term on the committee it would be of great assistance to the continuation of the Society's work and of the Society itself.

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

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Pat Bell 9785 2374

Vice President:

Darryl McKay 9708 5283

Secretary:

Colin Gibson 9788 6232

Membership Secretary:

Pat Bell 9785 2374

Treasurer & Public Officer:

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Editor:

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Editorial Committee:

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Committee Members:

David West
Terrill Nordstrom



Padstow Park after removal of Mother of Millions, Paspalum, Veldt Grass, Paddys Lucerne etc. Picture taken 11/06/2007

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 VOLUNTEER BUSH REGENERATION PROGRAM October to December 2008

9.30am To 12.00pm

Telephone contacts: Pat 9785 2374, Colin 9788 6232

MONTH:

2nd MONDAY
(Except December)

3rd SUNDAY
(Except December)

NOVEMBER	10th: Lansdowne Reserve: Cumberland Plain Woodland. Meet in carpark on Lansdowne Parade, off Hume Highway, Lansdowne.	16th: The Crest: Turpentine Brushforest. Meet in the Athletics Complex carpark via McLean Street, Bass Hill.
DECEMBER	1st: Lambeth Park: The Steps. Meet in carpark at Lambeth Park off Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point.	7th: Padstow Park: Ironbark Forest. Meet at Padstow Park, Banks Street, Padstow.
2009		
FEBRUARY	9th: Lambeth Park: The Steps. Meet in carpark at Lambeth Park off Henry Lawson Drive, Picnic Point.	15th: The Crest: Turpentine Brushforest. Meet in the Athletics Complex carpark via McLean Street, Bass Hill.
MARCH	9th: Smith Park: Transition Forest. Meet in tennis courts carpark, Lehn Road, East Hills	15th: Lansdowne Reserve: Cumberland Plain Woodland. Meet in carpark on Lansdowne Parade, off Hume Highway, Lansdowne.
APRIL	6th: Norfolk Reserve: Tylophora woollsii habitat. Meet on Norfolk Road at Chullora.	19th: Padstow Park: Ironbark Forest. Meet at Padstow Park, Banks Street, Padstow.

Vale

The Society deeply regrets to inform members of the passing of our long time valued member, Eugene, after a short time in hospital. Eugene was a committed member of the community and was active in the local Labour Party. He will be missed by everyone who was fortunate enough to know him. We extend our condolences to his family.

Our thoughts also go to Society President Pat Bell on the recent passing of her father, and to long time members and supporters Terrill Nordstrom who is about to undergo an operation, and Nerida Hrazdril who is recovering from a recent illness.

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/Group - \$20
 Ordinary - \$15
 Concession - \$10
 "student/unwaged/pensioner"

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