

THE BUSHLAND BULLETIN[©]



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A Tribute to Harry Brian

by Col Gibson

It is with sadness we note the passing last December of long time Bushland Society member Harry Brian of Yagoona, aged 92. Harry was an old school Australian Plants Society man, having joined the East Hills branch in about 1963. A keen native gardener, he later developed an interest in bush regeneration, and, working single-handed, as a volunteer, in 1990 at Yagoona Railway Station he started one of Bankstown's earliest bush regeneration projects.

His friend, Kyrill Taylor, in 2004 described Harry's work at Yagoona: *"Over many years he has BEAUTIFIED the ugly, raw, steep embankments with an amazing array of native plants, employing the skills of an abseiler, geologist and horticulturalist in accomplishing a year round show of native flora in a wide variety of its forms."*

Harry's work deserved better recognition from City Rail, who ordered him to stop when new health and safety insur-

ance regulations were imposed.

Harry joined the Bushland Society in the early 90's; he loved the bush around his work place, the Lucas Heights nuclear facility, and took us on a number of delightful walks along tracks around Mill Creek and Woronora River. Harry, and his lovely wife, Jean, participated in most of the Society's early bush regeneration days at places like Smith Park, Lansdowne, Lambeth Park, Irene

Jones Bush, Norfolk Reserve and The Crest, and when Bankstown City Council Bushcare started up about 15 years ago, the Brians were among its most active participants, particularly with the group at Carysfield Park. Harry also took on a solo effort at the south end of Lansdowne Reserve when Yagoona Railway Station was no longer available to him.

A regular volunteer at the New South Wales Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Harry was very knowledgeable about local flora for which he always had an eye out. In 1991, at Lansdowne, he found the vine *Parsonsia lanceolata*, which at that time was the only known population in the Sydney region. In his garden at Cooper Road he established some of Bankstown's locally rare flora, which he had collected and propagated.

Harry was a true champion of native flora, and always good company. Good bye, Harry, and our deepest sympathies to your family.



AIRPORT RESERVE MILPERRA – ENDANGERED CROWN LAND BUSHLAND in BANKSTOWN by Col Gibson

“Crown land should not be used as a means of access to freehold land. Such access should be via public road or right-of-way over other land. Site-specific impacts should be contained within the proposed development site. Proposed development should not need to rely on adjoining Crown land for services or amenity. Proposed development should not adversely affect Crown land, its management and its enjoyment by the community in general, now and in the future.” extract from “Development and Crown Land”, Land and Property Management Authority www.Ipma.nsw.gov.au

Airport Reserve is state owned Crown land open space zoned for recreational purposes, management of which is entrusted to Bankstown City Council. Neither LEDA (proponents of the Bankstown Business Estate Major Development Plan Concept, July 2015), nor Sydney Metro Airports (owner of Bankstown Airport) own any part of Airport Reserve, which is a vestige of the original County of Cumberland Planning Scheme Green Belt.

This has not stopped LEDA from putting its hand out for a 300 metre long slip-lane, a 60 metre wide entry into the airport precinct and a bus bay on the reserve, all of which are not permissible under the provisions of the Crown Lands Act. These impacts, should they be allowed, will destroy the ecological integrity of the bushland. For

them to proceed, the Crown land status will have to be annihilated by the NSW parliament: yet more local open space lost to the public. This is unacceptable. We do not oppose the LEDA plan for the airport development site itself, but we do not believe that any part of Airport Reserve should be made to accommodate aspects of the development.

Airport Reserve contains very significant remnants of endangered bushland, notably the Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest. The significance of this site was recognised by the New South Wales Government’s Environmental Trust when it made Bankstown Bushland Society the recipient of a \$43,588 grant in 1992 [*Restoration of Swamp Woodland Remnants: Airport and Ashford Reserves*, NSW Environmental Trust 92/RR/G23]. Subsequently the society has undertaken volunteer bush regeneration work in support of the grant. More recently, in 2013, the Society was awarded another \$54,000 by the Enviro Trust to continue bush regeneration work at Airport and Ashford Reserves, work which is now well under way.

This work is in support of Bankstown City Council’s *Bushland Plan of Management: Reserves in Immediate Vicinity of Bankstown Airport*, 2004 (p.16), which recognises the conservation values of the site. In approving the Bushland Plan of Management in 2004 Council endorsed the policy of protecting the bushland in the reserve, as

well as the “*revegetation of the cleared area in east of Airport Reserve with Wetland Paperbark Swamp Woodland*”, with the intention of putting 8,000 plants in the ground (PoM Appendix 8).

Bankstown Council also has expressed concern over the impacts on bushland, flood mitigation and traffic flow on Henry Lawson Drive and Milperra Road. In its submission to Sydney Metro Airports, 28-8-2015, it noted: “*It contains endangered species of Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, Cumberland Swamp Oak Riparian Forest and Cumberland River-flat Forest... The draft plan does not have sufficient impact studies and management plans to offset the impacts to the Endangered Ecological Communities and other threatened species.*”

We support Council’s concerns, but it is not simply a matter of finding somewhere else to “offset” damage done to Endangered bushland at the site. The Crown Lands Act does not permit such public lands to be used for the purposes of private profit.

From the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads we received the following: “*I note your further concerns about roadworks on Airport reserve. I am also advised Roads and Maritime has discussed the need for a full environmental assessment of these works with LEDA Holdings. This includes*

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*identifying impacts on potential endangered ecological communities. Roads and Maritime also advised LEDA holdings to consult the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Lands and to find out whether the roadworks are allowed under the existing zoning.” (13-10-2015). We already know the answer to the last bit: **they are not.***

From the Chief of Staff, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development: *“The Airport Reserve is owned by NSW Crown Lands. As such, any development on the land is subject to NSW legislation and approval processes. I am also aware that the Airport reserve is considered environmentally sensitive and significant. In considering the MDP [Major Development Plan], the Deputy Prime Minister will consider the views of the NSW Government about the future use and ownership of the Airport Reserve land.” (11-12-2015). In other words, the State Government will decide if it will give public land to a private developer, and permit the destruction of the integrity of the Open Space provision.*

Airport Reserve already has a legitimate land use, that of conservation of endangered species and habitats. It does not need a system of roads and a bus stop on top. We believe that access to the development site should not go through Airport Reserve but via the existing multi-lane entry point at Bunnings on Milperra Road, which was built specifically to give access to developments of this very kind. *****

AIRPORT RES BUSH PICS



PROGRESS ON WORK AT ASHFORD RESERVE NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST GRANT “MILPERRA WETLANDS COMPLEX”

Report by Christopher Brogan

The New South Wales (NSW) Environmental Trust awarded the Bankstown Bushland Society (BBS) a three year \$56,000.00 grant in the 2012 round (Restoration and Rehabilitation ~ Community) to carry out bush regeneration works in two areas of remnant bushland on opposite sides of Milperra Road near Bankstown Airport, (Ashford and Airport Reserves). A third smaller area of bushland at Deepwater Park immediately adjacent to Henry Lawson Drive was also included. These works were designed to build on an earlier Environmental Trust grant funded project “Restoration of Swamp Woodland Remnants” carried out during the period 1992 to 1995.

Bushland at the three reserves had been classified by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as River Flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains, Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest and Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains all of which are listed as Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) Endangered Ecological Communities. The project title “Protection and Enhancement of Milperra Wetlands Complex” was chosen to reflect the location of the three reserves on the floodplain of the mid Georges River at Milperra and highlight the vulnerability of local bushland to disturbances associated with development such as road construction.

Earth Repair & Restoration Pty

Ltd, a Bankstown based bushland contractor, was commissioned to carry out these works. During the period covered by this report 320 hours of maintenance bush regeneration works were carried out at all three reserves, however the majority of the work was carried out at Ashford Reserve due to the extensive disturbance associated with the widening of Milperra Road in 1967 from four to six lanes.

Maintenance weed control including hand weeding and back pack herbicide spraying with Glyphosate @ a dilution of 1% was carried out throughout the project site with hours not utilised during winter months in order to control seeding annual and perennial weeds such as *Bidens pilosa* and *Ehrharta erecta*.

Clean Up Australia Day 2015 was held at Ashford Reserve and was attended by 12 Volunteers.

Community engagement in year 2 included the use of the Panania and Moorebank social networks in addition to an online petition “Save the 200 Year Old Trees of East Hills Park” to convince Bankstown Council not to cut down 15 remnant bush land trees to expand the car park at East Hills Park. This petition was signed by over 250 signatories, many from the Bankstown LGA. Articles featuring the issue were run by local newspapers. Council has committed to redesign the car park and will not cut down the

trees.

Four 5X5 metre quadrats and 5 permanent numbered photo points were established prior to the commencement of site works. Presence and absence and percentage cover data was recorded prior to commencement of site works and will be updated annually and included in the final report. Before and after photos have been taken and were included in the Year 1 progress report. Photographic records will continue to be updated. The works have been expanded to include a woody weed plume immediately adjacent to Milperra Rd. Motorists driving through the very busy Milperra Road/Henry Lawson Drive intersection will become increasingly aware of these bush regeneration works. A planting day is scheduled for March/April.

The most significant outcome during this reporting period has been maintenance of areas cleared of woody weeds in year 1. Annual and perennial weeds have been removed prior to seed set and the native orchid *Pterostylis nutans* continues to increase in percentage cover. The grant has helped to promote bushland in the Bankstown LGA. New members have been attracted to the Society, while community and local politicians have been engaged regarding the significance of bushland in the Bankstown LGA.

BANKSTOWN COUNCIL'S NEW TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

Review by Col Gibson

In 2015 Bankstown City Council undertook a review of its Tree Preservation Order. Submissions from the community were called for, to which BS responded with an appeal to recognise the native canopy species of Bankstown in the document, which, including all 30 known eucalypt species, made a total of tree species in all.

The list we submitted included all of the larger native canopy trees that comprised the original pre settlement forest of the area, and that still occur as isolated individuals in parks and reserves, as well as street trees and on private property. The list did not include the rarer rainforest affinity species that are today only found in isolated areas such as at The Crest and Marion Street Reserve, and in pockets along the Georges River foreshore in the Georges River National Park.

All the species nominated have been collected by myself and Robert Miller since 1982, and identified by NSW Herbarium luminaries, the late L.A.S. Johnson and Ken Hill, and, in more recent times, by Sydney eucalypt expert, Van Klaphake. These specimens are retained in our Flora of Bankstown collection. The significance of these species is in that as indigenous trees they have not been planted (planted specimens of these same species are not of this same significance) which makes them living historical records of the composition of the original pre settlement flora. As such they are often the oldest trees in the area, and for this reason alone should be

recognised and every consideration be given to preserving them.

Many of these trees are extremely rare and fast disappearing from the district. Some are down to only a handful of individuals. As a group, in general, they are being replaced with non-local introduced species such as Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*) (Note: this does occur naturally in Bankstown, but only as a very small number of remnant trees in the far north-west corner), Tallow Wood (*E. microcorys*), Flooded Gum (*E. grandis*), Sugar Gum (*E. cladocalyx*), Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Willow Peppermint (*E. nicholii*) and non local forms of Mugga Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*) and Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*E. crebra*), among others. As time goes on we see more and more of these introduced species and fewer of the locally indigenous ones.

Apart from being native to the area, many of the locally indigenous species are superior aesthetically, better adapted to soil conditions and more durable. They are also the preferred habitat of local wildlife and often contain habitat hollows for various native animals. Despite their gradual demise, to this day they play an important role in maintaining the integrity of local biodiversity.

Copies of our submission were sent to each of the Councillors, and it is pleasing to note that Cr. Winterbottom responded to let us know he supported the idea as it

seems did some of the others. This we suppose from the fact that the list was subsequently incorporated into the TPO as Appendix 3 - LOCALLY OCCURRING INDIGENOUS TREE SPECIES. This is indeed a very positive thing; in fact, Council went so far as to add a number of extra species to the list, for which they get a big tick.

This does not mean that these trees will automatically be spared the chop (we are still losing them at an alarming rate) but it does mean that more informed decisions can be made where these are concerned. In fact, there are many positive aspects to the revised TPO. We can't argue with this statement in the Introduction: *"Trees are a vital component of the urban environment of the City of Bankstown. They provide essential ecological, environmental, social, health, heritage and amenity values, all contributing to make the city of Bankstown a pleasant place to live and work. As well as these direct values to residents, urban trees also have equally important values in their own right in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and natural ecosystems and processes."* This applies to all trees, indigenous or otherwise.

The Tree Management Guidelines that accompany the TPO include a range of considerations to be taken into account when assessing not just the condition of trees, but their very place in the landscape. In Section 5.1 safety and suitability

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are there, as you would expect, but also are things like landscape, cultural, historical, social, scientific, local ecosystem and biodiversity values. Importantly, these are considerations not for the proponent's arborist to make (their concerns being confined to the condition of trees) but by responsible council officers.

Another thing to note is that street trees are recognised, Section 9.4 of the TPO stating: *"When planning a complying development, you must take into consideration any council street tree located on the nature strip forward of the property. Street trees are valuable community assets, and removal for the purposes of constructing a vehicle footpath crossing may not be approved."* It is good to see this in the TPO, particularly given the losses of very fine healthy trees on median strips as at Burns Road and the corner of Stretham and Kennedy Streets at Picnic Point, and elsewhere; trees which, at worst, may have merely been inconveniences to construction workers at the sites.

Of course it all comes down to implementation. Nonetheless, the recognition of indigenous trees within the TPO acknowledges their special significance, which makes it a great improvement on previous versions. The locally indigenous tree species as listed in Appendix 3 of the TPO are the following:

Acacia binervia
decurrens
mearnsii
parramattensis
Allocasuarina littoralis
Alphitonia excelsa
Angophora bakeri

Angophora costata
Angophora floribunda
Angophora subvelutina
Banksia integrifolia
Banksia serrata
Brachychiton populneus
Callistemon salignus
Ceratopetalum apetalum
Ceratopetalum gummiferum
Corymbia gummifera
maculata
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Eucalyptus amplifolia
baueriana
beyeriana
bosistoana
botryoides
capitellata
crebra
eugenioides
fibrosa
globoidea
haemastoma
longifolia
moluccana
oblonga
paniculata
parramattensis
pilularis
piperita
punctata
racemosa
resinifera
robusta
saligna
saligna x botryoides
sclerophylla
siderophloia
sideroxylon
signata
sparsifolia
tereticornis
umbra
Ficus rubiginosa
Glochidion ferdinandi
Melaleuca decora
Melaleuca linariifolia
Melaleuca stypheloides
Melia azedarach
Pittosporum undulatum
Syncarpia glomulifera
Syzygium smithii

GOOD MOVES

The good news is that council has rejected all the tenders submitted for cutting the trees down in **East Hills Park**, with the intention of modifying its plan to extend car parking so that the site indigenous trees can be retained, as reported in the Express last year. Well done BCC. East Hills Park is one of the oldest recreation reserves in Bankstown, and the many fine trees that grow in the reserve do indeed make the area a pleasant place to visit.

Good news too, in that the bollards have been extended on the town side of the park to include hitherto mown native vegetation in which can be found a number of uncommon orchids. This is something we have advocated for some time.

Good too is that the bushland at 2D Lehn Road adjacent **Smith Park** at East Hills (where we have undertaken bush regen work on and off since 1993) is slated in the Draft South West Local Area Plan to be reclassified from operational to community land *"to reflect current use as valuable open space"*. Hopefully this will apply to the adjoining bush ceded to BCC some years ago as part of the redevelopment of No. 1 Lehn Road.

NOT SO GOOD MOVE

As reported recently in *The Torch*, **Ray McCormack Reserve**, which contains indigenous eucalypts and paperbarks in the very heart of Revesby, is being earmarked for potential development in the Draft Local Area Plan. Revesby residents are already howling this down.



BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK

Bankstown Bushland Society is now on Facebook. Anyone who shares an interest in Bankstown's bushland is welcome to like this. Facebook will provide us opportunities for posting information relevant to the natural environment of our area, remnant flora and fauna as well as updates on our bush regeneration projects, nature walks and so on. Anyone interested in local bushland is welcome to become a friend.

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

The Bushland Bulletin is available electronically to members who so desire. All you have to do is send your email address to the Bulletin editor at:

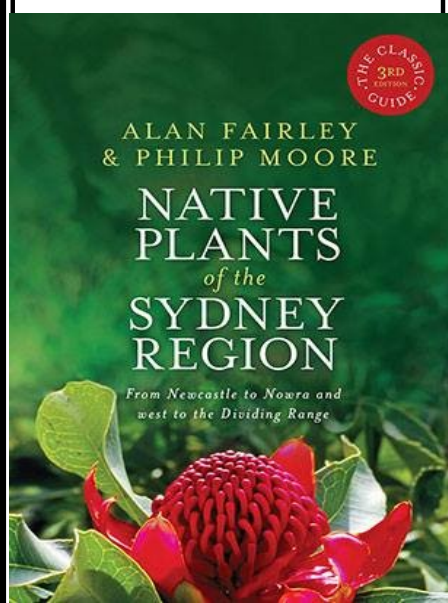
greenaissance1@gmail.com.

Members are entitled to both printed and electronic forms, but if you only want the electronic form instead of the printed please let us know.

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY presents:

ALAN FAIRLEY – doyen of
Sydney plant watchers –
FLORA of OATLEY PARK
and lower GEORGES RIVER
Venue: PADSTOW
PROGRESS HALL, WAL
BROWNING MEETING
ROOM, RYAN ROAD
PADSTOW, 7.00 pm,
Wednesday March 16th.

ALL WELCOME



**Bushland Society meetings
are held at Padstow
Progress Hall, Ryan Road,
Padstow, on the 3rd
Wednesday of the month
(except December &
January), in the Wal
Browning Meeting Room
at rear of hall.**

Time: 7.00pm.

Tea and biscuits provided.

All welcome.

**Further enquiries please
ring Col on 97886232.**

BANKSTOWN BUSHLAND SOCIETY COMMITTEE for 2016

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Secretary:

Colin Gibson:
9788 6232

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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

Bankstown Bushland Society has lobbied effectively for the protection of bushland and the natural environment since 1988. With your support we can continue the work. By joining the Society you can make an important contribution to our local environment.



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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode _____

Telephone Number: _____

Attached please find my payment of:

(\$.00)

_____ (amount in words)

Membership fees

Family/Group - \$20

Ordinary - \$15

Concession - \$10

"student/unwaged/pensioner"

Send payment to:

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

Or pay by direct transfer to

**BSB 512 170 Account Number 100087319, AND put
your name on the transfer form.**



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

